

The Member Ship



The Newsletter of The West Genesee Teachers' Association

Updates, Updates, Updates!

Let me start with my apologies for not having a newsletter out sooner, however, we are working through the ideas of email, face book, twitter, web pages and others to best keep members immediately informed and up to date and I am personally struggling with the idea of a newsletter as a means of communication as I can get things out much quicker in other ways.



Here's the obvious. We are clearly in a crisis none of us anticipated thanks to the Governors lethal combination of property tax cap and distribution of state aid. In our district property taxes have risen 3.96% on average since 2005. Governor Cuomo has capped the tax increase at 2%. That piece we could have handled even though it would not have been easy. Combine that with devastating cuts in state aid over the past three years and that creates the perfect storm.

State Aid had increased at least 8% per year from 2005-2008. Then the State decided to decrease the aid 15.8% over the last 3 years. That's a lot to digest, but the bottom line is the State (Governor) has asked us to operate on the same budget (or less) for the last three years and on top of that a 15.8% cut in State Aid. That means that entire 15.8% decrease had to be cut somewhere within the budget AND any increase to the budget had to be found in cuts as well. Now I know there are places to cut and everyone has an answer as to where we should cut or save and I encourage EVERYONE to share their ideas. Please just keep in mind we are talking millions.

The executive officers and I spent time in Corning being updated on a variety of topics and

Continued on page 3

Inside...

Kudos

page 2

Have you met Ted?

page 3

Member Ads

page 5

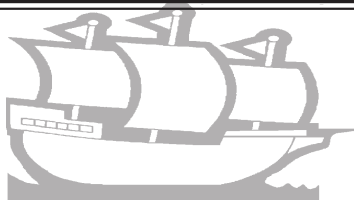
KUDOS◆◆◆◆

... to Onondaga Road Elementary School fourth-grade teacher **Michele Gipe**, WGMS science teacher **Richard Chapman**, and high school social studies teacher **Robert Marks** for receiving the 2011 Joseph A. Witowski Teacher of the Year Award. The three teachers were honored at an Optimist dinner November 1 at Gilfillan's West Hill Catering Club in Camillus.

Teachers were selected by their peers for being sensitive to the needs of their students; for creating an exciting and challenging classroom atmosphere; and contributing to the quality of instruction at West Genesee.

...to West Genesee Middle School physical education teacher, **Janine Corning**, has secured a \$508,173 grant to use at all schools within the District for equipment and programs to improve the health and wellness of our students.

The award was one of 76 grants to Local Education Agencies and Community-Based Organizations who plan to implement comprehensive, integrated physical activity and nutrition programs for their students through the Carol M. White Physical Education Program. Only 10 school districts in New York received such grants.



The Member Ship is published by the West Genesee Teachers' Association - 3106, P.O. Box 417, Camillus, NY. 13031-0417. John Christian, President; Sue Giannini, Vice President; Bonnie Young, Treasurer; Michelle Lepak, Secretary; Ellen Miller, Newsletter Editor. Affiliated with the New York State United Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers, NEA, AFL-CIO.

Looking for Kudos!

The Member Ship is looking for news to publish about West Genesee teachers. If you - or someone you know - has attended or presented at a conference, had a baby, published an article, etc., please contact Ellen Miller (CMS) or at: **emmiller@twcny.rr.com**

Please — DON'T BE SHY!! The teachers in West Genesee have a lot to be proud about — help us spread the word.

Continued from page 1

Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) headed the list. We are currently bargaining with the district on the procedural changes in the APPR process. NOTHING has been decided except what rubric to use. We had our first open WGTA work session to discuss the overall process. This was open to anyone who would like to attend. Many thanks to Molly Devaney, Terry Lindsey, and Mary Beth Smith for attending and taking time to participate in the process of negotiating this procedure. The next work session will concentrate on how to structure the 60% of the APPR we can negotiate and will be held on December 13th at 4pm at the union office. I will send out a reminder. All are welcome.

As we enter negotiations many of you have approached me with very valid and justified wants. All I ask is that you consider the climate. The team is working very hard to attempt to construct a proposal that is palatable to all. Every time the state (Governor) asks us to operate on the same amount of money as last year it means cuts. It means tough decisions. Decisions NO ONE wants to make. They are the type of decisions that keep you up at night. Trust me.

