



A Union of the highest caliber professionals in the business!

A Message from the President

Every year NYSUT takes time during the annual Representative Assembly (RA) to honor 10 NYSUT members with Constituency Awards. These awards cover the diverse range of membership in NYSUT and include awards for Teacher of the Year, Retiree of the Year, Higher Education Member of the year, and 7 more. We have just found out that our very own Beth Peters has won the Health Care Professionals Member of the Year Award and will be honored at the upcoming RA this April in New York City. Congratulations to Beth Peters and a special thanks for all of the hard work that she has done over the years to support the WTA, our staff, students, community, state and national union affiliates, and various professional groups and organizations.

Our negotiators have also been working hard on our next contract. The next meeting with the district is scheduled for Thursday, February 3rd where they will be finishing language regarding calendar and begin to create language regarding the concept of planning time. If you have any information or ideas to share with your negotiators regarding planning time and work load, please do so before their next meeting. They are looking for concrete examples on how our work load has increased over the years. Please give as specific examples as possible that demonstrate the increase over time as well as possible solutions that will enable the team to

create new/modify old contract language.

If you have been following the news regarding state taxes you know that Governor Cuomo is heavily pushing the concept of a 2% tax cap. What is even more concerning about this is that it is a 2% tax cap on the tax levy and not the just the tax rate. For example if the tax levy was 20 million the increase in levy could only be a maximum of \$400,000. That may seem like a lot of money, but it doesn't keep up with cost increases due to fuel and healthcare premiums. You may have noticed in Wayne Central that the increase in tax rate has roughly been around 0 percent for the last 5 years or so. However, Wayne Central's tax levy or total amount of money collected has increased over those same years. This is because new homes have been built, home/business assessments have increased, etc. Since Cuomo's plan is a 2% tax cap on the levy, Wayne Central would lose out on all of the money that would have been collected for these new homes and increased assessments, that goes over the 2% tax cap on the levy. Had the tax cap been in affect during the last 5 years Wayne Central would have faced significant cuts in program and staff.

We need your support to let our legislators know that this will be devastating to the educational program at Wayne.

Sincerely,
Jason Carter

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WTA Officers

- Jason Carter (FE), President
- Barb Thiele (OP), Internal VP
- Kim Schultz (MS), External VP
- Lisa Twitchell (HS), Treasurer
- Martha Hanley (FE), Secretary



Our building negotiators have been meeting, but it is not too late to pass along any questions, comments or concerns you may have. They are our elected officials, and represents the needs of all of us. If you have input for them, please let them know. The only voice unheard, is the silent one.



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

Dates to Remember

January 25-28th Regents Week, Midterms and Local Assessments

February 21st-25 Winter Recess

February 7th —Monday—
Rep council mtg at FE



From the "Trout" Pond

February Trivia:

Last year the NYS legislature adopted a law requiring _____ percent of a teacher's annual evaluation score be determined by student achievement growth on local and state assessments. The first unit member to contact his/her NYSUT LRS with the correct answer will receive a \$10 Lowes Gift card.

Issues currently being discussed /explored:

- *Meeting Schedules
- *Seniority List
- *Negotiations
- *Snow Days
- *ASI Hiring Update
- *Professional Development Days
- *Grading Exams/Workload

In order to succeed, you must think that you can! We as a unit know we can be successful when we work together. Is that what we tell our students?



The Wayne Teachers' Association helped 44 families in the district enjoy the spirit of the season this year. Donations were given to help them with their own difficult situations. This was made possible through the Weisenreder Memorial Fund, which was established by Richard Weisenreder. He was a former Wayne Central teacher and this fund was established in his memory to aid families experiencing financial difficulties due to chronic illnesses or crisis situations. The Wayne Teachers' Associations continues to support this fund through fund raising and staff donations. Each building in the district conducts their own fund raising events to support this wonderful charity that assists our Wayne Central students and families in need.



What's New from NYSUT?

Deadline looms for districts' RTTT final scope of work

Local leaders should be aware that districts' Final Scope of Work for RTTT must be submitted to the State Education Department by Monday, Nov. 8. While districts don't need sign off from the union on the final scope of work, they will need signoff to access the funds for teacher evaluation. As we have said in the past, collective bargaining agreements including the new teacher evaluation system do not have to be negotiated now, despite what some superintendents and school attorneys are saying. Placeholder language will allow you to settle the rest of the contract now and return to the evaluation pieces after the regulations are adopted by the Regents.



Elections are over; but our work continues

NYSUT's officers thank you and give credit to the union's leaders and members for helping to elect about 90 percent of NYSUT-endorsed candidates on Election Day. In New York, we can be proud that union activism helped carry the day for pro-labor candidates: U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand; Attorney General Schneiderman; and Comptroller DiNapoli. As expected, Andrew Cuomo is our new governor.

"You will see in the days ahead NYSUT working with measured determination to establish common ground with our new governor and other elected leaders, and to do our part to move New York forward," said NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi. "But make no mistake, we will adhere without compromise to the principles we have established to guide and direct our union."

