Union Seeks Apology from ABC

Reprinted from NYSUT
Feb. 17, 2006

If you are tired of slanted reporting and anti-union bias, now is the time to lend your support to a union petition drive.

NYSUT members statewide are joining a nationwide campaign by the American Federation of Teachers blasting the tone, misinformation and slanted reporting in a recent ABC “20/20” special titled, objectionably enough, “Stupid in America.” NYSUT and the AFT object to the program’s depiction of students and its pronounced anti-union bias, which included attacks on the United Federation of Teachers, a NYSUT affiliate representing New York City teachers and paraprofessionals.

Unionists are calling on ABC-TV to apologize for the demeaning and inaccurate segment. The segment, which aired January 13, was an attack on American public schools and particularly on public school teachers and their unions.

NYSUT is circulating a petition to demand an apology from ABC and its correspondent John Stossel for the scurrilous and irresponsible assault on public school students and teachers.

Editor’s Note: For more information about this issue, go to the “20/20” web site at http://abcnews.go.com/2020/Stossel/story?id=1500338. Once you have read the article and watched the video clips, if you are incensed by John Stossel’s coverage, go to http://www.nysut.org/news/20060217petition.html, and click on the link to add your name to the petition. Please do not sign the petition online if you already signed a paper copy, but feel free to ask friends and relatives to go online.
Letter to the Editor

Why Teach Six Classes?

It has come to my attention that some teachers in the WCSD are voluntarily teaching a sixth class instead of a duty. Although I was not teaching in the WCSD back in the 60s, it is my understanding that the WCT successfully negotiated a reduction in the teaching load from 6 to 5 classes back then.

Before my retirement in '03, teachers were being asked to take a sixth class, on an emergency basis, when a substitute could not be found for one period. I believe that if this emergency substituting occurred during a prep period, the teacher was paid an additional stipend for this one-time substitute coverage.

Now, as I understand it, teachers are teaching a sixth class on a long-term basis, with an additional one fifth being added to their salary. Although I understand that this is financially beneficial for those nearing retirement, I also see a downside to this practice.

If five teachers, in one department, all agree to take on a sixth class, this means that a teaching position has been eliminated for a new teacher. It seems to me that the WCSD could obtain new teachers to teach these additional sections, if they really searched for them. It also seems to me that this practice is taking positions away from new teachers who would come to the WCSD with enthusiasm and new ideas! Additionally, I know that when the WCSD and the BOE look at this practice of teaching six classes, I can’t help but wonder when everyone else will be asked to do the same?

Ed Murphy
WCSD Retiree '03

Good News!

- Congratulations to Matt Paino (RCK) and his wife, Kate, on the birth of their son, Owen Christopher, on December 30, 2005. Special congratulations also to Owen’s grandma - Jeanne Paino (MY).

Buy Union

The NYSUT e-store is up and running at http://nysut.smpm.com/m/welcome.asp. Be sure to check out the section titled special offers for sale prices.

The AFT e-store is available at http://www.aftstore.org/aft/welcome.asp. At this store you can purchase anything from a $3.00 AFT pin, a $9.00 t-shirt, to a $55.00 jacket.

Retiree: Al Cerilli, teacher – 38 years

One of the gifts of opportunity this country has to offer is a free public education. No matter how difficult or humble one’s beginnings, he or she can pull himself or herself upwards. Set your goals high. If you miss the target, you are still on high ground, better prepared for life’s challenges, and the twists and turns life may bring. Best wishes; do well.
Ralph and Janet Capasso Scholarship
The WCT, in conjunction with the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers, is offering three $1500 scholarships to seniors presently enrolled in any public or private high school who are planning to attend college in the fall of 2006. To be eligible, candidates must have a parent or legal guardian who is a member in good standing of the WCT. The selection process for these awards will require the following:

• an application
• an essay
• a high school transcript
• one letter of recommendation
• a personal interview for the finalists

Applications are available in the WCT office. Please call 227-5065 to request an application, or pick it up directly. To be considered, applications must reach the WCT office no later than 5 p.m. on April 7, 2006.

Committee members are: Nancy Beiner, Caroline V. Hernandez, Norma Najjar, Linda Sprance, and Ceris Valesey.

WCT Shirt Orders Being Accepted

Shirt forms available online at...
http://nysut.org/wappingers/shirtform.pdf

The WCT logo may now be placed on the following items:

• Ladies’ & Men’s long sleeve denim shirts
• Ladies’ & Men’s short sleeve denim shirts
• Ladies’ sleeveless sports shirt
• Ladies’ fitted tee
• Ladies’ contoured fit baby blue/navy cap sleeve tee
• Ladies’ fitted ringer tee navy/white
• Men’s tee with contrast stitching
• Unisex navy/lt. blue ringer tee

If interested in any items, please check the new order form on the WCT web page. Forms may be given to your building reps, sent to the WCT Office, or sent to Meredith Inkeles at Kinry Road.
WCSD Factoid:
The District finally received new photocopiers!

