Kudos to the WCT and WCRT members who rallied into action and attended the June 20, 2005 Board of Education Meeting in the Ketcham cafeteria.

There were over 500 members present to express their displeasure with the Board’s decision to deny the 2005 retirees the opportunity of having their $20,000 incentive and sick day buyout money deposited into a 403(b)7.

As Pasquale Delli Carpini, WCT President, has stated, “When a faction of our membership is attacked, the whole group comes out in support.”

UPCOMING 2005 BOARD MEETINGS

September: 26th @ WJHS
October: 11th @ WJHS & 24th @ WJHS
November: 14th @ WJHS & 28th @ WJHS
December: 5th @ WJHS & 19th @ WJHS
Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back! As always summer seems to fly by and before we know it, September is upon us. Hopefully, you had a relaxing and enjoyable vacation with your family and friends and are looking forward to the beginning of a new, exciting, and productive academic year.

I must begin by thanking the WCT and the WCRT members, as well as our friends and supporters who attended the June 20, 2005 Board of Education meeting at Ketcham High School. Over 500 members rallied in SOLIDARITY to support our 2005 retirees who were wrongly treated by the district. As a first year president, I was overwhelmed and moved by your encouragement, strength, and willingness to stand for a just cause. Our message was clear: the WCT will always protect the rights and preserve the benefits of our members.

As we begin this academic year, we must turn over a new leaf and be prepared to face the new challenges ahead. 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. I am confident that we will be able to come up with a package that is both educationally sound and fiscally responsible to meet the needs of both the district and our members.

With the expert help of Michael Lyons, our Vice President of Negotiations, we have already begun to put together a well-balanced negotiating team that will reflect the varied concerns and interests of our members. In the near future, you will be receiving a survey to express such interests. Please take the time to fill out the survey so that the team may begin to meet and formulate a plan of action.

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The Executive Board has already met in August to discuss important issues and plans for the upcoming year. I’m pleased to welcome Martha Bilsback (Myers Corners) as the Vice President for Educational Issues and Caroline V. Hernandez (Van Wyck) as Secondary at Large, who have graciously accepted these vacant positions. Raymond Koretsky (Ketcham) will be our new Vice President for Grievances.

Taking over the position of Webmaster is Meredith Inkeles (Kinry) who will be maintaining the WCT Website. I strongly urge the members to make use of this wonderful medium of communication. Available at the website is a plethora of useful information such as announcements, teachers’ resource links, Welfare Trust information and forms, the WCT COMMENTATOR and much more.

I especially would like to welcome our new members and ask the building reps to guide and encourage them to become a proactive force in our union. May we all have a fulfilling school year!

In Solidarity,

Pasquale Delli Carpini
WCT President
With Sympathy

Edward Fredrickson passed away this summer. Ed had taught Social Studies and retired in June of 2003. A funeral mass was held on Saturday, August 6 at St. John the Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie. Memorial donations can be made to The Dyson Center for Cancer Care, 45 Reade Place, 1st Floor, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Back to School

Reading Suggestions

• Put away the new bestseller Why Do Men Have Nipples? Hundreds of Questions You’d Only Ask a Doctor after Your Third Martini by Mark Leyner, and pick up Why Do We Have to Use No. 2 Pencils? Hundreds of Questions You’d Ask State Ed After Proctoring a Final by Utica Lead.

• Pack away the bestseller Point Blank by Catherine Coulter, and start reading Blank Stare by A. Senior.

• Set aside bestseller The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century by Thomas L. Friedman, and read The Pool is Open: A Brief History of the WCSD Legend by Ima Fish.

• Once you’ve finished bestseller Natural Cures “They” Don’t Want You to Know About by Kevin Trudeau, delve into Working Copiers “They” Don’t Want You to Use by Z. Rox.

• After devouring bestseller Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything by Steven D. Levitt, find some time to read Textbookonomics: A Rogue Teacher Explores the Hidden Side of Publishing by Icos Tollat.

