

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



President's Message

Congratulations and thanks to all the staff that participated, volunteered, and attended the 6th annual Family Feud (basketball game) in the High School Auditorium on March 5th. The event raised \$1,900 for the WTA Scholarship and Weisenreder funds. The high school pulled away to an early lead and went on to win the game. The series now stands tied at 3-3.

Remember, there is more than one way to volunteer and lend a helping hand other than playing. For future reference we always need volunteers for ticket sales, setup/cleanup, and security. I volunteered at the event and helped out by playing the role of security guard in the hall and although I didn't have any slam dunks or three pointers; I did have 11 blocked student attempts to get into the main high school hallway and 3 assists for people trying to use the vending machine. I did get a few chances to watch the game and it was

clear that everyone was having a great time.

There is also early buzz of a possible softball game/tournament in June. I am highly advocating that the k-5 grade levels get together and form their own rivalry game. Perhaps there could be a primary/elementary game or OP, OE, FE building game. Of course my fellow k-5 peers could always challenge their 6-12 colleagues. When it was commented that the elementary staff are more than capable of taken on their upper grade level peers; the upper grade level's response was clear, the k-5 teachers could give their high/middle school counterparts a tough game, assuming that game started with, "Duck, Duck... or Red Rover, Red Rover... or Simon Says..."

In the upcoming weeks the WTA will also be seeking input from staff in the areas of APPR, school safety,

and energy savings through properly sealed doors and windows. The APPR committee will be meeting on Wednesday, March 25 to have a mid-point discussing on the APPR. Your APPR building-level committee member will be collecting feedback to take to the meeting. The WTA building reps are forming a sub-committee to take a closer look at safety in our schools and will also need your feedback – more information on this will be forthcoming from your building reps. As a member of the Power Team, I will be sending out an email to all staff regarding energy savings that can be obtained from "leaky" doors and windows. The intent will be to create a system that allows for the discovery and documentation of 'leaky' doors and windows in the district.

Sincerely,

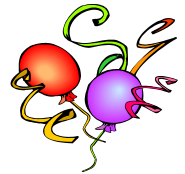
Jason Carter



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CELEBRATE !

Thank you to:

Greg Geesler for all his coordinating efforts with the Family Feud— You Rock!



Way to go WCSD Family!

Those overgrown MS and HS "Kids" are at it again!

Hey pass the ball!
Over here! I'm open!

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

WTA 3rd Thursday –March 19th— Weingarten Rights.



Issues acted upon/resolved:

- Building climate survey
- APPR committee to reconvene
- Staff safety sub committee of Rep council being formed.

Issues currently being discussed /explored:

- Seeking clarification regarding transition pay for subs for teachers going on leave.
- Seniority list concern
- Exploring articulated agreement with local

banks for a next year's change in payroll.

Rule of thumb #54 "If you hear others talking (gossip) don't talk about it—pray about it!" *WRUR Sunday Morning Gospel Radio*

Dates to Remember

March 23rd—Committee of 100 Lobby Day.

April 2, 3, and 4th—NYSUT RA in Buffalo NY!

April 15th, Wednesday—Deadline for Barrie Fleegel Memorial Active Educator Grant, for

full time staff pursuing their permanent certification, CAS or advanced degree in any educational field. See your WTA rep for an application.

April 24th, Friday—NYSTRS pre-retirement planning seminar register at www.nystrs.com or call 800-356-3128, EXT. 6180. (Last Rochester date is May 6th)

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

Exercising Your Rights!

"If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my Association (WTA) representative be present at the meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions."

Okay class—your assignment today is to memorize these words, keep the cheat sheet in you wallet, back pocket, or purse. Why? Because this is a basic union right; to be able to ask for clarification about the intent of a meeting and have representation if the intent is disciplinary in any way. Of course the converse is true, if the intent is

clarified that the meeting is not disciplinary then you do not have the right to have a union rep there. The responsibility falls on you to seek the clarification. Here at WCSD, our administration is often courteous and may offer you representation at a meeting but that is the exception—they are being courteous and they are not required to offer. Only you know if you feel uncomfortable or caught off guard in a meeting. Only you know if you wish the meeting to be documented by an impartial party. Only you can exercise your right by making the statement and having the conversation!

In the meantime, as the end of the year rush begins, think about how you can close up your communication loop holes so as not to get caught in a pinching situation. Who should you be keeping informed? What documentation records should you be keeping? Whom should you be letting know about concerns with your students, parents, team members, etc? Do you keep a contact log? Do you inform your dept chair, admin, etc.? Remember rights do not exist alone, they have responsibilities that support them. WTA and NYSUT are here to protect your contractual rights but we all must act responsibly!

WTA in Action!



Jason and Beth along with other NYSUT reps at the Fair Share Tax Rally—downtown Rochester, Thursday, March 5th.



Over February break Jason Carter meets with Congressman Dan Maffei to discuss the Federal Stimulus package as it applies to NY state and education!



Assemblyman Bob Oakes, Tom Siembor, Beth Peters and Jason Carter discuss NY's state of affairs at the NYSUT legislative breakfast, held on Saturday, March 7th at RIT.



Who doesn't love a discount?

Especially these days, if you can save a little here, a little there, doesn't that make the purchase even more special?

NYSUT Member Benefits Trust endorses a variety of discount programs ranging from office supplies and movies to appliances and heating oil.

Read on for a brief description of all of the endorsed discount programs available to you from Member Benefits. To ensure you'll get the NYSUT member discounts, visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101 for details.

Bose® - Special pricing on Bose consumer products, including music systems, computer speakers and home theater systems.

Dell - Receive a 7 percent discount on most items such as laptops, desktops, printers, plasma screens and more. Or choose a pre-configured system at a discounted price.

Barnes & Noble.com - Discounted items up to 40 percent. Members receive an additional 5 percent discount only through the Member Benefits Web site.

OfficeMax Retail ConnectSM - Discounts from 10 percent to 40 percent off certain office supplies and services at OfficeMax retail locations when providing the OfficeMax discount card at time of purchase. If OfficeMax is not in your vicinity, you can order online (you'll need username,

password and Internet address to receive the discount online).

Working Advantage - Order discounted tickets for movie theaters, movie rentals, theme parks, Broadway shows, sporting events, online shopping and more.

Six Flags - Purchase discounted admissions to participating parks using the Member Benefits Web site link.

Philips Lifeline - A simple push of a button gets appropriate help in a timely manner to relatives who live alone. Receive a discount off the initial installation fee and monthly monitoring costs.

Car & Truck Rentals - Discounted car rentals from Alamo, Avis, Budget and Hertz. Discounted local and one-way truck rentals from Budget Truck Rental.

The Buyer's Edge - Use this buying service to comparison shop for your best deal on major appliances, furniture, luggage, automobiles and more.

HEAT USA - Substantial discounts on heating oil. Free lifetime 24-hour service contract, annual cleaning and more. Available in limited areas in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. First-year membership is \$25; receive second year membership free.



For information about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please call NYSUT Member Benefits Trust or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

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