Tribeca Film Festival. The contest, entering its second year, will be greatly expanded this year and I strongly encourage you to reach out to teachers of Social Studies, English Language Arts, Technology, Art, etc. and let them know about it.

All the information you need, including resources and human rights defenders, can be found at the link below. Please feel to contact me with any additional questions. On behalf of the NYSUT Officers, I encourage you to involve your students in what will prove to be an exciting, worthwhile, and deep learning experience.

http://www.speaktruthvideo.com
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

There will be a labor walk for Sean Patrick Maloney (N.Y. 18). Saturday, November 3, 2012 from 9:30—1:30, gathering at the WCT Office. Mike Lyons will oversee it - more info to follow. (For more information about Sean Patrick Maloney, visit the Facebook page “Educators for Sean Patrick Maloney.”

COLORADO TEACHERS UNION CONSIDERS SUING SCHOOL DISTRICT

For months, the Douglas County Teachers’ Union in Colorado has been struggling with the Douglas County School Board. Initially, the school board wanted to end its collective bargaining agreement with the teachers’ union. The Board was contemplating posing three questions to voters in November:

- Should the district be prohibited from engaging in collective bargaining with the union?
- Should the district be prohibited from using public funding for the compensation of union leaders?
- Should the district be prohibited from collecting union dues from employee paychecks on the union’s behalf?

Instead of asking the voters, the Board voted in September to end discussions with the union. The Board thought the ballot would cost too much money. However, Brenda Smith, president of the Douglas County Federation of Teachers said that the Board realized that the ballot would have been illegal and opted to vote on the resolution as a group. The union is currently considering suing the district for discrimination.

There are a number of articles going back as far as August 2012 on this topic posted on The Denver Post (denverpost.com).

SHARE MY LESSON

Register now for “Share My Lesson.” This is a free digital platform developed by AFT that allows educators around the country to collaborate, form communities and share teaching resources and innovative ideas. Sign up by October 31 to be entered in a drawing for $5,000 to be used to help pay off student loan debt, or a $3,500 VISA cash card.

www.sharemylesson.com
There are at least two harder jobs than acting — one is teaching and the other is writing a book about teaching. I’ve now done both, having gone toe-to-toe with a class of Philadelphia 10th-graders for an entire year and then written about it. And, let me tell you, when it comes to teaching, perfection is elusive.

The question I still wrestle with is, “In the midst of a tough economy and continuous budget cutting, how do we send a message to students that being in school and making the most of their time there is important?”

Everyone knows we have a problem. By every education metric, we’re no longer No. 1 in the world. Dropout rates in many districts approach 50%, and some estimates put the number of dropouts at more than 1 million a year. How do we sustain a great country with those numbers? Education has become a national security issue. If we don’t get our schools right, we won’t have the labor force or the soldiers we’ll need in the future.

A parent doesn’t always think that way, though. A parent asks, justifiably, how do I help my kid?

There’s one important thing I learned in the trenches at Northeast High in Philadelphia: Teachers have no problem being held accountable by parents. In fact, they crave parent involvement.

If parents do nothing else, they should persuade their sons and daughters to take part in their own education. Kids should hear the message loud and clear: “You have one life, and this small part of it will make all the difference.”

And parents, you should walk the talk by showing up for the play, the debate, the science fair. There were evenings when, as an English teacher hosting an open house for parents, I stood mostly alone.

Parents have to be involved because we live in a culture that bombards us every day with messages that are antithetical to education. For example, and not to pick on one TV show, but I would tell my students that good behavior and hard work pays off — then these kids would go home and watch Jersey Shore and come back and tell me I had it wrong. Often, the role model a kid looks to isn’t the father who goes to work every day, but the reality star or rapper who sells Chryslers or the banker who makes a fortune in a system that seems rigged.

We have to convince kids that, despite the formidable obstacles they often face, it’s imperative that they do well in school. As a society, we have to make it cool to be smart. And kids have to understand that it’s their responsibility to do well — no matter who their teacher is or the quality of their school.

The bottom line: Kids need to want it. We can’t want them to get an education more than they want it for themselves.

All I can do individually is tell my children — and any kid who’ll listen — that the world they face will require their best. They’ll need skills to survive and thrive in this new world. I can make it my business to know what my children are watching on TV and on the Internet and be relentless in hammering home the importance of this bit of their lives.

