

PostScript



Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers

2537 Route 52, Suite 15 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Vol. 17 No. 6

Higgins, Leventhal join WCRT executive board

Roger Higgins and Leslie Leventhal are no strangers to union leadership.

Elected by attendees at the Spring Luncheon on May 5 at the Grand Hotel, the two attended the June 14 WCRT executive board and have begun their new WCRT duties as 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, respectively.



Roger Higgins

◆retired after 32 yrs of “service” in the Guidance Dept. at RCKHS; ended my career as counselor-in-charge; retired 2005.

◆served the WCT as building rep and later on the exec. board.

◆continue to serve in unofficial capacity as “consigulari” to Pasquale.

◆was elected to the county legislature nine terms, serving 18 years, and as chair of the legislature.

◆currently working on the “French for County Executive” campaign [Dan French is the current supervisor of the Town of Beekman, and candidate for Dutchess County Executive; he also sits on the board of trustees at DCC.]

◆currently serve as Commodore of New Hamburg Yacht Club.

◆am a current trustee of Grinnell Library in Wappingers Falls.

◆was appointed in Feb. 2010 by then governor David Paterson to serve on the New York State Bridge Authority. What’s that about? We are the policy-making board of NYSBA, overseeing the five Mid-Hudson bridges, from Bear Mt. to the Catskill bridge.

◆RCK grad and former Town of Wappinger supervisor, and my counselee at RCK, Joseph Ruggiero serves as NYSBA executive director.

“I’m anxious to get started working with my fellow retirees, and hope to contribute to our organization in some small way. It’s important that we continue to support the WCT, and work together to protect the benefits that we have all earned. There is an assault against public education coming from all fronts, all across this country, and I hope to add another voice that defends our profession and that stands up for public education.”



Leslie Leventhal

After seven peaceful years, I got an itch to return to some union work. I thought back over 35 years of union activism and decided that I was not quite finished.

I had served in many capacities over the years: I was a committee member, a building representative, a secretary, a vice president and finally the president of the WCT for seven years, retiring in 2004.

I had fought many battles with the WCSD and their attorneys and made negotiations my strength--or so I thought.

But when it was over, it was over.

Because of my friendship and deep respect for Susan Roger (current WCRT president) I readily accepted her offer to serve as Second Vice-President.

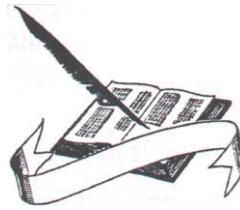
I hope to plan some good luncheons and some interesting trips.

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From The President



**SUSAN
ROGER
WCRT
President**

ing photos when you get together or stories about your activities. We are very active retirees, and still contribute much to our communities.

In June we had a great cruise on the Hudson after a wonderful lunch a Mariner's Harbor in the Rondout Creek area of Kingston. The turnout was terrific.

I want you to keep vigilant about educational and pension issues throughout the summer. We do not want a Wisconsin in New York. The 2% tax cap will be an abomination. We have been active in retiree issues in the past. However, the future may require greater effort.

I hope to see many of you at the fall luncheon.

Susan Roger

Dear WCRT Members,

I hope you are enjoying your summer.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Roger Higgins and Leslie Leventhal to our Board of Directors. We are so fortunate to have such experienced and dedicated retirees to help keep our organization active and current.

Congratulations to editor Bill Dourdis, on the four first-place wins for our *PostScript*. He puts in many hard working hours to put it all together. However, he isn't alone. Thanks to all the contributors and the people who print and stuff and mail. We couldn't do it without you.

To everyone else: please consider send-

Protect your WCRT, NYSUT membership

WCRT membership by the numbers: 628 retirees; 224 on email; 534 paid members; 307 Lifetime; 202 Yearly; 29 Complimentary Lifetime; 18 Complimentary.

72 teachers have chosen not to join or renew their WCRT membership. They have been deleted from our files. They are no longer eligible for NYSUT benefits and will no longer receive our publications.

Membership poem

*If you get a new email address,
Please tell us, to avoid a mess.
If a new email has been set up.
Please tell us, to avoid a mix up.*

HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR VOTE /COPE CONTRIBUTION?

WHAT TO DO! If you have already sent in a VOTE/COPE check, disregard this message unless you would like to make an additional donation.

If you did not send in a VOTE/COPE contribution, please consider sending one now.

With the 2% tax cap a reality, what might our state "leaders" want to do next: maybe "pension reform" or elimination of the Taylor law and Triboro Amendment? Then you could be sure health insurance would be another area being looked at for "savings."

Checks made out to VOTE/COPE may be sent to the WCRT c/o WCT 2537 Route 52, Suite 15 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533. Missing the form? No problem. You can still send a check.

SAVE THESE DATES

(future details coming soon)

Sept. 13 WCRT Executive Board meeting, 10:00a.m.

