

# WAYNE'S WORLD

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A WTA Newsletter

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## President's Message



The New Year has finally arrived and with the weather this week it appears that winter has arrived as well. It certainly has been cold, icy, and snowy this past week, but no snow days yet. Looks like we might need to wear are pajamas backwards and inside out or do the Snow Dance to get one. The holiday bustle is over, but January brings report cards, midterms, state assessments, budgets, benchmarks, etc., somewhere amongst completing all of that work remember to take a break and perhaps enjoy a nice cup of hot chocolate.

The end of 2006 also brings the tax bill. Here are a few tips to help you out and maybe save you a little money in the form of a bigger refund.

1. **If you itemize deductions you can include expenses** like union dues, professional magazines, tests needed for certification and other out of pocket expenses. Coaches and club advisors may deduct mileage, uniforms, certification fees, and other coaching expenses. (If you were a full time member of the union from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 to December 31<sup>st</sup>

2006, your union dues totals were \$599. To find out how much dues you paid in 2006 look at your last paycheck stub of 2006, which was dated 12/22/2006. Look at the deductions section find TEACHERS DUES in the year to date column - YTD)

2. **\$250 Educator Tax Deduction has been extended this year** as a result of some 11<sup>th</sup> hour legislation in Congress. Unlike previous years there will not be a line stating Education Tax Deduction on the IRS income tax form as these forms were printed before the legislation. However you may still take this deduction by entering the letter "E" on line 23 of form 1040.

Please be aware of penalties for false claims. If you have any questions consult your tax advisor or visit the IRS's website at <http://www.irs.gov/>

For those of you with children who are interested in putting some money away for college savings you may want to consider opening a 529 account. Money saved in this account is

a tax deduction on your state taxes, but not federal. However, you do not have to pay federal income tax on earnings as long as they are used on qualified higher education expenses. You may also want to join the Upromise rewards program, which can get "free money" donated into your account from participating companies. This is similar to reward programs offered on credit cards where you get cash back, airline mileage, etc. I actually joined Upromise in mid 2005 and have received approximately \$500 in "rewards" money. Of course I do not have any children quite yet... what can I say I am very proactive. Actually you can use the money for education related expenses for yourself or any qualified family member to get/finish a Masters degree. Check out these websites for more information.

NY States 529 Plan - <http://nysaves.uii.upromise.com/>  
Upromise - <http://www.upromise.com/>

Happy New Year,

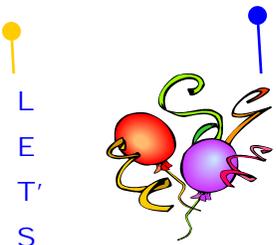
Jason Carter

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### CELEBRATE !

#### **Congratulations to:**

Tina Cipelinski on becoming our new Assistant to the Director of Student Services. Did you know that she is a former Wayne grad, has two daughters, and also plans on beginning her Doctoral studies this June at the U of R !?!?!?

**Wedding Bells** are ringing as I write for Matt Collins (FE) and his fiancée Erin in Hawaii this week!

**Baby News:** Jenn Klehr gave birth to a healthy baby boy on 2/12/07—hello Patrick Curtis!

#### **Welcome Aboard to:**

Corrine Wagner our new District Tutor.  
Beau Watson our new 6:1:1 teacher at O.E.  
Brandy Stewart our new HS teacher.  
Brain Van Allen new MS social studies teacher.



**The Cookie Man** comes back to WCSD. The word is that he offers very tasty advice! The Legend Group's, Mike Kramer's schedule is: HS -Thursday, Jan. 18, MS—Friday, Jan. 19, Freewill -Wednesday, Feb. 7, O.E.—Tuesday, Feb. 13, and O.P. -Thursday, Feb. 15. **Watch out for those Men in Black**—they always come back! Dave Pulcini and Dan DiPaola from AXA will be in the district on Wednesdays: O.E—January 24th, O.P.-Jan. 31st, MS- Feb. 7th. and Freewill—Feb. 14th (I guess we get the valentine prize!)