We all have a role to play in this, but when I was in teacher orientation, I constantly heard that teachers must “engage” the students. After a year of teaching, it strikes me that what we really need are students to engage in their own education.

“

“The bottom line: Kids need to want it. We can’t want them to get an education more than they want it for themselves.”
COLUMNNIST STANDS UP FOR TEACHERS

Washington Post opinion writer, Eugene Robinson, published an article on September 17th which started, “Teachers are heroes, not villains, and it’s time to stop demonizing them.”

To read the full article, be sure to visit the Washington Post web site or this link (http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/eugene-robinson-standing-up-for-teachers/2012/09/17/ad3ee650-00fda11e2-b257-e1c2b3548a4a_story.html).

After reading the article, if you would like to thank Eugene Robinson, the AFT has an area posted on their web site at http://action.aft.org/c/44/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=4903.

COMMON CORE RESOURCES

Take a look at the Kleinspiration web site created by Erin Klein at www.kleinspiration.com for some great resources.

For free Common Core ideas for the SmartBoard specifically link to: www.kleinspiration.com/2012/03/free-common-core-aligned-lessons-and.html.

TEACHERS’ SHARE CORNER

Literacy in Learning EXCHANGE (http://www.literacyinlearningexchange.org/)
This site had resources that include articles and videos for teachers.

One excellent article is “Why Are There So Many Words in Math?: Planning for Content-Area Vocabulary Instruction.” This article, “describes the 5 Cs, a tool developed to help content area teachers consider vocabulary as part of lesson planning. By selecting a set of key words for instruction, teachers can help students focus on conceptual understanding and connect new ideas to existing knowledge.”

Interesting video “Deprivatizing Practice” is found at http://www.literacyinlearningexchange.org/cindy-bak-deprivatizing-practice

UPCOMING PAY DATES

- October 15, 2012
- October 30, 2012
- November 15, 2012
- November 30, 2012
- December 14, 2012
- December 28, 2012
- January 15, 2013
2012–2013 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES

Oct. 9 (Tues) – RCK, Orchard View, Van Wyck
Oct. 22 – Myers, Evans, Oak Grove
Nov 5 – Brinckerhoff, Sheafe, Wappingers Jr
Nov 19 – Gayhead, Fishkill Plains, Fishkill
Dec 3 – JJ, Vassar, Kinry
Dec 17 – RCK, Orchard View, Van Wyck
Jan 14 - Myers, Evans, Oak Grove
Jan 28 - Brinckerhoff, Sheafe, Wappingers Jr
Feb 11 - Gayhead, Fishkill Plains, Fishkill
Feb 25 - JJ, Vassar, Kinry
March 11 - RCK, Orchard View, Van Wyck
March 25 - Myers, Evans, Oak Grove
April 8 - Brinckerhoff, Sheafe, Wappingers Jr
April 22 (Tues) - Gayhead, Fishkill Plains, Fishkill
May 7 (Tues) - JJ, Vassar, Kinry
May 20 (District Offices) - RCK, Orchard View, Van Wyck
June 3 (District Offices) - Myers, Evans, Oak Grove
June 17 (RCK cafeteria) – All buildings for the Retiree Recognition

DIRECTIONS TO THE WCT OFFICE

⇒ The WCT Office is in the Heritage Square Complex at 2537 Route 52 in Hopewell Junction.
⇒ Heritage Square is a short distance east of the intersection of Routes 376 and 52 and west of the Taconic State Parkway.
⇒ Enter the lot and make the second right into the parking area.
⇒ Enter the main entrance of the building. The sign over the entrance reads “PRUDENTIAL.”
⇒ Take the stairs of elevator to the 2nd floor.
⇒ Go right, all the way to the end.
⇒ Look for the “Wappingers Congress of Teachers” sign posted on the Suite 15 door.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Daniel H. Cook
(1-800) 342-6651
Davis Vision
(1-800) 999-5431
Health Advocate
(1-866) 695-8622
Mirkin & Gordon (attorneys)
(914) 997-1576
Stacey Braun Associates (fin. consultant)
(1-888) 949-1925
WCT Office
(845) 227-5065
NBPTS: WORKING FOR TEACHERS, NOT AGAINST

By: Diane D. DiChiara

Recently the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards decided to release videos of the best classroom teachers displaying their craft. It is called the Video Observation Program and is available to states, districts and individual schools. These are the actual videos that teachers sent in while pursuing NB certification. Along with each video is the teacher commentary describing the lesson. It includes a description of the students, the context of the lesson, the goals, what went well and bad in the lesson and what should be changed. This is part of the analysis and reflection of the teaching. While in the WCSD you may be denied in-service credit for a class that is “reflective in nature,” good teaching practices deem reflection as one of the most important aspects of quality teaching.