All that said we can DEFINITELY get through this together. Also understand that the negotiating team represents YOU and no one else. We are at the table for the best contract we can achieve for YOU and we take it VERY seriously! Teachers have been the victims of the press, public, and government for several years and we know how hard you work and how valuable you are. We adopted "The Gold Standard" for a reason. Stay together.

**Contact Your WGTA
Officers**

John Christian -

Cell: 382-3048

email: jchristian2222@yahoo.com

Sue Giannini -

School: 487-4656

Cell: 727-7241

email: srgianni@twcny.rr.com

Andrea Moore -

School: 487-4601

Cell: 657-2780

email: amoore8@twcny.rr.com

Danielle Tuttle -

School 487-4648

Cell: 391-3669

email: danny4414@aol.com



Carol Baldwin Fundraiser

On October 7th, the WGTA held a fundraiser for the Carol M. Baldwin foundation. This year we raised \$1,431.00! Thanks to **Theresa Mosey** for spearheading the jeans day fundraiser.



NYSUT releases "TED," a new APPR system

New York State United Teachers recently announced the release of "TED," a new Teacher Evaluation and Development system that aims to advance student learning and professional development by establishing teachers as participants in - not merely recipients of - their own evaluations. A TED handbook and workbook is now available for school districts statewide, posted at www.nysut.org/ted.

TED breaks new ground in that it is the first union-led reform initiative to come to fruition funded by a federal Investing in Innovation (i3) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. It is also supported by a grant from the American Federation of Teachers.

"A fair and objective evaluation system that includes the important voice of practitioners, and cooperation amongst all stakeholders, is essential to ensuring student success and quality teaching," said NYSUT President Richard C. Iannuzzi. "NYSUT is proud to have initiated this innovative project, one that has given voice to teachers in shaping the standards for our profession."

-From NYSUT.org

For more information see NYSUT.org website



E-mail Directory

Join the FREE WGTA E-mail Directory. There are currently more than 100 WGTA members, retirees, West Genesee staff and WG parents in the directory. We share our E-mail addresses and send each other educational articles, WGTA and union information, and personal notes.

If you would like to be a part of this FREE directory please send your name, E-mail address, and WG status (school name / retired / WG staff / WG parent) to Lynn Davis at: davis@twcny.rr.com

Visit our award-winning web site at:
<http://www.wgta.net>

MEMBERS KNOW...

BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING



AFT + ENDORSED INSURANCE

Term Life*

Voluntary term life insurance is designed to provide financial protection for your loved ones in the event of a premature death. Term life coverage with MetLife is available in amounts up to six times annual base earnings (maximum of \$1 million). Limited amounts are also available to spouses/domestic partners and eligible dependent children.

MORE VALUE FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP



For more details and benefits, go to:
aft.org/members

* New York State United Teachers members have insurance programs through NYSUT Member Benefits Trust. To obtain more information about these plans, members can call **800/626-8101**.

AFT + is your advocate. For information on all AFT + programs, call 800/238-1133, ext. 8643, or e-mail aftplus@aft.org. The AFT has an expense reimbursement and/or endorsement arrangement for marketing this program. For more information, please contact AFT Financial Services at 800/238-1133, ext. 4493; send an e-mail to disclosureinfo@aft.org; or visit www.aft.org/benefits/disclosure.

<http://www.wgta.net>

PERMANENT ADVERTISEMENTS

LAWN MOWER, snowblower, and small gas engines repaired and serviced. Used units also bought. Contact Dick Capella at 469-8697.

NEED CASH? Paying fair prices for all old U.S. coins, gold, silver, proof sets, etc. Confidential cash transactions. Call Tony Vertucci (635-9069) or Gary Alletzhauser (673-4396).

ART BY DESIGN developed just for you or to give as a gift. Specializing in stained glass, calligraphy, jewelry, pastel, portraits and watercolor. Call June Schneiweiss at 672-5574.

Website Construction by the award winning WGTA Webmaster. Are you in need of a website? Visit <http://www.WebData.us> for more information or call Lynn Davis at 315-382-4333.

KATHY LYKUDIS, Licensed Real Estate Salesperson, Hunt Real Estate, 5854 Belle Isle Road. 487-5640 or 430-1453. E-mail: klykudis@yahoo.com.

R.E. Raaflaub Studio. Weddings, portraits and gatherings. Phone 454-9441.

Screen printing and Embroidery. Wide selection of apparel available with West Genesee Logo or with your school's name. Great way to show school spirit. Call Mike at Quick Stitch, 299-2370.

