

January

2017

WITA

West Irondequoit Teachers' Association



President's Message...

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a restful break. It is hard to believe that another school year is halfway through!

With the new year came a change in the way our health care contributions are deducted, as was shared in an email from Deputy Superintendent Tim Terranova prior to the break. In the past, returning employees would pay 5 health contributions at once from their first paycheck of the school year in September leaving members with a significantly reduced first paycheck. Employees that resigned over the summer would be billed for these contributions. Through collaboration with district and the other bargaining units, these contributions will now be deducted ahead of time, allowing them to be spread over the remaining 12 paychecks this year and 20 paychecks in future years instead of being taken all at once. We hope that this will present less of a hardship and allow for better budgeting by our members.

In the fall, 7-12 Director of Instruction Karen Finter shared "Infinite Campus Expectations at the Secondary Level" with staff by email. Some supervisors also shared these at Department meetings. Executive Vice-President Steve Schockow and I met with Mrs. Finter and other district office staff to clarify these expectations. It has been clearly established by both parties that the phrases such as "where practicable" and "recommended" provide teacher autonomy and preserve individual discretion. They should be seen as general guidelines and not hard and fast rules for how teachers manage their learning environments.

In the same vein, we have agreed to form a District Technology Initiatives Committee to examine the future use of technology in the district. Some of these initiatives may need to be negotiated in the next contract, particularly those that pertain to the payroll and personnel offices. Jamie Armstrong, Susan Carmen-Duffy, Dotti Davis, Howard Dutton, Dianne Irwin, Jennifer Joyce, Lisa Poinan, Steve Schockow and Darby Thompson have agreed to join me and several District Leadership staff members on this committee. I thank them in advance for serving in this role on behalf of all of their WITA colleagues.

Questions have arisen recently regarding pre-observation expectations. This is particularly important in light of the new "Outside Observer" requirement, as we are being observed by someone who may not be as familiar with us or our content area. It was established between the District and the Association over five years ago that, although no formal lesson plan is required, a brief overview of the lesson is desirable. This can be presented in a variety of ways including a bulleted list of:

- The Essential Question (what is being taught)
- How the lesson fits the scope and sequence of the unit (what came prior and what comes next)
- How student learning will be assessed

Contractually, a Pre-Observation Conference can be requested by either the teacher or the observer in lieu of the above information being provided.

The TRS Workshop presented on November 29th by NYSTRS Trustee Jolene DiBrango was very well attended. Members were afforded much information about the system and potential future threats to it. Benefit calculations, forms and pension options were shared. Based on member feedback, we are collaborating with NYSUT's clerical and maintenance units in West Irondequoit to provide a similar experience for ERS members on Wednesday, February 1st. ERS serves WITA members not working under a Teaching or Teaching Assistant Certificate from the New York State Education Department. If you are an ERS member who would like to attend, please RSVP by email before January 27th.

As an additional reminder, if you are working as a Permanently or Professionally Certified Classroom Teacher or a Level III Teaching Assistant and you have already had your birthday this year, you should have registered your certification with the State Education Department. By June, all members with the above mentioned certifications should have registered. The process that you may have completed last June set up your account to be able to accomplish this. During the month of your birth you need to take the additional step of registering. Directions on how to do this were sent by Tim Terranova through email in September. Please contact the WITA or Personnel Office if you need assistance.

Thank you to those that took the time to complete our Member Engagement Survey this fall. In reviewing the feedback we have learned that no one event will please all of our members. Please know that we will continue to try to vary our events and provide increased opportunities for collegiality and involvement among our members.

Finally, please know that I am always available for individual meetings with members about particular issues. These include, but are not limited to, child care or maternity leaves, educational or personal leaves, and retirements and resignations. Your building representative should continue to be your first contact for contract questions or issues, but I am happy to meet with members individually and confidentially when needed.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

In Solidarity,





Important Events 2016-17

(All meetings are on Tuesdays at 3:30 at IHS except as noted)

February:

- 3rd: WITA Logo Shirt Day
- 7th: Executive Committee
- 14th: WITA New Member Reception & Governing Council in the IHS Campus Center

March:

- 3rd: WITA Logo Shirt Day
- 7th: Executive Committee
- 14th: Governing Council

April:

- 4th: Executive Committee
- 7-9th: NYSUT Rep Assembly in New York
- 7th: WITA Logo Shirt Day
- 11th: Governing Council

May:

- 2nd: Executive Committee
- 5th: WITA Logo Shirt Day
- 9th: Governing Council
- 16th: WITA Excellence in Education Dinner

June:

- 2nd: WITA Logo Shirt Day
- 6th: Executive Committee
- 13th: Governing Council

Hosts for Dinners

The host schools for the Excellence in Education

Banquet rotate on a regular cycle.

