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the WCT COMMENTATOR

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Congratulations to the Retirees of 2009!

Linda Adams

Kenneth Babineau

Judy Cummins

Deborah Dvorkin

Jo-Ann Fury

Leanne Hassett

Joan Kavanagh

Philip Levitch

Susan Lewis

Roni Maschas

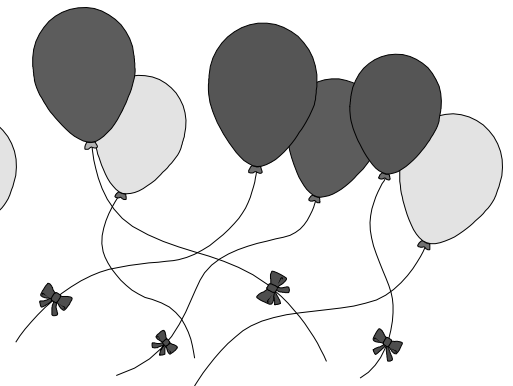
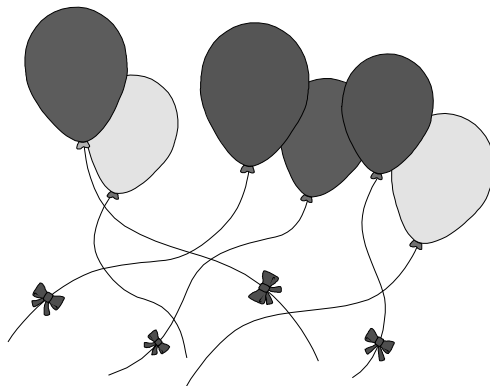
Ellen Metzger-O'Shea

Bernadette Murphy

Rob Pribeck

Elizabeth Solomon

Susan Stillerman





From the President's Pad

Moving Forward...

Dear Colleagues,

It never ceases to amaze me how the school year flies by. What never surprises me is the extraordinary work and dedication members give to the WCT. Working together, we have been able to accomplish many worthwhile goals. One such goal that will make a difference in our professional lives is the passing of the budget and the election of three new positive school board members on May 19th. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation are extended to **Flip Gertler** (VP Political Action) for his hard work and organizational skills, coordinating all the volunteers who helped in the various capacities for the school board election and budget vote. The many hours of devoted service by Flip and several WCT members in stuffing envelopes, working the phone banks, handing out fliers, sending postcards, and posting signs made the difference. I would certainly be remiss if I did not extend my gratitude to the interviewing committee. During this arduous task, the expert advice and guidance of **Cliff Foley** were invaluable.

As of December 16, 2008, Wappingers Central School District was facing a \$6.1 million deficit. This would have represented massive layoffs, crippling the education of our students. Through the VOTE/COPE contribution, and the efforts of NYSUT in Albany, the money was restored. Furthermore, with the federal stimulus, I am confident that positions will be restored for our members. To make sure that our elected officials are cognizant of the importance of funding mandates in education; the WCT was well-

represented at the February 3rd rally in Albany, and the subsequent meetings of Committees of One Hundred March 24th and May 12th.

If the economy continues to falter, we might be faced with many uphill battles for the 2009-2010 school year, with the possibilities of job losses, larger classes and other challenges. It is extremely important for us to come together when called to action; remembering that **unity = strength**. Rest assured that the leadership of the WCT will always work diligently, being prepared to address difficult issues, and proactive in keeping its members informed.

