Dear Colleagues,

The Wappingers Congress of Teachers has a new Home! After years of searching, on Tuesday March 31, 2015 the WCT closed on 280 New Hackensack Road, Wappingers Falls. The office is centrally located within our District, across from the airport for easier accessibility and to better serve the membership.

The new facility substantially lowered the monthly expenses and vaunts many amenities for our members. I hope you took the opportunity to attend the open house: Thursday, October 22nd between 2:30-6:00 and enjoyed the free tour and refreshments. The new office is intended to be a professional and social gathering place for the members to share concerns and ideas and to make the WCT a stronger organization.

From July 19th to July 24th, the WCT was afforded the opportunity to participate in NYSUT’s intensive Local Action Project (LAP) conference in Saratoga N.Y. Jim Marrinan (Director of Political Action), Diane Di Chiara (Secondary-at-Large), Rena Finsmith (Senior Building Representative), Kerri Roger (Building Representative) and I spent a week working together along with our LRS Steven Berman and NYSUT leadership to align our Local’s activities with the program’s four pillars: member involvement, political action, community engagement and communication.

The workshops and the tasks were demanding and required total concentration. We were also informed of the latest updates, critical to the labor movement and public education. Jim, Diane, Rena and Kerri worked rigorously to develop goals, a timeline of events to better educate and engage our members in positive interactive activities with our students, parents and community. Their passion, convictions and vision for the future of our union is truly valued and appreciated.

As one of the outcomes of the LAP program, the WCT should not be viewed only as an organization that a member turns to if in trouble, or as the protector of benefits and rights, contracts negotiations or a provider of services. Yes, we do and need all of the above because they are extremely vital and important to our members. However, to stop there, is to shortchange ourselves and slowly begin our demise.

With this way of thinking, the WCT has become an “insurance policy” and the members its customers. We become passive instead of active partakers, event participants instead of fostering ongoing activities. I have also been guilty of promoting this philosophy.

Continued next page
We have to change the rhetoric and the culture of our organization in order to endure the test of time. A shift in paradigm is needed! We must form and nurture relationships, create a positive experience and connect with our colleagues.

Living in a world of “social media,” we often forget the importance of face to face interaction with the members. To further improve communication, LAP strongly recommends that our newsletter, The Commentator must be in print for every member to enjoy. Our goal should be to “Create a community working together to make the workplace and members lives better.”

On August 26th, we had the opportunity to welcome twenty-four new teachers to the district. We need to ask ourselves, do we want these new members to become customers of the WCT or lifelong unionists? Do we allow them to become idle members or activists with the integrity to take a stand for what is right in education and advocate for our students?

The attacks on labor unions, especially in the public sector are relentless and the scrutiny that we endure is unparalleled. A court case aimed to destroy labor unions is presently being argued in the United States Supreme Court. Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association poses a potential threat to the strength of public-sector unions nationwide. What’s at stake is the principle of “fair share.”

Since 1997, unions largely have been allowed to collect dues from all private or public employees they represent. In New York State, the law says that if you choose not to be a union member, you must pay your “fair share” for the union’s work that benefits you.

Those who object don't have to contribute to political or lobbying activities, but they must contribute for the unions' efforts in negotiating higher competitive salaries, benefits, working conditions, health and retirement benefits etc. in other words, contribute their fair share. In this session, the Court will render a decision that could send shockwaves in every public sector of employment. It will destroy a well-balanced “eco-system” that has been effective and productive in this Country for decades.

Can anyone of us be part of any organization in our community without paying dues? How would the organization survive, serve or address their members’ needs?

Yet, this is what the United States Supreme Court is deciding. If the Court sides with Friedrichs, the outcome could be disastrous! Our members clearly understand the importance of BEING the union and the atrocities that our brothers and sisters bear in “right to work” states, where negotiated agreements are rarely respected.

- Higher competitive salaries in unionized workplaces.
- Health benefits, paid time off and retirement security are significantly better.
- Unions have achieved due process and basic job protections non-existent in non-unionized workplaces.
- Through unions, employees have a voice in safety, in working conditions and in ensuring high standards for their professions and in the services they provide.
- Able to advocate for their students without fear of reprisal. (NYSUT)

This is the final year of our contract, and we are hoping to commence negotiations as soon as possible. We invite the district to sit with us and work together as a team. Knowing the professional integrity of the WCSD leadership, I am confident that we will be able to reach an agreement that is both educationally sound and fiscally responsible to meet the needs of both the district and the members.

