

# WAYNE'S WORLD

Jason Carter (FE), President  
 Barb Thiele (OP), Internal VP  
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 Lisa Twitchell (HS), Treasurer  
 Martha Hanley (FE), Secretary  
 Doug Casey & Bob Berkowitz (HS),  
 Retirement Delegates

## A WTA Newsletter

January, 2009

Volume 7, Issue 5



## President's Message

You may have heard about the Wayne Power Team, but are still not quite sure what it is. No, the Power Team isn't the 9 strongest weight lifters in the district, but it is a committee that was formed to examine ways to save money in the area of energy and power consumption. The team consists of 5 building representatives (3 teachers & 2 principals) and 4 (departmental representatives):

OP – Heather Melnick,  
 OE – Mike Pullen,  
 FE – Jason Carter,  
 MS – Bob Armocida,  
 HS – Alan Eagle;  
 Technology Rep – Russ Harris,  
 Facilities Rep – Robert Miller,  
 Transportation Rep – Fred Prince, and  
 BOE Rep – Tom Nicholson.

While the team has some large "green" goals of requiring that new buses purchased run on LP gas, and building a wind-turbine to produce the school districts electricity; there are ways in which all staff can help now and make

a big difference. One such way is turning off electronic devices when not in use; in particular shutting off computers, printers, and other technology devices (especially overnight and on the weekends). While people may debate on what items are most crucial to spend money on (staff, technology, books, etc.); I would like to think that no-one is making the call for spending money on leaving their computer on overnight. The potential amount of money that can be saved is well over \$40,000 if everyone comes together and shuts computer/printers down when not in use. Let us all strive to shut these devices down, as the total amount of money saved could pay the salary of a staff member, purchase a new set of ELA trade books, and send students on a field trip, all at the same time.

We have already started to make a difference. According to the numbers I received from Russ Harris,

there were only 77 computers/printers left on that could have been turned off over the extended MLK Day weekend, and 203 computers/printers left on overnight on Tuesday our first day back. These numbers are down from the 400 weekend and 700 overnight, we were on average leaving on.

I know that there is still some confusion as to what devices, especially printers, should be shut off when not in use. The power team will be producing more specific instructions as how you can reduce energy consumption and what devices that you might not even be aware that you are leaving on, that could be turned off.

Signing off (and turning off laptop),

Jason Carter



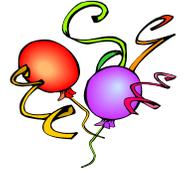
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### CELEBRATE !

#### Congratulations to:

**(OP)** Amanda Kent, second grade teacher, became engaged this month to Jesse Hoobler. He surprised her by taking her to Disney World for the weekend and popping the question! Was that who she likes better Minnie or Mickey!?!?!?!?

**(HS)** Tracy DonVito on receiving her tenure!



## Help Wayne Go Green

- Turn lights off when you are not in the room
- Remember to recycle paper, plastic, and cardboard products

Do you have any ideas that could help Wayne Central "go green"? Does your classroom have a leaky window, or does that door down the hall allow snow to blow underneath? Is your classroom temperature like being in a sauna or refrigerator? Please contact a "Power Team" member and share any ideas you have with them.



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

**WTA 3rd Thursday** –January 22nd—hope you enjoyed your donut!



## Issues currently being discussed / explored:

- Seniority list concerns
- APPR: observations & summatives - following timelines.
- Staff safety concerns

## Issues acted upon/resolved:

- Various “individual” seniority concerns
- Schedule sharing
- Retirement MOA

**Rule of thumb #53** “Times of great challenge and sacrifice are also times of great opportunity !” so read your New York Teacher this month and see what else they have to say. . . .

## Dates to Remember:

**Sunday, Feb. 1st** - deadline for applying for and NEA Foundation grant  
[www.neafoundation.org/grants](http://www.neafoundation.org/grants)

**Thursday, Feb, 26th** - The NYSTRS pre-retirement planning seminar in Rochester! Register on line at [www.nystrs.com](http://www.nystrs.com)

**Friday, Jan. 30th**– Registration deadline

for the March 6th & 7th - NYSUT Workplace Health and Safety Conference

**Mark Fitch from the Legend Group** will be available on the following dates to answer any questions re: the new IRS regulations and more:

Tuesday, Jan 27th OE  
Wed, Jan 28th—OP  
Tuesday, Feb, 3rd—MS  
Thursday, Feb 5th—HS  
Monday, Feb. 9th—FE

**NYSUT Field Rep:** Jeff Trout  
(585)454-5550 [jtrout@nysutmail.org](mailto:jtrout@nysutmail.org)

## Step Up and Take Action

Please join your union brothers and sisters across the state by sending a letter/fax to your legislative representatives. There are currently 5 main letters that NYSUT and the WTA are urging you to send. All letters/fax can be sent via NYSUT's website. Go to [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org) and click on the “Legislative Action Center” link.

