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 2008 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 have supported education, labor and social justice.

VOTE/COPE was crucial to the historic success in the 2006 election year. It played a key role in electing a new Congress, one that we hope will take this country in a positive direction. In New York State, the races for the governor, the attorney general, the comptroller and the state legislature overwhelmingly went the way of NYSUT-endorsed candidates. In 2007, we saw record increases in aid to our schools. In 2008, VOTE/COPE can help elect candidates on both sides of the aisle who have demonstrated by their actions where they stand on the most important issues facing us today. These issues include state aid for education and health care, decent working conditions, retirement security, prescription drugs and affordable health care coverage.

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.

(Continued on page 2)
From the President’s Pad (continued from front cover)

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.

In addition, VOTE/COPE has helped win a permanent cost-of-living adjustment for retiree pensions, built momentum for greater investment in our schools and spearheaded an historic override of vetoes that restored $1 billion in education and health care funding.

On a local level, districts in every corner of the state are going to face an uphill battle to pass school budgets again this year. Increasing energy costs have exhausted precious extra taxpayer dollars, including that of our own members. This burden could be a factor in the May 20th school budget vote and election of school board candidates.

The 2008 legislative session will be pivotal in continuing efforts to maintain and improve educational programs. NYSUT will work diligently to provide adequate funding for public education. Our participation in VOTE/COPE will give NYSUT the resources necessary to attain the above mentioned goals.

Your support for the 2008 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]

Support the National MS Society

Dear Wappingers Family,

As many of you know, my mother, Eileen Rubin (retired Brinkerhoff teacher), was diagnosed many years ago with Multiple Sclerosis. Since that time our family has been forced to live with the devastating effects of this disease. Through it all, not only did my mom manage to teach reading in our district, but she also taught hope and perseverance, and touched the lives of many students and their families. In fact, I still teach some of her former students, and they and their parents always ask about my mom.

Because of this, I recently accepted the challenge to raise funds to support the National MS Society. I will be walking to raise funds to help find a cure for MS on May 4, 2008. Please help support me in this important project by contributing. For information about this volunteer fundraiser and its programs, you can visit http://nyr.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=NYR_homepage.

It is faster and easier than ever to support this great cause by making your tax-deductible donation online using the link below. If you would prefer, you can send your contribution to the address listed below. Whatever you can give will help - it all adds up! Every penny makes a difference! I greatly appreciate your support and will keep you posted on my progress.

Sincerely,

Allyson Rubin - Van Wyck JHS

To get to my personal page and make a secure, online donation, go to http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?px=1904243&pg=personal&fr_id=8545. To send a donation: Make all checks payable to: National MS Society Mail to: Allyson Rubin , Van Wyck JHS.
Latino Scholarships Available

The AFT / New York State Latino Caucus is encouraging high school seniors to apply for its 2007-08 scholarships. Each of 10 winners will receive a $1,000 book stipend and a laptop computer with a printer.

Applicants must be of Latino or Hispanic decent and have a parent or guardian who is a union member.

The AFT / NYS Latino Caucus is an educational caucus made up of New York City and state educators that advocates for excellence in education and opportunities for students, especially those of Latino / Hispanic heritage.

For more information and a scholarship application, go to www.nysut.org or contact Hector Ruiz Jr. at hruiz@uft.org. Applications must be postmarked by May 15.

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 2008. 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, April 4, 2008.

Committee members are: Catherine Kim, Meri Piliouras, and Anchala Sobrin

Reminder from the Trustees of the Welfare Trust Fund

You must notify the WCT office of any change in your personal status in order to keep current with your benefits. This includes marriage, death of a family member, divorce, birth, adoption, and children who are no longer age eligible. If members of your family are not registered with the Fund, they do not automatically receive benefits.

Please call the office at 227-5065 as soon as possible if you need to update your personal information.
**Good News!**

- Congratulations to **Kylene Paul** (MC-1st grade) and her husband Matthew, on the birth of their beautiful son, Brennan Matthew. Brennan weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21” long.

- Congratulations to **Paula Pardonner** (MC) and her husband Bill as they welcome their new baby girl, Josette Delilah, into the world on August 21, 2007. Josette Delilah weighed 8 lbs. 11 oz.

- **Jodi Beck** (3rd) at Vassar Rd along with husband Dave and big sister MacKenzy welcomed 9lb 10oz., 21 1/2 inch, Aiden Riley to their family! Aiden was born February 21, 2008. Congratulations!

- Congratulations to **Lorraine Daley** (retired WCSD teacher & former V.P. Greivance) and **Terry Daley** (custodian & WFW member) on the marriage of their daughter Janelle Daley to Todd Mihan on Oct.12, 2007. The ceremony took place at the Benmarl Winery in Marlboro, followed by wine tasting. The reception was held at Villa Barone Hilltop Manor, Mahopac. The happy couple honeymooned in St. Kitts and currently live in Hyde Park, NY.