After 25 years of dedicated service, our Administrative Assistant and Welfare Trust Fund Administrator, **Linda Leito** is retiring in August. Her commitment and hard work have been essential ingredients in the smooth-running of this organization. Her contributions to the Wappingers Congress of Teachers will be sorely missed. On behalf of the members, I would like to express our gratitude and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

I would like to especially recognize the executive board members for their hard work and dedication. The Wappingers Congress of Teachers is truly blessed to have such remarkable people in the leadership of the union. My sincerest thanks go to: **Michael Lyons** (VP Elementary), **Raymond Koretsky** (VP Secondary), **Flip Gertler** (VP

(continued on page 3)

From the President's Pad

(continued from page 2)

Political Action), **Mary Ann Moran** (VP External Communications), **Meredith Inkeles** (VP Internal Communications), **Christine Romano** (Secretary), **Donna Basile** (Treasurer), **Martha Bilsback**, **Michelle Ross**, **Dawn Sala** (Elementary at Large), **Diane DiChiara**, **Paul Nostrand**, and **Jane Stockslager** (Secondary at Large).

As always, recognition goes to **Susan Roger**, President of the Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers. Her able leadership is essential and plays an integral role in the union. We must never forget the many retirees who are always ready, willing and able to lend a helping hand whenever necessary.

The exemplary editorial skills of **Meredith Inkeles** have been vital not only to the success of *The Commentator*, but to the WCT as a whole. She has served as V.P. of Internal Communications for 4 ½ years, as well as webmaster for 4 years. Over the course of her 6 year reign as editor of *The Commentator*, she has been duly acknowledged with numerous awards for Best Informational Website, in addition to several New York Teacher Journalism Awards. Working with Meredith has been both an honor and privilege, and I thank her for all of the significant contributions made to the WCT.

I would like to acknowledge the members of the Welfare Trust Fund: **Christine Romano** (Chairperson), **Betty Seifert** (Treasurer), **Erin Mulligan** (Secretary), **Flip Gertler** (Trustee), and **Linda Leito** (Administrator) for their invaluable service that they provide in preserving, protecting, and improving members' benefits.

Recognizing the great need in our community during these challenging economic times, **Michelle Ross** selflessly gave of her time to organize a Community Food Drive. The food that was collected between May 19th - 27th went to the Zion Food Pantry, which is operated through Zion Episcopal Church. The donations made by the Wappingers Congress of Teachers were a great success and help to feed 70 families in the local community. **Brava Michelle!**

I would like to take this time to wish you and your families a most restful and enjoyable summer vacation!

In solidarity,

Pasquale Delli Carpini

Pasquale Delli Carpini
WCT President

Editor's Note

It has been a pleasure serving the WCT and its members as the *WCT Commentator* editor, web master, and VP of Internal Communications. Thank you to all the members who have contributed articles over the years. I wish the new editor, web master, and VP much success.

In solidarity,

Meredith Inkeles

Meredith Inkeles

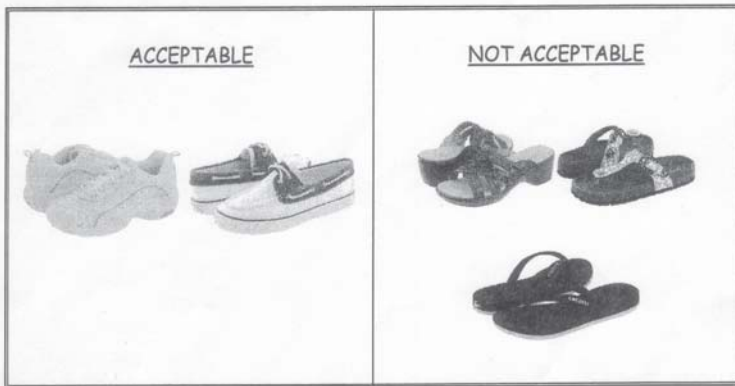
Playground Safety Tip

Proper footwear is essential to safety on the playground for not only the kids using the equipment, but also for adults watching over them.

Kids need the proper footwear in order to minimize the chance they will lose their balance on the equipment which could lead to a fall and possibly an injury.

Adults need proper footwear in order to be able to get to an injured child in a hurry. If improper footwear is worn, the adult will not be able to move quickly enough especially in the area where the protective cushioning has been installed. Not only could this slow their response to an emergency, but it could lead to an injury to them!

