

Feb. 20, 2009

Vol. 37, No. 12

the WCT COMMENTATOR

Inside this Issue:

AFT Campaign Activities Generate Remarkable Enthusiasm	2
Grades 3-8 Testing Survey	2
Letter to Members	3
Union Dues for the 2008 Fiscal Year	3
Save the Date	3
Connect-Ability	4
Ralph & Janet Capasso Scholarship	4
Members' Classified Ads	5
Board of Education Meeting	6

WCT Shows Solidarity on AFT Unity Day



(Paul Nostrand, Meredith Inkeles, Diane DiChiara, Michelle Ross, Pasquale Delli Carpini, Ray Koretsky, Mary Ann Moran, Dawn Sala, Jane Stockslager - WCT Executive Board Members)



(Brian LaSusa, Kim Sokol, and Terri Langer - BR)



(Beth Kinney, Adeline Anderson, and Cara Riolo - KR)



(Ray Koretsky and John Hafner - RCK)



(Oak Grove Teachers)



(Wappingers Junior High Teachers)

AFT Campaign Activities Generate Remarkable Enthusiasm

By: Dan Gursky and Jared Schwartz - *AFT LeaderNet News* - February 12, 2009

As the final version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act moves through Congress and to President Obama for his signature, the AFT and its thousands of activists, who have been mobilized through the union's "Fight for America's Future: It's Dollars and Sense" campaign, can take credit for pushing their elected officials to make significant new investments in education, healthcare and other vital public services.

Since Fight for America's Future was launched less than a month ago, it has generated a remarkable amount of member activism. As the legislation was still taking shape, and members were asked to send letters and e-mails to Congress, more than 30,000 letters were sent. And when the bill was sent to a House-Senate conference committee this week, 600 members placed calls in just 24 hours, after they were urged to contact their senators and representatives and push for the critical level of funding in the House-passed version of the bill. Just as important, some 1,500 members in the past four weeks signed on as e-activists, so they will be able to continue working to support important AFT activities and priorities.

One of the most popular—and visual—campaign events was "Unity Day" on Feb. 10, when members across the country showed their support for the recovery plan by wearing blue to work. The Fight for America's Future Web

site has a slideshow of members who wore blue on Feb. 10. The AFT already has received 150 Unity Day photos from members, and more are coming in every day.

The AFT took the campaign to the public and to opinion leaders, as well. A series of banner ads on popular blogs generated a big spike in traffic to the Fight for America's Future Web site. The campaign Web site has been visited 15,000 times since the launch. A series of print ads also appeared in popular Capitol Hill publications: *Roll Call*, *The Hill* and the *National Journal*, which are must-reads for members of Congress and their staffs.

The most effective contacts with legislators are always face-to-face, and the national portion of the campaign also included visits by AFT leaders to their representatives and senators. A lobby day on Feb. 4 brought more than 40 AFT leaders from 20 states to Washington to meet with senators and their staffs. Many of them also conducted interviews with radio stations to talk about why they were lobbying on Capitol Hill for the recovery plan. The radio interviews reached a total audience of nearly 16 million listeners.

The campaign now will shift more to the states, where there will be battles over state budgets and how best to use the recovery act money that soon will be flowing to the governors and to local districts.



Grades 3 - 8 Testing Survey

The link to the Grades 3-8 testing survey is posted at <http://www.nysut.org> or go directly to <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/Grades38TestingSurvey.cfm>. The survey will be on-line until February 27, 2009.

Letter to Members

Dear Teachers,

GUESS WHO'S TURNING 100 YEARS OLD?

Fishkill Elementary has been providing the children of our community with a wonderful educational experience for the past 100 years.

To mark this momentous occasion, we are planning a 100th Year Celebration next year that will feature a series of events involving the entire community. Fishkill PTA is initiating fundraising efforts to help support the celebration.

One of these fundraisers will be a Spring Gala at the Villa Borghese on March 21st. We would like for you to attend! We are reaching out to all our present and retired teachers as well as our wonderful alumni to come join us for an

evening of fun and dancing. Bring your favorite memories and pictures with you to share with us.

Tickets for this event will be sold in advance and the attendees will have the opportunity to purchase raffle chances for many prizes we hope to offer.