We have put together a well-balanced negotiating team; the members are: Raymond Koretsky Flip Gertler, Michelle Ross, Brian La Susa and me with the able guidance and expertise of Steve Berman, NYSUT’S LRS. We are...
presently reviewing the surveys that will help us formulate a proposal that is reflective of your varied concerns and suggestions.

The leadership of the WCT and the WCSD have already met numerous times to address the inequities of the new proposed APPR to no avail. Both the district and the union have agreed to apply for a “hardship waiver” developed by SED, which allows the district to extend the November 15th deadline.

The hardship waiver will be submitted by the district by October 30, 2015 to be approved by the November 15 deadline. A four month waiver will be provided to all districts bargaining in good faith. Waivers can be renewed until September 1, 2016.

It is our intent to work towards this goal and to avoid a mid-year implementation in order to have adequate time to provide the members an evaluative instrument that is equitable and fair to be implemented in the 2016-2017 school year.

In Solidarity,

Pasquale Delli Carpini

Robert Seipp

NEA Retirement Specialist for the WCSD, Investment Advisor Representative, GWN Securities, Inc. Cell Phone: 914-204-9062 Email: rseipp@gwnsecurities.com To learn more about me and my story, click here: https://vimeo.com/123792899

Security and Advisory Services offered through GWN Securities, Inc.,

A Registered Investment Advisor. Member FINRA/SIPC 11440 N. Jog Road, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418 (561) 472-2700

FOR SALE:

Pool Table 8' x 4'
Solid Wood/Slate Top/Dark Red Felt
$1,200
Baldwin Spinet Piano
$300

Call Kalli 845-483-1916
This summer, I had the opportunity to participate in NYSUT's **Local Action Project** (LAP) along with fellow unionists Rena Finsmith (JJ), Keri Roger (JJ), Pasquale Delli Carpini (JJ) and Jim Marrinan (Oak).

I didn’t want to participate at first; I felt I already dedicate a large portion of my time to union work, and it was time for someone else to step up. Well, you know how that goes...so I went, and I am glad I did.

By its definition, the word *union* means *joining together*. One of the goals of LAP is to “strengthen local unions and their communities through coalition building, political action and communication” (NYSUT).

We experienced five days of rigorous training along with six other local unions. Year one is part of a three-year commitment. The topics were member involvement, political action, community engagement and communications. We also received information on current critical issues, which included the Friedrich case.

One of our first LAP tasks was to do a *self-assessment* of the WCT. This was a realistic look at the WCT Executive Board, Representative Assembly and membership. We have 867 members; 40% of those members live in the WCSD.

As we assessed, we realized that some of our most *successful* (large portion of WCT participated) activities were the 2015 Route 9 Rally, the 2015 letter writing campaign and the 2014 BOE demonstration about stalled contract negotiations.

Our biggest *flops* were the end of the year recognition party for colleagues (retirees, 25 years of service, tenure, National Board, Master Teachers), the General Membership Contract Ratification meeting, and the Happy Hour Thank You (for participating in Route 9 Rally).

### Membership Involvement

(Information gathered from attendance and sign-in sheets for various functions)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of People</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Members (Very Involved)</td>
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<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ongoing Members (Fairly Involved)</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>14.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermittent Members (A little Involved)</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>63.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peripheral Members (Not at all Involved outside of membership meetings)</td>
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<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invisible Members (not at all involved)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Less than 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The three greatest political issues that are pertinent to WCT members are APPR, the Opt-out Movement and the over-testing of our students in the classroom. The average contribution to VOTE-COPE (40% of these dollars come back to the WCT and are used to support positive BOE members campaigns among other things) per member is $44.00.

Community Outreach is minimal with some outreach to the PTA/PTO groups and local business councils. There is minimal to no involvement with Senior Citizen Groups, Religious Groups, and other Community organizations. We do exhibit strength in our affiliation with other Labor Organizations.

While we communicate in many ways with our membership through the Commentator, Facebook, the WCT Webpage, texting and Twitter, there is limited two-way communication with the membership. Our external communication is negligible.

Once the self-assessment was completed it was time to develop an action plan. Because of this training, the WCT realizes that the vision of how our members see themselves must change. We cannot strengthen the WCT without member engagement.

We must build upon community relations through areas of commonality such as charitable events, literacy and recognition of our local first responders. Furthermore, we must continue to grow in our support of new teachers, face-to-face communication with members, two-way communication and in the defense of the labor movement.

