

the **Pendulum**
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Newburgh Teachers' Association

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A Summer of Focus and Collaboration in Trying Times



NTA Union President Patricia M. Van Duser

As those lazy days of summer become a memory, I would like to welcome you back to school and tell you that your officers have been busy working for you. I met with our Superintendent on July 2. I believe through an open dialog, Dr. Saturnelli and I will be able to achieve many objectives for the achievement of our

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ultimate shared goal of student successes. Also this summer, The NECSD Board of Education elected a new president, Dawn Fuchek and Vice President, Ed Poppi. I was invited and attended the Mid Hudson Principals'

Center Summer Institute as Newburgh Schools presented "Turning Schools Around." Newburgh School District highlighted how through reconfiguration and curriculum reassessment there were improvements in state test scores and graduation rates. Once again, it is through your hard work and dedication that these goals have been reached. I continue to meet with Human Resources to ensure the rehiring of as many laid off teachers and teaching assistants as possible. To date we have rehired 10.5 positions!! This has been no easy task! But I am still hopeful that opportunities will be available.

Although the days ahead of us are not in the best economic climate, I can assure you that there have been many improvements throughout our district.

The NECSD and the NTA are the recipient of the NYSUT's Closing the Gap Grant. I am working with Marsha Sobel to begin this initia-

tive this fall. I have met with members of the Newburgh Teacher Center Policy Board to assist in outlining a district Professional Development Plan. I am and will continue to be in contact with board members to stress the value the NTA members provide for our students and our district!!

I wish you a year full of rewards both professionally and personally. Once again, I am honored by your trust, and grateful for the opportunity to earn your confidence and your respect, as together, we move our Newburgh Teachers' Association forward.



Your Representatives and How They Work for You

NYSUT

NYSUT Delegates:	NYSUT Alternates:
Patricia M. VanDuser	Nelson Colon
John Eitel	Jeff Gebhardt
Phil Cordella	Matthew Scully
Jeanne Daley	Maryann Corbett
Judy LeRoy	Berenda Johnson
Vicky Pittman	Joshua M. Conn
James Nee	Mildred Gutierrez-Colon
David Brown	Kathy Marley
William Lastowski	Barbara Rubin
Ellen Hart	Awilda Schofield
Joni Mongelli	Michael J. Olsen
Marisol Riverol	Jennifer Laudiero
Carol Franklin	Lisa Benvenuto

NYSUT(New York State United Teachers) is a federation of more than 1,200 local unions, each representing it's own members. Our elected delegates represent us at NYSUT's annual convention, the Representative Assembly. While in attendance, delegates discuss issues and set policies that determine the programs and services that NYSUT provides to our union members. These include but are not limited to Retirement and Pension, Workplace Safety, Health Care, and other educational issues.

AFT

AFT Delegates:	AFT Alternates:
Patricia M. VanDuser	Lisa Benvenuto
John Eitel	Wendy Bohlinger
Phil Cordella	Maryann Corbett
Judy LeRoy	Jeff Gebhardt
Jeanne Daley	Marilyn Henry
Nelson Colon	Jennifer Laudiero
Vicky Pittman	Kathy Marley
James Nee	Michael Olsen
Ellen Hart	Matthew Scully
David Brown	
William Lastowski	
Joni Mongelli	
Carol Franklin	
Sheila M. Manning	

The AFT(American Federation of Teachers) was founded to represent the economic, social and professional interests of classroom teachers. The AFT is continually supporting and rallying for sound educational policies and cooperative workplace environments. Elected delegates represent us at the AFT's convention, taking part in policy making and election of officers.

NYSTRS

NYSTRS Delegates:	NYSTRS Alternates:
Jeanne Daley	David Brown
Judy LeRoy	Megan Kelly
Ellen Hart	Sherri Hall
Joshua Conn	Sharon Kennedy
Michael Olsen	Jennifer Laudiero
Sheila Manning	Joni Mongelli
Matthew DeGraw	Kathy Marley
Thomas Nocilla	Rochelle Whitted

NYSTRS (New York State Teachers' Retirement System) representatives work to provide retirement, disability, and death benefits to New York State's public school teachers and administrators. Your representatives take place in the decision making processes related to retirement benefits.

NEA

NEA Delegate: Patricia M. VanDuser
Alternate: Judy LeRoy

The NEA(National Education Association) holds its annual Representative Assembly in July, where our elected delegate participates in discussions, conferences and exhibits relating to educational practice and issues. Our elected delegate also participates in elections and policy making decisions for the NEA's 3.2 million member population, making the NEA the world's largest democratic, deliberative body.

Delegate Assembly Dates
Wednesday September 16
Wednesday October 14

Head Delegate Meeting Dates
Wednesday September 23
Wednesday October 28

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AFL-CIO

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

Save the DATE!

