

March
2018

WITA

West Irondequoit Teachers' Association



President's Message...

Dear Colleagues,

WITA's annual Excellence in Education Banquet is quickly approaching. This year's banquet will take place on Tuesday, May 15th at Glendoveers and is being hosted by Rogers School. This is our premier event each year, and is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy each other's company and celebrate the accomplishments of many deserving colleagues. We hope that you will be there! Thank you to Rogers Vice-President Mary Beth Lenzi and all of the committee members for the work that they are putting into this great event.

If you have not yet had a chance to nominate a fellow WITA member for a Beverly F. Engel Excellence in Education Award, the deadline is March 29th. There is no set number of awards given, and each nomination is evaluated against the award criteria on its own merit. Any WITA member may nominate any other WITA member for this honor. If you need the award criteria re-sent to you, please email me.

The banquet is also a chance to win some fantastic raffle prizes for a good cause. This raffle, fueled by prize donations from our members and our neighbors, is the primary source of revenue for our scholarship fund. Each year, we award \$2500 in scholarships to IHS seniors pursuing careers in education or human services. Many thanks to Kim Gardner and Anna Conti for coordinating this year's raffle. If you are able to donate a prize either individually or as part of a group, please email Kim, and don't forget to bring cash to the banquet to buy those tickets!

I am hoping that you have already been approached by a Building Representative to discuss one-on-one the upcoming Janus v. AFSCME decision by the Supreme Court. This case is a challenge to an Illinois law that requires government employees to pay a "Fair Share" or "agency fee" to the union that represents them. A similar law exists in New York, so an adverse decision by the court is very threatening to us and what we do. This decision could greatly impact our strength and financial viability. It is important to note that this case is being funded by groups whose goal is to decimate unions and lower wages and benefits for working people.

Re-Commitment Cards are the first step in ensuring that WITA can remain strong for our members. Prior to agency fees being required in New York, eligible teachers voluntarily joined unions like WITA. The collective voice of all employees working together won us things that we now take for granted, such as paid sick and personal leave, planning time, a duty free lunch and set contract hours, not to mention competitive salaries and benefits. We are hoping to maintain 100% membership to show the commitment of our members and to help us to stay strong in negotiations.

If you have concerns about signing, I hope that you will take the time to discuss those with your building rep, the executive committee and me. We will gladly provide any information needed. If you are still hesitant, the question I will likely ask you is: "What can or should your union do for you or do differently in order to have your support?" I certainly realize that we cannot please everyone all of the time, especially when member priorities conflict with each other. That said I believe strongly in our union and our ability and willingness to work hard for and support all members.

Finally, negotiations are ongoing for a successor agreement to our contract that expires on June 30th. Many thanks to your negotiations team for the countless hours of work that go in to developing a proposal and negotiating with the district to compromise on an agreement that both sides are willing and able to support. As soon as we have a tentative agreement, all dues-paying members will be invited to an information session and will then have an opportunity to vote on the proposal. Thank you for your patience and support through this challenging process.

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

In Solidarity,

**West Irondequoit
Teachers' Association**

**260 Cooper Road
Rochester, NY 14617**

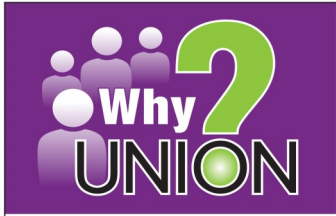
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Why? UNION

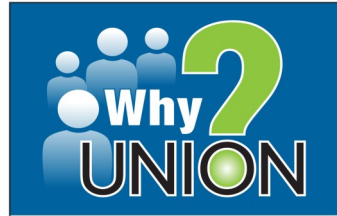
Your union gives you a real voice at work.



why in five OUR UNION:


- 1 Fights for a fair contract
- 2 Demands a safe workplace
- 3 Stands up for your profession
- 4 Holds administrators accountable
- 5 Protects workers' rights

www.nysut.org
#IChooseUnion



Why? UNION

Your union is a family — a family that has your back.



why in five OUR UNION:

- 1 Stands up for your rights
- 2 Gives you a voice at work
- 3 Negotiates higher pay
- 4 Secures better benefits
- 5 Improves your profession

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#IChooseUnion



Why? UNION

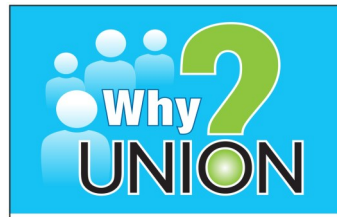
Imagine your world without one.



why in five Employers could:


- 1 Slash pay arbitrarily
- 2 Cut health care benefits
- 3 Erode retirement security
- 4 Disregard workplace safety
- 5 Trample your rights

www.nysut.org
#IChooseUnion



Why? UNION

Your union is strong.



why in five

- 1 Each member contributes her or his fair share for representation
- 2 Fair share = unity
- 3 Unity = collective action
- 4 Collective action = powerful voice
- 5 Powerful voice = positive results


www.nysut.org
#IChooseUnion

SAVE THE DATE...

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

WITA Excellence in Education Dinner

@ Glendoveers



Important Events 2018

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

April:

- 10th: Executive Committee
- 13th: WITA Logo Shirt Day
- 17th: Governing Council
- 27-29th: NYSUT Rep Assembly in Buffalo

May:

- 1st: Executive Committee
- 4th: WITA Logo Shirt Day
- 8th: Governing Council
- 15th: WITA Excellence in Education Dinner


June:

- 1st: WITA Logo Shirt Day
- 5th: Executive Committee
- 12th: Governing Council



HAVE YOU JOINED THE MAC YET?

mac.nysut.org



Have you seen our website? Check it out at

WITEACHERS.ORG

Please send your wedding and birth announcements to

Kimberly_Sklenar@westiron.monroe.edu

Congratulations!

Congratulations WITA Members on 25 Years of Service

Kimberly Barlette (Iroquois), Kimberley Bartela (IHS), Rebecca Berbert (Iroquois),
Kenneth Eckman (IHS), Patricia Welch (IHS)

Congratulations WITA Member on 35 Years of Service

Jeff Guercio (IHS)

Baby News...



Oliver Andrew

born December 13 to

Leighann (Colebrook) and Dave
Szmania

Welcome New Members!

Brookview: Samantha Call

Colebrook: Alexis Shavers

Dake: Akeem Gomes, James Gambacorta-
Hoffman, Adam Miller

Iroquois: Lauren McKeon, Isabel Lopez

Rogers: Christopher Blaine, Taurie Decker,
Todd Gurslin, Becky Smith

Seneca: Abigail Yeazell

Southlawn: Melinda Viscardi, Bill Buttaro,
Sabrina Smith, Angela Miner



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 2022 are as follows:

- 2018.....Rogers School
- 2019.....Iroquois School
- 2020.....Dake School
- 2021....Irondequoit High School
- 2022.....Neighborhood Schools

