Dear Colleagues,

As another successful year comes quickly to a close, I find myself needing to thank a great many people for their work and support.

Thank you to all members who voted in elections, sending all of your current officers including myself to another two-year term. However, as was shared through email following elections, under the current WITA Constitution referendum votes require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership. The proposed changes were therefore defeated by a vote of 305-5 because we fell short of the 338 “yes” votes needed.

The Governing Council has ordered a re-vote that will take place June 11th and 12th in all buildings. The proposed changes were sent through home email and paper copies will be provided upon request. Please make sure to vote and do not hesitate to contact myself or another member of the Constitution Committee if you have any questions regarding the proposed changes. Thank you to Elections Chair Colleen Vay for conducting a third round of balloting this year.

Thank you to Political Action Chair Tammy Jaynes and all those who volunteered at the phone banks last month. This was our first endorsement of Board of Education candidates in my memory. This was a collaborative effort and process and, working together with our sisters and brothers of IESA and WIMEO, we were successful in getting our endorsed candidates elected.

Thank you to VOTE/COPE Chair Julie Wolf for her work on this year’s drive and for spearheading last month’s collection for the Irondequoit Community Cupboard. We may have lost the “competition” with East Irondequoit but with almost 1500 pounds of goods donated, everyone is a winner! VOTE/COPE is our political action fund used to support candidates and causes at the state and local levels, including our endorsed Board candidates. Member dues are never used for these purposes. If you do not give to VOTE/COPE, please consider a small contribution to support our continued work in the political arena.

Negotiations for a successor agreement to our current contract that expires June 30, 2020 will begin promptly in the fall. A member survey to help guide the negotiations team will be sent through home email before the end of the year. We hope that you will take five minutes to complete the survey as your input is a crucial part of the process. Thank you in advance to YOUR negotiations team for the countless hours of work that they are about to embark upon after a very brief reprieve.

A huge thank you to Wendy Passero, Wendy Boomer and the Iroquois Banquet Committees for all of the work that went into this year’s Excellence in Education Banquet. It was an amazing evening! Thank you to those who donated raffle prizes and purchased raffle tickets, raising $900 for our scholarship fund. Congratulations to all those recognized and to all of this year’s award recipients.

Thank you to the Executive Committee both for their work this year and for recognizing me with the Sandra Baxter Award for Outstanding Service to the West Irondequoit Teachers’ Association. I am humbled to be a recipient of this award and for the continued trust placed in me by the entire membership to serve as your elected leader.

To reiterate some of my comments from that evening, it is difficult to receive what I consider the “WITA Lifetime Achievement Award” while I feel that there is so much still to be done. Most importantly, I hope to be able to continue to move ALL members away from seeing the union as purely transactional. I want everyone to see WITA as something that they are a part of rather than a service that they pay for. At our core, we are a grass roots organization and our strength is our members.

My challenge to all of you is to find a way to get involved. Whatever your passion, find a way to make the union a part of it. Attend social events, participate on a health and safety or other district committee, be a part of our social justice initiatives or get involved in political action. We welcome your ideas and input on ways to include every member in our union.

During my acceptance of the Sandra Baxter Award, I referenced a poster that hangs over my desk in my home office with the inspirational statement: “Choose your direction, then act with all your heart. Tomorrow belongs to those who take action today.” I thank all of you for allowing me to take on the important role of WITA President and act with all my heart. I look forward to our continued work together as we make tomorrow OURS!

In Solidarity,
Welcome New Members!

I.H.S.: Alison Hethcoat-Bonin, Richard Jones

Rogers: Lisa Cardon

Southlawn: Evelize Ramos

TLC: Shawn Wiltse

**Baby News...**

**Joseph Gerard**
born May 13
to Justin and Abigail Yeazell

**Avery Elizabeth**
born May 22
to Shelley (I.H.S.) and Mike Laraby

**Max Ronald**
born May 25
to Rob (CB/LW/SN) and Samantha Line

---

**Important Events 2019-20**

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

**SEPTEMBER 2019**
- Aug 29 – 7 AM New Member Breakfast at IHS Campus Center
- Sept 6 – WITA Logo Shirt Day
- Sept 10 – Executive Committee

**FEBRUARY 2020**
- Feb 4 – Executive Committee
- Feb 7 – WITA Logo Shirt Day
- Feb 11 – WITA New Member Reception & Governing Council at

