A Sub Is Just a Click Away

Have you ever needed to call in for a sub because you have a sick child, and it takes you at least five times to put in the correct information on the phone with the BOCES Sub Service?

Gone are the days where you called an actual person on the phone to request a substitute. The current phone system can be frustrating if you press the wrong button and have to start over again. When calling in for a substitute, an individual is often sick, dealing with a sick family member, or even a death; the frustration of trying to use the phone system only adds to someone’s stress.

Thankfully, for those with a computer, there is an easier way. Teachers may report an absence and request a sub online at http://www.dcboces.org/subcalling/. Once on the page, scroll down the page and select if you are reporting from school or home. Next, you come to the log-in page. Simply type in your last name and the last six numbers of your social security number to access the system. Once you are logged in, you can report an absence, review an absence, and look at and/or edit your personal information. Everything you need is on the screen for you to follow. You can go back to any page to change your information, and nothing is complete until you submit your request.

If you are tired of fighting with the phone system, give the online service a try by visiting the WCT web page. Go to the Resource Links page, and click on the sub service address.

Give it a try...

http://www.dcboces.org/subcalling/

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UPCOMING 2006 BOARD MEETINGS

February: 13th & 27th
March: 13th & 27th
April: 3rd & 25th
May: 8th & 22nd

WCT - 2537 Rte. 52, Suite 15 - Hopewell Jct., NY 12533 - 845.227.5065 - wct@frontiernet.com
Dear Members,

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those who have made our move to Heritage Square a tremendous success. The move would not have been possible without your help. The hard work, dedication, and loyalty you give to the WCT are examples of what “teamwork” and “unionism” represent.

Over the past twenty years, so much had accumulated, and there was a great deal of work to be done, more than we all had anticipated. Thanks to all the “packers” who donated many hours of their time after school to prepare for our move. Special recognition goes to: Ellen Korz, Audrey Ryan, Ryan Lawler, Mike Abrahamson, Helen Abrahamson, Kathy Shekitka, Ro Henebery, and Kristen Kennedy.

Our “movers,” but not “shakers,” devoted two days (December 16th and 17th) to relocate our union office from Route 376 to Heritage Square on Route 52 in Hopewell Junction. Because of their help, the membership was able to save a significant amount of money. We must acknowledge our meritorious members who braved the cold weather for the cause: Mike Lyons, Joe “the driver” Barone, John “the muscle” Lumia, Frank Fabiano, John Neeval, Leon Jacobs, John Brophy, Bonnie Kieffer, Donna Basile (and her two sons, Anthony and Benjamin), Ryan Lawler, and Joseph Glauda. Of course, we were very fortunate to have our expert mover/supervisor, Mike Lyons Jr., who was able to adeptly oversee “field operations.”

I most certainly would be remiss if I did not recognize my two sons, Marco and Francesco, who spent much of their winter vacation helping me to assemble furniture, connect computers, and organize our new office so that we could be ready for opening day, January 3rd. My deepest appreciation goes to my wife, Maria, for her constant love and support during my “crazy endeavors.”

Kudos also go to Joseph Leito, who took time out of his busy schedule to network our computer system.

Last, but certainly not least, are the infinite contributions of our dedicated Administrative Assistant, Linda Leito, who came in to organize and work during her vacation. She was extremely instrumental in facilitating our move while performing her daily duties under arduous circumstances.

On behalf of the Executive Board, I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite all WCT members to our “Open House” on Friday, February 3rd, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Hopefully, you are able to attend and spend some time together with us in our new “home.”

In solidarity,

Pasquale Delli Carpini
WCT President

P.S. I would like to apologize in advance to any members whom I inadvertently forgot to thank.
AFT Staff Development Opportunities

Here are a few programs listed on the web site. To see the entire list, go to http://www.aft.org/teachers/jft/pdopps.htm

- **Cornell Center for Materials Research: Research Experience for Teachers**—This is a six week summer science program for middle and high school teachers that aims to provide teachers with research experience, computer skills training, classroom-ready science lessons, and an opportunity to work on existing science curriculum.

  For more information, go to www.ccmr.cornell.edu/education/ret/index.html.

- **Landmarks of American History Workshops** are offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide the opportunity for K-12 educators to engage in intensive study and discussion of important topics in American history. Teachers selected to participate will receive a stipend of $500. Stipends are intended to help cover living expenses, books, and travel expenses to and from the Workshop location.

  For more information, go to www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/landmarks.html.

- **The NASA Spacelink Urban and Rural Community Enrichment Program** trains urban and rural educators to conduct interdisciplinary aerospace activities. Teachers of grade 5-8 are eligible. Those wishing to obtain general information on the grant and its deadlines should write to NASA Headquarters, Education Division; Attn: URCEP Program Manager; Code N; Washington, DC 20549. For more information, go to: http://aesp.nasa.okstate.edu/URCEP/.

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Teachers Dress Down, and Donation Goal Goes Up

**by Steve Schwartz**  
Fishkill Plains

Every Friday, the staff at Fishkill Plains has Dress Down Fridays. If a staff member dresses down, they donate $1.00. This school year, we are collecting the money to send to the NYSUT Hurricane Relief Fund. From September through December, we raised $170, which has already been sent to NYSUT.