Deadline for October *PostScript*

Oct. 6 Fall luncheon, Pok. Grand Hotel, 12:30p.m., \$26.50;

Meeting includes discussion on new outings, i.e. Grand Central Station tour & your suggestions

Nov. 24 WCRT Executive Board meeting, 10:00a.m.

Deadline for December *PostScript*

Jan. 24 WCRT Executive Board meeting, 10:00a.m.

Deadline for February, 2012 *PostScript*

WCRT Officers and Board of Directors

July 1, 2011-June 30, 2013

- President.....Susan Roger 226-8285
- 1st. Vice-Pres..Roger Higgins 297-8757
- 2nd. V.P.....Leslie Leventhal 297-4430
- Rec Secy.....Flo Mondanaro 454-0352
- Corr Secy.....Barbara Stuck 896-9572
- Treasurer....Elizabeth Moesel 896-9426
- Past Pres.....Alice Baker 452-5793
- WCRT Rep. to WCT Representative Assembly...Tom DeRito 440-3476

Directors

- Ruth Ehlers 831-6390
- Alice Heusinger 226-8769
- Judie Rubin 297-9727
- Jack Devine 297-5032
- Margaret Nikola 221-3824

Committee Chairpersons

- Political Action:Cliff Foley
- Constitution and Bylaws: ..Judie Rubin
- Historian:Kathie Munsie
- Gifts and Contributions...Mary Coiteux
- Retiree Council 13 Liaison....Cliff Foley



Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers Newsletter
Heritage Square,
2537 Route 52, Suite 15
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
(845) 227-5065

The WCRT *PostScript* is published in Oct., Dec., Feb., Apr., June, and Aug. during the school year.
Editor: Bill Dourdis
wdourdis@verizon.net (845) 473-1796

The WCRT *PostScript* is a 2011 NYSUT United

Journalism Competition Winner with 4 First Place awards.

- Best News Story, by Bill Dourdis;
- Best Opinion Writing, by Cliff Foley;
- Best Feature Story, by Marc Weinreich;
- & Best Publication, Bill Dourdis, Editor.



POLITICAL ACTION

Editorial views expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the WCRT PostScript staff and management.

WHERE IS AMERICA, AND ESPECIALLY NEW YORK, HEADED?



**CLIFF
FOLEY**
Political Action
Chairperson

We have seen many legislative changes in 2011. The politics of Washington and Albany have had our heads spinning. When we step back from the fray, we have to look at the big picture and ask ourselves; where is America headed? What about New York? Are our state and nation going to move forward in the future or fall into decline?

The children of our state and the entire country are seeing attacks on their future as the politicians look to bail out the economy and save themselves by going after anything they can sell as reform. Teachers have become a major target in the Empire State. While hailing the 2% tax cap, the Poughkeepsie Journal in a July 1, 2011 editorial also advocated for Governor Cuomo's idea of a Tier 6 in the retirement system. "Over time, a new tier would help all levels of government lower costs, with public employees contributing more to their pensions (and) having to work longer to get those benefits." They add to this a call for changes to the Taylor Law's Triborough Amendment. "This would allow school districts to avoid having to automatically fork over salary increases when labor contracts have expired..." We wonder whether such a change would allow districts to have a free hand and eliminate anything they wish in the agreement and then drag out negotiations with no pressure to settle.

Another attack on education is the new evaluation regulations for teachers. NYSUT filed suit on June 27 alleging that the Board of Regents over stepped its bounds when they decided that a district could base 40% of a teacher's evaluation on standardized test scores. Richard Ognibene, 2008 Teacher of the Year, summed it up this way, "What we do in schools is incredibly complex and much of it cannot be measured with a #2 pencil." There is nothing in the regulations to insure that classes will be built in a fair manner and that an administrator "who was out to get you" might not tip the balance.

These changes foreshadow a bleak future for public education in New York. Will we see quality decline as State funding is cut, property taxes are capped and more privately run pay-to-attend charter schools

are allowed? Will teacher pay cuts, pension reductions and unfair evaluations cause young people to shy away from teaching as a profession? Who will teach our children? Large corporations? Test makers?

In Washington we hear continuing debate about the national debt and arguments over the wisdom of taxes. Leonard Pitts in his June 27, 2011 column puts it this way, "I pay my taxes. I will not offend your intelligence by pretending to enjoy it; writing that check is about as enjoyable as a chainsaw root canal. But I don't resent it, either. I pay my taxes because this is how we the people pay for things we deem to be in our communal interest."

The fact that one political party refuses to consider raising taxes and advocates cutting them for the wealthy and businesses is being touted by the media. Joe Conason, a correspondent for The New York Observer addresses the economic problems we face and the cost of the wars we are involved in, "...it is ever more important to remember how we arrived at this dead end, especially as we listen to the braying Republican leaders who refuse to consider any tax increases. Our fiscal woe is the legacy of their policy, waging war at enormous expense, while sharply reducing taxes on the rich. What we live with now is what conservatism has wrought."

