

# The Member Ship



The Newsletter of The West Genesee Teachers' Association

## A Message from the President...

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a restful summer and was able to catch up on all the things we put aside in May and June. WGTA officers have been busy but productive.

Politically this summer, we've had the "perfect storm" of events occurring, including RTTT, new national core standards and new ways of scoring state tests. I can assure you we are on top of it and will have much to communicate throughout the school year.

The big item on all our minds: how teacher evaluations will change in the upcoming years. First, keep this in mind: we are under contract for the next two years and the evaluation procedure must be collectively bargained. So while we work with the District to get ready for the change, your evaluation process will remain the same for the next two years.

We have also been busy working on clarifying contract language this summer.

As many of you know, we saw substantial movement this past spring, especially in the elementary buildings. Current state budget issues combined with an enrollment dip means this trend will continue. Therefore, we focused our efforts on making those sections of the contract that address movement more reader-friendly.

On a very positive note,



the District agreed to free some time for me so I can focus on doing a more thorough job as WGTA President. I will teach a 60 percent load this year for the first time in the history of the WGTA!

We have been asking for this for many years and thanks to a drastic shift in the relationship between the

District and the Association, this dream has become our reality. Specifically, thanks to a superintendent who understands how important a good working relationship is. Expect to see more of me in your buildings as that extra time will allow me to do more business face-to-face.

Thank you for a fun opening day. Attendance was up, and I promise to keep it brief in the future. Obviously, the Superintendent agrees with my philosophy!

The Vote Cope drive was successful - thank you to all who signed up. Just one dollar per paycheck makes a big difference. Remember, thanks to the District allowing us to payroll-deduct, you only fill the form out once, unless you are upping your contribution. Have an outstanding year - see you in the hallways!



John Christian

*"Expect to see much more of me in your buildings face-to-face"*

<http://www.wgta.net>

## Corporate Challenge 2010

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 62 West Genesee staff members gathered at Onondaga Lake Park to take part in the Corporate Challenge Run/Walk. This was almost double the amount we had in 2009! Participants included Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Teacher Aides, Administrators, Office Staff Members and our Superintendent, Dr. Brown. Each building was represented by at least one participant at the event. The night was full of fitness, fun, and plenty of food and drinks, thanks to the WGTA and participants!

Despite the rain and thunderstorms, the night was a success! West Genesee won the Scholastic Challenge Award for the Large School Division, for the second year in a row. This award is given out to the

school district with the highest percentage of their employees involved in the Corporate Challenge. The West Genesee staff members were presented with a plaque that evening and even more significant, two of our students will be honored this year with \$500 scholarships! The women's team, made up of the top four females, finished in fourth place, walking away with gifts from Tiffany & Co.!

After five years of participation, we hope to have even more people participate in the 2011 Corporate Challenge! Let's try to win the Scholastic Challenge Award again and provide two more WG students with scholarships! We need YOU in June 2011!

*-Theresa Garofalo*



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# KUDOS

...to Camillus Middle School music teacher **Don Schuessler** received the "Outstanding Young Choral Director" award for 2010 from the New York Chapter of the American Choral Director's Association (NY/ACDA).

The Camillus Middle School Concert Choir he conducts received a Gold rating at a NYSSMA Major Festival

this past April. They also received two trophies from the Darien Lake Music Festival in May, including



Grand Champion with a score of 99.3. The Concert Choir is made up of 80 seventh and eighth grade students.

Schuessler, in his fourth year of teaching at CMS, began his musical career at the renowned American Boychoir School in Princeton, New Jersey. He received a bachelor's of music degree and a master's of music degree in Choral Conducting from Houghton College in 2005 and 2007, respectively.

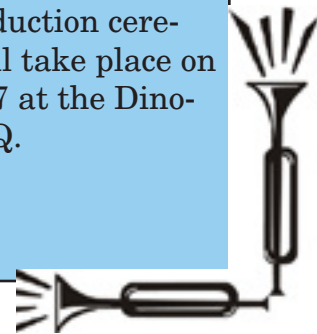
...to **Steve Frank**, Instrumental music teacher at Stonehedge and East Hill, for his imminent induction to the Syracuse Area Music Awards' (SAM-MYs) Hall of Fame. Frank, who also directs the West Genesee High School and Onondaga Community College Jazz Bands, is also an adjunct educator at OCC. Frank has served as the Syracuse Jazz

Fest Education Program Director since 2003.

