

June
2018

WITA



West Irondequoit Teachers' Association

President's Message...

President's Message

It is hard to believe that yet another school year is coming to a close, and what a year it has been!

We anticipate a decision in the Janus v. AFSCME case any day now. Many thanks to all of the members who signed re-commitment cards. We are at over 98% and continue to seek out those last few. Several people have asked me, "Why now?" The answer is simple. Our enemies are already mobilizing against us in anticipation of the decision and we believe that it is important for us to reach our members first.

Mark Janus, the plaintiff in the abovementioned case, is being financially backed by a group called the Freedom Foundation. The following is a direct quote from one of their fund raising mailers:

"We know the unions won't go away without a fight. They won't go away even with a fight. They won't go away until we drive the proverbial stake through their hearts and finish them off for good."

This case is NOT about your freedom. It is about weakening unions in an effort to take away your voice and your power. Thank you for the recommitment that you have shown to your union, ensuring that we can remain strong through negotiations and for years to come! If you have not yet signed, please contact me and I will be more than happy to assist you.

Please be aware that you are likely to have some unexpected visitors this summer. It is our understanding that anti-union groups have already requested the contact information for every public employee in New York. (As public employees, our contact information can be obtained through a FOIL request.) Please expect our adversaries to be at your door trying to get you to drop your union membership this summer. We hope and trust that your response will be an emphatic, "I'm sticking with my union."

Also, as was mentioned in a home email several weeks ago NYSUT is currently doing outreach to members to get ahead of these outside groups. The people visiting members at home are trained through NYSUT's Member Organizing Institute and are supplementing, not supplanting, the tremendous re-commitment effort of our Building Reps and Executive Committee.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the building reps and all those who took on the one-to-one conversations this year, first about ConCon and then about the Janus case and our re-commitment campaign. This effort was a reminder that the true voice of the union is its members, and that it is crucial that we talk to and listen to every member. Please contact your Building VP or me if you would like more information about serving in the crucial role of Building Rep next year. Also, do not ever hesitate to contact your Building Rep, a member of the Executive Committee or me directly with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Moving on to happier topics, congratulations to all of our award winners who were recognized at our Excellence in Education Banquet on May 15th. A list of members acknowledged that evening can be found later in this issue. The event was a huge success thanks to the hard work of Mary Beth Lenzi and the Banquet Committee from Rogers and we truly appreciate their efforts. Thank you also to those who contributed prizes and/or purchased tickets for the raffle at the banquet. Together we raised \$1,111 for our scholarship fund!

Our annual VOTE/COPE drive is in full swing. Member dues are not spent on political contributions, so this fund is our collective voice in Albany and across the state. Please consider donating if you do not already. Every dollar makes a difference! Thank you to Julie Wolf for coordinating this campaign for WITA.

Your negotiations team continues to meet weekly as we work towards a successor agreement to our current contract that expires on June 30th. Many thanks to the members of the team for their continued commitment and hard work on behalf of all members. Please know that we will continue to work until an agreement worthy of your vote has been reached. According to state law, the terms of the current contract will remain in effect until a new contract is in place. If we do not have an agreement prior to the end of the school year, we will not present or vote on any settlement until September even if an agreement is reached over the summer. Any information that can be shared about negotiations will be sent through home email only.

As I close my thoughts for the year, I want to take this opportunity to thank YOU for everything that you do. WITA is strong because of what our members do for students and the community, and their active involvement in the union. Thank you for your hard work and commitment. Together we are union strong! Enjoy a restful and well-deserved summer break.

In Solidarity,

West Irondequoit Teachers' Association

**260 Cooper Road
Rochester, NY 14617**

Phone: 336-2950

Fax: 336-3027

E-mail:

Scott_Steinberg@westiron.monroe.edu

Scott_Steinberg@frontiernet.net

Important Events 2018-19

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

<p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER 2018</p> <p>Aug 30 – New Member Breakfast</p> <p>Sept 7 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</p> <p>Sept 11 – Executive Committee</p> <p>Sept 18 – Governing Council</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FEBRUARY 2019</p> <p>Feb 1 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</p> <p>Feb 5 – Executive Committee</p> <p>Feb 12 – WITA New Member Reception & Governing Council in the IHS Campus Center</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER 2018</p> <p>Oct 2 – Executive Committee</p> <p>Oct 5 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</p> <p>Oct 9 – Governing Council</p> <p>Oct 14 – Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Frontier Field</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MARCH 2019</p> <p>Mar 1 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</p> <p>Mar 5 – Executive Committee</p> <p>Mar 12 – Governing Council</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER 2018</p> <p>Nov 2 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</p> <p>Nov 6 – Executive Committee</p> <p>Nov 13 – Governing Council</p> <p>Nov 20 – SRP Recognition Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">APRIL 2019</p> <p>Apr 2 – Executive Committee</p> <p>Apr 5 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</p> <p>Apr 9 – Governing Council</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER 2018</p> <p>Dec 4 – Executive Committee</p> <p>Dec 7 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</p> <p>Dec 11 – Governing Council</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MAY 2019</p> <p>May 2-4 – NYSUT Rep Assembly in Albany</p> <p>May 3 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</p> <p>May 7 – Executive Committee</p> <p>May 14 – Governing Council</p> <p>May 21 – WITA Excellence in Education Dinner</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY 2019</p> <p>Jan 4 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</p> <p>Jan 8 – Executive Committee</p> <p>Jan 15 – Governing Council</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JUNE 2019</p> <p>June 4 – Executive Committee</p> <p>June 7 – WITA Logo Shirt Day</p> <p>June 11 – Governing Council</p>

Congratulations to the following members who were honored at the

Excellence in Education Banquet

On May 15, 2018

Sandra Baxter Service Award for Outstanding Service to the West Irondequoit Teachers' Association

Ellen Tuohey

Beverly F. Engel Excellence in Education Award

Jamie Armstrong, Malissa Champion, Anna Conti, Casey Corcoran, Noreen Crouse, Erin Greco, Christin Harley, Maureen Heron, Ann Martin, Debra Nelson, Emily Swanson, Zandy Tasber, Colleen Vay, Lynn Wilder

Newly-Tenured Teachers

Breanne Allen, Mallory Blackburn, Stephanie Bock, Andreas Brooks, Karin Cardon, Katrya Cichanowicz, Ashley DeGregorio, Nicole Denisoff, Christina Grieco, Krista Jablonsky, Anthony Lambiase, Angela McGarry, Tracey Medicino, Nicole Williams

25 Years

Kim Barlette, Kim Bartela, Rebecca Berbert, Ken Eckman, Patty Welch

35 Years

Jeff Guercio

Retirees

Nandy Bonavilla, Susan Dineen, Ken Eckman, Charlotte Forties, Sandra Glidden, Ann Martin, Debra Nelson, Patty O'Connor, Dan Piato, Nancy Rank, Ellen Tuohey, Karen Vahl, Elaine Lane, Susan Carmen-Duffy



Welcome New Members!

Dake:

Akeem Gomes, Maria Albano

I.H.S.:

Whitney Stevenson, Samantha Gasser

Iroquois:

Claire Hamilton, Lauren Jedamski,

Nicole Guida

Seneca:

Catherine Goodyear

Southlawn:

Elisabeth Beumer

WITA BUDGET for 2018-19

RECEIPTS	BUDGET 18-19
Membership Dues	\$49,500.00
Spring Dinner	-\$500.00
Scholarships	-\$2,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$.00
VOTE/COPE	\$.00
INCOME	\$46,500.00

EXPENSES	BUDGET 18-19
Exec/Gov Council	\$500.00
Conferences	\$7,000.00
Negotiations	\$3,000.00
Public Relations	\$200.00
Gifts	\$4,500.00
Stipends	\$22,400.00
Office Supplies	\$1,500.00
Petty Cash	\$100.00
Accounting and Liability	\$1,000.00
Copier	\$1,300.00
Web Based Services	\$500.00
Member Engagement	\$2,000.00
EXPENSES	\$44,000.00

Baby News...

Gillian Esme

born March 12 to

Shannon (Southlawn) and Kevin Fridd



Velvet Rose

born April 23 to

Christy (Seneca) and Manuel Grieco



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

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:

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



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, sweat-
 shirt or would like to place an order.

