From the President’s Pad...

The Vision of Great Men Attacked by “Myopic Minds”!

In 1965, in a speech to a state convention of the Illinois AFL-CIO, Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress. Out of its bold struggles, economic and social reform gave birth to unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, government relief for the destitute and, above all, new wage levels that meant not mere survival but a tolerable life.”

Forty six years later these very basic fundamental rights to live a life with dignity, sense of purpose, and worth are under attack like never before in the history of this great nation. The labor movement that created the middle class, upon which the government often relies to extricate itself from the ills and the bad decisions often made by elected officials, must defend itself from the “myopic minds” of today’s leaders.

The WCT is proud to witness and be part of unionists across the nation that have come together in support of our colleagues under attack in the states of Wisconsin, Idaho, Indiana, New Jersey, Ohio and Tennessee. Other states are facing unprecedented threats as well. In Albany, there are also “small myopic minds” that want to abolish the 1982 Triborough Amendment to the 1967 Taylor law, which protects negotiated benefits under an expired contract, end seniority rights, and dramatically change the pension law by creating a tier VI. The New York Teachers Retirement System is fully funded and is one of the best managed retirement systems in the nation. Legislators, anti-labor ideologues, and Wall Street hedge-fund managers also want to do away with tenure because it is viewed as a “job for life” instead of a process. However, it simply means that the unit member is entitled to a fair hearing before a neutral third party if there are allegations of incompetence or wrongdoing. These are direct attacks on collective bargaining that affect the ability to provide our members with fair wages, benefits, and pensions that reflect the years of service in order to live in retirement with peace of mind and dignity. What happens in Wisconsin, Ohio, and other states has a direct impact on all the working families of New York State as well.

(Cont’d on page 3)
### STAY INFORMED… IT’S UP TO YOU !!!!

*{A Monthly Feature in The Commentator}*

Below are some important articles to keep you up to date with current educational issues. These issues will directly affect your job on a daily basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NYSUT blasts Regents: Breach of Trust:</strong> (p.5)</td>
<td><strong>APPR regulations poison ‘spirit of collaboration’:</strong> (p. 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brief Summary:</strong> The Board of Regents votes to approve regulations that would permit the option of using a single state test to account for 40% of a teacher’s evaluation. This vote came at the 11th hour and caused outrage around the state. This action ignores the recommendations of the Regents’ own task force.</td>
<td><strong>Brief Summary:</strong> This article was composed by 8 prior NYS Teacher of the Year. They too speak specifically about the dangers of using test scores in such a definitive manner. Compromising collaboration among colleagues would be detrimental for true school improvement. Several stories from their schools are used as examples to support their point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NYSUT UNITED – June 2011</strong></td>
<td><strong>Useful FACEBOOK links for teachers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where we stand on teacher evaluations</strong> (p. 7)</td>
<td>NYSUT United (formerly known as NY Teacher) - <a href="http://www.facebook.com/NYSUTUnited">http://www.facebook.com/NYSUTUnited</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brief Summary:</strong> Don’t listen to what people are telling you! Read and stay up on the current position of NYSUT with regards to teacher evaluation.</td>
<td>AFT – (American Federation of Teachers) <a href="http://www.facebook.com/AFTunion">http://www.facebook.com/AFTunion</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Over-reliance of tests full of pitfalls:</strong> (p.8)</td>
<td><strong>Other useful links for teachers</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Brief Summary:</strong> This article sums up what we already know about using test scores to evaluate teachers. Researchers collectively wrote a letter addressed to the NYS Board of Regents expressing their concerns about potentially 40% of a teacher’s evaluation being based on test scores. They cite several reasons for potential pitfalls.</td>
<td>AFT (American Federation of Teachers) - <a href="http://www.aft.org/">http://www.aft.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>We Are One (AFL-CIO)</strong> - <a href="http://www.aflcio.org/issues/states/">http://www.aflcio.org/issues/states/</a></td>
<td><strong>Useful FACEBOOK links for teachers</strong></td>
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From the President’s Pad (cont’d from page 1)....

Another threat to the integrity of our profession is the ill-conceived Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR). This teacher evaluation process allows 20% of an evaluation to be comprised of student growth on standardized tests, but specifies that an additional 20% must be comprised of student performance on other locally-developed and selected measures. Many concerns come to mind: How will PPS, such as psychologists, guidance counselors, social workers, speech therapists, OT’s, PT’s be evaluated? Fortunately, the law requires that virtually all aspects of the process, including development of improvement plan procedures as well as appeals processes to challenge flawed evaluations, must be negotiated locally through collective bargaining. Rest assured, the WCT negotiating team - Martha Bilsback, Pasquale Delli Carpini, Ray Koretsky, Michael Lyons, Michelle Ross, Leslie Seigle, Jack Devine (retiree representative), and Steve Berman (NYSUT labor relation specialist) - is prepared and ready to address this very important task.

