



# WITA

West Irondequoit Teachers' Association

October

2019

## President's Message...

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that October is already coming to a close, and what a busy September and October it has been for WITA and its members!

Our school year started in August with our annual New Member Breakfast, which is tied to New Teacher Orientation. We were able to meet sixteen of our prospective new members and educate them about what WITA is and does for our members, with most electing to sign up on the spot. We then started our outreach to those who did not attend or had not yet been hired when we held the breakfast. Many thanks to Second Vice-President and Membership Chair Kate Dobosz for her work organizing both the New Member Breakfast and the follow-up as we seek to maintain our strong and unified membership.

This is especially important as we start the negotiations process, with YOUR Negotiations Team meeting for the first time on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We began the lengthy process of reviewing the survey data from our June Negotiations Survey, which will be used to guide our proposal for a successor agreement to our current contract that expires on June 30, 2020. We will be meeting from 3:30-5:30 twice each month as we prepare to start Negotiations with the District at the end of January. Thank you to the team for the hours that they will be putting into the process as the representatives of all WITA members, and to those who gave input by responding to our survey.

Our first social event of the year took place on October 11<sup>th</sup> at Three Heads Brewing after the Superintendent Workshop Day. We had a great turnout with representation from most buildings. It provided an opportunity for us to enjoy each other's company in a low-key setting as we got ourselves fully into the mindset needed for our first long weekend of the year. Many thanks to the WITA Social Committee for their work on this event. Please keep your eye out for the next one!

On October 15<sup>th</sup> we held the first of what we hope will become an annual tradition, as we celebrated our new Paraprofessionals and Nurses and our newly tenured Teaching Assistants. We had a good turnout of both honorees and fellow union members there to support them. In addition to some fantastic snacks catered by our IHS Cafeteria, people heard comments from our Superintendent, Dr. Aaron Johnson, and myself and a keynote from NYSUT Second Vice President Paul Pecorale. I would like to thank Paul for making the trip from Albany to celebrate with us, and extend my welcome and congratulations to those recognized.

This was closely followed by the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on October 20<sup>th</sup>. We had a great showing this year, and I need to give a special shout-out to Kindergarten for being the best-represented grade level! Thank you to our Team Leader Tammy Jaynes for her coordination efforts and to Tammy and Jane Beamish for raising funds and awareness at the Superintendent Workshop Day. Thank you also to all those who donated or helped raise money in other ways for this important cause.

My fall Lunch Visits are underway and I have already been to all K-3 buildings. It is always nice to see and hear first-hand the experiences of our staff in different buildings and answer questions for members in person. I look forward to future visits to our 4-6 schools and Duke, and to scheduling a lunch at the Evans/McGraw Learning Center in November.

November 5<sup>th</sup> is Election Day, and although there are no Federal elections this year there are many important county and town races being decided. As always, I will send out NYSUT endorsement information immediately prior to the election via home email. I will share just one endorsement here, and that is Adam Bello for County Executive. NYSUT has thrown its support behind Adam after he successfully earned the endorsement of every Union representing County workers. If you are willing to help make phone calls for endorsed candidates, please keep your eye on home email for information from Political Action Chair Tammy Jaynes. Many thanks to Tammy for representing WITA in this realm. As always, regardless of whether or not you chose to support the NYSUT endorsed candidates please make time to do your civic duty and vote on November 5<sup>th</sup>, or sooner thanks to Early Voting being available for the first time in New York!

SRP Recognition Day will take place on November 19<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to once again collaborating with the WICPTSA, WIAA and the Superintendent to recognize the many people who are considered "School Related Professionals." Schools rely on many more people than just Teachers and Administrators to run smoothly. If you are an SRP please know that you and your work are truly appreciated by your colleagues and your Union!

Finally, I have had many inquiries about the myriad of free NYSUT Trainings and Events, particularly the DASA Workshops. I realize that these often fill up very quickly. Please know that I will continue to email you with that information as soon as it hits my inbox.

Please do not ever hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued involvement and support!

In Solidarity,



**West Irondequoit Teachers'  
Association**

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# Welcome New Members!