Get a 19% discount on monthly service charges exclusively for school district employees from Verizon Wireless! Bring your WCSD badge and contact Deb Lengyel at the Rte. 9 Verizon store near Staples.
June 2005 Retiree: Michael Scheff

Mike taught in Wappingers for 32 years. He started out teaching Mechanical Drawing at RCK and John Jay where he worked for Tony Caccamo in the Art Department and was mentored by Bob Yates (Zoober) and John Messina; Mike did this for one year. The next year, Joe Barnes offered him a position in what was then the Industrial Arts Department where he had the pleasure of working with some other old timers like Bob Piggot, Hank Bloecker, and Jimmy Husted. Over the next several years, he floated between Van Wyck, RCK, and WJH until he found a permanent home at Van Wyck.

Of his past, Mike says, “Remember Bob Busing, Frank Mears, and Gabe Ponte? During this time, we dropped the title of ‘Shop Teachers’ and adopted the new state-mandated title of ‘Industrial Arts Teachers’ and finally the current title of ‘Technology Teachers.’” Five years ago, Dr. Charles Hill came knocking at my classroom door and offered me the opportunity to become one of the newly created ‘Technology Integration Teachers.’ I thought, ‘What the heck, it sounds like fun,’ so I accepted and have never regretted it, well, almost never.”

For the last five years Mike had the opportunity to work with some very special people: JoAnn Fury, Dave Walker, Betsy Zingaro, and the best boss in the district, Charlie Hill. Mike says, “I will truly miss these folks and all the exciting projects both past and future and all the fun we had while working together. I will miss my friends and colleagues JoAnn, Dave, and Betsy and all the classroom teachers I have worked with. I will miss getting new projects up and running and then standing back and watching our wonderful Wappingers teachers take over. I’ll even miss running into teachers in the hallway and hearing, ‘Oh Mike, am I glad to see you. I have a problem, can you help me with...’ I will not miss the politics of sometimes finding myself in the middle of a conflict between teachers and administrators. My plans for the future are to ease into retirement by working 3 days a week for a small private school where I will be the ‘Computer Teacher.’” Four day weekends and a little extra cash to travel with my wife Alice sounds pretty good at this point.”

Teachers and Friends for a Cure for Alzheimer’s:

Memory Walk - Saturday, September 24, 2005
By Walter Franca, 2000 retiree

Welcome back for a challenging new school year. For some it is your last, and others your very first, and still others, a chance to enjoy a retired look at September. However, the majority of you have hopefully had a great summer even with all the heat and are looking forward to your first snow day. All kidding aside, hopefully you have noticed the Memory Walk posters in your main office and in your faculty rooms.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to do something for your community and yourselves. Remember, the mind you save just might be yours. Today there are 4.5 million people with Alzheimer’s disease and if not stopped, 16 million will be diagnosed by 2050. Today, it costs our nation more than $100 billion a year and much more when you add the human factor.

So, put on your shirts and take a walk with me. Registration/Check-in is at 9:00 am and the walk starts at 10:30 am at Poughkeepsie High School. You can find out more information about the walk on the following web site: www.alzhudsonvalley.org

(Continued on page 5)
Welcome to All New WCT Members!

As you begin a new school year, put away your beach reading and flip-flops, and start reading professional journals and wearing closed-toe shoes.

As you are settling into the new year, remember there are many people and organizations to help you transition and succeed. Prominent sources of help are your union reps and the union.

Remember to...

- Know your building reps
- Regularly attend your building’s union meetings
- Read your contract
- Use the WCT web site to find the answers to many of your questions

2005-2006 Pay Dates:

- September 23rd
- October 7th
- October 21st
- 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

Good News!


Teachers and Friends for a Cure for Alzheimer’s continued from page 4

call the Alzheimer’s Association: 845-471-2655. From the web site, you can join my team of active and retired Wappingers Teachers (Teachers and Friends for a Cure for Alzheimer’s) or start your own team. All the money we collect stays in our community to help local residents and their families cope with this disease. Come and enjoy the fun, meet old friends, and bring your contributions from your friends, family, neighbors, and yourselves. Do a great thing for your community and remember, no good deed is forgotten.

Did I hear that Wappingers Junior High is challenging Van Wyck Junior High to see who can raise more money? Let’s have a great day and help fight Alzheimer’s disease.