I take comfort in knowing the WCT is blessed with strong leadership and an able negotiating team to navigate through these unstable educational times that threaten to cripple our profession, decimate the rights and benefits of our members, and above all, erode the quality education we must deliver to our students.

I applaud the successful efforts of our members and the might of the retirees, along with support from the coalition of other unions. This includes the enormous support from the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation in passing the budget by 62% and electing pro-education school board candidates. An integral role of the success of this year’s campaign is the leadership provided by the V.P. of Political Action, Flip Gertler. His organizational skills were of utmost importance in the smooth running of the grassroots campaign and the ultimate success of this massive undertaking. Cliff Foley, our sage retiree consigliere and recipient of the 2011 NYSUT’s Community Service Award, deserves special recognition for his expert advice, commitment, and unfailing dedication in our endeavors.

Moving forward, we challenge the district to put forth a veritable proposal for a successor agreement that meets the needs of the school community, and at the same time, is fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. The WCT negotiating team would welcome serious negotiating sessions instead of meetings which waste our precious time after a long day’s work. The leadership of the union will always keep you informed of any progress and development in negotiations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a most restful and enjoyable summer vacation, but know that in September, the WCT will continue its proactive position in order to achieve a fair and equitable contract for all members.

In Solidarity,

Pasquale Delli Carpini
WCT President

[Information obtained from NYSUT Leader Briefing 6/10/11]
Capasso Scholarship Winners 2011
by Rosemary Versace-Pinczes, Emily Guthoff, and Louise Rose

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 Wappingers Congress of Teachers Ralph and Janet Capasso Scholarship. This year’s recipients are Charlotte Bloom, Danielle Renino, and Kristen Turi.

Charlotte Bloom is the daughter of Ann Frederick, who teaches at Van Wyck Junior High School. She will be graduating from New Paltz High School in the top 10% of her class and she is an AP Scholar. Charlotte is a well-rounded person, having carried a rigorous academic load, participated in sports, and participated in many community service activities.

Charlotte was the captain of her lacrosse team and she qualified for state championships in swimming, track and field, and Nordic skiing. She is a 15-time Mid-Hudson Athletic League scholar athlete. One of her most notable community service projects was to organize a team for the Making Strides for Breast Cancer where her swim team raised over $3000.00 each year.

Charlotte is very interested in the concept of “paying it forward.” She worked during the summer with the Department of Environmental Conservation, where she became interested in creating clean water processes. She hopes to eventually work in third world countries helping to provide clean water for the residents.

Charlotte will be attending Union College where she will be majoring in bio-chemical engineering.

Danielle Renino is the daughter of Gregory Renino who teaches at Brinkerhoff Elementary.

Danielle is an extremely gifted artist and talented student who, even though she knew art is her passion, never took the easiest academic courses because she believes a well-rounded educated person makes the best contributions to her field.

She has won numerous awards such as the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition Silver Key Winner in both 2010 and 2011. She has won the Exemplary Media Arts Award in 2011. Her artwork has been showcased at the Wappingers Central School District Festival of the Arts at Mesier Park from 2001-2011 and in the Houlihan Laurence Art shows from 2007-2009.

Danielle has volunteered at the Blodgett Memorial Library in Fishkill and worked to collect funds for the library, gathered materials and cards for our troops serving overseas, organized a Carnavale for community members. She has worked with the John Jay theatre group Proscenium painting sets and helping with props.

Mr. Peter D. Phillips, Trustee/Deputy Mayor of Fishkill, wrote in his recommendation of Danielle that “I believe she personifies the word altruistic.”

Danielle will be attending Montserrat College of Art in Beverly, MA in the fall of 2011.
Capasso Scholarship Winners 2011 (cont’d)

by Rosemary Versace-Pinczes, Emily Guthoff, and Louise Rose

Kristen Turi is the daughter of Mary Turi, who teaches at Fishkill Elementary School.

Kristen is ranked third out of five hundred seventy-two students in her class at John Jay High School and during the past four years she has been involved in many activities. Some include Student Government, serving as the Class of 2011 Treasurer, Student Congress as a Representative, START (Students Teaching All the Right Things), National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Math Honor Society.