In addition to education, social programs like Social Security and Medicare are being eyed by those who advocate major cuts. What changes might be agreed to in order to appease the no-tax-increase faction? The Alliance for Retired Americans reported on July 8 that, "Among the spending reductions the president and the speaker have discussed is reducing the annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Social Security, as well as increasing the level of income subject to the Social Security FICA tax (the tax currently applies to an individual's first \$106,800 of income)." Aren't these both a form of increased "tax" on those who are not wealthy?

As much as we may not like it, the idea of increasing taxes may have to be seriously considered if we are to pull ourselves out of the economic malaise we are in. Maybe the conservative voices who keep saying we need to cut government are completely wrong and what we need is a strong government to step up and get things back on track. The bottom line is you get what you pay for. Americans need to keep that in mind.

Notify these groups of an address change or death of a member:

■ WCRT, Heritage Square,
2537 Route 52, Suite 15
Hopewell Jct, N.Y. 12533
(845) 227-5065

wct@frontiernet.net

■ WCT, same as above

■ NYSUT, 800-342-9810

800 Troy-Schenectady Rd.

Latham, NY 12110-2455

www.nysut.org

■ NYSTRS, www.nystrs.org

800-348-7298x6250

10 Corporate Woods Drive

Albany, NY 12211-2395

■ WCSD, Human Resources

167 Myers Corners Rd. Suite 200

Wapp. Falls, NY 12590

845-298-5000 x 115

NYSUT Retiree Council 13 website:

<http://ny.aft.org/rc13/>

Directions to 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 parking lot and make the second right turn into parking.

☞ Enter main entrance of building.

☞ The sign over the main entrance is "Prudential".

☞ Take stairs or elevator to 2nd floor.

☞ Go right, all the way to the end.

☞ "Wappingers Congress of Teachers" sign posted on Suite 15 door.

WCSD Board of Ed. e-mail address:

WCSD.Board@Wappingersschools.org

NOTE:

If you are aware of a member's illness, or the need to send a condolence card, please contact Ruth Ehlers at 831-6390.

PostScript wins 4 NYSUT first-place awards

LATHAM, NY—New York State United Teachers hosted its second annual Journalism Conference and awards luncheon on Saturday, June 4 at NYSUT headquarters.

The Journalism Conference offered eight workshops. Sessions included photography; editing, proofing, and headlines; managing websites; video 101; improving content; tips for new editors; tips for seasoned editors; and page design/layout. A general session focused on using the power of social media.

NYSUT used their professional in-house staff to teach their respective area of expertise. Since most editors usually weren't RA delegates, NYSUT also felt the need to address editors' needs without the distraction of legislative politics and hoopla.

Bill Dourdis, WCRT *PostScript* editor, attended the day-long event and received four first-place plaques out of four categories entered.

The column entitled *Are Cuts to Social Security Necessary to Save it?*, written by Political Action Chairperson Cliff Foley in August 2010, won for Best Opinion Writing. Dourdis authored the Best News Story *Superintendent Parla spring lunch speaker* in June 2010. Marc Weinreich, RCKHS class of 2001, won Best Feature Story for his *Write off Wall Street* in August 2010. The *PostScript* also won Best Publication for the August 2010 edition.

All entries were judged in the state for a Class III retiree publication with membership between 501 and 1000. The competition covered entries produced between September 1, 2009 and August 31, 2010.

During his eight-year tenure as Editor

of the *WCT Commentator*, Dourdis won six NYSUT awards and five AFT awards for General Excellence, Best News Story, Best Editorial or Column, and Best Feature.

As *PostScript* Editor, Dourdis has won 17 awards in six years.

An outside panel of professional journalists judged the competition according to their professional standards.

Deborah Hormell Ward, NYSUT Director of Communications, emphasized the high honors for such high quality work. "Think how important and necessary the message is that you need to share."

Mary Fran Gleason, *NYSUT United* Editor-in-Chief, thanked editors for all the passion they put into their communications efforts because their work is important to NYSUT's effort to keep members informed and to celebrate their successes.



NYSUT Vice President Maria Neira presents Bill Dourdis, WCRT *PostScript* editor, with four first-place plaques at the NYSUT United Journalism Conference awards ceremony June 4.

Neira encourages editors

LATHAM, NY--Maria Neira, NYSUT Vice President, addressed newsletter editors at the second annual Journalism Conference and awards luncheon on June 4.

Excerpts include: "...We have a passionate advocacy...our national work is to strengthen our profession...you are all leaders dedicated to strengthening the union message and report what members and leaders need to hear..."

"We're grateful to you for your labor message. Without you, it wouldn't be resonated. We do the labor journalism piece. In addition to all that, we're all volunteers..."

"You are the voice of NYSUT at the state level and you bring it to the local level...It is a powerful voice and you are practitioners of sharing with members..."

"There have been some mean-spirited attacks on our profession and our union...sometimes from your words, your activism..."