*Note from AFT: http://aft.org/

Months after Hurricane Katrina, the plight of victims has faded from the headlines. Their need is greater than ever, however. Please join us in sending a message to our union colleagues that they have not been forgotten. Your tax-deductible contribution to the AFT Disaster Relief Fund provides direct assistance to AFT members affected by this season’s hurricanes.
John Jay FBLA Winter Coat Drive Is a Success

During the week of December 5th, the members of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) at John Jay High School organized and conducted its annual Winter Coat Drive at John Jay High School. Approximately 70 coats were collected from John Jay students, faculty, and members of the community. All of the items were donated to the Family Partnership in the City of Poughkeepsie to help those local families in need dress more warmly this winter.

FBLA members extend their many thanks to faculty and friends for all of the support received in this worthwhile effort to assist the members of our community.

NYSUT Looks for Action, Not Words, to Cement Pataki Legacy


ALBANY, N.Y. January 4, 2006 - New York State United Teachers today said that Gov. George Pataki’s legacy hinges not on his final State of the State address, but rather on his leadership in closing the funding gap and adequately funding all of public education, from pre-K to public colleges and universities.

“Some pundits are looking at the governor’s speech as an effort to cement his legacy,” said NYSUT President Richard C. Iannuzzi. “Speeches don’t do that; leadership and action do. Governor Pataki’s legacy will ultimately be measured by what he does for students most in need.

“The governor often speaks about ‘bold, sweeping, historic changes.’ Nothing could be bolder or more historic than taking the steps necessary to close the funding gap between wealthy districts and low-income urban and rural school districts.”

NYSUT Executive Vice President Alan B. Lubin noted New York State Public Schools have made tremendous strides over the last decade. He said the governor and Legislature deserve credit for helping to drive the standards movement forward. But there’s still much to be done.

“Children in many schools are struggling to read and do math at grade level in overcrowded classes with outdated textbooks,” Lubin said. “The governor and the Legislature have supported the push to higher standards, but there’s a core group of students who are stuck at the bottom of the academic ladder because they live in economically depressed neighborhoods. New York needs to lift all students to those standards.”

Lubin said the 525,000-member union is awaiting details on some of the proposals contained in the governor’s speech. “Many of the governor’s words will take shape and form in his education budget,” Lubin said. “Despite new nanotech facilities, New York’s economy still lags behind the rest of the nation and the world. The best way to fix our economy is to fix our education system. Our priority will be to ensure that public education - including the state’s community colleges and public colleges and universities - has the resources it needs to lead New York to economic prosperity.”

NYSUT, the largest union in New York state, represents more than 525,000 classroom teachers and other school employees; academic and professional faculty at the state’s community colleges, State University of New York and City University of New York; and other education and health professionals. NYSUT is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.
Good News!

WCSD Factoid:

**Effective January 1, 2006, the new mileage rate set by the IRS is 44.5 cents per mile.**

Dates to Know:

- January 31 - R.A. meeting
- February 3 - WCT Open House
- February 16 - Prof. Dev. Day
- February 17-20 - Presidents’ Day Recess
- May 19 - Retiree Dinner

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From the PR Committee:

“Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious by....” (William Shakespeare)

...getting involved in FUN— COMRADARIE—A WORTHY CAUSE...

**YOU AND YOUR UNION**

We are planning to make our presence known at the Kids Expo
ONLY ONE DAY: ONLY TWO HOURS
On Sunday April 2, 2006 from 10:00am to 12:00pm

*PLUS, YOUR UNION WILL TREAT YOU TO A BRUNCH AS A WAY OF SAYING THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. BRUNCH WILL FOLLOW RIGHT AFTER OUR WORK IS COMPLETE.*

Hurry and sign up with your PR COMMITTEE!
E-MAIL EMILY GUTHOFF or ELLEN KORZ

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2005-2006 Pay Dates:

February 10th
February 24th
March 10th
March 24th
April 7th
April 21st
May 5th
May 19th
June 2nd
June 16th
June 23rd

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AFT PLUS 1/06
**Members’ Classified Ads**

**WCT Commentator Advertisement Policy**

The *WCT Commentator* advertising policy as adopted by the Executive Board is as follows:

Noncommercial (Personal) ads for WCT Members only will be run for two issues at no charge.

Commercial (Business) ads for WCT Members only: guaranteed placement for half of the school year, $35.00 per half year, payable Sept. 15th and Feb. 1st, or $5.00 per issue.

Reprints of articles from the *WCT Commentator* are allowable only with the permission of the WCT President.

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**FOR SALE:** Zenith - Z17LZ5R - 17-inch LCD flat panel television (can be used as TV or computer screen). Brand new $520.00. Call Caroline 265-2317.

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**Dreamy Creamy Hot Chocolate Recipe courtesy of Paula Deen**

1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/8 teaspoon salt
6 1/2 cups hot water

Mini Marshmallows (optional)

In a large saucepan, combine sweetened condensed milk, cocoa, vanilla and salt; mix well. Over medium heat, slowly stir in water; heat through, stirring occasionally. DO NOT BOIL. Top with marshmallows, if desired.