She has been a member of the Varsity Spring Track and Indoor Track teams since freshman year. She is also a member of the Varsity Tennis team and served as its Captain during the 2009 and 2010 seasons. In addition, Kristen was voted the Poughkeepsie Journal’s Fall All Stars Tennis Player of the Year in 2009.

Kristen received the Exemplary Character and Citizenship Award in 2010, she was the recipient of the Scholastic Art Competition Gold Key Award in 2011, and she is an AP Scholar with Honor.

Kristen participated in the 2009 Ramapo Youth Leadership Conference and has organized and hosted numerous food drives for the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. She volunteers as a dance assistant at Claudia’s Dance Studio and at Fishkill Elementary School. She is also an altar server, and an assistant in the Religious Education program and the Giving Tree program at Saint Mary’s in Fishkill.

Since 2009, Kristen has worked as the Director of Tennis Education for the Town of Fishkill, as a tennis instructor at Cross Court Tennis Club, and an ice cream server at East Fishkill Provisions.

Barbara Searle, John Jay English teacher, writes in her recommendation of Kristen that “she is an intelligent, modest individual who gets along well with others, takes her responsibilities seriously, and clearly demonstrates leadership qualities.”

Kristen will be attending Boston College this fall and she plans on working towards a dual degree in Psychology and Business.

Thank You

To the Wappingers Congress of Teachers,

I just wanted to say thank you again for choosing me as a recipient of the Ronald and Janet Capasso Scholarship! Attending my college of my choice was always been something that was important to me, and this scholarship is allowing me to achieve my goal. I am so excited to attend Boston College in the fall! Also, the ceremony that was held at Roy C. Ketcham was extremely nice. Please extend my thanks to the President of the Union, the teachers who worked hard on the committee, and everyone else who helped along the way. I appreciate everything that you have done so much!

Sincerely,
Kristen Turi
Press Release
WCSD Sports Hall of Fame Inducts Twelve

On April 29, 2011 in a ceremony held at Christos in Poughkeepsie, the Thomas Macrini Sports Hall of Fame inducted 12 athletes and coaches, bringing its total number of inductees to 374. In addition, 2 special service recipients were honored for their outstanding contribution to the WCSD athletic program. The total number of special service honorees now totals 43. Inductees this year included: Nicolas Caparco, Susan Doran and Coach Gene Bowe from RCK...and Christopher Douglass, Cori (Welsh) Alicea, Stephanie Blake, Ashley (Kangas) DeSombre, Michael Flynn, Lesley Garvey, Thomas Haimelin, Jennifer (Ueland) Piccolo, and Christine (Sweeney) Spadaro from John Jay. The Special Service Recipients this year were Jennifer Simmons and Dennis Skora.

Since its inception in 1989, the Hall of Fame has honored former athletes, having graduated at least 10 years prior and retired coaches for their distinguishing accomplishments in their respective sports. If you wish to nominate an athlete or coach, please contact the district athletic office at 298-5000, ext. 167 for information.

General Membership Meeting
May 31, 2011
Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th># of Members</th>
<th>Attended</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brinckerhoff</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evans</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishkill</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishkill Plains</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gayhead</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Jay</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinry</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myers Corners</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Grove</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCK</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheafe Road</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Wyck</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vassar Road</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wappingers Jr</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Members</td>
<td>856</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RCK Business and Marketing Honor Society Induction

On May 26, 2011 Roy C. Ketcham’s Business Department recognized twenty students for their Business and Marketing Honor Society. Students are selected based on their academic achievement, leadership skills, character development and participation in community service activities. A ceremony took place at Ketcham and students received certificates and pins, seniors will receive honor cords to be worn at graduation.

Todd Mensch, Kathy Conroy, Caroline Pidalla, Kristen Bockemuhl, Maryalice Goodall, Corinne Streever, Karen Noye, Inductees: Stephanie Baehr, Alexandra Clerc, Monica Coronel, Deshaun Dennis, Christina DeRiggi, Corey Gallinari, Ryan Haan, Diana Hernandez, Brian Johnson, Alex Lam, Leslie, Loreffice, Mar Jahan, Dana Marvin, Kristen Mastromarino, MaKenzie McCardle, Courtney McCloskey, Melanie Noye, Sergei Saradjian, Matthew Tuttle, and Lindsey VanZandt
On Friday, March 25, many of the 2010-2011 NB candidates gathered in room 213 at John Jay High School to pack their NB boxes. The “Packing Party” started at 2:30 with the high school candidates and continued on until the last of the elementary candidates were finished at 5:45. In one enormous communal effort, candidates assisted each other in the interpretation of what at times appeared to be convoluted, tedious directions and a fanatical order of entry envelope placement into “the box.”