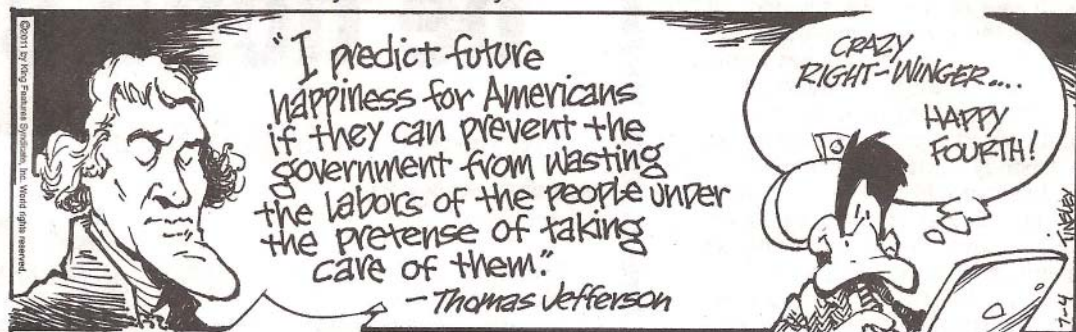
"You are judged by a rigorous process...you submitted entries for meeting a higher standard. You help us be the myth-busters by being out there bringing the message from kindergarten to higher education..."

"Speak to them, be proud, and don't apologize for successes. Take up the fight through your publications...Speak truth to power."



News
since
last
issue

Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley



Golf tourney benefits Meals on Wheels

by Charlie Powers

The New Hamburg Yacht Club's 8th Annual Day of Golf will benefit Meals on Wheels of Wappingers. All proceeds go to this organization. Tournament is Fri. Sept. 16, 2011 at Beekman Country Club. Registration is 10:00a.m. with a shotgun start at 11:00a.m. Cost per golfer is \$125.00. Checks are payable to NHYC. A buffet, serving sliced sirloin of beef in gravy and oven roasted turkey, will follow the tournament.

Former WCSD teachers on the committee, and strong supporters of our efforts, are Skip Rottkamp, Chair; Bob Blose, Jack Devine, Joe Corrigan, Rosemarie Gardner and Charlie Powers. As in the past, we are looking for golfers, tee/green sponsors, program advertisers, gifts and prizes for our raffle, boosters (\$25.00), donors (any amount). Whatever anyone can do to aid our efforts will be most appreciated.

For a registration form or if you have any

questions, call Skip Rottkamp at 845-297-3546 or e-mail him at skipro44@aol.com. If you would like to be a booster or donor, mail your contribution to Skip Rottkamp, 57 DeGarmo Hills Rd., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

By the way, if you think you are getting close to needing the services of Meals on Wheels, perhaps you should seriously consider helping us out in some way.

Lunch, river cruise offers fun, friends, fresh air

KINGSTON, NY—Mariner’s Harbor hosted 38 WCRT members and guests at a sit-down luncheon and river cruise on June 7.

The Rondout Area offered a clear and comfortable day for a two-hour afternoon boat ride with narration of the many historical sights and sites along the majestic Hudson River.

Follow the pictures and captions that tell the interesting story of the river’s past.



River Boat Captain Jeff Whittaker pulled away from the dock situated just west of a replica of Henry Hudson’s Half Moon that sailed up the river by its namesake over 400 years ago.

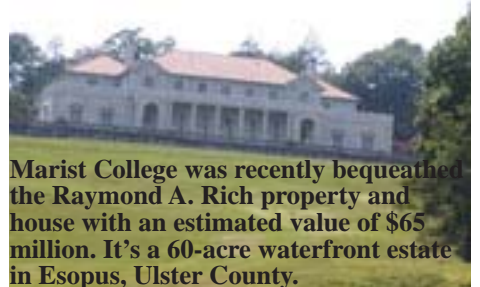
LEFT: The first Rondout Lighthouse at the end of the Rondout Creek was constructed in 1837 of wood.

It was replaced in 1867 made of stone. In 1915, the third lighthouse was manned until installation of electricity and automated in the 1940s and abandoned in 1954.

Mills Mansion in Staatsburg, owned by Ogden Mills, has 65 rooms and 14 bathrooms



Mike & Hannah Abrahamson, Val Ruopp, Cheryl Wilson, Val’s guest, and Bob Ruopp arrive early for lunch.



Marist College was recently bequeathed the Raymond A. Rich property and house with an estimated value of \$65 million. It’s a 60-acre waterfront estate in Esopus, Ulster County.



Eileen and Mel Zipes—thanks for eight years of executive board service.



Rachel Mondanaro, daughter of Flo Mondanaro, WCRT Recording Secretary, sings in the Opera *Nabucco* by Giuseppe Verdi done by the Taconic Opera in Yorktown, Westchester County’s premiere professional opera company.

Dates are Fri, Oct. 21 at 8:00p.m., Sat. Oct 22 at 8:00p.m. and Sunday Oct. 23 at

2:00p.m.. Yorktown Stage address is 1974 Commerce Street, Yorktown Heights, NY.

