

PostScript



Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers

2537 Route 52, Suite 15 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Vol. 18 No. 2

RC 13 Regional Conference informative

KINGSTON, NY—NYSUT's eleventh regional conference entitled *Retired We Lead* provided retired attendees with wonderful speakers, informative mini-sessions, and an outstanding luncheon at the Wiltwyck Country Club on October 13.



Matt Ostoyich, RC13 Board of Directors President, welcomed fellow retirees and gave a brief overview of the schedule of events.

Jennifer Shaad-Derby, NYSUT Retiree Consultant, coordinated her first conference in her new role, replacing



Bill Schultz, who recently retired after nine years.

Excerpts from speakers' remarks follow:

Floyd Cameron, NYSUT Retiree Services Manager, applauded the organizing effort of the Retiree Council 13 leadership. An upstate resident speaking in the wake of Hurricane Irene, Floyd said even the emergency warning sirens in his area were washed away.



"We need the government in times of emergency...Do you need help? A federal family is needed; we need some government for some things...."

"This is NYSUT's 20th anniversary of setting up RCs as a resolution for the R.A. It established a constitution to organize as councils in 1991. Before that, retirees didn't have representation. It's significant because retirees can be elected and can vote. It gives you standing and a voice to defend issues of concern to retirees. The quality of our 184,000 retiree lives continues to improve. We now have 141 retirees 99+ years or older. When I started in Teachers' Retirement System, there were six.

"In my time, inflation was a big topic... OPEC, in the 1970s...the cost of a barrel of oil tripled...lines for gas...President Jimmy Carter talked about malaise and misery in 1976...that was then.

"Steve Jobs obit...one of three guys in a garage in 1979...Bill Gates wanted a computer in every house...boom industry...this is now. (See page 6.)

"We fight for quality of benefits in Social Security and Medicare directed to the

20, 30, and 40 year olds. We are successful. We are the same people who fought to keep Social Security out of the stock market."

Pete Savage, NYSUT Legislative Representative, opened many eyes with his report:

"In the last session of the legislature, we dealt with the tax cap, K-12 funding, and mobilized membership to work to pay dividends... \$400 million restored for K-12 funding, deaf and blind schools didn't get



closed, we kept teacher centers, and fought against the attack of labor rights for workers... Realtors are tied in to the 2% property tax cap... Two groups of note: Committee to Save NY, and Education Reform Now.

"We're here for seniority rights and retiree benefits...retain quality teachers and fire old ones...this 'union-busting bill' is convoluted because it doesn't have parameters and will hurt collective bargaining...It's not just ending seniority rights for police, fire, teachers...it failed in the Assembly...

"For 2012, another pension tier, ORP, or Optional Retirement Plan: at 65, there's a 6% contribution to health insurance, it will end early retirement, they'll be vested in 12 years instead of 20...It will alter how pensions are calculated...No six-figure pensions, only 1.5% have it.

"Districts need savings quickly...creating a new tier wouldn't do a thing...one dollar of pension money equals \$11.50 return... If you buy a car, you help the mechanic, salesman, car wash people, gas station, etc.

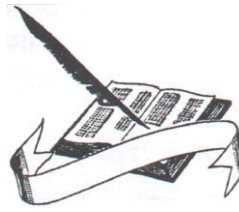
see RC 13 page 5

In This Issue:

PRESIDENT'S LETTER	2
Officers, Directors; Publication dates	2
SAVE THESE DATES	2
POLITICAL ACTION COLUMN	3
Directions to WCT/WCRT	3
Address/status changes	3
Franca trains for 1/2 marathon walk	4
<i>In Memoriam</i>	4
COVER STORY	5
WCRT generous to local causes	5
VP looks at website	5
New retiree offers help	5
Report distribution glitches to WCRT	5
NEWS SINCE LAST ISSUE	6
P.S. contest deadline extended	6
2 honored by Exchange Club	7
NYSUT Defensive Driving Courses	7
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY	7
RCKHS Career Day	7
Membership information	7
NYSUT Member Benefits ad	8
Spring Luncheon flyer	9

POLITICAL ACTION COLUMN	page 3
2 WCRTers honored by Exchange Club	page 7
PostScript contest deadline extended	page 6

From The President



**SUSAN
ROGER
WCRT
President**

Dear WCRT Members,

To begin this message I would like to congratulate Charlie Powers and Jack Devine on their award from the Exchange Club. They have given their time and talents to help others and make a difference in our communities. (See page 7.)