**Briarwood:** Danielle Cody, Bernadette D'Amato,

**Brookview:** Catherine Goodyear, Kaitlin Joyce, Caroline Kimber,

**Colebrook:** Nicole Ferrari, Christina Michaels

**Dake:** Christine Bondi, Beth Buddendeck, Crystal Cunning, Alexandra Dayton, Anna Lootens, Roseann Messmer, Sarah Monturo, Vicki Schickler, Adelynn Torchia, Stacy Uptagrafft, Diane Verrioli

**IHS:** Christa Johnson, Meghan Reilley, Sarah Rosero, Bridget Sadler, Patricia Taylor, Zachary Titus, Samuel Weinstein

**Iroquois:** Shana Miller, Margaret Milne, Deanna Santoleri, Maureen Wolfe

**Rogers:** Susan Borelli-Tokarz, Nadia Garibaldi, Monica Quinlan,

**Seneca:** Jaelen Whitehead

**Southlawn:** Catherine King

## Baby News...

### Blake

born June 4 to Hilary (Dake) and Brad Payne

### Benjamin Frederick

born June 12 to Shane (I.H.S.) and Colleen Surek

### Peyton Marie

born July 4 to Jake (I.H.S.) and Jackie Honan

### Sammy Vincent

born August 29 to Adam (Dake) and Esther Palumbo

### Rose Alice

born September 11 to Melissa (Dake) and Bill Swidorski



## November 5th!



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.



HAVE YOU JOINED THE MAC YET?  
[mac.nysut.org](http://mac.nysut.org)

Please send your wedding and birth announcements to  
[Kimberly\\_Sklenar@westiron.monroe.edu](mailto:Kimberly_Sklenar@westiron.monroe.edu)



Have you seen our website? Check it out at  
[WITEACHERS.ORG](http://WITEACHERS.ORG)

**Important Events 2019-2020**

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

<p><b>NOVEMBER 2019</b></p> <p>November 1: WITA Logo Shirt Day                  November 5: Executive Committee                  November 12: Governing Council                  November 19: SRP Recognition Day</p>	<p><b>MARCH 2020</b></p> <p>March 3: Executive Committee                  March 6: WITA Logo Shirt Day                  March 10: Governing Council</p>
<p><b>DECEMBER 2019</b></p> <p>December 3: Executive Committee                  December 6: WITA Logo Shirt Day                  December 10: Governing Council</p>	<p><b>APRIL 2020</b></p> <p>March 31: Executive Committee                  April 3: WITA Logo Shirt Day                  April 14: Governing Council</p>
<p><b>JANUARY 2020</b></p> <p>January 7: Executive Committee                  January 10: WITA Logo Shirt Day                  January 14: Governing Council</p>	<p><b>MAY 2020</b></p> <p>May 1-2: NYSUT Rep Assembly in Albany                  May 1: WITA Logo Shirt Day                  May 5: Executive Committee                  May 12: Governing Council                  May 19: WITA Excellence in Education Dinner</p>
<p><b>FEBRUARY 2020</b></p> <p>February 4: Executive Committee                  February 7: WITA Logo Shirt Day                  February 11: WITA New Member Reception &amp; Governing Council in the I.H.S. Campus Center</p>	<p><b>JUNE 2020</b></p> <p>June 2: Executive Committee                  June 5: WITA Logo Shirt Day                  June 9: Governing Council</p>

**Hosts for Dinners**

The host schools for the Excellence in Education Banquet rotate on a regular cycle. The host schools through 2024 are as follows:

- 2019.....Iroquois School
- 2020.....Dake School
- 2021....Irondequoit High School
- 2022.....Neighborhood Schools
- 2023.....Rogers School
- 2024.....Iroquois School



**SRP RECOGNITION DAY**

**November 19th!**

Please join us and thank our School Related Professionals for all they do everyday!



**Wedding News...**

Lisa Burt (Rogers) to Patrick Cronin

October 12th

**Congratulations!!**

**WITA Officers for 2019-2020:**

**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



## Your Union-Endorsed Benefits: Debt Consolidation & Mortgage Savings

*NYSUT Member Benefits understands the challenges that the hardworking women and men of this labor union face when it comes to financial issues such as student loan re-payment options, credit card consolidation or debt management, or saving on purchasing or refinancing a home.*

### **Student Loan & Debt Counseling Program**

Your union membership allows you to receive a no-obligation debt and/or student loan consultation at no cost with a certified counselor through the Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **Cambridge Credit Counseling** program. Cambridge provides individualized student loan counseling along with a unique web portal available at a reduced rate to help explain the various options when paying student debt; debt relief services are also offered.

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### **UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program**

The Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program presented by Mid-Island Mortgage Corp.** offers union members and their families savings of up to \$2,700 on lender fees and closing costs. Your union membership also entitles you to no application or processing fees; no commitment fees; no underwriting fees; no lender or broker fees; and reduced attorney and title fees.

## *The Power of the Union*

Regardless of whether you are participating in either of the programs mentioned above; one of our endorsed insurance, financial or legal programs; or our many shopping, entertainment or travel offerings, NYSUT members receive a quality product and enjoy the "**Power of the Union**" behind them. Unlike when purchasing products available to the general public, Member Benefits is here as your advocate if you ever have any issues or concerns with our endorsed programs.

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call 800-626-8101.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.