There is also a performance at SUNY Purchase Pepsico Theater on Saturday, Oct. 29th. at 7:00p.m. That is a nicer venue and we hope to fill it. (Pepsico Theater, 735 Anderson Hill Rd. Purchase NY.)

Rachel will sing only Saturday shows. Prices are for One Opera: \$57 for Orchestra and \$51 for Seniors: \$39 for Side and \$32 for Rear and \$22 for Seniors.

Her stage name is Francesca Mondanaro. The website is taconicopera.org.

Mondanaro to sing in Nabucco Opera

More pictures on page 9 of email version. Subscribe now!

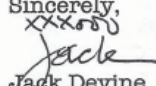
WCRT gets letters

ZION FOOD PANTRY
12 Satterlee Place
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
June 13, 2011

Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers
2537 Route 52
Hopewell Jct., NY 12533
Attn: Sue Roger, President

Dear Sue:

Thanks again to you, Bonnie Kieffer, and the WCRT for making the Zion Food Pantry the recipient of the food and cash donated at our Spring Luncheon. The results were gratifying. The WCRT membership is quick to grasp when there is a need and to take the steps necessary to meet that need (and have fun doing it). I am proud to be part of this group. When I tell people I am a retired teacher I always say a Wappingers retired teacher. A bit chauvinistic perhaps, but so be it. We are the best!

Sincerely,

Jack Devine



Committee on
Political Action
Of the New York State
United Teachers

Richard C. Iannuzzi
Chairman

Andrew Pallotta
Secretary-Treasurer

Maria Neira
Kathleen M. Donahue
Lee Cutler
Paul Egan
Dr. J. Matthew Kirwan

May 4, 2011

Ms. Susan Roger
Wappingers Congress of Teachers - Retirees #1989
2 Val De Mar Drive
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533-6126

Dear Susan:

Congratulations! It is with sincere pleasure and appreciation that I enclose the Abel Blattman Award plate earned by members of your chapter for their outstanding participation in the 2010 VOTE/COPE campaign. This plate should be affixed to the plaque that was previously sent to your chapter.

We can all be proud of the success of the 2010 VOTE/COPE drive -- the best ever. NYSUT members contributed over \$7.9 million during 2010. This magnificent achievement was made possible by chapters such as yours that understand the need for our involvement in political action.

Once again, your efforts and those of your members who supported VOTE/COPE have made us the leading advocate for public education in New York State. Please accept this award with my thanks and my sincerest congratulations.

In solidarity,





Richard C. Iannuzzi
Chairman

Abelblattmanplate.chapter



800 Troy-Schenectady Road
Latham, NY 12110-2455

Newsletter turns new changes into contest

Look for new changes in the next *PostScript* issue, October 2011 to start the new school year.

Two prizes will be awarded:

Most correct number of changes found by an email recipient;

Most correct number of changes found by a postal mail recipient.

In the event of (a) tie(s), duplicate prizes will be awarded.

Contestants can send their email entry to wdooris@verizon.net or by postal mail to *PostScript* editor, 14 South Grand Ave. Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Postal mail entries may be emailed.

All entries, to become official, must include: brief description of each change; and retiree's name, address, city/state/zip, phone number, year of retirement, and email address if available. They will be verified from the membership list.

All entries must be received by Friday, November 18, 2011.

Save this issue to make your comparisons.

WCRT executive board members and their families are not eligible for prizes.

Decision of judges is final.

Prizes will be awarded by postal mail in time for Christmas.

WCRT contributes to libraries, literacy

by Mary Coiteux
Committee Chairperson
WCRT Gifts & Contributions

It is with great pleasure the WCRT announces that donations to the Blodgett Memorial Library, East Fishkill Community Library, Grinnell Library, and Literacy Connections will be raised to \$100 each this coming year. We appreciate and applaud their ongoing educational efforts.

We also contribute to four WCT Scholarships. These include three Ralph Capasso scholarships, and the Bernard and Leslie Leventhal Scholarship. We are proud to be able to help students as they strive towards their educational goals.

Other ways that the WCRT has contributed aid to our WSD community include supporting past WSD-PTA Science Fairs, contributing to the NYSUT Fair Trade Project, donating to the Frank Flora Fund, the Goals for Hope Soccer Tournament, and to the fund for Kate Moore's children.

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

Summary of June 21, 2011 WCT meeting

1. DEHIC--Westchester Medical Center is still in negotiations with us however all emergency or trauma care will continue to be treated as in-network.

2. Negotiations -- No progress to report at this time. There is hope that the new Board of Education will add a fresh perspective to future discussions on the contract. Currently 6 of 9 unions in WSD have expired contracts.

3. All NYS residents are encouraged to contact their State Legislators to **vote**

TOM DERITO



WCRT Rep. to WCT RA

against the Tax Cap law.

4. Our President, Pasquale DellaCarpini, emphasized the need to deal with the facts on our contract negotiations not rumors and innuendos. Please call the WCT office with any and all questions. (845) 227-5065.