There are many of you who are involved with community, politics, and charities. Please consider getting together with Bill Dourdis, our newsletter editor, so he can write about your activities. We all would love to hear about what other retirees are doing.

We all enjoyed the last issue's article about Walter Franca and his 13 mile walk in Florida in January. He is collecting donations for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. At the fall luncheon we donated \$108 proceeds from our 50/50 raffle. (See page 4.)

Finally, if you know a retiree who is not getting the *Commentator* or the *Post-Script* by e-mail, let them know that we are having trouble with the server, but they can always look at the WCT website (www.wc-teachers.org). (See page 5.)

I wish all of you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a healthy new year.

Susan Roger



Prez a grandma again

Susan (WCRT president) and John Roger announce a new granddaughter, Amelia Kate Roger, born October 13, 2011. She weighed 10 lbs. 3ozs. and was 22.5 inches long!

She joins brothers Miles, 4-1/2 years old, and Liam, 1-1/2.

Her parents Katie (Salmon) and Byron Roger are 1994 graduates of John Jay High School, now residing in Pasadena, MD.

**WCT & WCRT
publication dates
for academic year
2011-2012:**

Commentator mailing dates are in normal font, *Post-Script* mailing dates are in bold font:
9/30/11, **10/28/11**,
11/18/11, **12/16/11**,
1/27/12, **2/24/12**,
3/30/12, **4/27/12**,
5/24/12, **6/15/11**,
**and one sometime
in August.**

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

Post Script

To bring WCSD retirees together for mutual assistance and socialization, and to promote the best interests of retired educators.

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.

SAVE THESE DATES

(future details coming soon)

- Dec. 8 Grand Central Station tour & train trip
- Jan. 24 WCRT Executive Board meeting, 10:00a.m.
Deadline for February, 2012 *PostScript*
- Feb. 18 & Mar 10 Science Fair
- Mar. 29 Deadline for April, 2012 *PostScript*
- Apr. 24 WCRT Executive Board meeting, 10:00a.m.
- May 10 Spring Luncheon, Christo's, Wilbur Blvd. Pok. noon, \$22
Deadline for June, 2012 *PostScript*
- May 18 WCT Teacher Recognition Dinner/Dance, Arbor Ridge, HJ



POLITICAL ACTION

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

BUT THEY SOUND SO GOOD!!!!



CLIFF FOLEY

**Political Action
Chairperson**

Have you wondered about the many organizations out there who claim to be concerned with your welfare? Who are they and what are they really about?

RetireSafe describes itself as “a grassroots action network promoting dynamic, pro-growth solutions to America’s retirement security challenges.” RetireSafe certainly has a nice ring to it. How bad could it be? Beware of Trojan Horses! According to NYSUT, it is funded by the drug industries’ main lobby group, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). They support legislators who are willing to use their influence to back legal changes that will benefit drug companies.

There is also the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) which claims it is the “largest membership association of state legislators.” According to the watchdog group Sourcewatch, ALEC fails to mention that “98% of their revenue comes from sources other than legislative dues, primarily from corporations and corporate foundations.” This is neither a lobby nor a front group but a big business group who, behind closed doors, create “model” bills which are then taken back

to the states by legislators, mostly conservative Republicans. They introduce them as their own ideas.

The goals of ALEC include undermining environmental regulations and denying climate change; supporting school privatization; undercutting health care reform; defunding unions and limiting their political influence; restraining legislatures’ abilities to raise revenue through taxes; mandating strict election laws that disenfranchise voters; increasing incarceration to benefit the private prison industry and many other

schemes that limit the rights of the average American.

How about Americans for Prosperity (AFP) who are, “committed to educating citizens about economic policy and mobilizing those citizens as advocates in the public policy process.” These all sound like positive goals out to benefit the public. Interconnected with them is one of this writer’s favorites, Patients United Now.

A little closer look begins to uncover a very different image of these organizations. Let us dig a little deeper. Patients United Now was a new group funded by the Americans for Prosperity organization, an early supporter of the Tea Party movement. Did we mention that Americans for Prosperity was a front group founded by the billionaire Koch brothers? Americans for Prosperity, which is mostly funded by large multi-national corporations, is masquerading as a grassroots movement outraged over the President’s health care plan.

