

# Good Things Happen When Our Members Vote

The construction and repair bond won overwhelming support in March with over 3000 voters voting. To help assure the larger than average turnout, letters were sent out to NTA members who may have missed December's opportunity to vote. In addition, joint advertisements paid by the District's Civil Service Employees Association, the Newburgh Supervisors and Administrators Association and the Newburgh Teachers' Association encouraged a positive vote.

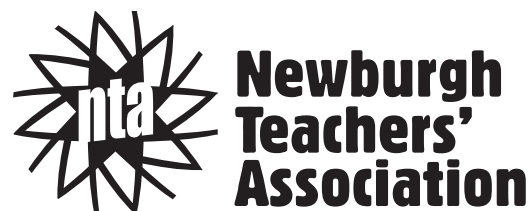
"Being behind a repair project and field enhancements necessary to support grade re-

configuration was a 'no brainer.' Fortunately for all of us, our entire educational community stood up and were counted," commented NTA President Phil Cordella.

Of particular note for NTA members is the role the Union plays on the "Building Advisory Teams" when there is construction taking place on site. Each head delegate, or designee, must be an active partner with the District as the scheduled work proceeds. Any issues which might affect the staffs must have full review of

each team.

At the April NTA Head Delegates meeting the complete list of projects were distributed and reviewed as well as the composition of each advisory group. Every school except Heritage, GAMS, Gardnertown and will have some sort of construction going this summer. Improvements to those other building will commence in the summer of 2008.



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The official in-house publication of the Newburgh Teachers' Association

# the Pendulum

Vol.38 • No.4 • May • 2007



# NTA Gets Behind Budgets, Books, and Buses

**T**he NTA's Delegate Assembly passed a resolution to support the upcoming school district and library budget. It also was in favor of this year's new, District resolution which officially eliminates minimum mileage restrictions when determining who and who may not be bused to and from school.

Although the school budget increase is nearly 12%, this budget requires an increase of less than a 6% tax burden on homeowners, which is welcome news to District taxpayers. This is the case even after adding nearly 60 new teaching positions, a number of new teacher assistants, and a net gain of two additional school security guards.

Under the governor's four year spending plan, public education is posed to receive an additional \$7.8 billion dollars—yes, billions. The issue no longer remains whether or not we will get additional funding, but rather what are Districts doing differently to improve student performance. This has become the focus of the debate.

Since the NTA and the District have already begun discussions regarding smaller class size, quality professional development, extended school year programs (formerly summer school), and after school tutoring for every child who needs it, it is evident that we are far ahead in our planning. We are proud of our continued joint effort with the District on school improvement.

"A Yes vote on May 15th's school budget is the only responsible and professional thing to do. Pro-child teachers, teaching assistants, and our brother and sisters in our larger educational family, CSEA, should be clear and confident that

this is a pro-education budget," commented NTA President Cordella.

Furthermore, the Newburgh Free Library deserves our support, and, as we have stated elsewhere in this newsletter, students must be kept

out of harm's way. The NTA does not want students forced to walk on roads to and from school. We must vote for a "zero" walking policy.

Please remember to vote YES on Propositions 1, 2, & 3 Tuesday, May 15, 2007. Polls are open from 12 noon – 9:00 PM.



alchardt '07

# Our Entire Educational Community Needs to Elect Woodhull, Bowles, and McAfee

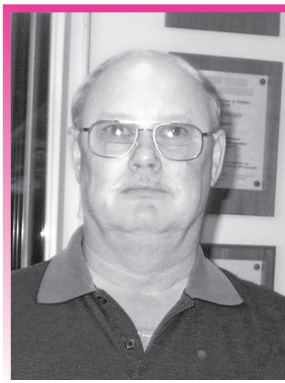
In an era when public service is called into question by the quality of candidates, this election year the NTA is confronted with a situation where there were many excellent candidates running for the Newburgh Board of Education Tuesday, May 15, 2007.

The candidates include the incumbent and long time friend of the NTA, Tom Woodhull. Never a week goes by without seeing Tom out in front on a District health and safety issue on behalf of our members. Married to an elementary teacher and having raised two sons who graduated from NFA, Tom is attuned to our Union's educational issues and a proud student advocate. The NTA voted to support Mr. Woodhull candidacy for re-election at a Special Board of Directors meeting held Monday, April 30, 2007.

Incumbent Grace Bowles, an NTA member and retired NFA music teacher, is clearly pro-education and pro-teacher, and, like Tom, deserves re-election based on her commitment to students. Grace is married to a City of Newburgh councilman and retired Newburgh teacher and NTA member George Bowles. Grace's daughter Anita is also a teacher; she works at GAMS. The



Grace Bowles



Tom Woodhull



Judy McAfee

After serious consideration and discussion, and in a Board of Education election year so ripe with promise, the NTA Board of Directors passed an "endorsement motion." The NTA proudly backs Tom Woodhull, Grace Bowles, and Judy McAfee, and now the Union will urge its voting members to support these candidates for public

office. NTA has also voted to support Ms. Bowles re-election bid.

