

WAYNE'S WORLD

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A WTA Newsletter

November, 2006

Volume 5 Issue 3

President's Message

November means Election-Time both inside and outside the WTA. The WTA will be holding a special election on Thursday, November 30. Currently we have nobody running for the position of delegate. The ballot will list this position as a "write in". If you are interested or know of someone who would make a good delegate, please write (their/your) name on the ballot. If no one receives any votes for delegate, then we will not be able to send a full slate of delegates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly that is being held in Washington DC,

April 26-28, 2007. Remember the union only works when people come together and work in the union.

In the national and state elections that took place on November 7th, NYSUT endorsed candidates were overwhelmingly successful winning 232 of 238 races.

To keep up on what is happening in NYSUT along with state and federal changes in education be sure to check out NYSUT's website (<http://www.nysut.org>) The site has undergone some significant

changes.

Specifically there are web pages related to the big changes in testing that are scheduled to go into effect this January that will unfairly burden children who are English language learners and children with disabilities. **We urge you to please, "Take Action!"** Click on the link to send a message to the Board of Regents and Commissioner Mills. You can also read more about this below and in your November issue of the New York Teacher.

Jason Carter



NYSUT News You can Use !

ALERT FROM NYSUT V.P. MARIA NEIRA

NYSUT is launching an urgent campaign asking members to deluge the New York State Board of Regents and Commissioner Mills with e-mails that ask them to hold off on their plans to impose unsound testing directives regarding students with disabilities and English Language Learners.

There is an action letter that will be posted on the website for members to be able to click and send. Please take the time to participate in this important activity by going to the NYSUT website, (<http://www.nysut.org>) **The Regents are meeting Dec. 4 and 5, so they need to hear**

from everyone now. Forcing our most vulnerable students to take inappropriate tests is educationally unsound!

NYSUT will also focus on four emerging issues regarding the federal changes in special education regulations.

1. Excusal provisions for CSE members and changing the students IEP after an annual review without convening a CSE meeting.
2. The introduction of a "response to intervention" approach to identifying students with learning disabilities.
3. New regulations to waive a triennial evaluation

before the parent and other CSE members review existing data.

4. Limits on out-of-grade level testing for students with disabilities.

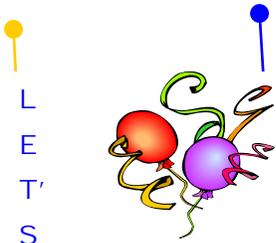
The new federal regulations clearly note that states may not supersede on this issue and establish their own restrictions. . .

(taken from: "NYSUT focuses on new special ed regs" pg 3, November NY Teacher)

FYI: According to the NY's SED, we have 410,000 students with disabilities; about 12% of the total public school population. (November—New York Teacher)

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CELEBRATE !

Congratulations to:

MS: Jackie Siwicki and Linda Cala who were married in Canada in July and then had a family and close friends ceremony in Rochester in August. So, it's official they are doubly blessed!

OE/HS: Two very proud WTA parents: Barb Thiele's daughter, Laura and Tom Gentile's son, Jared led their teams to sectional playoff victories!

HS: Jim Herendeen, Judy Porray, and all the others for the HOURS put into the fantastic musical-SCROOGE! Another smashing success!

FE: Welcomes their new principal Jona Wright who officially started 11/22/06—Happy Thanks giving!

WTA Happy Hour:

Want to get happy? What's your vote for the next WTA Happy Hour - The Blue Heron, the Branding Iron, or is their someplace else? E-mail your suggestions to Nancy Domm and let's get happy!

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

3rd Thursday—November 30th! Elections and School Board Meetings!



Issues currently being explored :

- ◆ Safety and security, stipends, and supervisor's duties are all being explored in their respective committees.
- ◆ Room reassignment issue.
- ◆ Data collection and distribution issues.
- ◆ Monitoring timelines for APPR.
- ◆ Admin's lack of response to direct e-mail or telephone message concerns of staff.
- ◆ Pay issues.

Issues acted upon/resolved:

- ◆ Parent/Teacher conference issue.
- ◆ Staff PD early release time.
- ◆ Personnel related issues.

Dates to Remember:

- **November 30** -WTA Elections.
- **December** - Open enrollment period for health benefits (Flex plan or AFLAC). More info to come from HR.
- **December 2** - "*Christmas Memories*" a variety show to benefit WTA's Weisenreder fund and the Pines of Peace.
- **December 15**—seniority list deadline for reporting any issue with your

years of service. List coming soon!

- **February 2 & 3, 2007** -NYSUT's Mathematics and Literacy Institutes, specifically designed for elementary and MS teachers. They will be held in Albany at the Crowne Plaza.

Rule of thumb #35: "*The union only works when people come together and work in in the union.*"

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Nov. 24-Dec. 3, 2006 is Buy Union Week



**Give the Gift of Good Jobs
 Shop Union for the Holidays**

Download a packet and support Buy Union Week

<http://www.unionlabel.org/>

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Top 10 Reasons to Attend Our School Board Meetings!

10. It's Thursday night and there is nothing good on TV anyway!
9. Get free coffee, tea, and cookies!
8. Go for brownie points and schmooze with whomever you are trying to impress in the administration!
7. Find out who those other guys in suits are that speak at the meetings.
6. Learn about cool stuff like steam vent replacement and window caulking abatement!
5. Practice your social skills and decorum at a formal meeting! (I need that one!)
4. Ask questions as a concerned member

3. Be an available, helpful advocate and resource for WCSD!
2. Get to know Frank, Joyce, Scott, Rick, Susan, Tom, Jeff, John, and Mark on a first name basis!
1. Let THEM know you care and are paying attention to what is going on!

Seriously though, attending a school board meeting as a representative of your building, your profession, your union, and your community is vital for the health and welfare of our school community. It is recom-

mended that a representative from each building be at each school board meeting. This allows us to build relationships and our future together. Let them know that you care by showing your involvement. Sign up to attend at least one school board meeting this year. There is at least one meeting scheduled in your building. It's a great opportunity to tour the school with the board members and offer insight!

So, think globally but act locally— attend a school board meeting. The cookies are really pretty good!

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