Packing completed, many of the candidates traveled in an NB convoy to the Fishkill Post Office where they waited apprehensively in line to ship their boxes. Photos of relieved and happy candidates were snapped as they paid their fees for the mailing – that is until they were scolded for breaking the law: it is illegal to take photographs in a US Post Office.

No journey is complete without a celebration and our convoy of candidates continued on to Café Maya. A giddy jubilee enveloped the table as candidates reminisced, commiserated and at times even laughed about the completion of their entries. However, this celebration was just a brief interruption in the candidates’ journey. As a Japanese proverb goes, “When you have completed 95 percent of your journey, you are only halfway there.” The next step of the process for the candidates loomed ahead – the assessment center.

Candidates are required to complete an assessment that consists of six components in their specific content area. As the candidates must demonstrate accomplishment in pedagogy they are required to complete tasks in content that they may not be responsible for in their day-to-day teaching. For example, an elementary special education teacher is assessed on pedagogy from birth to age 21; a secondary algebra teacher is questioned on calculus; a science teacher is evaluated on all branches of science, etc. The last of the assessments were completed by mid-June and while it appears the candidates have completed their journey, they have not.

The results of the process will be released in November or December of 2011. No matter what the results, this group of teachers will continue on their journey of accomplished teaching. Questioning, analyzing and reflecting are now a part of their teaching practice as they examine ways to impact student learning in a positive fashion. The journey has just begun.
Packing Completed: Off to the Post Office

RCK, Kinry, Fishkill NB Candidates: Smiles of Relief!

NB Boxes in the Post Office

Van Wyck NB Candidates: Smiles of Relief!

Packing Party Celebration at Cafe Maya
Interested in Pursuing the National Board Process?


NYSUT's ELT will be offering the **NB Lab Class Support Group** once again at JJHS in its fall course offerings. Check out [http://www.nysut.org/elt.htm](http://www.nysut.org/elt.htm) for more information.

Contact Diane DiChiara at secondary.DD@wcteachers.org

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Important Information about the WCT Welfare Trust Fund

Trustees:
Christine Romano, Chairperson
Kim Mahusky, Treasurer
Erin Mulligan, Secretary
Flip Gertler, Trustee
Pasquale Delli Carpini, Trustee
Ronnie Dwyer, Administrator

WCT Telephone Number:
845-227-5065
Daniel H. Cook Telephone Number:
1-800-342-6651

- You must let the WTF know of any changes in your personal information ASAP
- Student verification forms must be sent to Daniel H. Cook every semester
- Dental & prescription reimbursement forms are on-line at the WTF website
- Please direct all questions & concerns to the WCT office or directly to Daniel H. Cook

from the... WCT Welfare Trust Fund

A financial consultant from Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. will be in the WCT office on the following dates:

June 14, 2011

Appointments are (1) hour blocks available between 2pm & 6pm on a first come first served basis. When you call the office to schedule an appointment, we will forward a questionnaire to you. Please complete it and bring it with you to the meeting.

Since these slots fill up very quickly CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

The WCT office number is 227-5065.

If the above dates are not convenient for you, call Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. directly at 1-888-949-1925 and other arrangements may be possible.

also from the Welfare Trust Fund......

The attorney will be in the WCT offices to meet with members on the following dates:

Times:
2 pm—6pm
Please call 227-5065 to schedule an appointment.

June 22.
Get Your WCT Gear

Short sleeve tees, long sleeve tees, and lanyards are available for purchase at the WCT Office. Shirts range in size from small through 3X. Please stop by the office to make your purchases. Payment for these items must be a check made out to WCT - cash will not be accepted.

WCT Gear is available at the WCT Office:

- $9 for short sleeve tee
- $12 for long sleeve tee
- $2 for lanyards

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The content of the *WCT COMMENTATOR* shall reflect the official positions and policies of the WCT, with the following three exceptions:

1. The President of the WCT should present his/her views in a message to the members from time to time, but not less than bimonthly.

2. Signed Letters to the Editor (of responsible length) containing personal views from members and subscribers shall be published subject to laws of libel.

3. Members of the WCT may place articles adhering to the Canons of Journalism concerned with WCT positions, policies, and issues of interest to teachers in the Commentary Section. (For both Letters to the Editor and the Commentary Section, the writer’s name and WCT affiliation shall be attached, and an editor’s note shall accompany these sections indicating that “The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official views and policies of the WCT.”)

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

**WCT COMMENTATOR Advertising 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.