We begin to change our vision by changing our vocabulary – we need to move from referring to ourselves as “members” to calling ourselves “unionists”. As a “member” you elect building reps and an executive board, and when you are in need, you call upon a building rep to assist. You receive.

As a “unionist” you are the union, participating in community days, food drives, forums and political action rallies. You act. At present, our country and our state are exploding in anti-worker rhetoric aimed at destroying our nation’s unions – the unions that created and will continue to maintain our middle class.

All benefits that today’s employees currently enjoy come from the struggles of the first and second-generation unionists. One lesson learned from LAP – we will either be the greatest generation of unionists or the last generation.

As a unionist, you have responsibilities. You should attend the monthly building meeting held by your senior building rep. As a unionist, you should go to your senior building rep and ask how you can be more active in the WCT.

As a unionist, you should attend the forums held by the WCT. As a unionist, you should expect face-to-face contact by your building reps. As a unionist, you should attend WCT social events. As a unionist – you should be active.

The new WCT vision has begun! The changes began with the support of new teachers to our district. This year, the WCT collaborated with the WCSD and split the August orientation day. At noon, the new teachers were transported by WCSD school bus to the new WCT union office. There they were welcomed and received lunch prior to receiving information about the WCT.

They were able to ask questions and resolve any confusion about medical benefits and the Welfare Trust Fund; moreover, they were able to see the WCT as separate from the WCSD. Also, the WCT Representative Assembly had its first meeting in August rather than September.

Each member will now receive a hard copy of The Commentator. Like any newspaper, members are expected to contribute through letters to the editor, articles, and pictures – celebrate what’s going on our classrooms and our members’ lives.

An improvement in external communication is that our Director of Political Action, Jim Marrinan, has begun to forge partnerships with the local newspapers (Poughkeepsie Journal and the Southern Dutchess News) as
Continued from previous page

Nina Schultzman (PJ) on Twitter. Speaking of Nina, she attended our first WCT Forum with Andy Pallotta (VP NYSUT) and tweeted live from the event; she followed up with an article in the Poughkeepsie Journal.

At the General Membership meeting, members were asked to complete a questionnaire. The purpose of the questionnaire was simply to gather information. We realize that some members may have thought otherwise, but that was not the intention.

Because of the survey we have been able to categorize organizations/charities which our members are most interested – hunger, illness (mental and physical), sports, and church/charitable organizations. Furthermore, because of the survey we realize that our members want a change in the General Membership Meeting format. This has already been discussed at the WCT executive board. More to come...

The LAP Committee is actively seeking members to work on an area of interest. You should expect that your senior or junior building rep will approach you about being part of the larger LAP committee. Katherine Degroat has already volunteered to work in behalf of hunger, which includes our local food drives. Dawn Sala has volunteered to work on behalf of students with our WCT grant (bullying, character ed, PBIS, etc).

Reach out to the LAP committee members; share your ideas and vision for the WCT. You are the union. Let the WCT be part of the greatest generation of unionists, not the last generation.

Right-to-Work States

At present there are 25 “right to work” states in our nation. The first was Arkansas in 1944 and the latest was Wisconsin in 2015. The term “right to work” sound innocuous – every one should have the right to work, right? It’s part of the disappearing American Dream. According to Forbes (1/31/12) the term was first coined by a Texas newspaper columnist and deliberately meant to confuse – it means working without having to belong to a union. Most would argue that “right to work” laws benefit the employer, not the employee and even President Obama said, “These right-to-work laws have nothing to do with economics and everything to do with politics. What they are really talking about is giving you the right to work for less money” (Detroit Free Press 12/10/2012). States become “right-to-work” states either by statute or by constitution.

The Supreme Court: Friedrich v. California Teachers Association et al.

This fall the Supreme Court will review the constitutionality of compulsory union dues with a decision expected by June 30, 2016. This case will impact all public sector unions.

Background: Case brought by California teachers who currently can opt-out of the thirty percent of their dues devoted to overt political lobbying, but they may not opt-out of the sixty percent devoted to collective bargaining.