**OCTOBER 2019**
- Oct 1 – Executive Committee
- Oct 4 – WITA Logo Shirt Day
- Oct 8 – Governing Council

**MARCH 2020**
- Mar 3 – Executive Committee
- Mar 6 – WITA Logo Shirt Day
- Mar 10 – Governing Council

**NOVEMBER 2019**
- Nov 1 – WITA Logo Shirt Day
- Nov 5 – Executive Committee
- Nov 12 – Governing Council
- Nov 19 – SRP Recognition Day

**APRIL 2020**
- Mar 31 – Executive Committee
- Apr 3 – WITA Logo Shirt Day
- Apr 14 – Governing Council

**DECEMBER 2019**
- Dec 3 – Executive Committee
- Dec 6 – WITA Logo Shirt Day
- Dec 10 – Governing Council

**MAY 2020**
- May 1-2 – NYSUT Rep Assembly in Albany
- May 1 – WITA Logo Shirt Day
- May 5 – Executive Committee

**JANUARY 2020**
- Jan 7 – Executive Committee
- Jan 10 – WITA Logo Shirt Day
- Jan 14 – Governing Council

**JUNE 2020**
- June 2 – Executive Committee
- June 5 – WITA Logo Shirt Day
- June 9 – Governing Council

**JULY 2020**

**Constitution Referendum Re-Vote**

* June 11th and 12th
* Please Vote!

* Proposed changes were sent through home emails. If you would like to request a paper copy, please contact the WITA office @ 336-0738. Thank you!

**WITA Officers for 2019-2021:**

- **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:

HAVE YOU JOINED THE MAC YET?
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.
Congratulations to the following members who were honored at the
Excellence in Education Banquet
May 21, 2019
Sandra Baxter Service Award for Outstanding Service to the West Irondequoit Teachers’ Association
Scott Steinberg
Beverly F. Engel Education Award
Melanie Chase, Howard Dutton, Christina Garritano, Tammy Jaynes, Jenny Lucey, Casey Nelan, Wendy Passero, John Perry, Amanda Robertson, John Wagner, Laura Westerman and Jenn Zahariev
Newly-Tenured Teachers
Alyssa Arcarisi, Taylor Barrett, Gabrielle Castellano, Daniel Greco, Jessica Hess, Andrewa Koppen, Joseph Kuhn, Heather Lynch, Katrina Suhr, Shane Surek, Kyle Trevas
25 Years
David Marshall
30 Years
James Ingutti
Retirees
John Wagner

WITA Budget for 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECEIPTS</th>
<th>BUDGET 19-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>$49,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Dinner</td>
<td>-$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>-$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOTE/COPE</td>
<td>$.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$46,500.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>BUDGET 19-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exec/Gov Council</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences</td>
<td>$7,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negotiations</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts</td>
<td>$4,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipends</td>
<td>$22,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting and Liability Insurance</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copier</td>
<td>$1,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Based Services</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Engagement</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$44,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WITA/WISRA Scholarship Winners
1st Place: Anna Nicchitta
2nd Place: Margaret Vay
3rd Place: Meaghen Miller

Have you seen our website? Check it out at WITEACHERS.ORG

Please send your wedding and birth announcements to Kimberly_Sklenar@westiron.monroe.edu
Protect Your Loved Ones with Union-Endorsed Benefits

Insurance... it's often the type of product you hope to never have to utilize. In the event you do need it, though, it's important to have the insurance product that best meets your needs and those of your loved ones.

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses a variety of crucial insurance programs that provide important protection for NYSUT members and their families, including life, auto and home, disability, long-term care, dental and vision plans, and more.

The Power of the Union

Regardless of whether you’re participating in one of our endorsed insurance programs; legal or financial services; or many shopping, entertainment or travel offerings, NYSUT members receive a quality product and enjoy the "Power of the Union" behind them.

The “Power of the Union” should serve as a steadfast reminder to all NYSUT members that we are your advocate. Unlike when purchasing products available to the general public, NYSUT Member Benefits is here if you ever have any issues or concerns with our endorsed programs. You aren’t just a member to us... you are part of our union family.

Member Benefits is here to offer assistance with the student loan crisis. Visit our website for more information.

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.