The host schools through 2019 are as follows:

- 2017.....Neighborhood Schools
- 2018.....Rogers School
- 2019.....Iroquois School



HAVE YOU JOINED THE MAC YET?

mac.nysut.org

Please send your wedding and birth announcements to

Kimberly_Sklenar@westiron.monroe.edu

Have you seen our new website?

Check it out at

WITEACHERS.ORG



West Irondequoit Teachers' Association

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Rochester, NY 14617

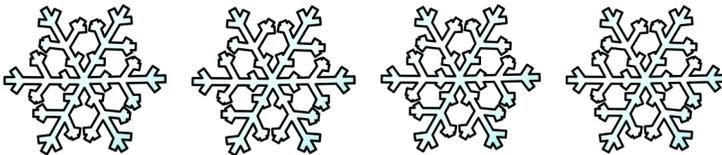
Phone: 336-2950

Fax: 336-3027

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Scott_Steinberg@westiron.monroe.edu

Scott_Steinberg@frontiernet.net



Support the WITA scholarship fund...wear your WITA Logo Shirt the First Friday of every month!

Please contact the WITA office if you are in need of a shirt, sweat-shirt or would like to place an order.

Big enough to serve you... ...small enough to care.

- Savings / Checking
- Certificates of Deposit
- Debit Cards
- Online Banking / Bill-Pay
- Personal Loans
- Auto Loans
- Home Equity Line of Credit
- Mortgages

H. S. Commons M-W-F 3:00 - 3:30 (Attendance office)
 22 Fourth Street, Rochester - 1350 Buffalo Road, Gates
 454-4580 328-3040
witfcu.com

Welcome New Members

Briarwood

Corrinne Hewett, Tina Scacchitti, Andrea Spallina

Brookview

Jenny Crego, Susan Stephany

Colebrook

Lona Cornell

Dake

Justine Cunha, Nicole Hobbins, Kirsten Melville, Bonnie Morrison, Karen Paliani, Thomas Reese, Anne Sammler, Karie Schaubert, Candice White, Thomas Zaccardo

IHS

Kristen Onorato, Judy Barber, Rachel Bardun, Tracy Checchi, Teresa Long, Anthony DelPrete, Anne Geary, Melissa Morgan, Melanie Schindler, Monica Thomas

Iroquois

Monika Alvis, Kim Bartlette, Krista Conti, Lauren Jedamski, Mackenzie Juda, Joe Parker

Rogers

Susanne Johnston, Demetrious Battle, Jessica Wollschleger, Tim Rose, Nick Borelli, Carey Dunlop

Seneca

Osita Obieke, Kim Sherry

Southlawn

Kristina Bajardi, Courtney Cox, Lisa Hernandez

Baby News...

Elliott Speed and Henry James

born December 6 to Rob (Colebrook/Listwood/Seneca) and Samantha Line

Caleb Hunter

born December 11 to Carrie (IHS) and Justin Whipple

Cormac Steven

born December 31 to Kate (Seneca) and Josh Rossi



Tips on the Appropriate Use of Social Media

As public servants, we are held to a higher standard! If you choose to use social media, please think about the following:



Think Before You Post: Make sure that the pictures, videos and opinions expressed are things that you would be okay with students, parents, supervisors and prospective future employees seeing.

Be Aware of Your Privacy Settings: Know who can see what and do not allow people to comment on our posts without approval. In certain cases, you can be held accountable for comments, pictures and videos others post to your pages.

Leave Work at Work: Do not post comments about your job on social media. Even if you do not use names, stories or anecdotes related to work could be problematic since people know where you work. NEVER post photos or videos of students.

