

the **Pendulum**
The official in-house publication of the
Newburgh Teachers' Association
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The Newburgh Teacher Center is BACK!

The Newburgh Teacher Center has been revitalized and is currently housed at the Newburgh Teachers' Association building. Mentor pairing will be completed during December, National Board Certification Training will be up and running in January and the many other invaluable services will be coming as the revitalization continues. You can contact the Newburgh Teacher Center Coordinator, Jim Nee, at jnee@newburghta.com with any questions or concerns.

We have laminators, large poster machine, book binder, and computers for all to use! Stop by and check it out!

Winter/Spring 2012 In-Service Proposals

The Newburgh Teacher Center is now accepting electronic in-service course proposals for Winter/Spring 2012. Please download the in-service proposal application forms and additional proposal information by accessing the NECSD website under "Staff/Faculty – In-Service Course Request."

Once your completed application has been received, the NTC will contact you with a date and time to be interviewed by the NTC Policy Board In-service Interview Committee.

All proposals must be submitted and received on or before November 23, 2011

NYS Teacher Center Offers New Technology Discount Program

The New York State Teacher Center Network has a new technology discount program. Teachers logging into the NYS Teacher Centers TC website at www.nyiteez.org/NYteachercenters will find a link to an online store where they can purchase select computers and software titles at dramatically reduced academic prices.

The store is managed by Digital River Education Services. In addition, teacher centers will be offering discounts on certain professional development courses for teachers who buy through this new program. Store offerings will continue to expand as the teacher centers work with their partners at Microsoft and Intel and other software and hardware vendors to obtain special academic prices.



NTA Disaster Relief Month

NTA members have a long history of providing a helping hand to those in need. The NTA has proclaimed November as our month to commit to raising money for our brothers and sisters who have struggled through the devastations of flooding, nationwide and here in our own backyard. Donations are urgently needed and the fastest and most effective way to help those still struggling to recover from flooding and storm damage remains cash donations.

Throughout this month, buildings will be sponsoring events to raise money for the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund. Volunteers are needed to help organize building events. Contact your Head Delegate for more information on how you can get involved. NTA members, their friends, family and supporters are strongly encouraged to give generously to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund.

You may also donate online at www.NYSUT.org or make your check payable to "NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund" and mail to NYSUT Headquarters, Attention: Jeff Lockwood, Accounting Department, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110.

NYSTRS Retirement Seminar October 20, 2011

NTA members are fortunate to be members of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS), which is among the top 10 pension systems in the country, and the top 25 in the world. In an effort to provide members with accurate and useful retirement information, the Newburgh Teachers' Association invited NYSTRS Member Relations Representative Liz Rotundo to present a seminar to over 50 potential retirees.

With the help of an information-filled slideshow, many important retirement topics were discussed in depth. Among the topics discussed were: service credit, pension options, ways to build a better pension, the importance of naming beneficiaries, the difference your tier makes in your retirement, and the seven deadly retirement errors. Accompanying this wealth of information was a plethora of useful forms, brochures, and other resources, which were quickly collected by attendees for reference and review after the seminar.

If you missed the seminar and are considering retirement, look for information soon on the next seminar, scheduled for January 19, 2012 at the NTA. Also, a Member Relations Representative can be reached at the NYSTRS office in Albany at (800) 348-7292 or communit@nystrs.state.ny.us. More information is also available at www.nystrs.org.

My Holiday Shopping List

Tips to put the "Made in the USA" Twist on Christmas

- Look for "Made in the USA" logo.
- Avoid "big box stores" and national chains.
- Dine at owner-operated restaurants.
- Give gift certificates to local businesses (gyms, hair salons, car washes)
- Take in a local play or go listen to some live local music.

Small local businesses are what drive the American economy. When we give in our community it comes back to us.

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Founding Editor: John Wolner

52 Pierces Road
Newburgh, New York 12550
1.845.562.8120
(fax) 845.568.7905
(email) nta@hvc.rr.com
www.newburghta.org

nysut **aft**
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Editor: Carol Franklin
Writer: Ashley Mahon
Design and Production: Jeff Godhardt

President: Patricia M. Van Duser
Vice-President: Judy LeRoy
Secretary: Jeanne Daley
Treasurer: Ellen Hart

Welcome Back Bash Raises \$1,020 for Food Bank

The NTA Welcome Back Bash was held on Friday, September 23, at the Nu-Cavu in Wallkill, NY. Over 100 members braved the rain, celebrated the beginning of another school year and raised \$1,020 in donations for the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley.



Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk

On Sunday, October 16, NTA members converged on Dutchess Stadium in Fishkill and Woodbury Commons Premium Outlets in Central Valley. The NTA walkers joined over 10,000 Hudson Valley residents for the 2011 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk which raised \$775,000 in donations.

This year, the Newburgh Teachers' Association team walked in memory of our colleague, Danielle Clarino-Cotton. We would like to thank all those who walked and contributed for helping get "More Pink for our Green!"



To see more photos from these events, visit the NTA Photo Gallery at www.newburghta.com.

Huge Win for Labor in Ohio

In a crucial victory for the American labor movement, voters in Ohio overwhelmingly rejected Senate Bill 5, the anti-union, anti-working-people bill passed earlier this year.

NYSUT had more than 15 volunteers on the ground in Ohio, including ED 10 Director Tony McCann, for weeks leading up to the vote and made more than 20,000 calls for the AFL-CIO from NYSUT's polling center.

This was the first time collective bargaining was put to a vote of the people on a statewide ballot and it won by an overwhelming margin of victory in a solidly conservative state. The victory puts enemies of labor on notice that working people will not stand idle in the face of this concerted assault on union members' rights.

"The repeal of SB 5 resulted from an incredible grass-roots campaign that engaged citizens from all corners of the state," said AFT President Randi Weingarten. "More than 10,000 volunteers collected 1.3 million signatures to place Issue 2 on the ballot, and then worked tirelessly to make sure their families, friends and neighbors under-

stood what was at stake."

Letters to Congress

The next piece of the blocked American Jobs Act that will come before the Senate and House is "FAST," the Fix America's Schools Today Act. It will provide resources for school and campus repair and modernization.

The NEA has a letter posted on its website www.NEA.org (under Take Action), that you can send to your federal legislators. AFT has a petition on www.WhiteHouse.gov/petitions (go to "Open Petitions" and search on "America's crumbling public schools.")

Officials need to know that investments in school and campus modernization projects will not only jump start the economy by putting Americans back to work, but will ensure students have the learning environments they need to succeed. On average, public schools are more than 40 years old and need an estimated \$500 billion worth of work and upgrades. Construction and repairs would create up to 10,000 jobs per billion dollars spent.



Call to Action on Special Education Mandate Relief Proposals

NYSUT expects that the Board of Regents will be asked at their meeting on Monday, November 14, to support a number of special education mandate relief proposals recommended by SED. The majority of the mandate relief proposals would, if adopted, impact the ability of families of students with disabilities to obtain and receive appropriate special education programs.

As educators across the state work to close gaps in achievement and prepare students for college and careers, these mandate relief efforts would only create additional challenges for students with disabilities and their families.

NYSUT is urging members to contact the Board of Regents right now and let them know your position on these proposals.

We encourage all NTA members to send an email to the Regent representing your area to voice your opposition to these proposals. To email your Regent, go to www.NYSUT.com and search on "Special Education Mandate." Center.



52 Pierces Road
Newburgh, New York 12550

nta contact information: nta@newburghta.com
phone: 845.562.8120