Several states have already licensed these videos to use in training. How do you measure teacher quality? - Certainly not through a test score but through an evaluation of the practice of teaching. John Wilson (Education Week, National Board Makes Real Reform) states in his article, “support the proposition that National Board Certification should be the norm for teachers, not an elite status.” To impact student learning, we need well-prepared teachers and this is one way to achieve that goal.

Washington and Maine have incorporated these videos in the training of principals as evaluators. Moreover, they are using the videos to train teams of teachers who will use the videos for Professional Learning Communities. To improve student learning and teacher quality districts must commit to activities that promote conversations around evidence-based teaching and the practice of teaching.

Today, huge testing corporations are in the position to make enormous profits off the backs of teachers under the false pretense that teachers are education’s number one enemy. School districts and Boards of Education, motivated by fear (lost funding, unfulfilled mandates, teacher evaluation systems, student test scores, etc.) may feel compelled into accepting these testing companies as their only solution. While NBPTS is also making a profit, it is using real teachers in real classrooms in real situations who have examined, analyzed and reflected on their practice. By doing this, NBPTS is promoting a positive image of teachers as the professionals – the experts in classroom practice. And that is how you improve student learning and teacher quality.

Read more about National Board for Professional Teaching Standards at http://www.nbpts.org/.

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER — 2012

Help raise funds and awareness in the fight against breast cancer. A world with less cancer is a world with more birthdays.

You may register online at: making-strides.acsevents.org/nysut.

October 21, 2012 at the Woodbury Commons in Central Valley
FAIR TRADE YOUR HALLOWEEN

Halloween shouldn’t be scary — at least not when it comes to CHOCOLATE! Did you know most mainstream chocolate comes from cacao plantations in West Africa where forced child labor has been documented?

Halloween is one of the biggest holidays for chocolate sales in the U.S. This Halloween you have the opportunity to show the big chocolate companies that you won’t tolerate that kind of exploitation. How? Fair Trade your chocolate!

Choose a Fair Trade alternative that comes directly from small farmer co-ops.

NOMINATIONS FOR SPORTS HALL OF FAME BEING ACCEPTED

Nominations for induction are now being accepted for the Thomas D. Macrini Sports Hall of Fame, which will be holding its 21st induction ceremony on May 10, 2013. Athletes who have graduated from a Wappingers’ high school in 2002 or prior, retired coaches and special service award candidates will be considered. Please mail your nomination, along with any supporting documentation, to WCSD Athletic Office, 167 Myers Corners Road—Suite 200, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 no later than Friday, December 28, 2012.

NEW TEACHER SEMINARS

The Wappingers Congress of Teachers Presents New Teacher Seminars:

(A new teacher is defined as a teacher with one to three years experience.)

October 16, 2012 – Creating a Positive Environment
November 8, 2012 – Parent-Teacher Conferences
January 15, 2013 – Discipline Strategies
March 7, 2013 – Understanding English Language Learners
May 14, 2013 – Achieving Tenure: What You Need to Know

All workshops will take place at John Jay High School from 4:15-6:15

Questions? Contact Elementary-at-Large, Theresa Stowell or Secondary-at-Large, Diane D. DiChiara
WON’T BACK DOWN — A FILM DEVOID OF FACTS ABOUT EDUCATION AND TEACHERS

Reprinted from an AFT Fact Check

A FAKE QUOTE BY ALBERT SHANKER

Claim: A character in the movie claimed that Albert Shanker, the former president of the American Federation of Teachers and a pioneer in education, once said: “When schoolchildren start paying union dues, that’s when I’ll start representing the interests of schoolchildren.”

Fact about the quote: The quote is false and has been debunked. The first claims that Shanker had made the statement came from a 1985 anti-union editorial in the Meridian (Miss.) Star. It has been repeated by anti-union forces for the last 35 years. Reviews by the Albert Shanker Institute, the Washington Post and Shanker’s biographers of news reports, speeches and interviews with Shanker’s aides failed to find any person or report that corroborated the statement.