Among his many other accolades, Frank has garnered a special award from the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE) in recognition of his "outstanding contributions" and "tireless dedication and leadership" in promoting and facilitating scholastic jazz education in Cen-

tral New York; the Outstanding Music Educator award in the field of Instrumental Music - Band from the musicians of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra; and the OCC Faculty Appreciation Award.

The induction ceremony will take place on October 7 at the Dinosaur BBQ.



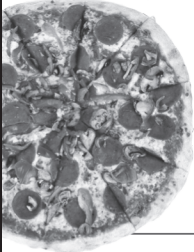
## New Advertisement

Art and Soul Watercolor Group will have its holiday show hanging at the Inn Between restaurant, Rte. 5, Camillus, from October through December. Reception: Oct. 16, 1-4 p.m. For more information, call West Genesee retiree **Janet Williams**, 424-7846.

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

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**FYI...**

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for the year

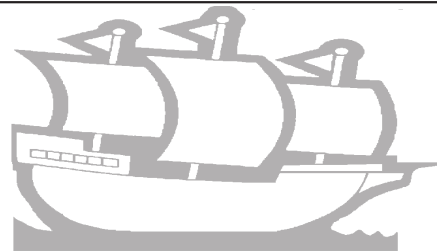
# AND MORE KUDOS...

...to WGHHS Social Studies teacher **Dominic Fruscello**, who attended the Advanced Placement U.S. History Exam Scoring Conference in Louisville, Kentucky in June. "It was the single greatest professional development experience in my 20 year career and a great honor to work with so many experienced AP teachers," said Fruscello, who is also in his 16th year of writing regents exam questions for the NY State Education Department.

...to Science teachers **Sue Potrikus** (CMS) and **Judy Allen**, (WGMS) who attended the Honeywell Institute for Ecosystems Education August 9-13 at Onondaga Lake. It was an educational workshop aimed at Middle School Science teachers to teach them about the history of Onondaga Lake and its current issues. Both teachers plan to use material learned at the institute in their curriculum this year.

### 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 an "as space allows" basis. Advertisements should be submitted to Ellen Miller at CMS by the first Friday of each month that school is in session. The only other advertisements that are run in The Member Ship are those provided by NYSUT, the AFT or the AFL-CIO.



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.

## Fall Fling at McNamara's

The WGTA will hold its annual Fall Fling at McNamara's Pub on Thursday, October 14. The fun begins when school ends, so wave goodbye to the busses and join your colleagues for some prime snacks and good cheer.

## Think Pink!

Friday, October 8, will be the annual denim day fundraiser for breast cancer. Our donations will be given to the Making Strides campaign, sponsored in part by NYSUT. We are also asking everyone to wear pink with their denim as a way to honor our breast cancer survivors, those currently in treatment as well as those whose lives have been impacted by breast cancer.



## Teacher Evaluation Legislation

### Collectively, under the new APPR regulations and Teacher/Principal Evaluation Legislation:

- Evaluations will emphasize professional growth and provide support for teachers who need it and change the focus of evaluations from discipline to improving teaching practice and student learning.
- Student test scores will not be the exclusive determinant of teacher effectiveness.
- The role of collective bargaining is maintained.
- Due process rights for teachers are protected.
- A Teacher and Principal Effectiveness Advisory Committee (TPEAC) comprised of teachers, principals, superintendents, school boards, school district and BOCES officials and other interested parties would be established to help the State Education Department define the details of the new teacher evaluation system.
- The process for granting or denying tenure does not change.

*-From NYSUT's Fact Sheet on new APPR regulations and teacher/principal evaluation legislation. For more information, visit [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org).*

## 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.

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](mailto:davis@twcny.rr.com)

E-mail addresses are only shared with other members in the Directory.

## Looking for Kudos!

*The Member Ship* is looking for news to publish about West Genesee teachers. If you - or someone you know - has won an award, presented at a workshop, published a paper, done something special in your classroom, had a birth announcement etc., please contact Ellen Miller (CMS) or at: [emmiller@twcny.rr.com](mailto: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.

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