In May of 2009 Patients United Now began running scare tactic ads saying that the government was trying to bring a Canadian type of health care system to the United States and our citizens would suffer delays and denial of services which could result in death. The Obama health plan is not, and never has been, fashioned after the Canadian program.

These are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to misleading groups who

have little, if any, interest in the welfare of retirees and the public in general. A short article like this can only scratch the surface of the web of clandestine movements that pretend to be for seniors and the American people. There is a great deal of money backing organizations and politicians who pretend to be one thing but in reality have goals of a completely different nature. But they sound so good!



send your comments to
cgfoley@optonline.net

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.

Franca training for half-marathon walk

Dear Friends and Retired Folk,

As a retired educator, there's no better way than to help fight a disease, that every 10 minutes takes the life of a child or young adult under 20 from leukemia or a related cancer.

I discovered TNT, the Team in Training, which helps the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, and Hodgkin's disease.

Before dispersing to escape the cold, help me fulfill my pledge to raise \$3000 for this worthy cause.

I am training for a 13-mile walk mar-

athon at Walt Disney World Jan. 7, 2012. Today I did a 5-mile walk around Poughkeepsie. Nothing like a walk at 7:00 a.m. at 39 degrees to raise the blood pressure!

The final days of my training will be in Florida before the Jan. 7 half-marathon walk.

I will walk for all those who survived cancer, and for those we have lost. I will remember my mom, Jim DeNitto and Jack Booher, and all the kids who fall victim to their number one killer.

So go to the website, see my photo, use your credit card, and donate as much as

you can. If you already donated, donate another dollar! It might be the one that does the most good.

<http://pages.teamintraining.org/uny/wdw12/wfranca>

Thank you for your contribution.

Walter Franca WCRT Class of 2000

Life has a meaning only if one barter's it day by day for something other than it-self. Antoine de Saint Exupery



In Memoriam Elizabeth A. Moesel

Elizabeth A. Moesel, 66 years old, of Fishkill, died on Monday, December 12, 2011 at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie. She was born November 1, 1945 in Baltimore, MD and was the daughter of the late Edmond and Laurabelle Fischer Moesel.

Elizabeth grew up in Watertown, NY and was a graduate of Watertown High School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree and her Master's Degree from SUNY Potsdam.

She was employed by the Wappingers School District as a third grade teacher at Gayhead Elementary School for 34 years until her retirement in 2001. She was an officer of the Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers. [Liz was WCRT Treasurer.]

She enjoyed reading, traveling all over the world with friends and caring

for her pet cats.

Elizabeth is survived by her sister,

Margaret Arthur and her husband, Del, of Rockford, IL; her brother, John Moesel and his wife, Jamie, of Adams Center, NY; her nieces and nephews, Scott Arthur and his wife, Alicia, Sara Arthur, Allison Moesel, Michael Arthur and Adrienne Sliz and her husband, Josiah; grandnieces, Olivia and Cadence Arthur, several cousins and her loving co-



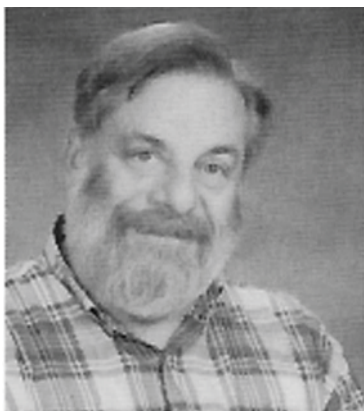
workers and friends.

Calling hours will be held on Wednesday, December 14 from 3 – 6 pm at the Robert H. Auchmoody Funeral Home, 1028 Main St., Fishkill. A memorial service will be held in the Fishkill area at a later date.

Additional calling hours will be held at the Cleveland Funeral Home in Watertown, NY, with burial at the Brookside Cemetery in Watertown.

The family suggests in lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund (#4336) of the Poughkeepsie Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc attn: Barbara Van Itallie 17 Croft Road Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 or the animal charity of one's choice.

For directions or to send the family an online condolence, please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com.



LAGRANGEVILLE - Martin Hillard Maslinoff died on November 19, 2011. He was 68.