LENGTH OF DAY

Claim: A teacher uses the contract as an excuse to not help a student after class.

Fact about the length of school days: American teachers spend, on average, 1,080 hours teaching each year. Teachers in other developed nations spend less than 800 hours a year teaching. A survey published in Scholastic magazine found that the average American teacher’s workweek is 53 hours. Teachers give not only their time but also money from their own pockets, an average of $351 every school year. The movie creates a fake reality. We are not aware of any contract or any local union that would forbid a teacher from remaining after school to help a student. Teachers need extra time to spend with kids, and hundreds of thousands make that time every day. The AFT has always been an advocate for better structuring of the school day so teachers can spend more time instructing students.

LENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY OF CONTRACTS

Claim: A character in “Won’t Back Down” claimed that the union had a 600-page contract that would make it impossible to create a small teacher-and parent-led school with a union contract.

Facts on contract size: A review of 73 of 100 contracts of the AFT’s largest affiliates found that the average contract size is approximately 80 pages (110 pages when appendices are included). Of the 80 or so pages in a typical big-city contract, most of the provisions help establish standards for children’s learning environment. They include the setup of classes for children with learning disabilities, provide appropriate time for teachers to improve their lessons and communicate with parents, and ensure that schools meet the individual needs of parents, teachers and students.

Facts on flexibility of contracts for individual schools: Most of the contracts from large urban local districts include school-level waiver provisions to remove or modify specific language in the contract. In some cases, the waivers can be very broad. Usually, a joint process is established that articulates what needs to occur in order for the waiver to be approved. New York City, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, St. Paul, Cleveland, Toledo and Los Angeles all have waiver provisions in their contracts for schools.

EXPERIENCE AND TENURE

Claim: In portraying the most experienced teacher in the school as the worst teacher, “Won’t Back Down” ignores decades of research showing that teachers improve as they gain experience.

Facts about tenure: What most people call “tenure” is nothing more than simple due process, which we should ensure for all people, including students and parents. Moreover, in the vast majority of cases, tenure is created by state law, not by union contracts. Working within state laws, school...
districts—not union contracts—decide which teachers earn tenure, as seen recently in New York City. Beyond being the most effective, most of the experienced teachers in schools provide leadership, training and advice for other teachers in addition to their teaching responsibilities. Tenure merely means that teachers are entitled to due process after completing a probationary period and may not be fired or disciplined without a chance to tell their side of the story. Dismissal procedures embedded in state education laws were developed to ensure teachers are treated fairly and are not victims of discrimination. At its core, the intent of tenure is to protect students' rights, ensuring that they don’t lose a good teacher because of personal or political conflicts with school administration. Collective bargaining agreements and/or school district policies do not determine the length of time required by a district to grant or deny tenure. State laws spell out processes for granting due process rights and revoking them. On average it takes more than three years for a teacher to earn tenure, more in some states. No one wants bad teachers in the classroom, which is why the AFT has worked to align teacher development and evaluation to due process for tenured teachers. The AFT has developed comprehensive teacher development and evaluation systems that may include peer review programs to help improve teachers or counsel them out of the profession. Moreover, the AFT has worked with school administrators to expedite due process procedures to ensure the process is both fair and efficient. **Facts about teacher development and evaluation:** All states, in varying degrees, have some statutory language that requires the evaluation of all teachers. It may require a nontenured teacher to be evaluated many times annually before he or she is recommended for tenure. Opportunities for improvement or remediation may be part of the statute. Depending on the state, the statute may define the evaluation process and offer more details on the process, including the remediation stage. In many cases, state laws prohibit teacher contracts from addressing evaluation. Peer assistance and review, a process agreed to by the union and the district, may also play a role in improving a teacher’s practice. It can be a critical part of the evaluation process. In school districts that use peer assistance and review, the bad teacher in the movie would have been evaluated, rated unsatisfactory and then offered the opportunity and the resources to improve. In the event that she did not improve within the specified time, she would have been terminated or counseled out of the profession.

