Community Days

By Ellen Korz
WCT PR Committee

The WCT was present at both Wappingers’ and East Fishkill’s Community Days. Those who helped had a good time. On Saturday, September 17, Donna Basile, Emily Guthoff, Kathy Shekitka, Marisa Schmidt, and Scott Cheney volunteered to represent the WCT at East Fishkill’s Community Day. On Sunday, September 18, Kelly Claussen, Joseph Glauda, Susan Fredericks, Caroline Hernandez and her husband Al, Taryn Iorlano, and I volunteered to represent us at Wappingers’ Community Day. I can’t thank these people enough for giving up some of their weekend to let the community see who we really are. Personally, I appreciate the help of these colleagues, and I’m sorry more of my colleagues couldn’t see the need for volunteering.

We had a great day. We talked to lots of people in the community and some of the Board members who shared our space. Some people even got a free massage at one of the booths. The WCT PR Committee gave away a raffle to Outback Steakhouse and made two people very happy. It was certainly a worthwhile experience.

This is a very important year for us. We have grand plans. I hope you can find a few hours to help support our union. Thanks again to all of you for your help.

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UPCOMING ’05-’06 BOARD MEETINGS

October: 24th
November: 14th & 28th
December: 5th & 19th
January: 9th & 23rd
The Retirement Benefit Calculator -

*A Great Website Tool to Estimate Your Pension*

Visit the retirement benefit calculator at www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/members/projmodl.htm

Note: When using the calculator, there is a point where you can choose “Vested Retirement.” This is for those who are, or will be, vested and should be used only if you plan to leave public employment prior to age 55, before you are eligible to retire.

*You must be at least 50 years of age and have 5 years of service to use the calculator.

10-Year Veterans: Check Your Pay Stub

By Sheila Selenger, Joe McLaughlin, & Michael Corn
Teacher-Members on the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System Board of Directors
Reprinted from the October 6, 2005 New York Teacher

Wow - in response to a recent column, we’ve heard from a number of people who discovered their school district is improperly deducting their 3 percent pension contribution even though they’ve completed 10 years of service. We heard from one local president who had more than two dozen members who were being improperly docked for two school years.

Thanks to union-backed legislation in 2000, employers must stop deducting the 3 percent contribution for Tier 3 and 4 members who have been retirement system members for 10 years. Remember, this means membership in TRS, not just years of service. So it doesn’t matter if some of your service is part-time or if you’ve switched school districts.

Check your records and most recent TRS member profile. If you find your district is improperly deducting the 3 percent contribution, let your local union president know. Then, call the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System, (800) 348-7298, ext. 2857, and TRS will contact your district.

*Editor’s Note:* Go to the WCT web site at nysut.org/wappingers/ and click on “Resource Links” to find the TRS page, or go to www.nystrs.org/.

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2005-2006 Pay Dates:

- November 4th
- November 18th
- December 2nd
- December 16th
- December 30th
- January 13th
- January 27th
- February 10th
- February 24th
- March 10th
- March 24th
- April 7th
- April 21st
- May 5th
- May 19th
- June 2nd
- June 16th
- June 23rd

WCSD Factoid:

- The following members of the WCSD administration will be on the Central EDC:

  Joe DiDonato, Sylvia Epstein, Ray Healey, Lloyd Jaeger, Marilyn Kovarik, & Sherrill Lazarus.
Background and History of National Board Certification for Teachers

Adapted from an article on the NEA web site: http://www.nea.org/nationalboard/index.html

For the past two decades, Americans have recognized the growing challenges facing public education and have considered a host of ideas, programs, and strategies to enhance teaching and learning in schools. Educators have worked to strengthen their knowledge and skills as part of this national effort so that higher levels of achievement will be possible for all students.

Within this context of reform, the Carnegie Task Force on Teaching as a Profession released its 1986 report, “A Nation Prepared: Teachers for the Twenty-first Century,” which called for teachers and other education stakeholders to join together to create the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

From the beginning, teachers were integrally involved in the Board’s work. Teachers comprise two-thirds of the Board’s membership, thereby having a real voice in NBPTS policy. Today, more than 30,000 teachers have achieved National Board Certification, the teaching profession’s highest credential.

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10/05
No One Knows Who These People Are!

The “Who Are These People?” contest has been extended until October 31st.

Go to the WCT web site and click on the Announcements link to find a hint.

Then e-mail your answer to WCTINK@hotmail.com.