If the Supreme Court rules that this practice violates First Amendment’s free speech and free association, it would be binding in all 50 states and converts the 26 states that now require union membership into open-shop states.
This Month in Union History

Union Communication Services (UCS) at the Worker Institute
www.unionist.com/big-labor/today-in-labor-history

October 18

The "Shoemakers of Boston"—the first labor organization in what would later become the United States—was authorized by the Massachusetts Bay Colony – 1648

October 15

President Woodrow Wilson signs the Clayton Antitrust Act—often referred to as "Labor’s Magna Carta"—establishing that unions are not "conspiracies" under the law. It for the first time freed unions to strike, picket and boycott employers. In the years that followed, however, numerous state measures and negative court interpretations weakened the law – 1914

October 1911

New York City agrees to pay women school teachers a rate equal to that of men - 1911
WCT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS 2015-2016

BRINCKERHOFF-3
KIMBERLY SOKOL*
JOHN NEEVEL

RCK - 703
CHRISTINE ZANDSTRA*
KATHERINE DEGROAT
NICOLE NORTH
Marilyn Norton
JERRY RICHARD

VAN WYCK - 600
JOE TESTA*
NICK PARLAPIANO
SUE SANTOS

EVANS-15
TRACY SHEREMETA*
SHAREEN, WHITEHOUSE

KINRY - 16
MEREDITH INKELES*
BILL NITZ

VASSAR ROAD - 30
MARY WEXLER*
KEN LICARI

FISHKILL-6
LEA LASUSA*
AMANDA SCALZO

MYERS CORNERS-21
MARTHA BILSBACK*
MATTHEW CUNNIFF

WAPPINGERS JHS - 603
TAMMY GEHLERT*
AMANDA MACK

FISHKILL PLAINS-9
PATRICIA DEAN*
NORA BITTING

OAK GROVE - 24
ANNE MARIE DUNN*
PAUL LANDER

BOE REP: ELLEN MEAD
RETIREE REP: ELLEN KORZ

GAYHEAD-12
LUCRETIA O’DELL*
NORMA ALBIN

ORTHCHARD VIEW - 18
ANGELA MILLS*
BRIDGET CHOUBAH

JOHN JAY - 700
HEATHER DAHL*
NANCY BEINER
ERIC FELDMAN
RENA FINSMITH
KERRI ROGER

SHEAFE ROAD - 27
JON SOKOL*
SHERRY CLARK

*SENIOR BUILDING REP

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Pasquale Delli Carpini JJ President
Donna Kart VW Treasurer
Ray Koretsky RCK VP Grievances-Secondary
Flip Gertler FS VP Elementary
Kim Mahusky FS Director Internal Communications
Jim Marrinan OG Director Political Action
Diane DiChiara JJ Secondary At Large
Ann Liebergot VW Secondary At Large
Michelle Ross GY Elementary At Large
Theresa Stowell FP Elementary At Large

WELFARE TRUST FUND
Chairperson: Flip Gertler
Secretary: Erin Mulligan
Treasurer: Theresa Stowell
Trustees: Pasquale Delli Carpini
Kim Mahusky
Administrator: Ronnie Dwyer
The Wappingers Congress of Teachers
Presents
ST Caucus
Beth Dimino (President, Port Jefferson Station Teachers Association)
Mike Lillis (President, Lakeland Federation of Teachers)

Tuesday
November 17th
5:00 pm
John Jay High School Auditorium
2012 Route 52
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Why do you want to attend this forum?
The ST Caucus is a group of educators from across the state who have shared concerns with the direction of education policy in NYS and how it ultimately affects our students.

Why does the caucus exist?
The caucus exists to enhance the democratic operation and process within NYSUT in order to provide an equal voice to the rank and file membership.

Facebook: StrongerTogetherCaucus; Twitter: @STCaucus; E-mail: stcaucus@gmail.com

Dear Members,

NYSUT is promoting a movie called Education, Inc. It is a documentary about the pitfalls of privatizing public education.

Here is a link to the film: https://mac.nysut.org/education-inc-movie-screening-and-discussion

It is also playing at the Student Center at Marist on 10/28.

Our first social gathering of the year will take place on November 3rd immediately following the Superintendents Conference Day.

We will gather at Double O from 3:15-5:15 pm to enjoy good conversations, laughs and refreshments. Please RSVP to your senior building rep no later than Tuesday, October 27th.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Rena Finsmith
Twenty-four new teachers were welcomed to the school district in a joint effort between the Wappingers Congress of Teachers (WCT) and the Wappingers Central School District (WCSD).

This year, in the spirit of collaboration, the teachers spent the morning at central office before being chauffeured by yellow school bus to the WCT office where, President Pasquale Delli Carpini gave them a warm welcome. There, they were treated to lunch by the WCT and they also received information pertinent to new teachers.