Joe Schatzle 1931 - 2011



Joe Schatzle, legendary Haldane and Wappingers track coach, died Saturday, June 4, at age 79 of complications from Alzheimer's disease.

Joe was born September 10, 1931, in Jamaica, N.Y., to Joseph Nicholas Schatzle, Sr., and Molly McGurk Schatzle.

Joe came to Cold Spring so he could attend Haldane. In 1992, Haldane coach George Ellis pointed out that, since 1949, Schatzle had held the 100 and 220 school records [converted to metric], and he still does. He later coached with Ellis, from 1957 to 1962.

A walk-on at Manhattan College, his sophomore year he won Metropolitan-Intercollegiate titles: 60 yards, 100, 220. At the ICAAAAAs, he set the Manhattan Turn-220 record, 20.9. Andy Stanfield was all out, and set the initial Turn-220 World Record of the IAAF era. Joe once said, "Everything I have, I owe to Manhattan College."

Schatzle met with terrible fortune in the ICAAAAAs—officiating gaffes cost him two majors. In 1952, in the IC4A 100, *Track & Field News* reported a "5 yard flyer" by a Californian, and

In Memoriam

he closed to force a 20-minute argument over the photo. In the 1953 IC4A 60, Jesse Abramson called him a clear winner. The phototimer failed to print, and the referee over-ruled the split judges, arbitrarily awarding the race to "the phantom winner," none selected 1st, 2nd or 3rd.

On the National-AAU team in 1953, he won the sprints at the British Games—the 100 by 5 yards.

A USMC air traffic-controller, he coached and competed two seasons at Camp LeJeune. In 1963, he left Haldane for Roy C. Ketcham, and his rivalry with Bill Murphy, of Arlington High School, commenced. Over the next 17 seasons, Schatzle won 13 league titles. His outdoor teams went 40-2 in league, and beat out-of-league schools from Albany to Long Island.

"I had the best dual meet team in New York State," he said.

The Dutchess County Scholastic League—which then reached north to Kingston in Ulster, and south to Beacon—then had no cross country and indoor programs—Schatzle started them, founding the Dutchess County Coaches & Officials Association.

He started the Wappingers Invitational—and won it every year. White Plains, with Larry James and Otis Hill, "the greatest high school team ever" were among those that competed.

Joe Daley won the Penn Relays Two-Mile in 1968. Wappingers moved up with New Rochelle, Mt. Vernon, and White Plains and won the Section 1 Class A.

Superintendent E. Joseph Kegan said, "Joe Schatzle put Wappingers on the map."

John Jay High opened that year and when he was passed over for the PE staff for football and wrestling coaches, he resigned as track coach.

In 1970, on sabbatical he produced a photographic project, *Suburban Elementary Education*. In 1998, he published 53 photographs, reviewed by David Vestal's "GRUMP."

Assigned to John Jay in 1974, he cre-

ated a Lifetime PE elective program that was honored by President Reagan. In 1980-'81, he coached Marissa Sutera and Jimmy Piggott, who broke Al Oertter's record winning the State Meet. He coached at Jay from 1988-1992 and had an undefeated team, but didn't produce a league champion.

Joe Schatzle "Track Coach" on Ketcham High School Track



In 2008, track athletes of five decades erected a plaque on the finish line at the track at Ketcham High.

Predeceasing him were his parents, his brother James, and his son Peter. Joe is survived by his beloved wife, Dolores Leckey of Arlington, Va; his children from his first marriage to Louise Smith Schatzle, of Derry, N.H., Joseph Nicholas Schatzle III, Charles Schatzle, David Schatzle, and Molly Schatzle Immerzeel; his four grandchildren, Hannah Schatzle, Kalvyn Joy Immerzeel, Brandon Immerzeel, and Oliver Nicholas Schatzle; and his step-children, Mary Kate Marcellus (Ron), Dr. Celia Leckey, Thomas J. Leckey (Margaret), Dr. Colum Leckey (Donna); and seven step-grandchildren, all of whom are grateful for his presence in their lives.

Nieces, cousins, scores of former students, athletes and colleagues will also miss his humor, sensitivity, and gentle ways. He died suffering with dementia, which he had battled like Emil Zatopek.

He always reminded his family and friends that "we must have fun."

Source: PUTNAM COUNTY NEWS and RECORDER Comings & Goings.

Report newsletter distribution glitches, dues info, renewals

by Barbara Stuck,
WCRT Corresponding Secretary
and Membership Chairperson

If you have indicated that you would like to receive the *Commentator* and *PostScript* by email and have not been receiving them, we are looking into the problem. Be sure to include wctteachers@gmail.com in your address book and contact Ronnie Dwyer at the WCT office wct@frontiernet.net if the problem continues.

Anytime a retiree gives his/her email

address to us, the address is given to Kim Mahusky, WCT member in charge of emailing the publications. US Mail costs are becoming prohibitive and may force us to cancel such mailings in the future. Please consider going green and be patient with our efforts. We are all volunteers working on your behalf.

