

# WAYNE'S WORLD

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## A WTA Newsletter

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### Inside This Issue:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>The 3 R's: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief</b> | 2 |
| <b>RA Resolutions</b>                            | 2 |
| <b>Tom Chapin</b>                                | 2 |

## President's Message

Ah, spring! I hope all of you had an excellent week off for break. The week before break, Beth Peters and I attended the 2008 NYSUT RA in New York City. The RA featured a variety of guest speakers including Senator Charles Schumer, Governor David Paterson, NEA President Reg Weaver, AFT President Ed McElroy and a phone call from Hillary Clinton.

Dick Iannuzzi was re-elected NYSUT President along with Executive VP Alan Lubin, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Maria Neira, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Kathleen Donahue and newly elected Lee Cutler in the position of Secretary-Treasurer. It was also announced and endorsed at the RA that fellow NYSUT member and UFT President Randi Weingarten will be running for President of the AFT this summer.

At the local level, this Thursday, **April 24 is the WTA district wide elections for officers, delegates and at large negotiators.** Ballots will be in members' mail-

boxes at the start of the day and must be returned to your building's ballot box by the end of the contract day in your building. Elections for building representatives will occur in May.

**Good news:** Funding for School Resource Officers (SRO) will remain in the state budget! I would like to thank all 141 people who signed our letters to Senator Nozzolio, Assemblyman Oaks, and Governor Paterson asking for this funding to remain as is. It was also announced at the RA that NYSUT has successfully lobbied to protect teachers during the tenure process. The new law bars the use of student test scores in the determination of tenure.

**Our VOTE-COPE drive begins Monday, May 12th.** The money raised from VOTE-COPE donations is used by NYSUT for political action (lobbying and in support of the resolutions passed at the RA) as well as the WTA. With this year's VOTE-COPE reimbursement so far we have been able to

mail the above mentioned SRO letters and purchase 5 yard signs designed to encourage residents to support public education by approving the school budget. For every dollar that you donate, WTA gets an automatic 20¢, we can also apply for an additional 20¢ per dollar donated! We are asking that all members sign up for a paycheck deduction of at least 1 dollar per pay period. If you signed up for the payroll deduction last year it rolls over to this year, so you don't need to do anything unless you want to change your donation amount.

By comparison— It was announced at the NYSUT RA that over 500 NYSUT locals contribute at the \$10 average per member or more. The current WTA average is approximately \$4 per member.

Sincerely,  
 Jason Carter



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CELEBRATE !

### Stork visit:

**HS:** Gyllian Bell (special education teacher) delivered a baby boy on March 14th - welcome Ethan!

Mark MacMillan has a new baby edition in his family— more details to follow!

Lisa Conner had a baby girl, Lillian on Monday April 7th - congratulations!

**FE:** Madison Grace was born April 16th to Megan Mahaney!

Something must be in the water at FE because word is a few more babies are on the way!

**Kudos** to Tom Seimbor for making the front cover of the last issue of the New York Teacher for his lobbying efforts!



TRC will offer mini sessions during 'new teacher' training again this summer. The training offerings are based on what you had to say on staff development day and workshop evaluations. Is there something specific you would like to have offered or participate in? Let the TRC staff know! They value your feedback. In fact they base our professional development offerings (topic and format) on what you have to say. Tell the TRC what you think, click on this link!

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

**3rd Thursdays (who's counting!?!?!?)**



**April 24th** —WTA Elections. **May 1st** -donuts, better late than never!

**Issues acted upon/resolved:**

- Monitoring implementation of law changes regarding tenure process.

**Issues currently being discussed / explored:**

- Part time staff and superintendent's conference days.

- Cancer screening release time
- Domestic partner agreements

**Dates to Remember:**

1. April 24 (Thurs.), Ballot Vote for WTA officers and at large negotiators.
2. April 28 – May 2 Nominations being accepted for Building Reps & Negotiators, (elections will be on May 29).
3. May 12 (Mon.) VOTE –COPE drive begins.
4. May 20th (Tues) School Budget Vote

5. May 29 (Thurs.) - JP Morgan Corporate Challenge at RIT register online at [www.jporganchasecc.com/events.php?city\\_id=3](http://www.jporganchasecc.com/events.php?city_id=3)

**Rule of thumb #47:** "Students who need correcting need **PEP**; Privacy, Eye contact, and Proximity." from *Motivating Students Who Don't Care* by Allen Mendler.

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## RA Resolutions

Resolutions are the business of NYSUT. These are the motions that are proposed, debated, and voted on at the annual representative assembly each year. They drive the legislative and action agenda of NYSUT for the upcoming year. There were a total of 68 resolutions proposed this year. These resolutions were divided across 8 committees that did the work of reviewing each of them and making recommendations to the general assembly. Committee recommendations can be concurrence, concurrence as amended, non-concurrence or referral to the Board of Directors.

These 8 committees were as follows:

1. **Civil and Human Rights** with 9 resolutions to consider. All were adopted by the general body, 3 with amendments.
2. **College and University** with 3 resolutions to examine all of which were adopted.
3. **Educational Issues** with 7 proposed resolutions, 5 of which were adopted, 1 as amended, and 2 were referred.
4. **Health Care and Workplace Safety** with 8 resolutions to review. 1 was referred, the rest were adopted—3 with amendments.
5. **Legislative and Political Action** had two committees with 12 and 14 issues respectively to consider. 1 resolution was defeated, 3 were referred, 4 were amended, 2 were subsumed into other amendments and the rest were adopted.
6. **Organization Committee** with 8 resolutions to review, all of which were adopted with 1 as amended.
7. **Pension and Retirement** with 7 resolutions under consideration, 3 of which were defeated, while the rest were adopted as stated.

For complete information regarding specific resolutions and amendments you can check the NYSUT website, our WTA website, or ask Jason or I. We will be happy to provide more comprehensive information.



## Tom Chapin Sings for Teachers!

Tom Chapin one of the Chapin Brothers and a famous folk singer has a new song and it's just for us! This new song does not yet appear on any Tom Chapin CD. It's called "Not On The Test" and was written by both him and John Forester. National Public Radio's "Morning Edi-

tion" featured Tom and the debut of this song on January 1st this year! Tom personally performed the song for all of us at the NYSUT RA in New York this past week as well. The first verse starts out"  
*Go on to sleep now, third grader of mine.  
The test is tomorrow, but you'll do just*

*fine.  
It's reading and math. Forget all the rest.  
You don't need to know what is not on the test.*  
You can download the song and lyrics for free, either from Tom 's website [www.tomchapin.com](http://www.tomchapin.com) or on [Tom's Myspace page](#).