The other WCT hosts were Ronnie Dwyer, administrative assistant, Flip Gertler (VP Elementary), Jim Marrinan (VP Political Action), Kerri Roger (Building Representative) and Diane DiChiara (Secondary-at-Large). Superintendent Jose Carrion, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Labor Relations, Dr. Dwight Bonk and Executive Director of Special Education and Student Support Services, Richard Zipp joined the new teachers at the WCT office to show their support for their future success.
Old Teacher Becomes New

By Michelle Hogan

I was lucky enough to have been hired by the Wappingers School District fresh out of college in 1997. I was a fourth grade teacher at Kinry Road and I was a building rep and executive board member during my seven years in the district. In 2004, I decided to stay home and raise my children. Now after 11 years, I was fortunate enough to be hired back. It was such a great experience to be able to go to the new WCT home. We were welcomed with a delicious lunch and truly made to feel like we were a part of a family. Having been in the district previously, I was familiar with the dues and member benefits. Though overwhelming, the board members helped ease any anxiety by going over all of the information. I'm very excited to once again be apart of the WCT family.
NOTES AND RESULTS FROM SPECIAL SPEAKER:
NYSUT EXECUTIVE VP ANDY PALLOTTA – WCT FORUM 9/29/15

- WCT President Pasquale DelliCarpini started with opening remarks.
- Mr. Pallotta spoke to a mixed audience representing several districts including Superintendent Jose Carrion and Senator Terry Gipson, about the importance of the Mac App of NYSUT to get our voices heard in politics (the government).
- He supports more learning and less testing. (Goal of NYSUT)
- The Governor had a 13-minute speech on the common core calling it a debacle, disaster and that we must reboot it, we must change it and align the curriculum.
- The Governor created a Task Force made up of educators, teachers. Randy Weingarten (NYSUT President) and others to look out the Common Core and its impact on students and how to realign the curriculum and Common Core.
- About 220,000 children grades 3-8 have opted out of the Common Core Assessments. Everyday people are upset and are vocalizing their complaints with the Common Core.
- NYSUT puts VOTE COPE money in elections and gives them to candidates that favor education and our students.
- NYSUT wants members to attend video forums across the country as a jumping point (using the privatization of Education in Colorado).
- Albany is saying that the Common Core is a mess.
- The Tax Cap in January will be 0-2/10%. NYSUT is lobbying to have NY State infuse money into schools to make up for this loss--- 400-500 million to schools.
- Moral Mondays--- Bringing points to the public--- Staircase in Albany, Parent Groups---speaking up for educators, actions by membership forums
- APPR is a dark cloud hanging over us.
- “We will be relentless and unstoppable; the tide is turning.”

Questions that were asked---

- Does the Task Force need to make a decision by the end of 2015? The answer is yes. Confident there will be a voice for teachers.
- Questions concerning the new APPR for 2016-2017 will mostly likely be put in place. The new APPR is not fair and equitable. Common Core and evaluations must be fixed together. Concerned about the weight of student assessments on evaluations.
- Are there any special education representatives on the task force? No--- We need to have someone looking out for special education students.
- What about 3-8 teachers represented on the committee? Not sure of the answer--- Check NYSUT website or publication
Community Day

By Rena Finsmith, RA

Community day 2015 for our school communities was a huge success! The WCT participated in Wappingers Community Day on Sept 12\textsuperscript{th} and while the event saw a downpour, it didn’t stop us from debuting our brand new tent and tablecloth (courtesy of NYSUT through the Local Action Project or LAP).

We also kick started our First Books campaign and was quite successful in working towards reaching our goal of 2000 signatures. First books is a program that involves getting 2000 signatures and once registered, we, as a union are eligible to receive thousands of books for our school libraries and classroom libraries. Please see your senior building rep for a form to fill out.

East Fishkill Community Day was on Sept 19\textsuperscript{th}. Bright sunshine and a prime location helped us to get over 200 signatures. We gave away lots of free popcorn and WCT magnets/pencils.

The amount of members who participated this year nearly doubled! All members agreed that the events were fun, time went by quickly, and new friends were made! Below are the names of all who volunteered their time. We hope to see you at our future events which include the WCT Open House on Oct 22\textsuperscript{nd}, the BOE meeting on Oct 26\textsuperscript{th}, and our first social gathering of the year at Double 0 on November 3\textsuperscript{rd}. See your RA’s or Senior building rep for more information.

