

October

2017

WITA

West Irondequoit Teachers' Association



President's Message...

Dear Colleagues,

As I am writing this, I find it hard to believe that October is already coming to a close. The Constitutional Convention vote is just a week away!

As of the latest polls we are losing this vote by 5 percentage points! It is very important for all of our members and supportive family and friends get out and vote "NO" on Prop 1 on Tuesday, November 7th. The Constitutional Convention question will be the first of three questions on the back side of the ballot. NYSUT is not taking a position on the other two questions. Do not hesitate to contact me using home email if you have any questions or would like any additional information. Also, please email me if you are in need of a car magnet or lawn sign, available while supplies last!

WITA will be volunteering at the NYSUT Phone Banks on Thursday, November 2nd in a final "Get out the NO Vote" effort. If you are available to join us, please email Political Action Chair Appointee Tammy Jaynes. NYSUT will provide pizza and pop while we are calling and WITA will take our volunteers out for snacks and drinks when we are done. Many thanks to Tammy for taking on this crucial role, and to the members who take the time to make phone calls on this issue that is so important to all of us.

I have had the opportunity to visit with members across the district this fall, and understand that people are feeling extraordinarily busy, and at times overwhelmed, by the hectic pace of the start of the year and the many new district initiatives being rolled out. Please know that I hear you and will do what I can to advocate on behalf of all members. Do not hesitate to be in touch with your building rep or with me directly if there are things that you would like to discuss or feel that we should be aware of.

WITA has also had a busy start to the year. This began with welcoming over twenty new members at our annual New Member Breakfast at I-Square on August 31st. Thank you to the staff of I-Square, to Bob Rosenberg and Terri Trotta from Lincoln Investment Planning for sponsoring the breakfast, and to WITA Second Vice-President Kate Dobosz for organizing this important event.

The WITA Fall Barbeque took place at Kusak Lodge at Camp Eastman on October 13th. Over fifty members and guests attended this great event. Many thanks to the Executive Committee members who helped to organize and do the purchasing for the barbeque, and to all of the members who helped with set up and clean up. Also a shout out to Noreen Crouse, IHS, who drove the leftover food to Grace House so that it would not go to waste. They were very appreciative of our donation.

Thank you to members who participated in American Cancer Society Denim Day on October 6th, and to the Building VPs and Reps that helped to coordinate the event. Together we raised over \$500 for cancer research! Thank you to also to Making Strides Team Captain Tammy Jaynes and the members that attended the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on October 15th and contributed to this worthy cause. This includes all those who contributed to my participation in the Real Men Wear Pink of Rochester campaign. NYSUT is a flagship sponsor of Making Strides state-wide, and WITA is proud to support these cancer fundraisers and events in support of our members and all others impacted by this terrible disease that affects so many around us.

Thank you to members who took the time to complete the WITA Negotiations Survey. Your negotiations team will meet for the first time in November to review the results and begin the process of developing our initial proposal to the district. Thank you in advance to the WITA Negotiations Team, chaired by Wendy Boomer, for the many hours of work on which they are about to embark. Joining Wendy and I on the committee are Mark Crawford, Kate Dobosz, Howard Dutton, Todd Fleming, Gina Grisdale, Mary Beth Lenzi, Steve Schockow, Anne Schoen, Lynn Wilder and Julie Wolf.

If you have not yet joined WICPTSA, please take a moment this month to do so. Let's support the people that support us by making sure the "T" in PTSA stays strong! The \$15 membership fee is a bargain. Membership forms are available in all school offices, on the PTSA web site, or new this year: Join on-line!

Finally, Our next logo shirt day is Friday, November 3rd. Please wear WITA logo apparel in support of our scholarship fund and as a symbol of unity. If you are in need of new logo-wear please consult our web site, WITeachers.org, or contact me for more information.