1http://shankerblog.org/?p=2562#more-2562
2http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/romneys-unsubstantiated-quote-from-union-leader/2012/05/28/gQAhb0xwU_blog.html
3http://toped.svefoundation.org/2012/04/20/bill-me-legislative-week-in-review/
7http://christyhiett.wiki.westga.edu/file/view/ls+experience+the+best+teacher.pdf
YOUR 2012 — 2013 BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

*SENIOR BUILDING REP.

BRINCKERHOFF:
KIMBERLY SOKOL*
BRIAN LASUSA
JOHN NEEVEL

EVANS:
TRACY SHEREMETA
SHAREEN WHITEHOUSE
ROCHELLE LACCETTI, ALT.
CATHY WILSON, ALT.

FISHKILL:
FLIP GERTLER*
CHRIS AXTMANN
KIMBERLEE MAHUSKY
JOE PRONGAY, ALT.

FISHKILL PLAINS:
PATRICIA DEAN*
AMANDA GRECO
THERESA STOWELL
PAT GULLICK, ALT.

GAYHEAD:
NICOLE SCALZO*
ADELA GARDNER
ADRIENNE MONZET
CATHY PAGLIA
LAUREN TARANTINO

KINRY ROAD:
ADELINE ANDERSON*
KELLY EVERT

MYERS CORNERS:
MARY ANN MORAN*
LINDA BURNHAM
KRISTEN EGAN
LOUISE ROSE

OAK GROVE:
ANNE PEDICONE*
JAMES MARRINAN

SHEAFE ROAD:
JON SOKOL*
SHERRY CLARKE
MIKE LYONS

VASSAR ROAD:
MARY WEXLER*
KEN LICARI
SYLVIA PROPFE, ALT.

VAN WYKE:
JOSEPH TESTA*
SCOTT CHENENY
EMILY GUTHOFF
CAROLINE HERNANDEZ
DONNA KART
MARY LANGERT
ANN LIEBERGOT
KEITH MAY

WAPPINGERS JUNIOR
HIGH:
ELLEN MEAD*
PAUL NOSTRAND

ORCHARD VIEW:
LAURA SYLVESTER

JOHN JAY:
WENDY HEUMAN*
TIM KERMANI*
NANCY BEINER
HEATHER DAHL
TONY DELGRECO
ERIC FELDMAN
RENA FINSMITH
WILLIAM HOGG
PATTY NARDONE
KERRI ROGER
MARYELLEN BOVA, ALT.
MAUREEN BOYLE, ALT.
JULIA EURILLO, ALT.
ALYSON MCCARROLL, ALT.

RCK:
GINA PALMER*
LYNN CANDELLI
KATE DEGROAT
CHRIS DUNNE
PATRICIA FITZGIBBON
FRANK GUGLIERI
NATALIE LAFF
KAREN NOYE
CHRISTINE ZANDSTRA
KATHLEEN FLANAGAN, ALT.
MEMBERS’ CLASSIFIED ADS


FOR SALE: Twin bed, brand new maple headboard, mattress, box spring, and frame. Asking $250. Call 845-897-5680.


GRADES 3-8 MATHEMATICS TESTING PROGRAM GUIDANCE

Reprinted from NYSUT Research and Educational Services - September 20, 2012

The memo linked below from SED will help grades 3-8 educators have a better understanding of the content that will appear on the 2013 state math assessment based on the New York State Common Core Standards in Mathematics.

Two key points from this guidance:
This year’s state assessment will include any May-June content standards from the previous year. (i.e., The Grade 4 Mathematics assessment could include any of the May-June content standards from Grade 3.)
Educators should particularly focus on Standard for Mathematical Practice, MP.3: "Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others."

SHORT SALE: NO EASY SOLUTION
By MIRKIN & GORDON, P.C.

Real property values have declined significantly over the past four years. As a result, many homes are ‘under water’ meaning that they are worth less than the principal balance of the mortgage(s) thereon. Homeowners who must sell their home – whether, for example, due to financial crisis, the need to move/relocate or a pending foreclosure - are unable to do so for an amount that will satisfy the existing mortgage(s).

If the homeowner does nothing, they may eventually be faced with a foreclosure auction that will, inter alia, generate additional costs and adversely affect his/her credit. An alternative to this scenario is to ask the lender to agree to a “short sale” of the property by which it agrees to accept less than the full principal balance due on the mortgage in full satisfaction thereof.