Martin Hillard Maslinoff

He was born in Queens NY to Joseph and Aida Maslinoff. He is survived by his wife Eleanor, his beloved daughter Allison and son in-law, Scott, their two adorable children Jaden and Avery, and his sister Jane. Marty loved his step family and relatives. His friends were like an extended family.

He taught 6th grade in Fishkill Plains Elementary and Van Wyck Junior High School for 32 years [and retired in 1998.] He created and refinished beautiful furniture, while renovating his old farm house. Marty always had dreams and was willing to work to make them come true.

[Marty served as the first president of the original Wappingers Teachers' Association.]

Funeral Services will be held at Robert H. Auchmoody Funeral Home 1028 Main Street, Fishkill on Monday November 21, 2011 at 10:30am with burial following at the Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

The family will sit Shiva on Tuesday 2-4 and 6-8pm and Wednesday from 10-12 at family home.

For Martin's guestbook please visit www.hudsonvalleyfuneralhomes.com

Published in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* Nov. 20-21, 2011

RC 13 Regional Conference informative

from page 1

“We want to retire with dignity and financial security...401k vs. Defined Benefits Plan...bills for pension bills get more scrutiny...on the federal side, in the last two years, 7,000 people retired through attrition...call House members to put teachers back in the classroom...

“We can’t outspend our adversaries. Our strength lies in 600,000+ active and retired teachers...Education Advocacy Groups mobilize people ...One guy can write a check, but NYSUT can move lots of feet. You’ve sent 40,000 postcards to the governor and made 70,000 phone calls to legislators. The house of labor will still stand...The Constitutional Convention in 2017, held every 20 years, will cost \$55million.

psavage@NYSUTmail.org.

His report was followed by a question-and-answer period.

Mini session topics were Estate Planning, Zumba Gold, Lifespring, Mental Wellness, Gardening, and Medicare.

Keynote speaker Fran Dunwell, author of *The Hudson: America’s River*, used illustrations from her book to enhance her in-depth view of the Hudson River and its cultural heritage. Highlights include:

“People have been inspired by the river. It has changed the course of history...mythic river of monuments and mountains, statues, historic sites, and significance...The Statue of Liberty is on the Hudson because it’s a symbolic river...Ideas emerged out of the Hudson Valley

“The Hudson might not be America’s river; most say the Mississippi is. What sets it apart? World-class harbor in NYC, it doesn’t freeze because of the salt water, and connects to rich resources...It’s got wind, trees, clouds, and sunsets...The port’s ge-



Cover Story

ography and size is close to the ocean and the river connects it to the hinterland to send goods to port...

“It’s the only river at sea level up through the Appalachians that can handle cargo boats and pleasure craft...315 miles long and half estuary as far north as Troy...important trade route—important during wars. Waterways were war highways.

“...attracted people and entrepreneurs...its scenery fosters love of nature and its grandeur inspires mythic ideas...landscapes left impressions for the next generation...During the Industrial Revolution, the Monitor, which beat the Merrimac, was built in New York...

“In the arts, we have books, painters, and patrons concerned with conservation and protecting its forests and water supplies...

“Scenic Hudson, from the 1960s-1980s, was the river keeper. Pete Seeger helped fight for them...The river still needs to be protected and enjoyed.”

VP looks at website

Roger Higgins, WCRT 1st V.P. will review the WCRT website--reachable through the WCT site (WCTeachers.org)-looking for opportunities to update information, eliminate little-used links, create new ones, and generally try to make our site as “friendly” and functional for our members as possible.

If you have suggestions, things you’d like to see, improvements you’d like to see, please contact Roger at rogerhig@optonline.net.



WCRT generous to local causes

by Mary Coiteux
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 and Janet Capasso scholarships, and the Bernard and Leslie Leventhal Scholarship. We are proud of our ability to help students as they strive towards their educational goals.

Other ways the WCRT has contributed aid to our WCSD community include:

\$ supporting past WCSD PTA Science Fairs;

\$ contributing to the NYSUT Fair Trade Project; and

\$ donating to the Frank Flora Fund, to the Goals for Hope Soccer Tournament, and to the fund for Kate Moore’s children.

New retiree offers help

by Ellen Korz, WCRT Class of 2011

I had hoped that my message for the *Postscript* would have been in this last issue, but I sent it to the wrong person.