Recently bursting onto the scene, but with brilliance, is Judy McAfee. Judy, like the endorsed incumbents, is an education advocate and knows educational issues inside and out. In 2002, Judy retired after 34 years in a public school classroom, the last 28 years as an English teacher at NFA. Judy too is an NTA member and now works as an adjunct professor teaching graduate level education courses at Mount Saint Mary College.

Judy stated: "I love training teachers. I find it exciting when you can put new things into their hands that will work with the kids in the classroom and will make their jobs easier. It is to Ms. McAfee that the NTA throws its support for the third and final slot.

"As well as supporting the budget, phone bank callers will be telling District voters to vote for Tom, Grace, and Judy, ballot positions 1, 5, & 6." noted NTA Educational Issues Advocacy Chair Joe Lotito.

In addition, NTA President Phil Cordella stated, "We could have easily played the incumbent card and stopped at two. After all, Tom and Grace were sitting Board members when our historic, four year, NTA contract was ratified." Cordella went on to say, "But how do you turn your back on a new candidate whose commitment to educational issues and to students are so apparent to all who listen to what Judy has to say?"

Please remember to vote Tuesday, May 15, 2007. Polls are open 12 noon – 9:00 PM.

## Student Safety at Stake

The third ballot proposition on the May 15, 2007 vote is an important one for District voters to decide. Current District policy requires those secondary students who live one mile and elementary students who live nine tenths of a mile away from their schools to be allowed to use District transportation, rather than have students walking near or off the shoulder of roads, like Meadow Hill and Fostertown Roads. While the current policy is more lenient than the 3 mile/2 mile state minimum, the District fearing unsafe road conditions, has set the proposed figure to "zero" walking for both groups. Although the District has been busing children using this "zero policy," this cannot continue without a permissive

referendum passing by voters in the District.

Phil Cordella, NTA President, has made the NTA's position on this busing issue clear: "In order to avoid dangerous walking situations for our youngsters, the District's "zero distance" policy has the overwhelming support of the NTA." President Cordella further stated: "If this proposition were to fail, come September our young people would be in harm's way, which is totally against everything our Union believes in about the health and safety of our children. We must come out in force in order to keep our children safely in school buses and not walking on or near roads or across busy intersections."

## NTA Recognizes Contribution of CSEA

Nearly 30 members of the Newburgh Civil Service Association will be joining the Newburgh Teachers' Association at its Friend of Education diner on June 15 at the Powelton Club. The annual event also honors retiring teachers and has become the culminating event of the school year for our organization and a celebration of the years of service for the retiring members of the NTA.

In March, the NTA Delegate Assembly unanimously voted to bestow its highest honor to those CSEA staff members who work side by side with us in order to educate the children of our district. By being honored as the 2007 Friend of Education, the award recognizes the "behind the scenes" CSEA employee who plays a vital and respected role in the smooth running of our District and in the delivery of our educational mission.

Also, this past year CSEA President Joyce

Quinn met with NTA President Phil Cordella almost weekly. They met in the spirit of unity as they collaboratively worked alongside Superintendent of Schools Dr. Annette Saturnelli and Newburgh Supervisors and Administrator Association President, Ed Mucci. Together they helped to chart the course for the future of the District as members of the CORE advisory team.

"I have come to get to know Joyce Quinn across the table and have been extremely impressed by her dedication, her commitment, and her leadership on behalf of the CSEA. Often overlooked and sometimes unappreciated, I would be the first to say we would not be able to function without CSEA support. I am proud to be representing the NTA as its President the year the officers and members of the CSEA are being recognized with this prestigious and deserving award," stated NTA President Phil Cordella.

## Dates to Remember

- 5.07 ▶ Phone Banks 6p.m.
- 5.08 ▶ Teaching Assistant Bldg. Reps 4:15 Teaching Assistant PTO Appreciation Night 6 p.m.
- 5.09 ▶ NTA Board of Directors 4:15 Phone Banks 6 p.m.
- 5.10 ▶ Senator Larkin Fundraiser 7 p.m. Phone Banks 6 p.m.
- 5.11 ▶ Temple Hill New Teacher Dinner 7 p.m.
- 5.14 ▶ District-wide SAVE Teachers & TA's 4:15 Phone Banks 6 p.m.
- 5.15 ▶ School Board Elections and Budget Vote 12 Noon - 9 p.m. District-wide SAVE Committee 3:15
- 5.16 ▶ Delegate Assembly 4:15
- 5.21 ▶ Head Delegates 4:15
- 5.25 ▶ District Wide Special Ed Teachers 4:15
- 6.15 ▶ Friend of Education/Retirement Recognition 4:15

## The NTA in D.C.



NTA Officers and Delegates recently attended the NYSUT Representative Assembly in Washington, D.C. There they visited the U.S. Capitol and are seen above at the office of U.S. Congressman John Hall.



Pictured above (l. to r.): Robin Grove, Carol Franklin, NTA President Philip Cordella, NTA Treasurer Angela Sartori, David Brown, Patty Van Duser, Sheila Manning, Jeff Gebhardt, NTA Vice-President Vicky Pittman, and Jim Nee.

**the Pendulum**  
www.newburghta.org

The Newburgh Teachers' Association  
Official Publication  
New York State United Teachers  
American Federation of Teachers  
Local 2867, AFL-CIO  
Founding Editor: John Wolner

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**nysut** **AFL-CIO**

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