Dates to Know:
March 28 - RA Meeting
April 10-17 - Spring Recess
May 19 - Retiree Dinner

WCT Tax Factoid:
WCT Membership 2005 Dues

January – June
12 x 29.80 = $357.60

September – December
8 x $30.80 = $246.40

Total Dues $604.00

FYI: Save the Date

• The WCT Retiree Dinner Dance honoring all 2006 retirees will be held on Friday, May 19, 2006. Details will be available shortly.

• The John Jay Guidance Department will be hosting a retirement party in honor of Andrea Dombrowski. Please keep Thursday, May 18, 2006 open to join in. We will be having a dinner at Lilliana’s in Wappingers Falls. Invitations will follow.

• The Kinry Road retirement party honoring Jane Petrone will take place on Friday, June 2, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. at the Inn at Cold Spring. We hope to see you there to send off one of our best in a very special way!

• The Myers Corners retirement party honoring Jeanne Paino, Toni Kelly, Camille Racioppo, Debbie Kaiser, Dara Dwyer, and Betsy Tripaldi will be Sunday, June 4, 2006. The party will be at Dutchess Manor, 11:30 - 3:30. A great time will be had by all!

• The Sheafe Road retirement party honoring Nancy Turner, Steve Kelland, Carol Stimson, Evelyn Partridge, Gene Martin, and Rosemary Franca will be celebrated at Anthony’s Catering on Sunday, June 4, 2006 at 1:00pm.

• Vassar Road School is having a retirement party to honor Deborah Alexander, Cynthia Malet, Judith Wright, and Greta Woo. Please keep Sunday, June 4, 2006 available to join our celebration. We will be having brunch at Torches in Newburgh.
MEMBERS’ CLASSIFIED ADS

OPPORTUNITY PLUS
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Opportunity Plus is a tax deferred variable annuity issued by ING Life Insurance and Annuity Company. All fees and expenses associated with Opportunity Plus including those of the Trust are detailed in the current prospectus. You should consider the investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses of the variable product and its underlying fund options, or mutual funds offered through a retirement plan, carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other information, which can be obtained from the address below. Please read the information carefully before investing. C04-0714-004 7/04

Securities offered through ING Financial Advisers, LLC (member SIPC) 151 Farmington Avenue Hartford, CT 06156 800-438-1272

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Peter J Brent, CFP© (Registered Representative) Laurie B Schiavone, CFP© (Registered Representative)

Securities and Advisory Services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network Member NASD, SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor

FOR SALE: Ariens Snow Thrower, 24”, 2 stage, 6 hp. Old but works well, 4 forward, 2 reverse speeds. All metal, no plastic. Needs some minor adjustment for smooth gear meshing. Asking $200. Call 845-471-9462. E-mail sidekicker3@juno.com.

FOR SALE: Voucher for three graduate credits at Long Island University. Expiring June of 2006. Voucher is good for full tuition and registration fees. Can only transfer to a teacher, administrator, clinician, or intern in the WCSD. Call Paul at 518-851-7148.

FOR SALE: 3’ x 4’ wrought iron table with Formica top plus four upholstered, matching wrought iron chairs, all in great condition. $395. Call: Anita 845-462-3614.

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Thinking of Buying or Selling a Home?
Contact Chuck Deppe, Licensed Real Estate Salesperson, with over 20 years experience. Free Market Analysis and Referral System Available. A Century 21 Agent and WCT member for over 30 years.
Call (845) 227-3859

Katrina Emergency Assistance Act

On March 4, 140,000 workers left unemployed by Hurricane Katrina will start running out of federal jobless benefits unless Congress takes action. The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a bill, the Katrina Emergency Assistance Act that would extend those benefits by 13 weeks.

The U.S. House of Representatives needs to take immediate action to help those 140,000 workers get the assistance they need. Help Katrina survivors today by writing your representative and asking him or her to support S. 1777, the Katrina Emergency Assistance Act.

There is an enormous amount of work left to be done to rebuild the Gulf Coast and the lives of those displaced by Katrina. Passing the Katrina Emergency Assistance Act is only one part. But it means immediate help for 140,000 workers whose lives were torn apart, and it is crucial that the House pass this bill soon.

Please contact your U.S. representative today and urge him or her to support S. 1777, the Katrina Emergency Assistance Act at http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/katrinahelp.

Our government abandoned many Gulf Coast families when they needed help the most. Now it’s time to do something right. Please tell your representative to pass the Katrina Emergency Assistance Act.

Thank you for all that you do.
In solidarity,
Working Families e-Activist Network, AFL-CIO