

**January**  
**2019**

# WITA

West Irondequoit Teachers'



## *President's Message...*

Dear Colleagues,

I need to start with an enormous THANK YOU to many people who supported our prolonged contract negotiations in countless ways. It starts with the WITA Negotiations Team, who were there each meeting and session as long as was needed to get us to the finish line. Thank you also to the members of the Joint Action Committee, the group composed of all three NYSUT bargaining units in West Irondequoit. This group is charged with keeping pressure on the District to settle contracts. We continue to meet in support of the other bargaining units, but more on that later. Thank you to Elections Chair Colleen Vay for coordinating the vote and to Steve Brickler for assisting her in the collection and counting of ballots. Finally, thank you to all members for voting and for being there in whatever capacity they could. Sufficed to say, we would not have been successful without all of you!

The contract books take several months to put together so if you have any questions about the agreement that the handouts from the ratification meeting do not answer, feel free to contact me directly. Also, if something did not change you can refer to your old contract. Anything not specifically addressed remains the same.

The agreed upon Teaching Assistant Mentoring Sub-Committee will begin its work next week. Many thanks to Dotti Davis, Leana Palumbo, Denise Plukas and Kristan Rojas for agreeing to represent WITA Teaching Assistants on this important committee.

I hope that many of you will join us for the special open enrollment meeting related to the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) offering. This meeting will take place on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 in the IHS Auditorium. This presentation will be a great opportunity to learn about how HDHPs work and the specifics of the plan being offered to WITA members so that you can determine whether the HDHP is a good fit for you and your family. Despite the risk involved, the cost savings in premiums and the district's HSA contributions will make this a good option for some members.

As many members have already realized, as this is a two year contract we will be very quickly forming our next negotiations team. It is our hopes to have a survey out to you in June as we prepare for the next round of bargaining.

As mentioned earlier, the Joint Action Committee continues to meet in support of our colleagues who are part of IESA and WIMEO, West Irondequoit's clerical and maintenance units. These groups have been working without a current contract since June 30, 2017 and last received a raise on July 1, 2016! The purpose of action committees is to apply pressure to encourage the negotiations process, and the strength of over 600 West Irondequoit employees working together is a powerful force. I realize that certain initiatives can feel uncomfortable for some, but in a state where it is illegal for us to strike, the ability to work together to pressure the District to settle is our only recourse. As I say often, our strength is our solidarity. Please see the Joint Action Committee update on page 3 for ways that you can help!

The WITA Social Committee has developed a different type of event for February. We will be volunteering to assist at the Cupid's Run race here at Irondequoit High School on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Come join us for coffee, donuts and collegial fun. Please email Emily Swanson with your shirt size if you are able to help. We hope to see you there!

Finally, our annual Excellence in Education Banquet, hosted this year by Iroquois School, will take place at Glendoveers on Tuesday, May 21st. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of a great many members. Nomination information for Beverly F. Engel Excellence in Education Awards will be coming after February Break. We hope that you will consider nominating a deserving colleague for an award and look forward to seeing you at the Banquet!

In Solidarity,

### **West Irondequoit Teachers'**

**Association**

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Rochester, NY 14617**

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**Important Events 2019**

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

<p><b>FEBRUARY 2019</b>                  Feb. 1—WITA Logo Shirt Day                  Feb. 5—Executive Committee                  Feb. 12—WITA New Member Reception &amp; Governing Council in the I.H.S. Campus Center</p>	<p><b>MAY 2019</b>                  May 2-4—NYSUT Rep Assembly in Albany                  May 3—WITA Logo Shirt Day                  May 7—Executive Committee                  May 14—Governing Council                  May 21—WITA Excellence in Education Dinner</p>
<p><b>MARCH 2019</b>                  Mar. 1—WITA Logo Shirt Day                  Mar. 5—Executive Committee                  Mar. 12—Governing Council</p>	<p><b>JUNE 2019</b>                  Jun. 4—Executive Committee                  Jun. 7—WITA Logo Shirt Day                  Jun. 11—Governing Council</p>
<p><b>APRIL 2019</b>                  Apr. 2—Executive Committee                  Apr. 5—WITA Logo Shirt Day                  Apr. 9—Governing Council</p>	