Shown below are some examples of acceptable and not acceptable footwear for playgrounds. Soles should be rubber or similar material capable of gripping the surfaces. Open toes and those with nothing around the back of the ankle are not acceptable.



* If you have any questions, please contact a member of the District Safety Team.

2009 Summer Preretirement Planning Seminars

Make a reservation through the **MyNYSTRS** area of the NYSTRS web site at www.nystrs.org, or by calling (800) 356-3128, Ext. 6180.

- **Albany:** July 20 & August 25 at NYSUT Headquarters
- **Fishkill:** July 9 at the Holiday Inn
- **Middletown:** August 20 at the Crystal Run Holiday Inn

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 through 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



Communications to the WCT

Looking back, I'm filled with gratitude,
Looking forward, I'm filled with hope,
Looking upward, I seek strength
Looking inward, I seek peace.

The past 25 years have been memorable.

I just want to say how great it has been working for the WCT.

I worked with some amazing, generous, gracious, thoughtful people and I will never forget them.

I wish all of you the very best.

Thank you.
Linda Leito

To the Editor:

The food from the WCT Food Drive has been collected from all the schools and the results are gratifying. The Zion Food Pantry in Wappingers Falls is the benefactor of the WCT generosity and, more importantly, thoughtfulness. Eighty-two boxes have been sorted and prepared for distribution. By the time this letter is published, much of the food will have been given out to our needy neighbors. Without Food Drives to supplement our supplies we would be hard pressed to keep up with demands. So far we have never turned away any individual or family who have come to us for life's most basic necessities. We would like to especially thank Michelle Ross of Gayhead and Dawn Sala of Myers Corners who originally conceived and organized the Food Drive. For their efforts and initiatives the volunteers of the Zion Food Pantry say, "Thank You!". You made a difference.

Sincerely,
Jack Devine
Zion Food Pantry

Dear WCT and WCRT,

Thank you very much for the lovely bag of goodies for my retirement. I was surprised and touched to receive the certificate, pin, and letters, and I was amazed to find myself the owner of that gold watch (okay, silver) that we all joke about.

It has been a privilege to work with so many of you over the past 22 years. Despite the challenges, ours is a profession which gives enormous satisfaction and is a source of great pride. We really do make a difference.

While I look forward to spending more time with family, and possibly attacking the piles of invaluable relics in our cellar, I know that I will miss the company of children and the support of colleagues.

Thank you.

In solidarity,
Betsy Solomon

Dear Mr. Delli Carpini,

Thank you for awarding me the Wappingers Congress of Teachers Ralph and Janet Capasso Scholarship. I am honored to be the recipient of this prestigious award.

I will be attending Ithaca College in the fall as a Music Education major to further my abilities as a musician and gain the proper training to eventually teach music. It will be a very difficult four years, but I can assure you that I will work hard and learn all that I can in order to become the best teacher I can be.

Thank you again for granting me this scholarship. I truly appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Richard J. Rose

RCK Business and Marketing Honor Society Holds Awards Breakfast

By: Kathleen Conroy

On May 27, 2009, Roy C. Ketcham High School celebrated their New York State Business and Marketing Honor Society Awards Breakfast in the school library. Twenty-two students were inducted into the New York State Business and Marketing Honor Society for the 2008 - 2009 school year. Mr. Todd Mensch, the Coordinator for Business and Math, was invited to speak to the students and distribute certificates, cards, pins and Honor Cords for graduating seniors. Mrs. Sherrill Lazarus, the school principal, was in attendance to congratulate the students.

The Business teachers at Roy C. Ketcham High School in attendance were Mrs. Maryalice Goodall, Mrs. Kathleen Conroy, Miss Karen Noye, Mrs. Kristen Bockemuhl and Mrs. Corinne Streever. Student's requirements to become members of the Honor Society were based on academic excellence, character, leadership and community service. After the awards were distributed students and faculty shared in an early morning breakfast.