The *Commentator* may also be viewed at wctteachers.org. The *PostScript* will soon be available for viewing.

Several retirees have almost had their NYSUT benefits cancelled because they

neglected to pay their WCT dues. Calls to the office and checks sent in a panic have mitigated the problem.

Don't be among the panicked. Renewal notices will go out in the fall. Economics have caused us to raise the dues for 2011-2012. Present rates are \$15.00 Yearly, \$150 Individual Lifetime, \$250 Couples Lifetime. Fall rates will be \$20.00 Yearly, \$200 Individual Lifetime, \$325.00 Couples Lifetime.

Pay Lifetime and alleviate the yearly task of paying.

HAMMOND STILL A STUDENT OF WWII

Jim Hammond's family has long since returned from its April trip to Normandy. But that journey continues. Call it The Search for the Dutchess Nine.

They attempted to contact relatives of nine soldiers from Dutchess County who died in the fight to liberate Europe in World War II with a simple message--their sacrifice is not forgotten.

"We've had moderate success getting in touch with the families," said family patriarch Jim Hammond, who traveled with his wife Louise and sons Steven, Kevin, and Jeff, a former Marine. They visited the graves of nine soldiers from Dutchess County who died in the D-Day invasion. All are buried in the Normandy American Cemetery in France.

The Hammonds turned to the *Poughkeepsie Journal* to tell the story of their journey to the final resting place of the Dutchess residents. The trip brought his family closer together. The front page Sunday story *Family goes to France to honor WWII dead* by Shantal Parris Riley ran May 29, 2011 just before the D-Day anniversary. The response was strong. Larry Hughes' column appeared on July 8 entitled *Quest for D-Day's families* *resolute*. This is a composite of both those articles as well as additional information given to the *PostScript*.



A cross inscribed with Wesley W. Andrews, PFC, 121st Inf., 8th Div., New York, July 17, 1944.

Normandy, located along the northern coast of France, was the site of one of the

bloodiest landings of WWII.

By the end of D-Day, the Allies incurred almost 10,000 casualties, with approximately 4,000 dead. D-Day was the largest amphibious assault in history.

"One of my goals is to get each family a picture of their family member's grave; most have never seen where their loved ones are buried," Hammond said.

Jim taught Social Studies at Ketcham High School and retired in 1995.

As a county legislator, Jim helped bring the Empire State Games to Dutchess County. "I contacted a few families, had moderate success with three or four others and nothing on the rest," he said.

Before the trip, the Hammonds had done their homework.

"I checked the Dutchess County War Memorial records," said Steven. "I cross-referenced information from the American Battle Monuments Commission listing all the soldiers who were buried at the cemetery."

"We brought dirt from Dutchess County and sprinkled some on each of the nine graves," said Jim. "Steven planted a little American flag at the base of the crosses," Hammond said. "Kevin laid out poppies that we were given to us from the VFW in Wappingers Falls. I left a stone on top of each grave."

And, the family said prayers.

The Hammonds' ultimate goal is to let families know that, after the more than six decades following the war, their loved ones have not been forgotten.

"We'd like surviving family members to know that after all these years these men have not been forgotten--that their ultimate sacrifice for the common cause of humanity lives on," said Steven Hammond.

Jim talked to a younger sister who was 11 years old when she heard what happened to her older brother.

He also went to home addresses in Poughkeepsie to find one house condemned and another is now a parking garage when the City knocked it down during Urban Renewal.

"I called one of the school districts for a soldier's records. It was the first time in 67 years anybody called."

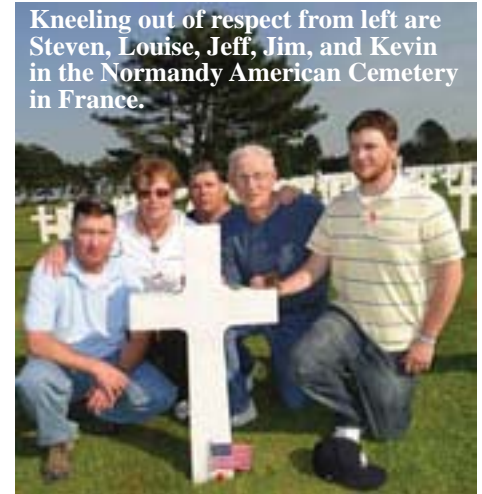
"I had a call from a man in Pawling who worked at the post office in the early '40s with the father of one of the soldiers buried at Normandy," Hammond said. "He remembered when the father was notified his son was killed."

Even after all those years, there is an enduring respect for the men who fell in horrendous numbers.

"We also visited other cemeteries" Hammond said. "People over there really appreciate the sacrifices that were made and work very hard maintaining the memory of D-Day and devotion to all the young men who died in the Battle of Normandy."

It was an emotional and educational journey.

