

A publication of the  
Wappingers Congress of Teachers

# The WCT COMMENTATOR

March 26, 2010

## From the President's Pad ...

### Invest in Your Future Contribute To VOTE/COPE

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 2010 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 support education, labor and social justice.

As of March 22, 2010 — The State Senate supported Gov. Paterson's proposed \$1.7 billion in cuts to education that would devastate New York's schools, hurting students and hindering the state's economic recovery.

I strongly agree with the recent statement made by NYSUT's President, Richard C. Iannuzzi, "If this budget is allowed to stand, we will be looking at a drastic reduction in electives and AP courses, the elimination of summer school and after-school programs, and much larger class sizes." A recently released report by the state School Boards Association and the Council of School Superintendents, projects the loss of nearly 20,000 jobs in education. **This represents \$6.1 million less in state aid for Wappingers Central School District. In order to compensate for this deficit, vital educational programs will be cut for our students, which also translates in job losses for our members.**

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.



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### ***From the President's Pad (cont'd from page 1)***

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.

On a local level, districts in every corner of the state are going to face an uphill battle to pass school budgets. We rely on your support to be a positive voice in the May 18<sup>th</sup> school budget vote and election of school board candidates.

Your support for the 2010 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]

## Barnes and Noble Day

By Saranne Ratner

The Poughkeepsie Branch of AAUW, Inc. (American Association of University Women) sponsors an early literacy project called *Leading to Reading*. In the past 5 years, over 3500 books have been given to needy children in our area, along with classroom materials and "Fuzzy Friends" (stuffed animals) kits.

*Leading to Reading* is sponsoring a Barnes and Noble Day on Saturday, April 10. If a customer mentions they support *Leading to Reading*, a percentage of the sales will be donated to the project. In addition, as part of Teacher Appreciation Week, every teacher will be given an additional 20% discount. Purchases can be made at any Barnes and Noble store or at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com). Just use Bookfair #10164317.

Members of AAUW, Inc. will be at the Poughkeepsie Rte. 9 Barnes and Noble on April 5<sup>th</sup> showing the kits that are made and doing story readings. Come out, take advantage of the discount and visit with our members. Thanks for your support!

# Vincent van Gogh? More like Vincent van GAYHEAD!

By, Nicole Scalzo



In mid February the teachers at Gayhead Elementary School volunteered to paint a mural in Gayhead Elementary. Graciously designed and outlined by the ever talented Krista Robinson (art teacher), the teachers had a pretty easy job of just “painting in the lines”! **The theme for the painting is “Character Ed”.** There will be painted posts with different characteristics that are encouraged at Gayhead. The theory of the wall will be, when students are nominated in their classrooms for being a Citizen of the Month, their names will be put on the wall. The teachers of Gayhead stayed after school to get the job done! It is beautiful and well worth the extra hours to see the smiles and “wows” on the kids’ faces!



# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ketcham 5K Race/Walk



**Date:** Saturday April 24, 2010  
**Time:** 10:00 am 5K race start  
**Race:** 3.1 mile loop starting at RCK High School around Lake Oniad and finishing back at the RCK High School.  
**Place:** Roy C. Ketcham High School

**Race Day Registration:** Opens at 8:00 am

**Fee (no refunds):** Pre-registration: t-shirts to pre-registrants  
Pre-registration is over  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> to pre-order  
t-shirts

- \$ 12.00
- \$ 15.00



**Awards:** Male: up to 18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50 and up  
 Female: up to 18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50 and up  
 RCK Alumni: male and female top finisher  
 RCK Faculty: male and female top finisher

**Info:** David Budd 845-298-5100 x 145 or [David.Budd@wappingersschools.org](mailto:David.Budd@wappingersschools.org)  
 Bob Stockslager 845-298-5100 x 162 or [Robert.Stockslager@wappingersschools.org](mailto:Robert.Stockslager@wappingersschools.org)

**Pre-registration:** Make checks payable to RCK Track and Field Booster Club and mail to David Budd, Roy C. Ketcham High School, 99 Myers Corners Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