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

## 3rd, 4th, 1st Thursdays????

Please note the date changes:  
**March 1st** and **March 29th!**  
 March 1st—Security System update!



- ◆ Exploration of a WTA website!
- ◆ Negotiation committee work continues—proposal to be completed soon.
- ◆ Harassment concerns.

March 20th.

**Rule of thumb #37:** *When you go to a school board meeting you get noticed!*  
 Richard Johnson- in his closing remarks stated how much he appreciated all the FE staff at the board meeting and how much he appreciates it when staff show up at these meetings!

## Issues acted upon/resolved:

- ◆ Consistency of reporting job postings.
- ◆ Process for application receipt notification. For 2007-08.
- ◆ Seniority issues.

## Issues currently being explored:

- ◆ Data collection and distribution issues.
- ◆ Pay issues continue to be monitored.

## Dates to Remember:

- ⇒ NYSUT's Health and Safety Conference, March 9-10, Crowne Plaza, Albany, NY.
- ⇒ NYSUT's Professional Issues Forum on Health Care, March 17, 2007. Crowne Plaza, Albany, NY.
- ⇒ NYSUT'S committee of 100 Lobby Days March 19- 20th in Albany.
- ⇒ Building Rep training, Tuesday,

## NYSUT Field Representative:

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## Updates from the Contract Committees !

### Health Care Committee Report

**Jason Carter:** the committee will begin rolling out another healthcare buyout option—more info to follow in late March.

(WTA committee members are: Jason Carter, Nancy Domm, Kim Northrup)

### Professional Conduct Committee Report

– **Ronnie Steele:** The committee is slated to have a proposal to present at the March Rep council meeting. Stay tuned for more information to follow.

(WTA committee members are: Ronnie Steele, Betsy Hennessy, Maureen Nagel)

### Stipends Committee Report

**Brad LaBarge:** They are in the final stages of preparing their proposal to be presented at the March 12th Rep council meeting. The full proposal will be published after it has been approved and accepted.

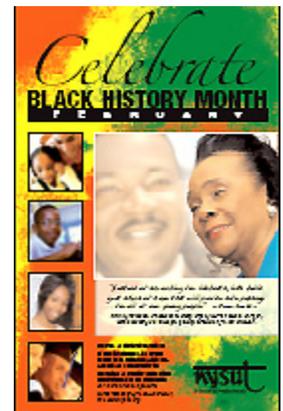
(WTA committee members are: Brad LaBarge, MJ Hoffman, Jackie Senecal)

# Celebrating African Americans in History

**Workshops:** The ninth annual conference sponsored by The Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, titled, "The Underground Railroad: Uncovering the Voices of Women." is set for Feb 23—25th in Albany NY. From Harriet Tubman to John Brown to Solomon Northup, New York played a pivotal role in the nation's abolitionist history. Highlights include a tour of Albany's Underground Railroad locations, workshops on a variety of abolitionists including Tubman and Anna Murray Douglass, the wife of abolitionist editor Frederick Douglass, and a dance and drumming workshop. Both NYSUT and the Albany Public School Teachers Association are event sponsors. The conference takes place at the College of Saint Rose in Albany. For details, visit [www.ugrworkshop.com](http://www.ugrworkshop.com) or call (518) 432-4432.

**Poster:** NYSUT has produced the poster to the right for classroom use. It commemorates the life of civil rights leader Coretta Scott King, who died last year. The poster is free. For orders of more than 30, we ask that the request come from the local union president. You can:

- E-mail orders to [orders@nysutmail.org](mailto:orders@nysutmail.org);
- Call: (800) 342-9810, ext. 6260; or
- Mail to NYSUT, Attn.: Publications, Web & Video Services,  
 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, N.Y. 12110-2455.



Check the NYSUT website for more information at [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org)!