For information on this event please contact one of our PTA volunteers:

Priscilla Rosanio 440-7036
Annie Rozycki 896-1912

Hope to see you there!

Fishkill PTA



Union Dues for the 2008 Fiscal Year

**Jan-Jun is 12 x 34.10 =
\$409.20**

**Sept-Dec is 8 x 35.52 =
\$284.16**

Total for year is \$693.36

A graphic with a hand-drawn, sketchy border. At the top, a grey banner contains the text 'Save the Date' in a cursive font. Below this, the text 'WCT's Recognition Dinner!' is written in a larger, elegant cursive font. Underneath, the event details are listed in a simple sans-serif font: 'When: April 24, 2009', 'Time: Cocktail Hour 6-7 p.m., Dinner 7p.m.', and '\$40 per guest'. At the bottom, the text 'More information coming soon!' is written in a cursive font.

Save the Date

*WCT's
Recognition
Dinner!*

When: April 24, 2009
Time: Cocktail Hour 6-7 p.m.,
Dinner 7p.m.
\$40 per guest

*More information
coming soon!*

Connect-Ability: A newsletter on disabilities awareness prepared by and for students

www.nysut.org/connect
We Need Your Help

We are looking for students in grades 7-12 who are interested in writing essays, fiction or poetry related to disability.

We want this newsletter to connect students with and without disabilities so that we can learn from one another, make friendships and participate in an inclusive environment.

The Disabilities Awareness Newsletter has been in existence for 12 years and is sent to high schools across New York State. It is edited by high school students who serve on its editorial board. It is published each year, widely distributed and read by students, teachers and parents across the state.

If you or a student you know would like to learn more about how to participate in this exciting project, contact Terry McSweeney, NYSUT assistant in Educational Services, at (800) 342-9810, ext. 6047 or at tmcswen@nysutmail.org.

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 2009. 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 **Tuesday, March 31, 2009.**

Committee members are: James DeNitto, June May and Norma Najjar

Stressed about work? Having financial issues and need to talk about it?
Are you having a family issue and you don't know what to do? Or you just
need someone to listen?

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The EAP provides free confidential assessments, information, and referral services to all WCSD employees and their immediate family members.

EAP's 24-hour a day crisis line is staffed by a trained counseling professional.

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or during regular business hours, you may reach the EAP
at **485-3710.**

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Ed McKenna - 845-471-7607

EdmundTMckennaJr@gmail.com



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(continued on page 6)

Members' Classified Ads *cont. from page 5*

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see us at:

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SUMMER RENTAL: Cape Cod, Falmouth, walk to beach, harbor and town restaurants/shops. Three bedrooms/2 baths, AC, washer/dryer, sleeps 6. \$1600/week July and August; \$1200/week June and September. Call for weekend rates – Bill and Anne 223-5734.

FOR SALE: mirrored medicine cabinet - door all mirrored and interior mirrored with glass shelves, attached light bar also mirrored. Like new, \$55.00 or best offer. Also light switches - Decora brand, and several door knobs for hall and closet doors. Call Herb at 297-5657.

FOR RENT: LBI New Jersey house with two separate levels. Each level sleeps six, has air conditioning, sit-in kitchen, two bedrooms, deck, and living room with cable TV and DVD player. Both levels share an outdoor washer/dryer, grill, and refreshing outdoor shower. The house is located at 102 East NY, which is six houses from the beach on the ocean side. Please contact Chris at 845-542-0412 if you would like to learn more about this ideal vacation spot.

FOR RENT: \$600/month Large bedroom house share in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Everything included. Month to month. Clean house, Nice neighborhood, close to everything! Kevin (585)339-8147.

THINK SUMMER!

FOR RENT: 2 BR, 2 BA Condo in OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND. Bayside, beautiful sunsets, fishing. Right next to the pool. Centrally located, close to all the amenities. Just cross the street to the ocean. Call Sandy at 896-1678 for more information or to reserve a week.

Board of Education Meeting

The next Board of Education meeting will be held February 23, 2009 at the District Offices. Brinckerhoff, John Jay, and Orchard Views are scheduled to attend.