To contact Jim, call 845-462-0456.



Kneeling out of respect from left are Steven, Louise, Jeff, Jim, and Kevin in the Normandy American Cemetery in France.

Salenger retires from NYSTRS Board

LATHAM, NY--Sheila Salenger recently retired from the New York State Teachers' Retirement System Board of Directors.

Here's a glimpse at the last 37.5 years of her service to Wappingers and NYSUT in her own words:

16 yrs. at Roy C. Ketcham High School as Librarian 1974-1989; Grievance Chair (there was no Grievance Committee back then...)1976-1989.

If memory serves me correctly, there were approximately 80 grievances per year (Stage 1. building administrator; Stage 2. Asst. Supt. for Personnel (that's before the days of "H.R.")I filed grievances with Lawrence Gilmour; John Marmillo (how's that for names from the past?); Stage 3. Board of Education; Stage 4. Arbitration).

Elected to the NYSTRS Board of Di-

rectors Nov. 1989; offices and titles include Vice President of the Board; Chair of Legislation; Chair of Ethics Committee; Member of Executive Committee; Member of the Medical and Disability Review Board; the most senior member on the Board of Directors at time of retirement in June 2011.

Stellar memories are from WCT as Grievance Chair and learning "the ropes" from Ron Warman, who had been a Grievance Chair and was then V.P. for Negotiations, later to become the WCT President; and from working with TRS members (teachers) from all parts of NYS to resolve their myriad retirement problems and unravel the seeming complexities of the retirement process

My immediate plans are to LOAF, and to begin a new role as the Advocacy Co-

ordinator for C.D. 21 (Capital Region), as well as joining the Legislative Patrol for AARP at the Legislative Office Building in downtown Albany.

Incidentally, AARP is in the midst of a summer "blitz" to collect signatures opposing changes to Social Security or Medicare that would impact our benefits.

I would love if the WCRT could collect "mucho" signatures (with postal and e-mail addresses) and send to me at vawndane@yahoo.com or to 82 Killarney Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309.



Post Script

**This issue's out-takes:
a bonus for e-mail
subscribers**

Lunch, river cruise offers fun, friends



John and Jean Ditton wait to enjoy the retiree luncheon at Mariner's Harbor, Kingston, prior to a two-hour narrated cruise along the Hudson River.

**"The Hudson River also
boasts 200 species of fish."**

Captain Jeff Whittaker
Rip Van Winkle River Boat

(Photos not available.)



Actual WWII PT boats dot the shore of Kingston's Rondout Area as our cruise boat passes through the channel before entering the Hudson River.



Sue Roger, WCRT President, Ceil Collopy, and Franca Petrillo compare notes on their busy lives.



Former neighbors Tommy Knickerbocker, JoAnn Dourdis, and Mary Knickerbocker catch up on their grandkids, kids, old and new neighborhoods, and travel.



Marla Rohwer and Jean Ditton sat and chat and chewed the fat in the dining room.



Jim Bogert, Tommy Knickerbocker, and Bob Ruopp philosophize.

Dear readers,

I got an idea a while back, and I tried something new. I ran it by e-mail subscribers because they can handle whatever I send them.

I'd like some feedback on your thoughts about this concept. Printed hardcopies limit me to eight pages. I can be more flexible electronically. You get the benefit. Let me know what that benefit is for you.

Let other retirees know about the color(s) and the convenience. Drop me an email note also. Tell me what you told them.

Enjoy the leftovers.

Bill Dourdis
PostScript editor
wdourdis@verizon.net



Donna and Frank Mears chat with John Ditton about the good old nowadays.



Jean Ditton and Mary Knickerbocker, on the middle deck, enjoy the view, the camaraderie, and the mild breeze while they bask in the partial silhouette.

lunch cruise story and more pictures on page 5

**WAPPINGERS
CONGRESS
OF RETIRED
TEACHERS**



**FALL
LUNCHEON**

Thursday, October 6, 2011

All facilities ground floor accessible. No steps or stairs.

Cash Bar and Open Soda from 12:00p.m.

**Buffet Lunch served at 12:30p.m. consisting of new menu:
fresh fruit cup, garden salad with dressing, country baked ham,
chicken francaise, pasta vodka, seafood stuffed baked sole, roasted
red potatoes, eggplant roladini, fresh seasonal vegetables,
rolls and butter, coffee and tea, and NY style cheesecake.**

Total cost per person is \$26.50.

Parking deck on the premises. (Free parking!)

A short business meeting will be included. (and 50-50 raffle)

Please return reservation form below and check payable to WCRT to
Leslie Leventhal, 56 Pye Lane, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
and must be received no later than September 26.

Bring non-perishable food items (cans, boxes, bags) and/or shampoo, soap, and
other personal care items to be donated to local food pantries.



(return this bottom part with your check)



**WCRT FALL LUNCHEON
\$26.50 Per Person**

**Thursday, October 6, 2011
Guests are welcome**

Name(s): _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Number of Reservations: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____