**Dates to Know**

**MARCH:**
- BOE meeting - March 17, 2008 (EV, VR, & KR)
- no school - March 21, 2008
- no school - March 24, 2008
- Superintendent’s Conference Day - March 25, 2008
- pay day - Mar. 28, 2008

**APRIL:**
- **General Membership Meeting** - April 7, 2008
- BOE meeting - April 7, 2008 (WJH & FP)
- Vote on changes to WCT Constitution - April 9, 2008
- Board Recognition Ceremony - April 9, 2008 - 7 PM in the John Jay auditorium
- Financial Consultant - April 9, 2008
- pay day - Apr. 11, 2008
- Spring Recess - April 14 - 18, 2008
- BOE meeting - April 22, 2008 (GY, BR, & VR)
- pay day - Apr. 25, 2008

**MAY:**
- BOE meeting - May 5, 2008 (RCK, FS, & SR)
- Financial Consultant - May 8, 2008
- pay day - May 9, 2008
- **WCT Recognition Dinner** - May 16, 2008
- BOE meeting - May 19, 2008 (VW, JJ, & OG)
- Budget vote - May 20, 2008
- pay day - May 23, 2008
- no school - May 23, 2008
- no school - May 26, 2008

**JUNE:**
- pay day - June 6, 2008
- BOE meeting - June 9, 2008 (MC, EV, KR, & OG)
- pay day - June 20, 2008
- pay day - June 26, 2008

**Act Now!**

**Set Straight the Misinformation of “TeachersUnionExposed.com”**

Beginning March 11, 2008, Center for Union Facts will unveil a $1 million anti-teacher national ad campaign with full-page ads in the *New York Times* and *USA Today*, as well as commercials on CNN and Fox News. The campaign focuses on union actions in 20 school districts across the country, and includes distortions about tenure, claims that unions oppose worthwhile school reforms, and outright lies about what we do.

* Fight back by contacting the media outlets by going to www.unionvoice.org/campaign/teachersuniontruth.
Members’ Classified Ads

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE: Immaculate 2 bedroom (plus office / possible 3rd bedroom) 1.5 bathroom townhouse in Highland. Tons of storage / quick commute to work. Right over the MidHudson Bridge in Bridgeview. Priced to move $257,000. Call Crista 914-388-7198.

FOR SALE: Antique solid Honduras Mahogany 5-piece bedroom set by Hungerford. $450. Call Mary @ 845-297-4785

FOR SALE: 15” five spoke low profile rims/tires. 195/50R-15 Hankook Ventus tires - chrome sleeve rims - locking nuts sold with key - already mounted and balanced - used for one month - had to sell car and didn’t need rims. $500. Inquiries: please call 845-797-3690. Ask for Vasili.

FOR SALE: Tandem Kayak/ $250 OBO. Call Crista 914-388-7189.

FOR RENT: Riverside Cabin. 2 bedrooms / 1 bath, fully equipped galley kitchen with microwave. TV / VCR, wood burning stove, new wooden floors, new windows. See ad on vacationrentals.com/NewYork/Adirondacks/Lake Luzerne/log cabin.

FOR RENT: Think Summer! Charlestown, R.I. (just 2 1/2 hours from home) four bedroom house within walking distance of pristine Charlestown Beach. Vacation near Newport, Mystic, Foxwoods, and Block Island. The house offers large screened-in-porch, washer/dryer, dishwasher, outside shower, and free beachside parking in private lot. Walk to Dunkin Donuts, coffee shop, deli, and casual restaurant. Pictures available. Call Roberta at 221-9872.

FOR RENT: Vacation in Ocean City, Maryland. 2 bedroom/2 bath CONDO, on the water (bayside). 1st floor unit, next to pool, beautiful sunsets, just cross the street to the beach - centrally located, close to everything. Contact Sandy for information at 896-1678.

FOR SALE: * Raymour & Flanigan oak kitchen corner breakfast nook table, breakfast nook bench and trestle bench. Includes table, outer bench and “L” shaped inner bench. Benches also double as storage areas (seats are hinged and lift up - one hinge needs repair) Overall in great condition! Paid $876 - Asking $400.


Please call 845-661-2567 (leave message).

FOR SALE: Antique solid Honduras Mahogany 5-piece bedroom set by Hungerford. $450. Call Mary @ 845-297-4785

FOR FREE: Office style desk in good condition. Call Susan at 226-8285 or email JohnRogerJr@Yahoo.com.

FOR SALE: 15” five spoke low profile rims/tires. 195/50R-15 Hankook Ventus tires - chrome sleeve rims - locking nuts sold with key - already mounted and balanced - used for one month - had to sell car and didn’t need rims. $500. Inquiries: please call 845-797-3690. Ask for Vasili.

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Please call 845-661-2567 (leave message).

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(Continued on page 6)
Members’ Classified Ads

(Continued from page 5)

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FOR RENT: LBI house. Two separate levels. Each level has two bedrooms, full kitchen, 1 bath, outside shower, air conditioning, deck and grill. The house is 6 houses away from the beach on the ocean side. Beautiful summer rental. Please contact Chris at 845-542-0412

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