

WAYNE'S WORLD

WTA/NEA-NY

WTA Newsletter

Pat Yates (OP), President
 Lori Sensenbach (OP), Acting President
 Maureen Doyle (MS), Acting Internal VP
 Elizabeth Peters (FE), External VP
 Lisa Twitchell (HS), Treasurer
 Martha Hanley (FE), Secretary

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Life's Journey According To...



We're revving up for our 100th Day Celebrations here at the primary school! 100 Days projects created from dried beans in the shape of a Steelers football, colored erasers glued in a rainbow, and Fruit Loops which spell out star words line the hallways. Only 88 days to go. I used to laugh when the "old" people used to talk about how the older you get, the faster time flies. You know what? They were right. Time is not linear!

Mid-terms are over and discussions of annual reviews beginning. Summer programs are being planned and teacher assignments discussed. In the school setting, it seems that we just finish "gearing up" when we have to prepare to "wrap up." The same goes for WTA Rep Council.

Shortly, the nominations committee members will be gathering nominations for the various executive council and Rep Council positions as the present terms are due to expire June 30. In April, you will elect a President, Internal Vice-President, External Vice-

President, delegates to the NEA/NY Delegate Assembly and At-Large Negotiators.

In May, you will choose your building representatives to Rep Council and building negotiators.

You have many fine individuals currently representing you, and I hope that many of them will be running again. There are some who plan on stepping down

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from office. I want to encourage you to start thinking now about who you want to represent you at Rep Council, Round Table, the negotiations table (as a continuing process throughout the term of the contract), Region 6, and at the state level. The decisions

made in each of these settings affect us all; and it is imperative to have strong, intelligent,

leaders in these positions. If you have questions about the roles and responsibilities of the various jobs, now is a good time to seek out those people who are currently serving you to ask questions. **Consider running yourself!**

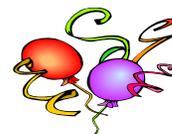
Respectfully,
 Lori Sensenbach

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S CELEBRATE!

Baby News:

Krista Surowy had baby girl Jordan Paige on January 20th!
 Jackie Courtney had a beautiful baby boy.
 Jessica Kleindienst had a baby boy!

Welcome back to:

Pat Yates! She's back 3 days per week and feeling fine!
 Fran Pucci—is returning after recovery from knee surgery —ready to kick up her heels!

Weddings & Engagements:

Sue Delperdange recently became engaged over the Holiday break!
 Pat Yates's daughter Chris-sie—married Mike Yeager on January 28th!



Lobby Day

Every year, WTA is there to represent you and WCSD in Albany to our legislatures. It is this collective effort of local unions across the state coming together as a single voice with a single vision that protects public education for all and provides advocacy for quality educational improvements.

We empower our state legislatures to critically examine budget proposals because we bring the every day reality of what is happening in our districts to them. We advocate for change that makes sense for all, not just a few. We hold our representatives accountable and remind them of their obligation to

the students of New York State.

On Monday March 6th and Tuesday March 7th, Beth Peters and Cathy Contino (Retired, Past WTA President) will proudly represent you. Please feel free to share your stories and concerns with them to take to Albany this year.

The 3 R's: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

3rd Thursday— February 16th

Topic: Your Union Needs YOU and you need your union! (and everyone likes donuts!)



Issues currently being explored:

- ◆ Evaluation of Block Schedules at the HS and MS proposal.
- ◆ Literacy coaches role at the MS.
- ◆ School to Work position and certification issue.

Issues acted upon/resolved:

- ◆ April parent/teacher conferences.
- ◆ Job share salary change.
- ◆ Certification Issue

Fax: 585-272-1052

RE: Taxes 2005 –06 fulltime dues are \$585. 2004-2005 was \$570.

Also, you can deduct your professional organization dues and contributions as well!

Dates to Remember:

- ◆ **NEA/NY Scholarship** forms are currently available and are due **Feb 15, 2006**. See your building rep to get an application if you child will be graduating this year!

NEA/NY UniServe Representative:

Jeff Trout JTrout@NEANY.ORG
Office: 800-536-5330

Rule of thumb #28: "If you don't check you pay stub you'll never know what's missing!"



A Tickle of the Funny Bone!

As it's the week before vacation and my brain is fried, I thought I'd shirk the heavy duty reporting responsibilities and leave you with these funny bone ticklers from a book called, Plants, Animals, and Humid Beans: Fun Tales From NEA Members, from the NEA Professional Library.

Last year I was correcting a student's science workbook. It was a hard chapter and he was getting all the answers right. Because he had not asked for help, I suspected that perhaps he'd gotten the book's answer key somehow. My suspicions were confirmed when I got to the last page of the chapter. The five final questions were answered, "answers may vary."

A child was overhead leaving the school nurses office saying, "I can't believe it—even my fever is low grade!"

Another student upon examining his test that was just handed back exclaimed, "Wow! If we learn from our mistakes, I should be a genius by now!"

You can never take for granted what terms students are familiar with. In a 7th grade social studies class, students came across the word Caucasians. The teacher assumed everyone knew the meaning until during a discussion one student asked for a definition. Here is what the others offered:

That hot spicy food in Louisiana

(Cajun)

When you mix all kinds of stuff together you get a Caucasian (Concoction).

When you get hit on the head you end up getting a Caucasian (Concussion).

And finally—this could only happen in California: *While giving a national standardized test, a boy raised his hand for help. The teacher went over and saw that he was stuck on the definition of the word "cellar." He whispered to the teacher that the correct answer was not there—adding that, "a place to keep wine was not one of the choices!"*

Enjoy Your February Break even if you don't have a "cellar"!

Financial Classes

You know those dark suits, those two dapper guys from AXA (Men in Black). They are offering really good financial planning classes at the Walworth Town Hall! They are not trying to sell you products at these classes. They are giving you solid planning advise. Each class only costs \$5 to attend and runs from 7:00 until 8:30 PM. Call 986-1400, x 311 or register online at

www.townwalworthny.com

Upcoming classes:

1. What to do with old retirement accounts. Tuesday, February 28th. Do you have old 401K's or other qualified retirement plans and don't know what to do with them? If you've had various employers you may have collected many accounts along the way.

2. Financial planning for small businesses. Tuesday, March 21st.

Learn about ways to reduce taxes, liabilities and possibly save dollars down the road!

3. Investment Strategy. Tuesday, April 25th.

Learn about correct asset allocation and diversification. See what the research shows.