Welcome Back Bash!



Friday, September 25

4-8 p.m.

Laborer's Pavilion

Little Britian Road

Rather than charging a monetary admission, we are asking that you bring a donation of non-perishable foods to help support our local food banks as they store up for the winter. Donations will be accepted at the door, but if you would like to donate ahead of time, building head delegates will have donation boxes available in each school.



Breast Cancer Walk

Sunday, October 18

Woodbury Common

Premium Outlets

Walk Begins: 9:00a.m.

Registration: 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

This is the 8th annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk sponsored by NYSUT. Last year about 13,000 NYSUT members walked to raise over \$1 million statewide. More information is available at www.nysut.org/makingstrides.

<<http://www.nysut.org/making>>

Your head delegates will be distributing an informational flyer shortly.

Officially Officers

Vice President Judy LeRoy: Welcome back to an exciting new year. This summer I spent the first weeks fielding summer school problems and issues. I have been appointed as co-chair to the Health and Safety Committee along with Jeanne Daley. I believe this is a great place for my expertise and background to make sure everyone has a safe and healthy workplace. I will be a liaison to the Teaching Assistants and will meet with them monthly. President Van Duser has asked me to spear head social justice campaigns for our union. The first event is our Welcome Back Party where instead of charging an entry fee, we will collect non perishable foods to stock local pantries in our district. The next event will be the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Woodbury Commons. If you have any ideas or suggestion or would like to volunteer, please email me at jleroy@newburghta.com. I look forward to meeting many of you this year!

Secretary Jeanne Daley: I'd like to start by thanking the members of the NTA for allowing me the privilege of serving you as your secretary. I look forward to working with my fellow officers, as well as, the Teaching Assistants, Retiree and Substitute Chapter officers and members.

This year begins with many changes for me. It starts, of course, with this elected position, and more personally, continues with my leaving Stewart after 5years to join the faculty and staff at Horizons on Hudson. Change seems to be the norm for me!

I hope that that more members will seek ways to become involved with the NTA in this new beginning. There are so many ways you can actively participate.

New ideas and new opportunities to reach out to all our members are always appreciated. jdaley@newburghta.com

Treasurer Ellen Hart: As a new officer and treasurer of our union, I would like to express my appreciation to you for your support and to let our members know that I am on the job and busy at work this summer taking care of our union's financial business.

For me, this work is very much a return to the familiar....Prior to my going back to teaching, I worked for many years in the accounting side of a national retail business. What started out as part-time –couple of nights a week –endeavor

when my children were very young became full-time work and over a period of time encompass a series of assignments ranging from Credit Manager to Auditing Supervisor and Manager of Operations. This prior experience has provided me with a background in accounting functions and I am now able to utilize this as your treasurer.

I can be found most afternoons at the NTA's office writing checks and filing bills and recording all the incomings and outgoings. I will also be the liaison to the Substitute Chapter of the NTA, something I am looking forward to as well.

I would like to extend an invitation to you to stop by the NTA office and say hello—I look forward to meeting you. ehart@newburghta.com

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

The NTA receives grant for "Closing the Gap"

The NTA and the NECSD have been selected as participants in NYSUT's Achievement Gap Initiative. This initiative is funded by a grant from our national affiliate, the National Education Association, and reflects NYSUT's commitment to ending the achievement gap. It is the belief of all that students will succeed when professional educators, parents and the community work collaboratively. The goal of this project is to assist the professional educators of the Newburgh Enlarged City School District to improve student achievement and narrow the achievement gap by providing training in the development and practice of Professional Learning Communities. These training opportunities will focus on helping the professional staff within a school to work collaboratively to identify problem areas and strategies that work with children. NYSUT will also work closely with the Teacher Center to provide additional resources and professional development for all educators involved in this project.

'Going Green' for the new school year

Educators across the country are joining millions in the movement to "Go Green". Going green in your classroom is easier than you think. Here are SIX simple things you can do to support the cause in your classroom:



- 1.** Turn off your classroom lights when you leave the room. Also, try turning off some lights on those hot, sunny, September days.
- 2.** Turn off your computer when you leave for the day.
- 3.** Ask families and friends to donate coffee mugs and cups to use for drinking in the classroom instead of Dixie Cups.
- 4.** If you ask parents to donate tissues, suggest "Seventh Generation" brand. These tissues are chlorine-free, which poses no threat to the ozone layer. They are also free from dyes and fragrances.
- 5.** Buy a reusable plastic or glass water bottle.
- 6.** Use scrap paper or extra copies instead of Post-Its to send and take notes. Also, visit Sprig.com and check out their "Rescued Paper Notebooks", made from paper rescued from the waste pile.