I told Sue Roger that I would do Plum Benefits through my personal e-mail for anyone who wanted it. It is a free service for discounted tickets to Broadway and other events in NYC.

Could you please put this information in the next issue? My e-mail is jtkorz@optonline.net.

I will make a group of those who want to receive the information and I will get them an access code.

They can contact me personally. It will be less confusing. I use the service anyway and so do others who started while they were active members.

Report newsletter distribution glitches, dues info, renewals

by Barbara Stuck,
WCRT Corresponding Secretary
and Membership Chairperson

Some WCRT members want to receive the *Commentator* and *PostScript* by email and have not received them. 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.

When a retiree gives us his/her email

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

The *Commentator* and *PostScript* may be viewed at wctteachers.org.

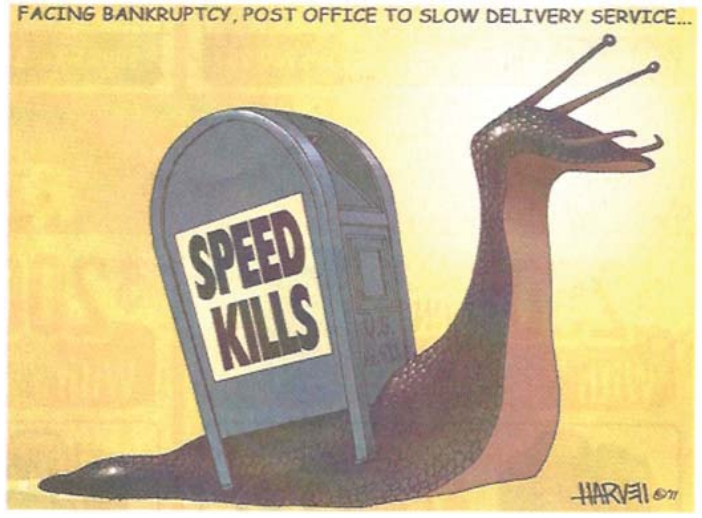
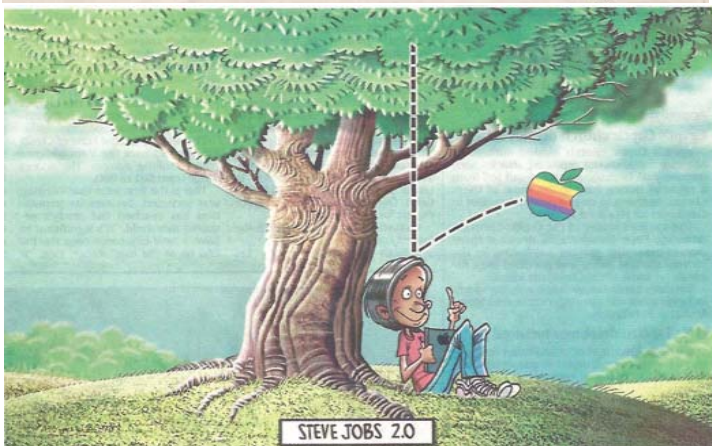
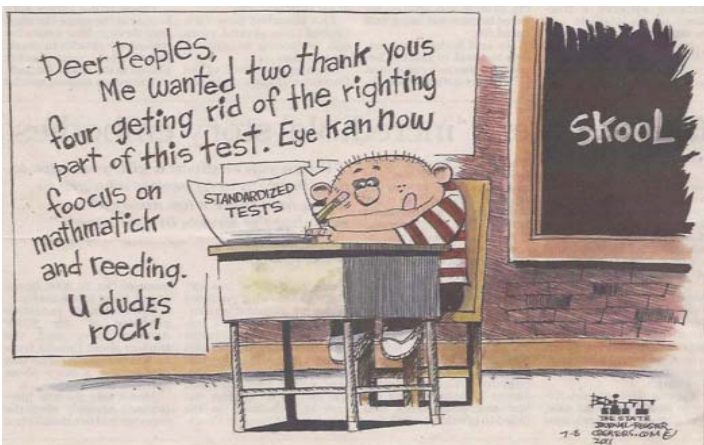
Several retirees have almost had their NYSUT benefits cancelled because they

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

Renewal notices will go out in the fall. Dues were raised for 2011-2012. New rates will be \$20.00 Yearly, \$200 Individual Lifetime, \$325.00 Couples Lifetime.

