

Jason Carter (FE), President  
Julie Diffenderfer (OE), Internal VP  
Elizabeth Peters (FE), External VP  
Lisa Twitchell (HS), Treasurer  
Martha Hanley (FE), Secretary  
Doug Casey & Bob Berkowitz (HS),  
Retirement Delegates

## A WTA Newsletter

February, 2008

Volume 6, Issue 6

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## President's Message

The WTA needs you! This is an election year for all WTA positions including members of the executive and representative councils and at-large and building negotiators. The election for the executive council positions and at-large negotiators will be held in April and the building level election will be held in May. There will be more information forthcoming including job descriptions, nomination forms, and a detailed explanation of the election process as we get closer to each of the respective election dates.

Our Constitution committee will also be meeting to review our local constitution and recommend any necessary changes. These recommended changes would then be voted on for approval during the May election process. There are currently several minor items

that potentially need to be changed as a result of the merger of NEANY and NYSUT.

In December our Audit committee met and performed an audit of the WTA finances for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. As part of this Audit process it was recommended by the Audit committee that we modify our constitution to contain the Audit Committee in the list of committees and to recognize the audit process that is required by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), which we are now affiliated with as a result of the merger.

At the start of the school year the building reps went around to get volunteers for the various WTA committees. The following people  
Josh Schlageter – OE,  
Jacqueline Leszyk – HS,

and Chris Uetz – FE

have volunteered to serve on the Constitution committee. We could certainly use a few more members on this committee and the ideal committee would contain at least one member from all five buildings. If you are interested in serving on this committee please email your building rep, VP- Julie Diffenderfer, or me. I estimate that the committee will need to meet once (possibly twice) in March and/or April to review and update our constitution. If you would like to view our current constitution please check the documents section of the WTA website.

Sincerely,  
Jason  
Carter



### Stork visit:

February 19th, Elliana Grace was born to Diane Hartley—Occupational Therapist for WCSD.

HS—Greg and Julie Geesler welcome their second child, Gianna Faith born on January 30th!

**KUDOS** to OE's Building Planning Team for putting together the awesome "Have a Heart" hockey games that were held on Feb 7th. All donations were given to the American heart Association.

## 2008 WTA Elections Timeline

### Election for Officers & at Large Negotiators

#### Nominations Process:

1. Nominations are made during the week of March 20 – March 28 (no school March 21 & 24 therefore these days are not included in the 5 day period).
2. If we fail to get at least 2 nominations there is

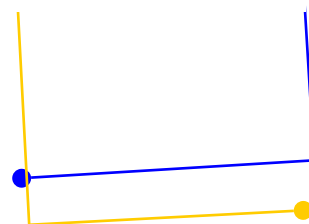
an extension period for nominations during the Week of March 31 thru April 1.

3. Election mailings go out on April 8, 2008
4. Ballot Vote occurs on April 24, 2008

### Election for Building Reps and Negotiators, and

### Constitution Ratification Nominations Process:

1. Nominations accepted April 28 – May 2
2. Extended time (if failure to get at least 2 nominations) May 5th—9th.
3. Elections mailings go out May 13, 2008
4. Ballot vote occurs on May 29, 2008



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

**3rd Thursday: February 28th** Nominations and Elections and 403B forms due now!



## Issues acted upon/resolved:

- Salary rounding.
- W2 form update clarified
- 504 plan management
- Concerns regarding pre-determined goals on summatives.

## Issues currently being explored:

- Monitoring implementation of law changes regarding tenure process.
- Part time staff and superintendent's conference days.

## Rule of thumb #46: “

## Dates to Remember:

March 1st—Seniority concerns due to HR

March 15th—NYSUT's Health Care

Professional's Conference

March 17– 18th—NYSUT's Committee of 100 Lobby Days

March 28th—WTA officer and At Large negotiators nominations due.

## NYSUT Field Representative:

Jeff Trout

(585)454-5550

[jtrout@nysutmail.org](mailto:jtrout@nysutmail.org)

Rochester Service Center/Union Place



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

Our members only website has two new hotlinks to assist you with current issues of taxes and special education certification!

Important information for reading your W2 form and paycheck from



WCSD is provided along with complete code breakdowns and much more! Just click on “want more details. . .” to get all the information you need.

Special Education Certification changes are on the way that reduce the number of titles from 45 to 3! Responding to the growing

shortage of special education teachers, the state Board of Regents is moving forward with plans to streamline the special education certification system. To get more information about these changes click the link provided on our website to go directly to the article published in the January 25th, 2008 edition of the New York Teacher.

## Active Educator's Grants Available

New York State Retired Teacher's Association, through it's Central Western Zone announces its 2008 educational grants! The grant's, established in memory of Barrie Flegel, are awarded to any fulltime employees who already posses a Bachelor's degree and are pursuing

advanced study in an educational field. These grants can be used for pursuing permanent certification, certificates of advanced study, or an advanced degree as long as it's in an educational field. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited program of study for the spring,

summer, or fall semesters of 2008.

Grant awards begin at \$100. and can be more. The application post-mark deadline is Tuesday, April 15, 2008. The full application packet should be available in each building or you may download it from [www.CWZRetiredTeachers.com](http://www.CWZRetiredTeachers.com)





## Are You Using The MAP?

Approximately 2,000 NYSUT members have joined MAP, the Member Assistance Program through NYSUT Member Benefits Trust. Each week, more members sign up as they hear about the benefits.

MAP is a quick, painless, unobtrusive e-mail program that provides reminders about the more than 40 endorsed insurance, financial, legal and discount plans available to you as a NYSUT member.

MAP e-mails are sent every three weeks or so. You can open them at your convenience and no trees are killed in the process! You have the option of reading the brief text message or viewing it in html format in your browser, complete with eye-pleasing colors and graphics.

Very often, "MAP Alerts" include the opportunity to win valuable prizes donated by providers of endorsed programs. MAPers have received such prizes as a Bose Wave<sup>®</sup> Music System, tickets to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, OfficeMax gift cards and 100 free gallons of heating oil.

In addition, new MAP enrollees and existing MAPers are automatically entered into quarterly raffles; prizes to date have included digital cameras and an iPod nano.

What kind of information do you receive? The message may be an advance notice of a change in an existing plan, a new endorsement or simply a reminder about a program. Sometimes you will be asked your

opinions on programs under consideration for future endorsement, including which features are most important to you.

Most MAP messages are sent from Member Benefits. Occasionally a provider of an endorsed program will send one. Member Benefits oversees the content and frequency of messages. Your e-mail address will not be shared with outside parties other than endorsed program providers and then only under controlled circumstances. Once a program provider receives approval to send you an offer or information, the vendor is required to destroy the e-mail listing after sending the MAP Alert.



If you haven't yet joined, simply complete a brief sign-up form on the Member Benefits Web site, [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org), and within three weeks, you'll start to receive MAP Alerts.

For information about this program or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please call NYSUT Member Benefits Trust at (800) 626-8101, e-mail [benefits@nysutmail.org](mailto:benefits@nysutmail.org), visit [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org), or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed programs.