(Mr. Todd Mensch, Maryalice Goodall, Karen Noye, Kathy Conroy, Kristen Bockemuhl, Corinne Streever, & students)

Wappingers Congress of Teachers Welfare Trust Fund

Same-Sex Spouse Eligibility

We are pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2009 the Wappingers Congress of Teachers Welfare Fund ("Fund") has amended the definition of "spouse" for eligibility for Fund benefits to include same-sex spouses of marriages legally performed outside of New York in jurisdictions where such marriages are permitted. This policy is consistent with that of the Wappingers Central School District's Health Plan.

Please be further advised that if your same-sex spouse is not your "dependent" as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, then the fair market value of the benefits provided to your same-sex spouse is considered income to you, the employee/member.

If, however, your same-sex spouse is your dependent for income tax purposes, then you should provide proof of same to the Fund to avoid inclusion of the fair market value of the benefits in your income. **Of course, you should consult your tax advisor if you have any questions about your same-sex spouse's dependent status.**

Since the Wappingers Central School District as the contributing employer may ask the Fund for a list of those members/employees that have enrolled a same-sex spouse with the Fund, you will have to execute a Same-Sex Spouse Dependency Affidavit if you list your same-sex spouse as a dependent on your income tax returns. This Affidavit relieves the Fund from having to report the value of benefits provided to your same-sex spouse by the Fund to the Wappingers Central School District for the inclusion on your W-2 form.

The Affidavit is available from the Fund office upon request.

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WELFARE TRUST FUND

THE MORNING LINE reemerges to IDENTIFY: THE TOP TEN REASONS WHY YOU KNOW its 2009!

By: Bill Green – Retirement Class of '99

- Number 10: None of your students have ever heard of a typewriter, a TV antenna, a Phone Booth, a transistor radio, or a Record Player
- Number 9: When “lost” you now get directions from your cell phone or your wrist watch!
- Number 8: You keep entering passwords when using your MICROWAVE!
- Number 7: Your baby-sitter, your dog-groomer, your lawn-service guy and your neighbor’s kid’s Lemonade Stand...all have WEB SITES!
- Number 6: You’re continually attempting to change channels on your flat screen rear projection plasma TV with your “cordless phone!”
- Number 5: You have 14 different phone numbers stored in quick dial for your “two kids!”
- Number 4: You now have 875 different cable TV stations!
- Number 3: You’re more worried this year about a “COMPUTER VIRUS” than the “SWINE FLU!”
- Number 2: A washed up actor or a third string major league baseball player is making more money in one season than you made in a 35 year teaching career.
- Number 1: The THREE things in 2009 you cannot live without (forgetabout family, religion, friends, etc.) are your REMOTE CONTROL, YOUR COMPUTER and your CELL PHONE!

Volunteers Needed...

...for Wappingers Community Day on September 13, 2009. Contact Ellen Korz (VW) or Emily Guthoff (VW) if interested.

Scholarship Winners Announced

The 2009 WCT BOCES Award recipients are: Slysia Niec (RCK) and Christopher Reynolds (JJ). They will receive \$100.00 each.



5 more days until summer vacation!

Members' Classified Ads -

FOR RENT: Carriage House/ Studio. \$895/ month. Single Occupancy. Private Entrance/ Building. Off Street Parking. Furnished/ Utilities Included. Large Private Deck. Private Bath, Living, Kitchen, Dining Area w/ Loft Bed. Basic Cable Included. Easy Access to Main Roads. No Smoking, No Pets and No Water Beds. Serious Inquiries Only. Available 8 - 1 - 09. Please call 845-702-7579.

FOR SALE: Reel and solar cover for 15X30 above ground pool. \$40.00. Call: (845) 226-8769.

FOR SALE: 1 bedroom newly renovated condo in Montclair Townhouses. Backs up to the woods for great privacy. New kitchen, bathroom, and carpet. Close to I-84, Route 9, and the Thruway. Pristine condition. For more information call 845-297-6693.