**Restrictions:** No rollerblades, skateboards, bikes, dogs, showers

I know that running and road racing are potentially hazardous activities. I will not enter this race unless I am medically able and properly trained. I assume all risks associated with this event, including but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, and the effects of the weather including low temperature and/or precipitation, traffic, and the condition of the road, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts, in consideration of accepting this entry, I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive and release any and all claims for damages I may have against Wappingers Central Schools, RCK Track and Field Booster club, Town of Wappingers, Race Director(s), and their agents, employees representatives, successors, and assigns, from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, and causes of action whatsoever arising directly or indirectly from my participation in this event. I also release my rights to any photos, videos, images, etc. taken of me during this event.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_ Gender: F M  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tee shirt size: S M L XL

**(Parent's signature if under 18)**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE RCK XC/TRACK AND FIELD TEAMS**

also from the Welfare Trust  
**Fund .....**

The attorney will be in the WCT offices to meet with members on the following

April 21            Please call  
May 19            227-5065 to  
and June 16.      schedule an  
                         appointment.  
Times - 2  
p.m. to 6 p.m.

## Important Information about the WCT Welfare Trust Fund...

Trustees:  
Christine Romano, Chairperson  
Betty Seifert, Treasurer  
Erin Mulligan, Secretary  
Philip Gertler, Trustee  
Pasquale Delli Carpini, Trustee  
Ronnie Dwyer, Administrator  
WCT Telephone Number:  
845-227-5065  
Daniel H. Cook Telephone Number:  
1-800-342-6651

- You must let the WTF know of any changes in your personal information ASAP
- Student verification forms must be sent to Daniel H. Cook every semester
- Dental & prescription reimbursement forms are on-line at the WTF website
- Please direct all questions & concerns to the WCT office or directly to Daniel H. Cook

## from the... WCT Welfare Trust Fund

A financial consultant from Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. will be in the WCT office on the following dates:

April 14 & 28  
May 12 & 26  
June 9 & 23

Appointments are (1) hour blocks available between 2pm & 6pm on a first come first served basis.

When you call the office to schedule an appointment, we will forward a questionnaire to you. Please complete it and bring it with you to the meeting.

Since these slots fill up very quickly CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. The WCT office number is 227-5065.

If the above dates are not convenient for you, call Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. directly at 1-888-949-1925 and other arrangements may be possible.

## Welfare Trust Fund News

### 2009 Prescription Co Pay Reimbursement

The claim for prescription co-pay reimbursement for the 2009 calendar year must be received by March 31, 2010. Forms are available on the WCT website – [wcteachers.org](http://wcteachers.org) or you can call the WCT office (227-5065). Receipts or a computer printout from your pharmacy are accepted. However, a printout is much easier to process and will compensate for any misplaced receipts.

If you need any further information, please call the WCT office.

## 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 2010. 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, March 26, 2010.

Committee members are:

Rita Langva

Louise Rose

Tracy Ann Sheremeta



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Ed McKenna - 845-471-7607

## Get Your WCT Gear

Short sleeve tees, long sleeve tees, and lanyards are available for purchase at the WCT Office. Shirts range in size from small though 3X. Please stop by the office to make your purchases. Payment for these items must be a check made out to **WCT** - cash will not be accepted. **WCT Gear is available at the WCT Office:**

- **\$9 for short sleeve tee**
- **\$12 for long sleeve tee**
- **\$2 for lanyards**



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### 2010 Newsletter Schedule

January 8, 2010	April 9, 2010
January 22, 2010	April 23, 2010
February 5, 2010	May 7, 2010
February 19, 2010	May 21, 2010
March 5, 2010	June 4, 2010
March 26, 2010	June 18, 2010

**we're on the web**

[www.wcteachers.org](http://www.wcteachers.org)

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**MEMBERS' CLASSIFIED ADS**

FREE!: 4 nearly brand new Cooper snow tires 235/55R17; and a never used roof rack for BMW X3. Call Joe DiDonato 845-337-1702.

FOR RENT: LAKEFRONT HOUSE on Lake Wallenpaupack, PA Swim, fish motorboat. Sleeps 8, level lot, private new dock for fishing/boating/sunbathing. Fully equipped house including BBQ's, bonfire pit, bicycles, HDTV, A/C. Southern exposure, wonderful sunsets. Only 1.5 hrs from Fishkill. \$1,200 week, some weekends available for \$300. call Gary 845-462-4686 for photos and details.



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