A short sale is beneficial to both the lender(s) and the homeowner. The lender is able to realize a particular amount on the sale of the house as opposed to the uncertain and usually lower amount realized at a foreclosure auction that will take months, if not years, later. They also avoid the cost and expense of a foreclosure action including having to pay the taxes, insure and maintain the property during the pendency thereof. Even worse, the lender may end up owning the property after auction because there were no bidders present that will extend the lender’s financial commitment to that property. The homeowner benefits because they are not faced with the stigma of a public foreclosure auction or a deficiency judgment thereafter and the resulting impact on their credit.

As good as it sounds; however, a short sale is not an easy proposition. It requires negotiating with the lender to establish an amount that it is willing to accept upon the sale of the property and requires that the homeowner provide copies of tax returns, financial statements and/or an appraisal report. This is an involved process that can take 30-60 days or more to accomplish. Unfortunately, this process cannot be started until there is a signed contract of sale between the homeowner and prospective purchaser. Therefore, all parties must fully cooperate and understand the process including the possibility that the lender may ultimately not agree to accept the price offered by the purchaser. A successful short sale requires a great deal of cooperation, coordination and patience.

One negative aspect of a short sale, however, is that the homeowner may have to report the portion of the mortgage that the lender waived in consideration of the short sale as income on his succeeding year’s income tax returns. Nevertheless, if all goes well and the transaction closes, the lender will have accepted a calculated loss on the property; the homeowner will have cut its losses while peacefully vacating the property; and the purchaser will have purchased a house for a price that is at or below the current market value.

Getting the lender to agree to forgive the amount owed on the mortgage in excess of the sale proceeds is a negotiated term of the short sale agreement.
Let Member Benefits help you save a few dollars

It seems like we make so many purchases on a daily basis – whether it’s everyday routine items, back-to-school shopping, holiday gifts, or just something for that special occasion.

Are you keeping NYSUT Member Benefits in mind before making these purchases? If not, now is the time to start doing so! We are always here to help you save a few dollars in this financially unstable economy.

Need to book a hotel or condo for an upcoming trip? We’re here for you! Maybe you’re looking for the latest and greatest electronic gadgets for your loved ones this holiday season? We can help with that too!

Your NYSUT membership brings with it many advantages and benefits – including the opportunity to utilize our endorsed discount programs. Check out the box below for a sampling of some of the discount programs available to you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Car &amp; Truck Rental Discounts</th>
<th>Buyer’s Edge, Inc. – Get discounts on a variety of consumer goods such as vehicles, appliances, audio equipment, and luggage.</th>
<th>OfficeMax Customer Perks – Save 5% on technology items such as electronics and business machines and 10% on office supplies, furniture, ink/toner, and OfficeMax ImPress® services.</th>
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<td>– Take advantage of a variety of discounted car &amp; truck rental rates offered by Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, and National.</td>
<td>Working Advantage – Get discount tickets for online shopping, theme parks, museums and attractions, and other special family events.</td>
<td>Powell’s Books – Locate that rare book along with new and used books, e-books, audio books, DVDs, and souvenirs from the nation’s largest unionized bookstore.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wyndham Hotels &amp; Endless Vacation Rentals – Enjoy savings of up to 20% at nearly 7,000 participating hotels and 25% at more than 200,000 vacation rentals in 100 countries.</td>
<td>Motivano SmartSavings Online Discount Marketplace – Shop for sales and discounts on dining, travel and more.</td>
<td>EPIC Hearing Service Plan – Do you have elderly relatives who are having trouble with their hearing? Save between 35% and 65% on brand-name hearing aids and products.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TripMark.travel – Use this all-inclusive travel program when planning your next trip or use the group travel feature for your next family reunion.</td>
<td>Bose® – Special pricing available to NYSUT members and agency fee payers on consumer products.</td>
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Visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org for a complete listing of endorsed programs and services available to you. Don’t forget that you can always call us with any questions as well at 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.
**WCT COMMENTATOR Policy**

The content of the *WCT 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.”)

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

**WCT COMMENTATOR**

**Advertising Policy**

The *WCT 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.

For prompt placement of advertisements and articles in upcoming issues of the *WCT COMMENTATOR*, e-mail the information to commentator@wcteachers.org. Information can also be sent to the editor at the WCT Office. Do not send articles or ads through the GroupWise email system.