Dear Colleagues,

As public employees, almost all conditions affecting our professional environment, working conditions and pension rights are determined by the New York State Legislature, Governor, and the U.S. Congress. If we wish to have a positive influence on our professional future, we must take an active part in the political process. NYSUT offers each of us a way to participate in our own future by supporting the 2010 VOTE/COPE campaign.

VOTE/COPE is the non-partisan political voice of the New York State United Teachers and its affiliates. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions from members, VOTE/COPE is used to help union-backed candidates and campaign committees that support education, labor and social justice.

As of March 22, 2010 — The State Senate supported Gov. Paterson’s proposed $1.7 billion in cuts to education that would devastate New York’s schools, hurting students and hindering the state’s economic recovery.

I strongly agree with the recent statement made by NYSUT’s President, Richard C. Iannuzzi, “If this budget is allowed to stand, we will be looking at a drastic reduction in electives and AP courses, the elimination of summer school and after-school programs, and much larger class sizes.” A recently released report by the state School Boards Association and the Council of School Superintendents, projects the loss of nearly 20,000 jobs in education. This represents $6.1 million less in state aid for Wappingers Central School District. In order to compensate for this deficit, vital educational programs will be cut for our students, which also translates in job losses for our members.

Endorsements are made by the NYSUT Board of Directors following a thorough procedure which includes a statewide endorsement conference involving the participation of local presidents, a statewide political action committee, and NYSUT’s Legislative Department. Incumbents’ voting records on important education and labor bills are given great weight in considering possible endorsement. Following NYSUT’s Endorsement Conference, the Board of Directors acts on the final recommendations of the Political Action Committee and the Executive Committee.

Cont’d on page 2
From the President’s Pad (cont’d from page 1)

It is important for us to keep in mind that VOTE/COPE does not favor any political party over another. Endorsements are made based solely on candidates’ voting record.

On a local level, districts in every corner of the state are going to face an uphill battle to pass school budgets. We rely on your support to be a positive voice in the May 18th school budget vote and election of school board candidates.

Your support for the 2010 VOTE/COPE campaign is critical to add to NYSUT’s record of legislative successes. A great deal has been achieved, but much needs to be accomplished.

Your contribution demonstrates your understanding of the importance of political action and the vital role it plays in our professional life.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

In Solidarity,
Pasquale Delli Carpini
President

[Information obtained from NYSUT VOTE/COPE Literature]

Barnes and Noble Day
By Saranne Ratner

The Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW, Inc. (American Association of University Women) sponsors an early literacy project called Leading to Reading. In the past 5 years, over 3500 books have been given to needy children in our area, along with classroom materials and “Fuzzy Friends” (stuffed animals) kits.

Leading to Reading is sponsoring a Barnes and Noble Day on Saturday, April 10. If a customer mentions they support Leading to Reading, a percentage of the sales will be donated to the project. In addition, as part of Teacher Appreciation Week, every teacher will be given an additional 20% discount. Purchases can be made at any Barnes and Noble store or at barnesandnoble.com. Just use Bookfair #10164317.

Members of AAUW, Inc. will be at the Poughkeepsie Rte. 9 Barnes and Noble on April 5th showing the kits that are made and doing story readings. Come out, take advantage of the discount and visit with our members. Thanks for your support!
Vincent van Gogh? More like Vincent van GAYHEAD!

By, Nicole Scalzo

In mid February the teachers at Gayhead Elementary School volunteered to paint a mural in Gayhead Elementary. Graciously designed and outlined by the ever talented Krista Robinson (art teacher), the teachers had a pretty easy job of just “painting in the lines”! The theme for the painting is “Character Ed”. There will be painted posts with different characteristics that are encouraged at Gayhead. The theory of the wall will be, when students are nominated in their classrooms for being a Citizen of the Month, their names will be put on the wall. The teachers of Gayhead stayed after school to get the job done! It is beautiful and well worth the extra hours to see the smiles and “wows” on the kids’ faces!
1st Annual Ketcham 5K Race/Walk

Date: Saturday April 24, 2010
Time: 10:00 am 5K race start
Race: 3.1 mile loop starting at RCK High School around Lake Oniad and finishing back at the RCK High School.
Place: Roy C. Ketcham High School
Race Day Registration: Opens at 8:00 am
Fee (no refunds):
Pre-registration is over April 3rd to pre-order t-shirts
Pre-registration: t-shirts to pre-registrants
  • $12.00
  • $15.00
Race day registration
Awards:
  Male: up to 18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50 and up
  Female: up to 18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50 and up
  RCK Alumni: male and female top finisher
  RCK Faculty: male and female top finisher
Info:
  David Budd 845-298-5100 x 145 or David.Budd@wappingerschools.org
  Bob Stockslager 845-298-5100 x 162 or Robert.Stockslager@wappingerschools.org
Pre-registration: Make checks payable to RCK Track and Field Booster Club and mail to
  David Budd, Roy C. Ketcham High School, 99 Myers Corners Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
Restrictions:
  No rollerblades, skateboards, bikes, dogs, showers

I know that running and road racing are potentially hazardous activities. I will not enter this race unless I am medically able and properly trained. I assume all risks associated with this event, including but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, and the effects of the weather including low temperature and/or precipitation, traffic, and the condition of the road, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts, in consideration of accepting this entry, I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all claims for damages I may have against Wappingers Central Schools, RCK Track and Field Booster club, Town of Wappingers, Race Director(s), and their agents, employees representatives, successors, and assigns, from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, and causes of action whatsoever arising directly or indirectly from my participation in this event. I also release my right to any photos, videos, images, etc. taken of me during this event.

Name: __________________________ Age: ___ Gender: F M
Address: __________________________ Date of Birth: __________
Zip code: __________________________ Tee shirt size: S M L XL
Phone: __________________________
Signature: _______________________
(Parent's signature if under 18)

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE RCK XC/TRACK AND FIELD TEAMS
also from the Welfare Trust Fund …..

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

April 21 
May 19 
and June 16. 

Times – 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Please call 227-5065 to schedule an appointment.

from the... WCT Welfare Trust Fund

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

April 14 & 28
May 12 & 26
June 9 & 23

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.

Welfare Trust Fund News

2009 Prescription Co Pay Reimbursement

The claim for prescription co-pay reimbursement for the 2009 calendar year must be received by March 31, 2010. Forms are available on the WCT website – wcteachers.org or you can call the WCT office (227-5065). Receipts or a computer printout from your pharmacy are accepted. However, a printout is much easier to process and will compensate for any misplaced receipts.

If you need any further information, please call the WCT office.
RALPH & JANET CAPASSO SCHOLARSHIP

The WCT, in conjunction with the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers, is offering three (3) $1500 scholarships to seniors presently enrolled in any public or private high school planning to attend college in the fall of 2010. 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 Friday, March 26, 2010.

Committee members are:
Rita Langva
Louise Rose
Tracy Ann Sheremeta
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 though 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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Harryshine5@aol.com

2010 Newsletter Schedule

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FREE!: 4 nearly brand new Cooper snow tires 235/55R17; and a never used roof rack for BMW X3. Call Joe DiDonato 845-337-1702.

FOR RENT: LAKEFRONT HOUSE on Lake Wallenpaupack, PA. Swim, fish motorboat. Sleeps 8, level lot, private new dock for fishing/boating/sunbathing. Fully equipped house including BBQ’s, bonfire pit, bicycles, HDTV, A/C. Southern exposure, wonderful sunsets. Only 1.5 hrs from Fishkill. $1,200 week, some weekends available for $300. call Gary 845-462-4686 for photos and details.

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