In Solidarity,

West Irondequoit Teachers' Association

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Important Events 2017-18

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

<p>NOVEMBER 2017</p> <p>Nov 3: WITA Logo Shirt Day Nov 7: Executive Committee Nov 14: Governing Council Nov 12: SRP Recognition Day</p>	<p>MARCH 2018</p> <p>Mar 2: WITA Logo Shirt Day Mar 6: Executive Committee Mar 13: Governing Council</p>
<p>DECEMBER 2017</p> <p>Dec 1: WITA Logo Shirt Day Dec 5: Executive Committee Dec 12: Governing Council</p>	<p>APRIL 2018</p> <p>Apr 10: Executive Committee Apr 13: WITA Logo Shirt Day Apr 17: Governing Council Apr 27-29: NYSUT Rep Assembly in Buffalo</p>
<p>JANUARY 2018</p> <p>Jan 2: Executive Committee Jan 5: WITA Logo Shirt Day Jan 9: Governing Council</p>	<p>MAY 2018</p> <p>May 1: Executive Committee May 4: WITA Logo Shirt Day May 8: Governing Council May 15: WITA Excellence in Education Dinner</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 2018</p> <p>Feb 2: WITA Logo Shirt Day Feb 6: Executive Committee Feb 13: WITA New Member Reception & Governing Council in the IHS Campus Center</p>	<p>JUNE 2018</p> <p>June 1: WITA Logo Shirt Day June 5: Executive Committee June 12: Governing Council</p>

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



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.



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

Please send your wedding and birth announcements to Kimberly_Sklenar@westiron.monroe.edu



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

Wedding News...

Breanne Rafferty (Colebrook) to John Allen

July 15

Stephanie Wilmarth (Colebrook) to James Bock

August 12

Baby News...



Casimir Karl

born July 25 to Karl and Kate (Southlawn) Dobosz

Grant Adam

born August 5 to Brad and Hillary (Rogers) Payne

Savannah Grace

born August 17 to Sam and Jennifer (Iroquois) Gottfried

Finnegan Silas Ansel

born September 9 to Andreas (Dake) and Rae Brooks

Welcome New Members!

Briarwood: Mary Beth Hall

Brookview: Andrew Denbleyker, Victoria Gerhardt, Kevin Knightner

Dake:

Adam Palumbo, Laura Waterstripe, Karrie Schrauber, Sarah Peterson, Thomas Fisher, Alan Greene, Paul Dyroff, Laura Reeves

IHS:

Emily Chaffee, Peter Chupak, Dan Fichter, Michelle Infantolino, Jennifer Mannara, Hannah Miller, Lindsey Lasch, Iren Schmitt, Marisa Morgan, Heather Randell, Cecilia Young, Christine Romal, Scott Cordaro, Adam Williams, Alex Baer, Shara Perez, Samantha Call, Christine Baker, Jane Neri

Iroquois: Claire Hamilton, Lauren Jedamski, Lily Powell

Listwood: Cheryl Lipani

Rogers: Sarah Davis, Kevin Goddard, Brittany Clinkscales, Robert Connor, Joan Schoepfel

Seneca: Katherine Picha

Southlawn: Rebecca Chodak, Christopher Blaine, Sabrina Hart, Kristen Noble, Karen Priestly

Contract: Did You Know?

Per the current contract, all members eligible for health benefits (6 hours or more per day) have a District-provided 105 Plan, also known as a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA), to pay for certain out-of-pocket medical costs.

How much should I have in my account?

Members eligible for a family plan have \$850 deposited into their accounts each year. Members eligible for a single plan have \$600. 50% of the annual administrative fee is deducted from this amount annually. (Once you retire or leave the district, 100% of the annual administrative fee is deducted each year, but the funds remain until they are depleted.)

What is covered and how do I find out more?

Visit: benefitresource.com for information on HRAs and to check on your account. They can also be reached by phone at (866) 996-5200. Contact the WITA Office or the District Benefits Office at 336-2992 with any additional questions.



WITA Officers for 2017-2018:

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, Ann Martin, Steve Schockow, Julie Wolf