**Brinckerhoff:** Greg Renino

**Fishkill Plains:** Nora Bitting and Patty Dean

**Gayhead:** Norma Guerra-Albin and Lucretia O’Dell

**Kinry:** Bill Nitz and Meredith Inkels

**Myers:** Barbara Vorel and Jill Mierisch

**Vassar:** Mary Wexler and Peggy Latino

**Van Wyck:** Sue Santos

**Orchard View:** Angela Mills

**RCK:** Steve Cohen, Jerry Richard, Amy DeNitto, Teresa Bell-Groucher, Christine Zandstra, Adam Zolotas, Marilyn Norton, and Nicole North

**JJ:** Pat Hancock, Kerri Roger, Noreen Loprinzo, Heather Dahl, Jeff Butler, Carol Tarby, Linda Gilmartin, Juana Banco, Diane DiChiara, Kristin Petersen, and Diane Sampson
SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT: VASSAR ROAD ELEMENTARY

By Brenda Maiolo

Vassar Rd Elementary School held their 2nd Vassar Cares, Mud Run, Saturday, October 3rd.

The event was held to support the March of Dimes and Make a Wish Foundation. The day was cold and rainy but 65 (5 to 12 year olds) braved the weather to participate in the event.
NEW WCT OFFICE LOCATION

Left: President Delli Carpini’s Office

Below: Administrator Ronnie Dwyer

Left: Ample seating on top floor

Below: Projection and Presentation Space

18
Please see the dates below for the 2015-16 Legal and Financial Days. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call the union office at 227-5065.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WCT Welfare Trust Fund - Legal and Financial Day Schedule 2015-2016</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2015</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
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<td><strong>2016</strong></td>
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<tr>
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**LOCATION OF WCT OFFICE**
280 NEW HACKENSACK RD
WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY 12590

- Located directly across from Dutchess County Airport
- On the right 2.5 miles from Rt 9
- On the left .25 miles from All Angels and 376 Intersection

**THE WCT WELFARE TRUST FUND**
Trustees:

- Flip Gertler Chairperson
- Theresa Stowel Treasurer
- Erin Mulligan Secretary
- Kim Mahusky Trustee
- Pasquale Delli Carpini Trustee
- Ronnie Dwyer Administrator

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:**

- **WCT OFFICE:** 845-227-5065
- **DANIEL H. COOK** 800-342-6651
- **MIRKIN & GORDON (LAWYERS)** 914-997-1576
- **DAVIS VISION** 800-999-5431
- **STACY BRAUN ASSOC (FINANCIAL)** 888-949-1925
- **HEALTH ADVOCATE** 866-695-8622
WCT AND THE COMMUNITY

On Thursday, the WCT held a successful food drive for the Fishkill Food Pantry, which serves families in southern Dutchess. The volunteers were delighted and thankful as box after box was handed over. The timing was perfect as the stock was low. They suggested that February is also a good time to run a drive as stock is depleted after the holidays. A huge thank you to the WCT for helping our community!

Send your news and comments to Editor, Shahna Allen at: commentator@wcteachers.org

OR

Comment, answer other members’ questions on the website BLOG at www.wcteachers.org

Congratulations to Mike Crocco (JJ Science) on the birth of his daughter, Carmela Genevene on September 12.

Congratulations to Vicki Strauss (JJ Special Ed) and her husband Joe on the birth of their daughter, Jubilee, on September 22nd.
National Board Certification Grant:

New York State Education (NYSED) is now accepting 2015-2016 applications for the Albert Shanker Grant Program for anyone interested in pursuing National Board Certification. This grant assists candidates with almost 100% of the cost for the certification process.

For information regarding the grant program, see: http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/reteachers/albertshanker.html

For information regarding National Board certification, see: http://www.nbpts.org

---

House for Sale in Town of Poughkeepsie

asking $185,000
Nice neighborhood close to Route 9
2/3 bedrooms, 1 bath
Kitchen, dining, living room on first floor
Enclosed back porch
Detached one car garage
Full unfinished basement
Full walk up attic
Natural gas heat
Built in 1939
Natural wood throughout
Stained glass window
Many updates
email for more details: tiara_vaeh_3@yahoo.com

---

FOR RENT

1.5 bedroom, 2nd floor in private house completely redone apartment for rent.
Non-smoker, no pets, 1 car parking.
Available mid-September.
$1400.00 in Mahopac, NY.
1.8 miles off of the Taconic.
Call 914-720-8954.