**CUPID'S RUN**



COFFEE



DONUTS

Volunteering with WITA colleagues



Irondequoit High School  
 Sunday, February 10th  
 7:30 am-12:00 pm

RSVP to Emily Swanson by 1/31

**Wedding News...**

**June 29**

Rebecca Condello (Iroquois) & Chuck Beckwith

**October 6**

Chris (Dake) & Kelly Taylor

**November 9**

Aaron Bottazzo (Iroquois) & Stephanie Phillips

**January 19**

Emily Copp (Iroquois) & Doug Allard

**Hosts for Dinners**

The host schools for the Excellence in Education

Banquet rotate on a regular cycle.

The host schools through 2023 are as follows:

- 2019.....Iroquois School
- 2020.....Dake School
- 2021....Irondequoit High School
- 2022.....Neighborhood Schools
- 2023.....Rogers School

**WITA Officers for 2018-2019:**

**President**— Scott Steinberg

**Executive Vice President**— Steve Schockow

**Second Vice President**— Kate Dobosz

**Secretary**— Wendy Boomer

**Treasurer**— Todd Fleming

**Delegates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly:**  
 Scott Steinberg, Todd Fleming, Steve Schockow, Julie Wolf



Have you seen our website? Check it out at [WITEACHERS.ORG](http://WITEACHERS.ORG)

*Please send your wedding and birth announcements to*

*Kimberly\_Sklenar@westiron.monroe.edu*



HAVE YOU JOINED THE MAC YET?  
[mac.nysut.org](http://mac.nysut.org)

Please contact the WITA office to place an order if you need a new WITA t-shirt or sweatshirt.  
 \$5 from each shirt purchased goes to our scholarship fund.



### Welcome New Members!

**Dake:** Susan Long, Tammy Tillotson

**I.H.S.:** Devon Woodward

**Rogers:** Joshua Desilet, Kevin Dedes

**Seneca:** Mary Alice Behrens, Jennifer Waasdorp

**Southlawn:** Laura Sidebothan, Jamie Rogers, Kaaren Thompson

**St. Kateri:** Deborah Stein

**TLC:** Micheal Borraccia



### **Baby News...**

#### **Aurora Danielle**

born May 17 to Nicole (Dake) and Ryan Denisoff

#### **Jack Travis**

born July 14 to Corey (Dake) and Kevin Rhoney

#### **Piper Lily**

born September 19 to Katie (Dake) and Chris Stanton

#### **Caroline**

born October 16 to April (Dake) and TJ Maher

#### **Sydney Lynn**

born November 21 to Dan (I.H.S.) and Ashley Horn

#### **Ruby Eleanore**

born December 13 to Brandy (I.H.S.) and Jessica (I.H.S.) Bulmann-Mohr

#### **Cameron Gerald**

born January 15 to Aleena (I.H.S.) and Rob Emerson



**YOUR WEST IRONDEQUOIT SCHOOLS...  
CLERICAL STAFF, MAINTENANCE,  
SECURITY AND TESTERS  
ALL WORKING WITHOUT A CONTRACT**

*One down, two to go!!*



**PART-TIME, FULL-TIME, ALL THE TIME  
FOR OUR KIDS**

Please continue to support IESA and WIMEO in contract negotiations by participating in the following...

### Joint Action Committee Initiatives:

- Attend an upcoming Board of Education meeting in a Union Shirt  
*February 14th, 7 pm at District Office*  
(Attendee's will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 gift card as a thank you for attending on Valentine's Day)  
*March 21st, 7 pm at District Office*  
*April 11th, 7 pm at District Office*
- Wear your Solidarity Button everyday
- Wear a Logo Shirt every Friday
- Use our UPDATED social media graphic, available on our website
- Display a car poster while parked at your school.