Pay Lifetime and alleviate the yearly task of renewing.

News since last issue



>>> **MUSCLES ABOUND:** Steve Ciaccio, WCRT Class of 2006, finds time to work out at a local gym. Many other WCRT members are also still active contributors in their communities. (See pages 4 and 7.)

Steve Ciaccio is shown working out at a gym. The advertisement text reads: "FREE WEIGHT CENTER", "RATES AS LOW AS \$12 per week", "All Sport celebrates 32 years in business with a low \$32 entry fee, during November. Come see what's new!", "ALL SPORT health & fitness", "allsporthealthandfitness.com", "474-2177". There is a QR code for a free pass.

Newsletter turns new changes into contest

Look for new changes in this *PostScript* issue compared to the August 2011 issue.

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 wdourdis@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: a brief description of each change and page number; 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.

Hopefully, you saved the August 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.

Contest deadline extended

Because of a delay in sending out the November 2011 *Commentator* and *PostScript*, the newsletter changes contest deadline will be extended to January 6, 2012 to give postal mail recipients an equal chance to enter and qualify for prizes.

This applies to both email and postal members. Get your entries in for an extra gift for the holidays.

Two WCRTers honored by Exchange Club

The Exchange Club of Southern Dutchess honored two of their own recently at the Ramada Inn in Fishkill. Charles Powers and Jack Devine were recognized by the club with one of the club's highest honors, The Book of Golden Deeds Award.

The breakfast was attended by approximately 60 club members and friends.

Retired Wappingers Central School District Superintendent Joe Corrigan paid homage to the two men with a speech that highlighted both their strengths and quirks, according to a release.

Powers taught fifth grade at Fishkill Elementary School for 35 years. Even after his retirement, he has remained very involved with the school. He is a board member of the New Hamburg Yacht Club as well as The Exchange Club of Southern

Dutchess.

Devine was also responsible for educating local youth. He taught in the Wappingers Central School District for 37 years. He serves on the board of the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers.

The Exchange Club of Southern Dutchess has been in operation for more than 30 years. The club consists of local citizens and business professionals who wish to socialize, to make new friends and to make a difference within the community. If you would like information about becoming a member, contact the club's membership director, Diane Landau-Flayter, at diane.landau-flayter@marist.edu.

Reprinted with permission of the *Poughkeepsie Journal*.



The Exchange Club of Southern Dutchess honored Charles Powers, left, and Jack Devine with one of the club's highest honors, The Book of Golden Deeds Award. (Courtesy photo)

NYSUT Defensive Driving courses offered

Unlike rising gas and food prices, the fee for the NYSUT Defensive Driving classes has remained at \$30.00 per person. (Recognized by the National Safety Council.)

The following classes have been scheduled for WCT and WCRT members and immediate family only in the Large Group Instruction room at RCK High School from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m:

Mon Mar 5 and 12, 2012

Tues May 29 and Jun 5, 2012

Participants MUST attend both sessions.

We will collect tuition for the Nov. class only. Make \$30 checks payable to: WCT, and mail to WCT Defensive Driving, Heritage Square, 2537 Route 52, Suite 15, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533.

Further announcements about the 2012 dates and tuition collection will come in the *Commentator* and *Post-Script* by email sometime early next year.



Jeanne Paino, Barbara Rowan, and Cathy Kim offer encouragement at Roy C. Ketcham High School Career Day, Nov. 10.

RC Ketcham Career Day

By Jeanne Paino, WCRT Class of '06

Cathy Kim, Barbara Rowan, '10, Ginny Woych, '10, and Jeanne Paino proudly represented the WCT at the Roy C. Ketcham Career Day on Thursday, November 10.

It was a fun way for us to share with young adults our feelings about our profession and teaching experiences.

We were very impressed with the enthusiasm and thoughtful questions the students at RCK presented to us. Hopefully our encouragement was helpful to them.

We all agreed that teaching is not just a career; it is a way of life!

Protect your WCRT, NYSUT membership

The WCRT by the numbers:

Total WCRT members	595
Lifetime	328
Yearly	186
Complimentary Lifetime	30
Complimentary	25
Retirees who chose not to be members.	70

Please note that membership letters go out in September. DEADLINE for payment of dues is Nov. 15. Anyone not paying by that date will have their name removed from our file and will be ineligible for NYSUT benefits. (Non-payees will be deleted by year's end.)

