



A Union of the highest caliber professionals in the business!

Join us on



Follow us on



President's Message

Life moves fast! I think today perhaps more than another other day has proved that statement to be true. As I write this President's Message on this day of Thursday, February 16, of the year 2012, I would like to point out that all of the topics that I will discuss are of things that happened or came to my attention as of this day.

For a bit of good news, the NYSUT locals in Wayne County this evening official formed the Wayne County Education Federation (see page 3 for more details). While at the meeting where the WCEF was formed, I learned of the following. Originally the April break (school year 2012-2013) in the calendars proposed by Monroe County BOCES and the WFL BOCES had different break schedules, with Monroe the first week of April 2013 and WFL the third week of April 2013. This will now be changed so they match with both Wayne and Monroe counties having April break in 2013 during the first week of April. Good news for staff who work in Wayne, but may have kids going to Monroe County schools. This will also make it so next year our grades 3-8 students won't be taking their state assessment immediately after returning from a long break. So basically our break schedule changed for next year to match state standardized tests.

But apparently that is only the beginning. The state of New York is apparently soon to announce that they intend to propose that 2 years from now all June Regents exams will be moved to earlier dates in June, and thereby eliminate February break for school districts across the state, effective the 2013-2014 school year. This according to the state would not in any way reduce the length of the school for students or days worked for staff, but change the old paradigm of schools having December, February, April break to only December and April break with the summer becoming a bit longer. This would give school district's more time to incorporate state test data into APPR.

The Governor, NYSED, and NYSUT

also announced today a settlement regarding APPR. The gist, a good portion of the what I refer to as "horrible and not at all advocating for students" positions by the Governor have been eliminated. However, the settlement does have some concerning aspects that are left in place for APPR. Our locals new APPR must contain at least one unannounced observation in addition to a "scheduled" observation per year that will count toward your total rating score. If you fail to reach a certain score (points) on the 20 points student growth state test score AND the 20 points student achievement local measure score, you will be rated as INEFFECTIVE regardless of your 60 point score of the other local measures. The full details have not been released yet, but I can not stress enough how perhaps the biggest part of your role in the creation of our new APPR will be the creation of the Student Learning Objectives and local assessments that relate to your specific position, department or team. Now more than ever this will need to be done right.

I started today meeting with the HS for their Third Thursday, (10 minute meeting), where we discussed the concept of Wayne CSD, Marion CSD, and Williamson CSD (Boards of Education and Superintendents) working toward the possibility of some form of Regional High School, Regional Cooperation, or Regional Resource Sharing plan.

While this will only effect a few of our members it has been announced that the Blue Million health care plan will be dropped by Excellus effective December 31, 2012.

On a last bit of good news, I have talked about in my first day of school presentations how the WTA has been slowly gaining toward winning the Abel Blattman Award for averaging at least \$10 per member donation to NYSUT political action fund VOTE-COPE. It is now official the WTA will be honored with this award for the 2011 donation year.

Have a great and hopefully not last February break.

Jason Carter

Volume 2 Issue 6

February 2012

Inside this issue:

3 R's	2
Apologizes and Corrections	2
Trivia from "The Trout Pond"	2
Congratulations	3
Updates	3
News from NTSUT	3
Wayne County Education Federation	3

WTA Officers

Jason Carter (FE), President
Barb Thiele (OE), Internal VP
Kim Schultz (OP), External VP
Lisa Twitchell (HS), Treasurer
Faye Eaton (MS), Secretary



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

Dates to Remember:

**Monday March 5th –
Rep Council at OE**

March 2nd –
1/2 Day PD & 7 Hours Due

February 20- 24th Break

Enjoy!

Issues Currently Being Discussed/Explored

- *Retirement Date
- *APPR Committees
- *105 Plan Money
- *Class Size
- *Negotiations
- *State Mandates

If the Governor thinks he is the only advocate for children, I wonder why he is making such *terrible* decision for them! Maybe *we* should *go tell him how to do his job!*



Congratulations to our very own Beth Peters for winning the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Western New York School Counselor Consortium organization at the conference on 2/8/2012. What an honor to be elected by her colleagues. Now what Beth? Is there anything higher than a **Lifetime Achievement Award?**



Trivia

Teachers in grades 4-8 who teach certain subjects will receive student growth scores in June of 2012. However, those scores can not be used in their annual evaluations unless a specific event / process takes place first.

What are the subject areas?
What is the process / event?

The first unit member to contact
Jeff Trout with the correct answer will receive a \$15 Lowes



Correction/Apology

I would like to apologize for my misinformation in the last issue of Wayne's World, and it is so nice to see that so many people read it. In the last issue I stated that the 7 hour project was due on 2/7, that was wrong. As many of you know it is due on 3/2, our next staff development day. Sorry and Thanks!
Kim



Congratulations

Deb Bussard welcomed her third grandson into the world on Jan 9. Sawyer Michael was 9 lbs. 21 inches. All are doing fine.

Carrie Eldred, a first grade teacher at OP, and her husband Paul are the proud new parents of Ryan James Eldred, born on 12/27/11. He weighed 7lbs.5 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Ashley Fralick, a first grade teacher at OP, and her husband Neil welcomed their new son, Owen Neil born on 1/27/12. He weighed 6 lbs 11 oz and was 20 inches long.