FOR SALE: 2 bedroom, 1 bath condo on the first floor. 1,030 square feet. Hardwood in dining room, ceramic tile in kitchen and bath. Nearly new everything: hot water tank (2 years), stove (6 months), dishwasher (2 years), master bedroom A/C (1 year), and windows have been updated. Use of club house, in-ground pool, playground, basketball & tennis courts included in the common charges. Convenient to Metro North, Taconic, I-84, shopping, schools. Asking \$155,000. (845) 632-2164.

FOR SALE: One bedroom condo at Envoy Plaza, Beechwood Ave, Poughkeepsie (off Route 9) LR/DR/ Kitchen, BR, Bath, 4 large closets. Spackenkill School District. Owner, Michael Scheff – call 592-0286.

FOR SALE: (by owner) Why rent when you can own? Spacious 3-bedroom condominium located on Rt.9W, Town of Newburgh, 3.5 miles north of Newburgh-Beacon Bridge in Parr Valley East, in Marlboro Schools. Excellent commuting location, close to train station, Stewart Airport and both I-84 or NYS Thruway. 1100 sq. ft., with a one-year old central heating, venting, air conditioning unit and condenser and a newly installed water heater, dishwasher, clothes washer/dryer in the condo, with a recently renovated bathroom. Ceiling fans in every room and quiet surroundings for this ground level end unit. In-ground pool and child's playground area on premises. Asking \$159,000. Please call Joe at 845-590-2344.

FOR SALE: (by owner) Condo - Deer Run, Middletown NY. 2 bedroom/ 2 full baths with laundry room. Central Air. 2 car garage with storage. Built in 2003. Immaculate condition. Close to I-84 and shopping. Pool, Clubhouse, tennis courts, gorgeous landscaping. Call Mike at 845-518-1852.

FOR RENT: Two - 1 Bedroom Poolside Units Available (each sleeps 4) \$1000 apiece. Morritt's Tortuga Club and Resort offers beachside vacation home on beautiful Grand Cayman Island. Relax on the silky sand or by the pool, dive into the crystalline offshore waters, and enjoy aquatic pastimes. The resort offers a complete diving, snorkeling, and windsurfing program plus an array of activities and nightly entertainment. David's, the on-site restaurant, provides international and island cuisine. Email Lakelady50@comcast.net.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Separate bedroom for rent in the Chelsea Cove complex. \$650/month includes utilities. Availability: mid-summer. Outside of Wappingers School District, but short commute to many Wappingers Schools. Access to tennis courts and lakeside beach. Contact Alyson for more info: 845-596-1392.

FOR SALE: Bicycles - 20 inch boys bicycle and a 20 inch girls bicycle. Best offer. Call Steve 462-8557.



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WCRT



THINK SUMMER! FOR RENT: 4 bedroom beach house in Charlestown, RI, only 2 1/2 hrs from Dutchess Co. 1 1/2 baths, large screened-in porch, newly remodded fully equipped kitchen, large rec room in finished basement with pool table, and outdoor shower. Sleeps 8 comfortably. Just bring your bathing suit! It is less than 1 mile to lovely beach with private beachside parking. It also is within 1/2 mile of stores and casual restaurant. Newport, Mystic, Foxwoods, and Block Island ferry are a short drive away. If interested, call Roberta at 221-9872.

FOR SALE: Candel Country Kitchen Table with leaf and 6 chairs (40x60 inches without leaf) - brown table with green back and chair legs - \$800.00. 3 White Halcyon Serenity standard piano swivel chair with floral cushions. Call 845-471-3193.

FOR SALE: Verizon LG enV2 cell phone. No need to extend your contract just to upgrade your phone! Used three months; in perfect condition. Includes leather case, lucite cover, wall charger, 2 car chargers, 2 data cables/chargers, owner's manual. \$125 for everything. 845/297-6529.

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