Health Insurance Open Window Period

November is the month you have the opportunity to change your health insurance plan. There are four meetings scheduled with representatives from MVP, CDPHP, and Empire Blue Cross & Blue Shield (Blue Choice PPO). There will be a question and answer period following a brief presentation from each representative.

Meetings will be held:

- November 1, at Laerdal Conference Room A at 10:00 AM
- November 2, at Myers Corners Library at 5:30 PM
- November 9, at Van Wyck Café 1 at 3:00 PM
- November 15, at Oak Grove Café 1 at 4:00 PM

Anyone electing to change their health insurance plan must complete an application and return it to Carleen Scherer in the Business Office by Wednesday, November 30. Applications may be obtained in the Business Office for any one of the three plans.

If you elect to change your insurance plan, it will become effective January 1, 2006. You will be covered by your present plan through December 31, 2005.

If you have any questions, please contact Carleen at 845.298.5000 ext. 113.

Education & Learning Trust
Free Workshops

This year, NYSUT’s Education and Learning Trust has partnered with NYSUT’s Health and Safety Committee to offer workshops on the following topics...

- Working with Students with Autism
- Dealing with Difficult Students
- Disability Awareness
- Infectious Disease Control
- Working Safely - Preventing Exposure to Blood

Please check off all the workshops you would be interested in attending, cut out box, and send to the WCT Office or send an e-mail to WCTINK@hotmail.com.
We Did It!

We Walked Miles of Hope!
We Walked for the Cure!
Team Kinry Did It!
Thank You, Supporters!

By Jane Petrone
Kinry Road

On Sunday, October 9, 2005, Joyce Wacht, Gina Nardozzi, Betsy and Klaus Solomon, Liz Daley, Jane Petrone, and Andrea Garrity (former Kinry Road nurse) walked as Team Kinry in the Dutchess County Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation Walk. Thank you, Kinry staff and friends, for your support. To date, we raised $365.00.

All funds stay in the local area. One of the ways the money is used to help people going through breast cancer treatment is to help them with their bills, paying mortgage bills, heating bills, and child care if needed. They also help transport patients to treatment, and give moral support. New this year is a wig boutique at the Vassar Hospital Dyson Center. What also is impressive is there is a scholarship for a high school senior who has a loved one who has had breast cancer. The senior has to apply and write an essay on how he or she is stronger as a result.

The Kinry Staff has had several members and family members who have had breast cancer. We stand firm in supporting others and making a difference.

(CPDPHP Changes for 2006)

In 2006, Capital District Physicians’ Health Plan, Inc (CDPHP) will withdraw from the market certain benefit riders which were formerly available to large groups with the AvidCare HMO.

Some riders are being phased out due to lack of market demand, and/or they are being replaced with new benefit designs. Others will be made redundant because they cover services that are being added to the base contract next year.

An overview of the changes to CDPHP’s base contract will be provided to you in an upcoming Benefits Executive newsletter, to be mailed within the next several days. Subscribers are being notified of both contract and rider changes via the SmartMoves newsletter.

Questions can be addressed to your representative in the CDPHP marketing department at 1.800.993.7299.
MEMBERS’ CLASSIFIED ADS

LITTLE DEPOT
Lionel, Williams, K-Line
Trains
6000 part inventory
REPAIR SERVICE
by appointment only
OLD TRAINS BOUGHT
thelittledepot@earthlink.net
845-226-5019

FOR SALE: Bessler 23C2
Photo enlarger along with lenses and trays, $250.00;
Kawai Digital Synthesizer K1-2, $250.00;
Casio Keyboard Casiotone, $20.00;
Pro-Form Treadmill Sears Model #730CS, $200.00. Call Joan
(845) 297-6521.

FOR SALE: Oldtown Discovery
Sport 13 ft. Canoe $700 OBO
- Flat Stern for Motor
- Good condition (stored indoors)
- Oar Locks included
- Great for Fishing/Camping
call Phil 914-489-2096.

LOOKING FOR WINTER WARMTH - DCSPCA needs
bedding blankets, sheets, towels, linens, etc. Located
9G & St. Andrews Road, Hyde Park. Drop-offs accepted anytime. Questions -
call 452-7722.

FOR SALE: 1996 Jeep Grand
Cherokee 4 WD Orvis Edition,
139,667 mi., loaded, no rust,
runs good, well maintained,
$4,500. Call Cheryl or Stan –
896-7664.

FOR RENT: one bedroom
apartment, $650.00 with
utilities, private entrance. Farm
setting in Wappingers Falls, close to all. Call Theresa – 462-3422, p.m. only.

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