Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that this school year is quickly coming to a close. The year seems to once again have flown by and I, like most of you, am exhausted! Reflecting back, this year has been a highly successful one for WITA.

Most recently, we successfully ratified our APPR agreement. Although the law itself continues to be highly unjust, I firmly believe that our plan supports members and does the best job possible mitigating some of the negative impact of the law. With your help, we will continue to fight this law in the hopes that we can return to an equitable evaluation process for all teachers in New York State. To this end, if you have not already done so please consider giving to your political action fund, VOTE/COPE. We see our students as more than a test score, and our legislators need to see teachers as more than an APPR score!

I want to thank the members of the APPR Subcommittee one more time for their hours of work. Wendy Boomer, Anna Conti, Art Johnson, Nancy Reece and Steve Schockow each represented their constituencies and the membership well though this challenging process. They deserve our gratitude for the time and effort that they devoted to the new plan that will be enacted in September.

In December we successfully ratified a new contract that guarantees us fair raises for the next two years. Thank you to all of the members of the WITA Negotiations Team for their commitment and to all members for hanging tough during this difficult process. We toiled for well over a year to get to the point that we had an agreement worthy of presenting to the membership, and together we were triumphant!

In January we launched our new website, WITeachers.org. Thank you to WITA Webmaster Stephanie Shattuck for her work on the web site. If you have not checked it out, please do. It provides a wealth of information on our Association and resources to help us do our jobs and exercise our rights.

In April we approved revisions to the WITA constitution. Thank you to Constitution Committee members Maureen Bacchetta, Tammy Jaynes, Joe Pelliccia and Steve Schockow for their work getting our constitution appropriately updated.

May’s Excellence in Education banquet was a huge success! Over 130 members and guests were present to recognize the accomplishments of many deserving colleagues, including twelve recipients of the Beverly F. Engel Excellence in Education Award. Also recognized was Nancy Rank, the 2016 winner of the Sandra Baxter Award for Outstanding Service to WITA. We raised over $1000 for our scholarship fund through our raffle, and a great time was had by all. Many thanks to Donna Hanning, Julie Wolf, and the members of the IHS banquet committee for their work making this an amazing evening!

I also need to thank members of the Governing Council and Executive Committee, and all others that volunteer their time ensuring that WITA members have a voice in all that affects us. Their work on behalf of their colleagues and the Association is priceless. Our strength comes from having an involved and informed membership. If you are interested in serving as a WITA Building Representative or in any other capacity, please be in touch with me or your Building Vice-President.

Finally, I need to thank each and every one of you. Thank you for your support of WITA, for wearing your shirts every Friday through the prolonged negotiations, for coming to meetings, and for taking the time to vote on WITA matters. Most of all, thank you for your work with and on behalf of the students of West Irondequoit every day!

As always, there is much more work to be done. Elections in November bring many important races that will affect what we do and how we do it, and I am not just talking about the presidential election. Every two years we elect a new legislature here in New York. In 2014 almost 70% of WITA members did not vote. If you are not registered to vote, please take the time to do so and let your voice be heard in November!

I am looking forward to a great 2016-17 school year with many more successes. But first, let us take the time to rest and recuperate so that we can be the best for our students, our colleagues and ourselves when we return in September. Enjoy your well-deserved summer!

In Solidarity,
Important Events 2016-17
(All meetings are on Tuesdays at 3:30 at IHS except as noted)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEPTEMBER 2016</th>
<th>FEBRUARY 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 31 – New Member Breakfast</td>
<td>Feb 3 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</td>
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<td>Sept 6 – Executive Committee</td>
<td>Feb 7 – Executive Committee</td>
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<td>Sept 9 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</td>
<td>Feb 14 – WITA New Member</td>
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<td>Sept 13 – Governing Council</td>
<td>Reception &amp; Governing Council in the IHS Campus Center</td>
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<th>OCTOBER 2016</th>
<th>MARCH 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 4 – Executive Committee</td>
<td>Mar 3 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</td>
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<td>Oct 7 – Lee Denim Day</td>
<td>Mar 7 – Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 7 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</td>
<td>Mar 14 – Governing Council</td>
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<td>Oct 11 – Governing Council</td>
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<td>Oct 16 – Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Frontier Field</td>
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<tr>
<th>NOVEMBER 2016</th>
<th>APRIL 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 1 – Executive Committee</td>
<td>Apr 4 – Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 4 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</td>
<td>Apr 7-9 – NYSUT Rep Assembly in New York</td>
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<td>Nov 8 – Governing Council</td>
<td>Apr 7 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</td>
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<td>Nov 15 – SRP Recognition Day</td>
<td>Apr 11 – Governing Council</td>
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<th>DECEMBER 2016</th>
<th>MAY 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</td>
<td>May 2 – Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 6 – Executive Committee</td>
<td>May 5 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</td>
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<td>Dec 13 – Governing Council</td>
<td>May 9 – Governing Council</td>
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<th>JANUARY 2017</th>
<th>JUNE 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 3 – Executive Committee</td>
<td>June 2 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</td>
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<td>Jan 8 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</td>
<td>June 6 – Executive Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 10 – Governing Council</td>
<td>June 13 – Governing Council</td>
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Have you seen our new website?
Check it out at WITEACHERS.ORG