UNION PLUS LEGAL SERVICES. Cantone Law Firm, P.C., 5426 West Genesee Street, Camillus. General practice legal services with 30% discount applied for all WGTA members. Real estate closings. Wills and estates. Primary concentration in Collaborative Family Law for separation/divorce. Dan Cantone is the father of three WG grads, including WGTA member Laura (East Hill). Call 484-9255 and mention you're with WGTA. Email: dgc@canlawpc.com. Website: canlawpc.com

Professional DRIVEWAY SEALING. Save yourself the time and hassle... Dixe Sweeping Service offers the finest in residential driveway sealing. Our standard package includes: Surface cleaning and edge trimming, oil/fuel stain treatment, crack filling and minor patch repair, squeegee/broom application of industrial grade sealer with sand, blocking off the entrance. For free estimates contact Jeff Dixe (WGHS Teacher with 20 years of seal coating experience) at 345-5953 or <http://www.dixesweeping.com>.

KNAPP BROTHERS AUCTIONEERS. Buy, sell, appraise antiques, household, entire estates. Call 487-6940.

Guitar Lessons - Auburn / Skaneateles area. Contact Jon Peterson at Stonehedge - Blue, or 255-0550.

www.TheShowKid.com - "Stuff for kids" with horse showing in mind. Visit us on the internet, at a horse show near you, or at 9233 Oswego Road, Baldwinsville, NY 13027. Marcia & Don Schwartz, Home 315-695-3557, Business: 315-695-3540, Cell: 315-382-4239, or on the web at <http://www.TheShowKid.com>.

MJS Home Improvement L.L.C. interior/exterior painting, drywall, decks, windows, doors, kitchens/baths, basements, additions, and much more! Fully insured with over 20 years of experience. References available. Contact: Michael J. Spath at 696-8395, 559-0244

Teacher pension plan (403b) provider, Michael Greene of Confidential Planning will help set up a private retirement plan. Work phone is 474-3986. E-mail mike.greene@evansandbennett.com.

PRECISION PAINT and WALL COVERING – Helping you to freshen up a special room, several interior spaces, or your whole house. Interior and exterior painting. Ceiling and wall stain and crack repair, wallpaper removal and hanging. Custom work to make your dreams come true. Contact Paul Tasillo, Home 487-5223 Cell 254-6456. Insured. Free estimates.

ROSEWOOD STRING QUARTET. Weddings - Parties - All Occasions. Classical - Popular Music. Call Jill DiBattista at 488-6006 or Kristen Panzetta at 622-1483.

Advertisement Policy

Advertisements in The Member Ship are provided free to West Genesee NYSUT members and their families. All advertisements are at the discretion of The Member Ship Editor and are printed on the WGTA website. Advertisements should be submitted to Ellen Miller at CMS. The only other advertisements that are run in The Member Ship are those provided by NYSUT, the AFT or the AFL-CIO.

Find a list of permanent ads on the WGTA website: <http://www.wgta.net>

<http://www.wgta.net>

Are you keeping your family's best interests in mind?

The importance of having a will cannot be overstated – this crucial legal document protects your family during their time of grief and ensures that your wishes are honored.

Drafting a will can help provide peace of mind for you today and prevent unnecessary stress for your family in the future. It also allows you to name a legal guardian if you have children under the age of 18. In addition, a will ensures that your estate will be distributed according to your desires.

A power-packed legal punch

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan – provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. – provides access to legal advice and assistance that is crucial when looking to create or update a will.

Each year, the plan provides for one simple will or update at no charge. A simple will provides for the proceeds of one's estate to be distributed to a specifically named beneficiary(ies), with an alternate distribution plan in the event that the primary beneficiary predeceases the writer of the will. With a simple will, proceeds are distributed outright with no conditions attached.

In addition to the simple will, you will 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.

Discounted rates

NYSUT members can purchase the Legal Service Plan at the special cost of \$85 per year or \$55 per year for retirees; an Elder Law Rider and/or Business Protection Rider are available for an additional fee. Members eligible for payroll or pension deduction can take advantage of further savings.

Do you have other legal issues that you need assistance with, such as dealing with a speeding ticket or selling your home? The plan offers NYSUT members legal assistance for a variety of personal legal matters.

You will have 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 will receive two coupons for free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney.

How to get started

You can enroll in the voluntary plan online by visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or printing a descriptive brochure and enrollment form. Feel free to also contact NYSUT Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 with any questions about the plan.



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

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.

