

WAYNE'S WORLD

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

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President's Message

Politics seems to be dominating the news lately. One of our senators from New York is running for president. Although Hillary Clinton's name seems to pop up quite often in NYSUT publications, there have not been any official endorsements. NYSUT endorsements for all state and federal races will be made this August before the upcoming elections in November. We also have a new Governor of New York, David Paterson. NYSUT

President Dick Iannuzzi said, "NYSUT has had a long and positive relationship with David Paterson as senator and as lieutenant governor, and we know he has the experience, credentials, and leadership to be an exemplary governor of New York."

One issue where I am

curious to see where Paterson stands, is on the proposal to remove funding for School Resource Officers (SRO) from the state budget. Currently Wayne County has 6 school districts that take advantage of this funding and utilize the service of SROs. Wayne Central is one of them as we have our very own, New York State

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Trooper, Robert Chapman. He is a valuable resource to our district and it is important that the funding for SROs be kept in the state budget. This week you will find letters that were written to Senator Nozzolio, Assemblyman Oaks, and Governor Paterson asking to keep funding for School Resource Officers. **Please take the time today to sign all three of these**

letters as well as emailing Nozzolio, Oaks, and Paterson directly from NYSUT's legislative action section on their website at www.nysut.org.

Thanks go out to Tom Siembor, who spent the first part of this week in Albany for Lobby Day, helping to get across our positions directly to state leaders. Beth Peters and I will be attending the NYSUT RA, April 9-12, where we will vote on a variety of resolutions and constitutional amendments, as well as NYSUT leadership positions which are all up for election. The WTA also has its leadership positions up for election this year. The first election is for officers. **These nomination forms are in your mailbox now and are due March 28.**

Enjoy the long weekend,
 Jason Carter



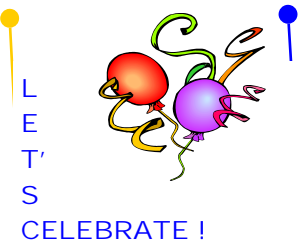
Are You Ready to Go Digital?

February 17, 2009 is the deadline set by congress to switch from analog broadcasting to digital television. If you own an analog TV, which mainly relies on an antenna rather than cable or satellite to receive TV signals, you'll either have to switch to a digital model or buy a converter box that changes the digital signal back to analog.

These converter boxes will range in cost from \$50—\$75.00 each. The federal government is helping to defray this cost by providing coupons. Households may request up to two \$40.00 coupons to go toward the purchase of two converter boxes (1 coupon per box). **The deadline to apply for these coupons is this month—MARCH**

31st!!! You can call 1-888-388-2009 or go on line at www.dtv.gov to request your coupons or get more information.

If you are a cable or satellite TV subscriber you will not be affected by this transition. If you are like me—act now and request 2 coupons, just incase your friend like me forgets!



Stork visit:

OE -Stephanie Mordaci had a baby girl, Caroline Rose Mordaci, March 4th!

KUDOS to everyone who was involved with the Family Feud Basketball Game. Despite the weather, \$1900 was raised for the WTA Scholarship Fund! The highest total in 5 years and the history of the Family Feud! Scott Partridge and Greg Geesler know how to organize one hot event! WTA thanks you especially for sharing your creativity and inspiration!

What do Miss Becky Walzer, Mr. Mike Lester, Ms. Jessica Kleindienst, Mr. Andy Struzik, Ms. Jackie Courtney, & Mr. Jay Gauthier all share in common? Recognition as teachers of influence from the senior boy's B-Ball team!!!!!!

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

3rd Thursday: March

20th—3 for 1!!!!WTA Nominations, 403B

forms, and SRO Letters!

And don't forget the donuts (Tiffany)!



- OMNI distribution of 403 B funds
- Cancer screening release time
- Domestic partner agreements

Issues acted upon/resolved:

- Reviewed suggested school calendar for 2008-09.
- Clarified concerns about tutoring as provided by staff.

Rule of thumb #46: "Be the change in the world that you want to see—become active in your union!"

Dates to Remember:

March 28th—WTA officer & At Large Negotiators nominations due.

March 31st—deadline to request digital TV coupons.

April 9– 12th NYSUT RA in NYC

NYSUT Field Representative:

Jeff Trout (585)454-5550

jtrout@nysutmail.org

Rochester Service Center/Union Place
30 N. Union St.—suite 302

Rochester, NY 14607



Issues currently being discussed / explored:

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

Straight From Albany...

Tom Siembor, WTA's roving lobbyist, reporting on his recent trip to Albany states:

Gov. David Patterson is off to great start-looks like he's going to shelf some of the controversial budget items Spitzer introduced. That may be a really good thing.

NYSUT reps were out in force and made a very professional and very concerted showing on Lobbying Day. Most legislators made time for us, unlike in the past, when we spoke to interns, like the rest of the lobbyists.

Property Tax Cap: a very controversial idea of Gov. Spitzer's to cap

all property tax. This would result in a drop in revenue over time.

Both Assemblyman Oaks and Sen. Nozzolio are not in favor, but we are watching to see if Patterson renews this idea. **NYSUT needs your help to challenge this idea. Tell your legislators to vote "No". There are other ways to save money. Tax caps are already causing layoffs in Oswego County schools.**

SRO's : Fight the loss of SRO's. It's not to save money, it's to put more uniformed police in urban



crime areas (Project Impact). We lose a valuable resource. Senator Nozzolio has stepped up and spoken out to keep SRO's. Bob Oaks believes it is a shift of resources to urban areas from rural, and most of his constituents are rural.

SUNY/CUNY issues, community colleges: NYSUT is working to create more full-time professors in these schools, and stop the flow of \$\$\$ from the lottery away from education.

NYSUT is your union. There is strength in numbers-why else would Wal-Mart try so hard to bust the union?

Family Feud!



**Working
to Benefit
You!**



nysut Member
Benefits
Trust
A Union of Professionals

Every program endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits Trust is researched, designed and monitored to enhance your lifestyle.

With the group buying power represented by more than 585,000 members, we're able to offer quality products and services that are competitively priced.

Insurance Benefits

Term Life
Catastrophe Major Medical
Disability
Personal Property and Liability (Umbrella)
Long-Term Care
Retiree Dental Plan
WrapPlan[®] Term Life
Insurance Coordination Plan
Accidental Death & Dismemberment
Vision Plan

Discount Benefits

OfficeMax Retail ConnectSM
Bose[®] - *New!*
Dell Computers
Barnes & Noble.com
Working Advantage (Discount Tickets)
Lifeline Medical Alert Service
Car Rentals - Alamo, Avis, Budget & Hertz
Six Flags
The Buyer's Edge Buying Service
Heat USA

Financial Benefits

Preferred Savings PlusSM
Mortgages
Equifax Credit WatchTM Gold
Consumer Credit Counseling Service

Other Services

MAP - Member Assistance Program
MetDESK (Division of Estate Planning for Special Kids)
Payroll & Pension Deduction
Consumer's Guides
Defensive Driving
Identity Theft Workshops

Legal Services

Legal Service Plan
Retiree Legal Service Plan

To request more information, please call:

(800) 626-8101

E-mail us at: benefits@nysutmail.org or visit us on the Web at www.memberbenefits.nysut.org.

Some benefits may not be available in all local associations.

For information about these programs or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits Trust 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.