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, sweatshirt or would like to place an order.

Hosts for Dinners
The host schools for the Excellence in Education Banquet rotate on a regular cycle.
The host schools through 2021 are as follows:
2017……………Neighborhood Schools
2018………………Rogers School
2019………………Iroquois School
2020………………Dake School
2021………………Irondequoit High School

Briarwood
Shannon Martin
Samantha TeeBoon

Brookview
Michele Meyer

Dake
Nicole O’Connor

Listwood
Adam Johnson

Rogers
Jessica Pelz
William Washington

IHS
Jennifer Imburgia

Renee Keefer

Tracey O’Shea

Alex Virga

Southlawn
Victoria Lewis

Baby News...
Kellen Oliver
born April 8 to Dave and Alexandra (Dake) Tasber

HAVE YOU JOINED THE MAC YET?
mac.nysut.org

Please send your wedding and birth announcements to Kimberly_Sklenar@westiron.monroe.edu
Congratulations to the following members who were honored at the Excellence in Education Banquet on May 17, 2016:

Sandra Baxter Service Award for Outstanding Service to the West Irondequoit Teachers’ Association: Nancy Rank

Beverly F. Engel Excellence in Education Award: Maureen Bacchetta, Jane Beamish, Kimberly Bohnel, Nancy Bottiglieri, Erika Guetti, Amanda Janas-Tramonto, Maria McCulloch, Jori McKenna, Robert Sanchez, Ellen Tuohy and Sarah Zakalik.

Newly-Tenured Teachers: Jessica Bulmann, Jamie Juliano, Elizabeth Knapp, Elizabeth Lawson, Teisha Maldonado, Alicia McKenrick, Casey Rybke, Jillian Randall, Corey Rhoney, Ryan Swisher, Leighann Szmania, Mary Weil, Katelyn Wolk and Meaghan Yeatts.

25-35 Years: Cheryl Call, Sandy Glidden, Donna Hanning, Barb Hurlburt, Steve Mascari, Cynthia Mura, Chuck Muzdalik, Nancy Rank, Sue Schaumberg, Eileen Snover and Dave VerWeire

Retirees: Chris Cardon, Nancy Cramer, Heather Evans, Sherrie Hertweck, Anne Holdaway, Tom McCarthy, Dana Meredith, Cynthia Mura, Nan Notar, Nancy Reeece, Lauren Trevas, Jean Walsh

2016 WITA/WISRA Scholarship Winners:
First Place: Matthew Clements  Second Place: Kimberly Caceci
Third Place: Meghan Walters
Save with NYSUT Member Benefits

The NYSUT membership is made up of a variety of diverse professionals -- joining together in support of those who depend on them. We salute these men and women for their dedication and the sacrifices they make on a daily basis to help improve the lives of others.

And we are proud to offer you -- the hard-working NYSUT member -- an opportunity to participate in the more than 40 endorsed programs & services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits.

Look to Member Benefits for crucial insurance programs such as auto, homeowners, life, disability, or long-term care insurance. Member Benefits also offers a variety of travel, entertainment & shopping options to help you with everything from daily purchases to those special once-in-a-lifetime excursions.

The following is just a sampling of the endorsed programs & services available to NYSUT members & their families:

- Homeowners Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Legal Service Plan
- Financial Counseling Program
- Life Insurance
- Vision Plan
- ID Watchdog
- PayCheck Direct
- Car & Truck Rentals
- Wyndham Hotels
- Endless Vacation Rentals
- Buyer’s Edge, Inc.

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.