NYSUT Action Center

This week NYSUT is launching another way to get involved and take action on the priorities that matter most to us. Check out the new NYSUT Action Center page on Facebook and join the community today.

["Like" and join the NYSUT Action Center community.](#)

In an email that should arrive in your inbox on Monday, Andy Pallotta asks you to "Be our 'friend' on Facebook for the most recent legislative updates, news, and more that will help you stay informed, get engaged and take action on critical issues that affect you personally and in the workplace." And if you haven't already, [check out the MAC](#), NYSUT's new Member Action Center at mac.nysut.org. Point your members there, as well.

Media reflects NYSUT message in ad campaign

Newspaper, radio and online coverage of NYSUT's statewide [ad campaign](#) underscores the union's position that progress is being made to develop evaluation systems in districts all over the state. It also reports the union's message that overreliance on state testing for the purpose of evaluating teachers is unacceptable.

Newsday quoted NYSUT's Dick Iannuzzi saying, "The public should know that progress is being made, and more importantly, we need to get it right. All across the state, teachers and school districts are working to develop rigorous and fair evaluation systems that are good for students, fair to teachers and that work for their own communities. What they don't need is another 'one size fits all' unfunded mandate imposed by Albany bureaucrats."

The campaign debuted this week in Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Poughkeepsie, Binghamton, Plattsburgh, Utica and on Long Island. It was covered by radio and the AP wire service. Iannuzzi spoke about it on Fox 23 News in Albany and on statewide radio news. A digital version of the ad appears on many newspapers' websites, directing visitors to a new dedicated section of the NYSUT website -- www.nysut.org/teachingforexcellence.

Union provides advice on SED's Student Learning Objectives guidance

SED is requiring districts to use Student Learning Objectives to measure student growth in non-tested subjects. An SLO is an academic goal for a teacher's students representing the most important learning for the semester or course.

SED has provided guidance to districts for the development of Student Learning Objectives. Here's a valuable "[fact sheet](#)" from NYSUT Research and Educational Services to summarize SED's guidance and provide advice for local leaders.

The 2010 APPR law requires teacher evaluations to include 20 percent growth on state assessments or a comparable measure of student growth. Currently, the state tests only apply to teachers of grades 4 through 8 ELA and math. All other teachers will be evaluated based on comparable measures, the Student Learning Objectives.

- achievement.
- Contrary to myth, teachers and their statewide union have long advocated replacing drive-by evaluations with a transparent, comprehensive and rigorous evaluation system that advances high standards for teacher effectiveness.
- NYSUT - through its Innovation Initiative – lead for more than two years a pilot project consisting of labor/management teams in six school districts that successfully developed rigorous evaluations that advance teacher effectiveness and student learning.
- Known as the NYSUT Teacher Practice Rubric, the state Education Department has added the union-led system to its list of approved rubrics for the new teacher evaluation system. The NYSUT Rubric is the only SED-approved option that is practitioner-led, and is the one developed through labor-management collaboration.

Rural and small city locals to converge on Albany Feb. 29

NYSUT and a coalition of educators, students and parents plan a Rural and Small Cities Forum and Advocacy Day, Feb. 29 in Albany. NYSUT officers Kathleen Donahue and Andy Pallotta sent a [letter](#) this week inviting leaders to participate.

Rural and small city schools have suffered inordinately from the state's reduction in state aid to education. These are some of the state's highest need districts. With limited ability to raise revenue locally, they depend heavily on state aid for operating revenue.

Announcing the Creation of the Wayne County Education Federation

At the February 16, 2012 Wayne County President's meeting NYSUT locals of Wayne County unanimously voted to form the Wayne County Education Federation. The purpose of the Federation is to provide mutual assistance and cooperation for its member locals in order to exchange information, support each other's needs, and promote programs in support of public education in Wayne County. At the meeting the Federation selected officers to serve as interim officers until elections takes place later in the school year. In the photo on the right are the interim officers for the newly created WCEF:



WCEF Acting Vice President Pam Modzel, who is also President of the WFL BOCES EA

WCEF Acting Secretary Mike Herlan, who is also President of the Marion TA

WCEF Acting President Jason Carter, who is also President of the Wayne TA

The time for Action is now!

Please visit the WTA website at: www.wayneta.org

Click on this link to send letters/faxes to our legislators regarding Tier VI, and state funding, along with other educational issues.

The new APPR is coming, click here to view approved state rubrics, get facts and updates about APPR.

Wayne Teachers' Association
Wayne TA

» OFFICIALS
» LINKS
» INFORMATION
» EVENTS
» VOTE COPE
» EMAIL

NEWS » ABOUT

2/13/2012

MEMBER ACTION CENTER

[VOTE COPE & Political Action](#)

12/1/2011

Information on Approved APPR Rubrics by NYSED

[Information and Rubric](#)

TEACHER EVALUATION DONE RIGHT

wysut
A Union of Professionals

MEMBER BENEFITS wysut
Working to Benefit You

aft

nea

Welcome to... The WTA re... Wayne Cent... district is loc... York. The p... the interests... teaching pro... and inform n... state, and na... The WTA is... which includ... Weisenreder... outreach. Th... students and... families of st... already recei... Through the... assistance to... citizenship a...

Encourage Family, Friends and Community members to speak out in support of public education.