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

The centerpiece of the discussion in the WCT Representative Assembly has been the ongoing negotiations with the WCSD which continue without a settlement. Although the atmosphere is not conducive for progress, the negotiation team remains positive on future results. The question of pensions was addressed, and the emphasis was placed on the fact that the NYS Retirement System is fully funded (104%) and therefore viable and secure.

If you do business with Walgreens pharmacy, the agreement it has with Blue Shield/Blue Cross will expire December 31, 2011. Please call the WCT office for an update as well as make plans to do business with an alternative pharmacy if Walgreens is your current choice.

Negotiations continue with Westchester Medical Center for full coverage while we are still covered for emergencies at this facility. Of course, pressure to increase our contributions to health insurance premiums continues this year with no specifics at this

TOM DERITO



WCRT Rep. to WCT RA

time. However, to end this section on a positive note, we will receive a premium holiday this December for our health insurance payment.

The WCT will host a celebration of all new retirees, teachers awarded tenure this school year, and those receiving national certification. The dinner/dance will be held on Friday, May 18, 2012 at Arbor Ridge in Hopewell Junction with time and cost TBD.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! The future is our business.




www.nysut.org or
wct@frontiernet.net

Are you keeping your family's best interests in mind?

The importance of having a will cannot be overstated – this crucial legal document protects your family during their time of grief and ensures that your wishes are honored.

Drafting a will can help provide peace of mind for you today and prevent unnecessary stress for your family in the future. It also allows you to name a legal guardian if you have children under the age of 18. In addition, a will ensures that your estate will be distributed according to your desires.

A power-packed legal punch

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan – provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. – provides access to legal advice and assistance that is crucial when looking to create or update a will.

Each year, the plan provides for one simple will or update at no charge. A simple will provides for the proceeds of one's estate to be distributed to a specifically named beneficiary(ies), with an alternate distribution plan in the event that the primary beneficiary predeceases the writer of the will. With a simple will, proceeds are distributed outright with no conditions attached.

In addition to the simple will, you will receive a durable power of attorney, living will and health care proxy – all important documents to have in place before the need for them arises.

Discounted rates

NYSUT members can purchase the Legal Service Plan at the special cost of \$85 per year or \$55 per year for retirees; an Elder Law Rider and/or Business Protection Rider are available for an additional fee. Members eligible for payroll or pension deduction can take advantage of further savings.

Do you have other legal issues that you need assistance with, such as dealing with a speeding ticket or selling your home? The plan offers NYSUT members legal assistance for a variety of personal legal matters.

You will have access to unlimited, toll-free legal advice from plan attorneys; these attorneys will make phone calls and write third-party correspondence at no charge to resolve personal legal situations on your behalf before they become major problems. In

addition, when you enroll in this plan, you will receive two coupons for free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney.

How to get started

You can enroll in the voluntary plan online by visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or printing a descriptive brochure and enrollment form. Feel free to also contact NYSUT Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** with any questions about the plan.



Please note: if you belong to a local association that provides a group legal service plan through the local or its benefit fund, remember to take advantage of the plan's benefits.

The Legal Service Plan provided through Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. is a NYSUT Member Benefits Trust (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 33.33% of annual participation fees received for this program. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.



**WAPPINGERS
CONGRESS
OF RETIRED
TEACHERS**



**SPRING
LUNCHEON**

Thursday, May 10, 2012 12:00 noon

**Christo's Restaurant,
155 Wilbur Blvd. Poughkeepsie, NY**

Huge Hot and Cold Buffet Lunch served at 12:30p.m.

Cash Bar. Soft drinks included.

Cost per person is \$22.00.

Free parking on the premises.

All facilities ground floor accessible. No steps or stairs.

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

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

Please send check payable to WCRT to
Wappingers Congress of Teachers,
2537 Route 52, Suite 15, Hopewell Junction NY 12533
(and must be received no later than May 1, 2012.
Spouses and significant others welcome.



(return this bottom part with your check)



**WCRT SPRING LUNCHEON
\$22.00 Per Person**

**Thursday, May 10, 2012
Guests are welcome**

Name(s): _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Number of Reservations: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____