

March
2019

WITA

West Irondequoit Teachers'



President's Message...

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I share with you that after over two years of negotiations, both IESA and WIMEO finally have tentative agreements with the District! The details will be shared with their members and those contracts voted on in the coming weeks. Thank you to all WITA members for the support that has been shown to these groups throughout this arduous process. I cannot relay how thankful that they are for our encouragement and involvement. A special thank you to all who gave up time to attend meetings of the Board of Education, sending the message that we are sticking with our fellow unions and will not go away until a fair contract has been reached for every District employee!

In keeping with this theme of "we will not go away," our new Board of Education endorsement process is in full swing. This is a collaboration of the three unions and all will need to be in agreement about who will be endorsed. A questionnaire developed by the collective group was sent to potential candidates who have taken out petitions. A group of six individuals representing the two groups will interview the candidates who respond and determine who will be endorsed.

Please be ready to volunteer for upcoming phone banks in support of our endorsed candidates. Although we plan to utilize VOTE/COPE funds to send postcards, the phone calls to the other NYSUT members who live in West Irondequoit asking them to support our candidates is a crucial piece of the winning formula that NYUST had developed and used successfully in other districts. These phone banks will occur after school during the first half of May and we hope that every member will take on at least one shift. Getting our endorsed candidates elected is essential, especially as we prepare to enter into negotiations again in the fall.

It feels a bit odd to be discussing upcoming negotiations while we do not yet have contract books finalized and printed for the 2018-20 contract. Please know that these are in process and will be in your hands as soon as possible. In the meantime, please use your old contract book and building reps to guide you, and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Home email is the preferred method of communication for contract matters.

WITA Elections for all leadership positions, which occur every two years, will take place in all buildings on April 24th and 25th. Nominations must be submitted by Friday, April 5th. Please email WITA Elections Chair Colleen Vay to nominate yourself or a colleague, with their permission. Many thanks to Colleen for her work coordinating the election process.

It is also highly likely that we will vote on revisions to the WITA Constitution as part of our upcoming election. I attended a conference at NYSUT on Saturday, March 9th where I learned of some suggested revisions and some that are necessitated by last year's decision in the Janus case. Thank you to Steve Schockow, Wendy Boomer, Maureen Bacchetta, Howard Dutton and Todd Fleming for volunteering to serve with me on the ad hoc committee charged with developing these revisions. The changes proposed by the committee will be shared with the Governing Council in April and then, if approved, will be put to the membership for a vote.

Thank you to those members who volunteered to help with Cupid's Run as part of February's Social Committee event. Your willingness to give up a weekend morning in support of a good cause helps show who we are as an association. We are more than just a union; we are an essential and integral part of the West Irondequoit community! Please keep your eye out for upcoming Social Committee events and opportunities.

Finally, the WITA Excellence in Education Banquet will take place on Tuesday, May 21st at Glendoveers. We look forward to honoring recipients of our awards, along with many others. It is also a great opportunity to raise money for our scholarship fund through the raffle that takes place at the banquet. Most of the prizes for the raffle are donated by our members, so I hope that you will consider teaming up with your building or department colleagues to contribute a prize for this worthy cause. More information about the banquet can be found inside this issue of The Scoop. We hope to see you there!

In Solidarity,

West Irondequoit Teachers'
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Important Events 2019

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

April:

2nd: Executive Committee

5th: WITA Logo Shirt Day

9th: Governing Council

May:

2-4th: NYSUT Rep Assembly in Albany

3rd: WITA Logo Shirt Day

7th: Executive Committee

14th: Governing Council

21st: WITA Excellence in Education Dinner

June:

4th: Executive Committee

7th: WITA Logo Shirt Day

11th: Governing Council

WITA Elections

- District-wide positions include: President, Executive Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and four delegates to NYSUT Representative Assembly.
- Nominations are due to elections chair Colleen Vay by April 5th.
- Ballots will be distributed to school mailboxes on April 23rd
- Voting will take place in each building on April 24th & 25th
- Members may vote in any building
- Call WITA office at 336-2950 with any questions.

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

Please send your wedding and birth announcements to

Kimberly_Sklenar@westiron.monroe.edu



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!

Congratulations WITA Members and Thank You!

25 Years of Service

David Marshall (I.H.S. and Dake)

30 Years of Service

James Ingutti (I.H.S.)



WROC's GOLDEN APPLE AWARD

Cody Rogers (Rogers)
and

Lauren Reinert (I.H.S.)

Welcome New Members!

Briarwood: Amy Prate

Colebrook: Heather Mann

Dake: Caitlin McCulloch

I.H.S.: Nicole Macbay, Brenna Earle

Iroquois: Megan Ventura, Stephanie Alaimo

Rogers: Cody Carpenter, Tracy Fichter, Deborah Stein

Southlawn: Jessica Aponte

TLC: Diane Bretz

Baby News...



William Thomas

born February 2

to Joe (I.H.S.) and Emily Kunz

Excellence in Education Spring Dinner

** Raffle Donations Needed **

Help raise money for the WITA scholarship fund... consider donating a good or service that can be raffled off.

Examples include:

Theme Baskets: Coffee/Tea, Movie Night, Game Night, Snacks, Chocolates, Toys/Books for kids, Household tools, Music/DVDs, Sports

Gift Certificates: Restaurants, Grocery Stores, Coffee Shops, Home Improvement Stores

Services: Spa/Salon Services, Lawn Services

Other: Homemade Crafts, Original Artwork



Excellence in Education Spring Dinner

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Glendoveers

2328 Old Browncroft Blvd.

Rochester, NY 14625

5:30 pm Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

6:30 pm Dinner and Raffle (to support WITA scholarships)

7:30 pm Awards Program

We will be honoring the following categories during the evening:

- Sandra Baxter Award for Outstanding Service to the West Irondequoit Teachers' Association
- Beverly F. Engel Excellence in Education Award Recipients
- Member with 25/35 Years of Service
- New and Retiring Members
- Newly Tenured Teachers
- National Board Certified Teachers