Welcome

Tara & Cat Mateo welcomed their daughter (Ileiahna) yesterday 10-24-10 @ 9:21 a.m. 8lbs. 3oz.

Kim Collazo and her husband Angelo Elle Joy Collazo to their family on November 11 at 7:59 AM. She is 8 lbs 11 oz and 20 inches.

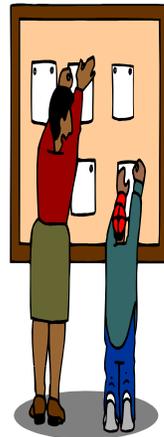
Elizabeth Green and her husband welcomed their new son Caleb Anthony Green born on 11/12/10 at 11:36 pm.



Congratulations

Also in the celebration column for FE : We'd like to thank the Freewill Santa who donated 10 gift cards for needy Freewill families. What a caring community we have here in WCSD!

Martha Hanley has been nominated to the AFT as an Everyday Hero! She truly represents an involved union professional at all levels within our FE community!



Committee Members still needed

Still Waiting!

We still need members for our Social Committee and our Teacher Appreciation Committee. So if you are the social sort, and would like to be part of setting up social gatherings for you and your fellow WTA Members join the social committee, we could all use a night out once in a while!

Maybe you like to make or design things. Wouldn't it be great to be part of the committee that recognizes all the hard work you and your coworkers do???? If so there is a place for you on the Teacher Appreciation Committee!



Extraordinary lobbying events are in the works

NYSUT, which is activating its Political Action Committee to mobilize like never before, is finalizing plans for two extraordinary statewide events. An extraordinary lobby day to be held Feb. 15 at the Capitol will bring in grass-roots lobbyists early and, we expect, in unprecedented numbers to speak up on bedrock issues: budget, revenues, jobs and defending hard-won rights. Feb. 15 is also the regularly scheduled BOCES lobby day, and BOCES activists will find their messages amplified by all who participate. Unprecedented statewide home district lobby days are being planned for Feb. 3 and 4 to turn out members in full force from one end of the state to another, carrying our messages to legislators in their district offices.

"Our strength has to be our ability to get our members out: to get face-to-face with legislators," says NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi. The district visits will follow right on the heels of the governor's budget proposal, expected on or about Feb. 1. Watch the Leader site and the next NYSUT Leader Briefing for details as soon as they are available. NYSUT Executive Vice President Andy Pallotta, who was also at the Capitol for an Albany rally for funding, said: "There's nothing like our presence in person to make a point." And yes, the regularly scheduled Committee of 100 on March 21-22 is still going forward as planned. (Photo: right, Andy Pallotta at rally)

Are you up to the challenge?

If you're like most people, you make New Year's resolutions only to break them soon after. NYSUT Member Benefits challenges all NYSUT members to make and keep this one resolution: I resolve to draw up (or update) my will.

The importance of having a will to protect your loved ones and your wishes cannot be stressed enough. This is especially true if you have children under the age of 18. A will allows you to name a legal guardian(s) for your children. It also ensures that your estate will be distributed according to your desires. Without a valid will, these very important, personal decisions are made by the state.

The Legal Service Plan endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits Trust is a convenient vehicle to help you meet this challenge. It provides one simple will or update, free. A simple will provides for the proceeds of one's estate to be distributed to specifically named beneficiary(ies), with an alternate distribution plan in the event the primary beneficiary predeceases the writer of the will. With a simple will, proceeds are to be distributed outright with no conditions attached. Placing a condition on a bequest requires a trust, which can be obtained from the Legal Plan for a fee.

In addition to the simple will, you'll receive a durable power of attorney, living will and health care proxy, all important documents to have in place *before* the need for them arises.

The plan also gives you access to unlimited, toll-free legal advice from plan attorneys. These attorneys will make phone calls and write



third-party correspondence, at no charge, to resolve personal legal situations on your behalf before they become major problems. In addition, when you enroll in this plan, you receive two coupons for free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney.

Is there a real estate transaction coming up in your near future? Do you have any traffic violations? You can receive legal assistance on a variety of personal legal matters when you enroll in the Legal Service Plan. If the matter can't be resolved over the phone or with a letter, you will be referred to a

plan attorney in your area, who will charge you \$200 an hour or 40 percent off the usual hourly rate, whichever is lower. Optional riders for Elder Law services and for business protection can be added to your legal plan coverage.

Don't put it off any longer! Draw up your will. Enroll in the Legal Service Plan and use its service to help you, or do it

another way, but just do it! The peace of mind you'll have once you know you have taken care of your loved ones far outweighs any unpleasantness associated with making up your will.

If you happen to belong to a local association that provides a group legal service plan to you through the local or its benefit fund, remember to take advantage of the plan's benefits.

If not, you can enroll in the voluntary plan online at www.memberbenefits.nysut.org, or view and print a descriptive brochure and enrollment form online. You can also call NYSUT Member Benefits at 800-626-8101.



The Legal Service Plan provided through Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. is a NYSUT Member Benefits Trust (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 33.33% of annual participation fees received for this program. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.