### Restore Funding to Teacher Centers

The governor's proposed budget calls for the elimination of all funding for Teacher Resource Centers. Currently the Wayne TRC, located in the MS, receives approximately \$70,000 in a grant from the state. The Wayne TRC is a major resource and asset for teachers and needs to be funded.

### Save the Mentor Teacher-Internship Program

The governor's proposed budget also removes all funding for the Mentor teacher grant. This programs provides new teachers with support from experience mentor teachers.

### Support Federal Economic Recovery Package

We need to write our NY state federal level representatives and urge them to work with President Obama for swift passage of H.R. 1, the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," to provide the substantial relief New York needs to sustain services for our children.

NYSUT urges that the following be included in the Recovery Package:

- Provide direct assistance to New York through existing formulas and through education block grants such as those proposed in the \$6.4-billion Schumer plan.
- Provide Immediate fiscal relief through an increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) contribution to the state Medicaid Program to provide general budget relief to New York state. The proposals before Congress would provide up to \$5 billion in additional much needed relief. It would also help free up funding to restore proposed cuts to

education.

### Oppose Tier 5 Plan for New Employees

This will not effect our current teachers as they would be in Tiers 1-4, but would effect all new hires. If enacted, this new retirement plan will require greater contributions from middle class families over a longer period of time in exchange for diminished retirement eligibility and inferior retirement benefits. These changes will not save taxpayers a single dime over the near term and will provide only marginal savings over the longer term.

### Support Community Colleges: Reject Mid-Year Cuts

Our union brothers and sisters at community colleges took action when the state proposed a mid year cut to public education K-12. With their lobbying support we were able to prevent mid-year cuts to our public K-12 school systems. They now need our support to block a proposed mid-year cut on community colleges.

## Legal Service Plan helps thousands

More than 77,000 NYSUT members have coverage under a voluntary or group legal service plan endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits Trust. If you already have coverage, this serves as a reminder to use your plan. If you do not yet have coverage, here's some information on how this voluntary plan can be of value.

When you enroll, you'll receive a toll-free number to the plan's National Legal Office, where you can call for unlimited legal advice and assistance at no charge. The NLO is staffed by attorneys with expertise in real estate, domestic relations, family law, civil litigation, foreclosure, bankruptcy, business law, criminal law, landlord/tenant situations, wills/trusts/estates, elder law, personal injury and vehicle/traffic law.

Many times, these attorneys can resolve your situation by writing a letter or making a phone call on your behalf, at no charge. If other assistance is warranted, you will be referred to a plan attorney located in your area. The plan has participating attorneys across the country who charge plan members \$175 an hour (effective with enrollments and renewals as of Sept. 1, 2008) or 40 percent off their usual hourly fee, whichever is lower.

You'll receive coupons for free office consultations and the *Preventive Law Guide*, an informative newsletter sent three times each year.

For information about this program 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.

The NLO will review, at no cost to you, legal documents up to six pages in length, such as purchase agreements, loan agreements and real estate documents.

For many common personal legal matters, such as a real estate transaction, misdemeanor, traffic violation, separation and divorce, the attorneys will charge no more than the guaranteed maximum fees assigned to each matter.

Effective with enrollments and renewals as of Sept. 1, 2008, the plan provides a free health care proxy, living will, durable power of attorney and simple will each year of enrollment. And the plan includes advice on identity theft prevention and for identity theft victims, assistance with debt consolidation, and assistance with mortgage foreclosure.

In addition, optional riders can be purchased to provide legal coverage in the specialized areas of elder law and business protection.

**Landlord problems**  
**Noisy neighbors**  
**Purchasing a house**  
**Drawing up a Will**  
**Speeding ticket**

**These are some examples in which the Legal Service Plan can be of assistance.**

Priced at \$85 a year (\$55 for retiree members), you can't afford not to look into this valuable benefit. For information and an enrollment form, contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101, e-mail [benefits@nysutmail.org](mailto:benefits@nysutmail.org), or log on to [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org) to download an enrollment form or enroll online.

**nysut** Member Benefits Trust  
*A Union of Professionals*