WCSD Factoid:

- There are 186 days in the 2005-2006 school year.

* (as of 9/14, 8 days down, 178 to go!)
Know Your 2005-2006 WCT Executive Board

President...........................................
V.P. Negotiations............................
V.P. External Communications........
Treasurer...........................................
V.P. Educational Issues....................
Secretary...........................................
V.P. Grievances................................
V.P. Internal Communications.........
Secondary at Large..........................
Secondary at Large..........................
Secondary at Large..........................
Elementary at Large.........................
Elementary at Large.........................
Elementary at Large.........................

Pasquale Delli Carpini (JJ)
Michael Lyons (SR)
Michael Kennedy (GY)
Donna Basile (VW)
Martha Bilsback (MC)
Christine Romano (MC)
Raymond Koretsky (RCK)
Meredith Inkeles (KR)
Caroline V. Hernandez (VW)
Bonnie Kieffer (RCK)
James Molloy (JJ)
John Neevel (BR)
Michelle Ross (GY)
Theresa Stowell (FP)

FYI - New Members:

Volunteer for Community Day, a fun way to get involved in the union! Come out and volunteer for a couple of hours at the two locations, September 17th in East Fishkill or September 18th in Wappingers. Call the WCT Office (227-5065) or contact Ellen Korz at Van Wyck.

Van Wyck Science Teacher Medals at the Empire State Games

By Ellen Korz
Public Relations Committee

Since my own children have retired from sports, I never expected to find myself at the Empire State Games. Not knowing anything about wrestling, I certainly didn’t expect to be at a wrestling event. Yet there I was with my husband, early on a July 29th morning, sitting in the Milton Sports Dome, waiting for Mike Helm (VW – 8th grade science) to compete in a championship round. I had a knot in my stomach and that anxious feeling, just like his mom and wife sitting with us. Mike came into that match just like he does with everything, intensely. Although rules had changed and it wasn’t the type of wrestling he was used to, he was determined. We observed a close and exciting match, and Mike won a bronze medal. He should be proud, and so should we be proud of him; what a role model for all of the students and for us. Bravo and congratulations, Mike!
Community Partnership Supports High School Culinary Institute Program

By Ellen Korz
Public Relations Committee

Although few people have the knowledge of how much Denise Herberger (JJ) does, I know first-hand and have for quite a few years. I want to personally thank Denise for all she has done for the students in our high schools and for the image of the Wappingers Central School District.

Four years ago, Denise and a former student of hers, Nicole Gusti, got an idea to help students interested in the culinary arts to go to a summer exploratory program, at the Culinary Institute. It was a costly program and Denise had the brainstorm to do a fundraiser involving local entrepreneurs. Since she had participated in the partnership the District has with the Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce for so many years, she asked for their assistance.

After four years of hard work, it all came together on the evening of June 21st. The Gala was held at Locust Grove and hosted by the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber Foundation. A raffle was offered to the guests to add to the donations. Four thousand dollars was raised. This money will go toward scholarships for three high school students. The recipients are Jessica Male, Laura Petrucelli, and Michael Jasper.

Hopefully, this was the first of many galas and more participation and recognition from the District. It was an elegant evening. The food was fabulous and showcased some of our finest local fare. Mostly, I was elated to honor the scholarship recipients and Denise, for her outstanding work. Thank you, Denise.

NYSUT Establishes Katrina Relief Fund

http://www.nysut.org/hurricanerelief/050901relief.html
September 1, 2005

NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi today announced the establishment of the NYSUT Katrina Relief Fund to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Iannuzzi said that NYSUT President Emeritus Tom Hobart, who helped to spearhead NYSUT and the American Federation of Teachers’ relief efforts for the victims of last year’s tsunami, will again lead relief efforts.

Donations for the fund should be sent to:

NYSUT Headquarters
Attn: Accounting Department
800 Troy-Schenectady Road
Latham, New York 12110

Checks should be made payable to the NYSUT Katrina Relief Fund. All funds collected will be forwarded to the AFT disaster relief efforts.
The content of the *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.”)

The *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.

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