

# CTA SNIPPETS

Jan/Feb 2013

<http://corningta.ny.aft.org/>

Volume 10 Issue 111



## CORNING TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

### President Report



Over spring break I am going on a canoe trip in Utah. We are going to do a five-day trip on the Green River through Labyrinth Canyon. My trip mates are Mike Maxwell (retired CTA member and administrator), Bob Gwinn (retired CFA principal), and Jay Burris (retired principal of mine while I was in Ohio). It is certainly an interesting group, even if everyone else has some history on the "dark side". It's also an interesting group because two in the group are cancer survivors, and the other two have replacement joints. Certainly not necessarily what you would think of as a hearty or hale group!

The genesis of the trip was a lunch with Bob and Max at The Central this fall. I had kind of thrown out the possibility that a Green River trip might be fun, and sure enough they bit on it. I reeled in Jay quite easily (Jay and I do an annual trip either in Algonquin Park or the Boundary Waters), and we were ready for my favorite part of an expedition....the planning.

I have done the route before, as a solo trip after I was fired as a basketball coach in Ohio. (Jay was the one to deliver the news...brings up interesting conversations on these trips!)

Because of that, I am the de facto expedition leader. Just call me John Wesley Powell (look it up). It has been great fun scanning maps, gear lists, and travel info and sending them to each of the other three expedition members. There have been many evening phone calls as we sort through our gear and figure out the best options to get it all to Moab, Utah.

Bob the Boy Scout (he's an Eagle Scout) is our trip cook. He's

sending us culinary ideas for the five days and telling me what gear I'll need to pack to cook it. Jay is the expedition's official photographer. He's been busy telling us that he doesn't want to take a bunch of extra gear, but the pictures will be stunning. Max, of course, is the official trip jester and expedition chronicler (check out <http://michaelgillenmaxwell.com> for some of Max's writings). It's great that each one of us has a clearly defined role for the expedition. I can't wait to tell you all about our trip in the next Snippets.

These roles take me back to the NYSUT Leadership Institute that I attended this past summer. We participated in a conflict-resolution survey. We answered a bunch of forced-choice questions and the results put us in one of five categories; competing, collaborating, compromising, avoiding, or accommodating. The premise of the entire tool is that teams or groups of people need to have members that fall into all of these categories. By having the diversity of membership based on personality characteristics or how conflict is managed among other things gives the organization a vibrant, dynamic membership that creates its own kind of personality and conflict-resolution checks and balances.

This spring as we face yet another daunting budget process and attempt to negotiate a new contract, our organization is going to need to tap into the many different skill sets that our members possess when it comes to facing conflict. They key, I believe, will be making sure that we keep the conflict we are facing an external one, not an internal one.

I am so proud to be a member of the Corning Teachers' Association and stand shoulder to shoulder with all of my fellow members as we move forward against whatever conflict may be on our horizon. **Yours Together, Rick Gallant**

## CTA Constitution Referendum Vote

The Proposed Changes to the CTA Constitution Will:

1. Remove Candidates from the Election Procedures
2. Create a Standing Committee to Oversee the Election Process
3. Allow for Future Changes in our Voting Method (i.e. online), if deemed prudent



Please Vote on February 20, 2013

Contact you Building Representatives for voting time/location

# CTA Apparel Available!



## Order Form:

<http://corningta.ny.aft.org/cta-apparel/cta-apparel-order-form>

## Clothing/Sizing/Colors

[http://corningta.ny.aft.org/files/article\\_assets/507D870F-EB34-FF14-753870CF03EF590A.pdf](http://corningta.ny.aft.org/files/article_assets/507D870F-EB34-FF14-753870CF03EF590A.pdf)



Questions: [Drich@cppmail.com](mailto:Drich@cppmail.com)



# Vice-President Report

David Rich

## Ready to be more involved with your Teachers' Association?

Here are some options available to you:

- ◆ Let your Building Representative know that you are willing to be a substitute at CTA Executive Council meetings as needed.
- ◆ If there is an OPEN position in your building, contact the CTA Office and inquire about the process—we will hold an election in your building before the end of this year. Consult your Building Representatives for more information.
- ◆ Attend any CTA Executive Council meeting—CTA Members are welcome to attend our meetings--always. (Check out the CTA Website for a list of dates/times/location).
- ◆ Watch for information on the Annual Election of CTA Officers & Delegates—and request a petition to run for a position.

## District Committees

CTA will be appointing members willing to serve on a variety of District Committees this Spring for the 2013—2014 school year. More info to follow.

Please contact David Rich if you have questions.



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# Teachers in the Spotlight....

## CTAR Doris Bovee Special Project Grant Award

*From Mary Bacalles, CTAR*

Applicant	School	Subject Area/ Grade	# of Students	Project	Cost
Kerry Stone	Gregg	Speech K - 5	approx. 25	2 Articulation therapy apps for iPad to enhance instruction of articulation therapy	\$89.98
Deb Beck	CFA	Health Grade 7	10 - 15	Purchase supplies to institute "early bird" study hall for students; provide healthy snack & needed school supplies as well as academic support	\$100.00
Jennifer Taylor	Severn	Library Grade 2	10 - 15	Purchase beginning reader books for small group instruction of at- risk students	\$89.55
Rachael Hart	East	Grades 9 - 12	maximum 24	Purchase art supplies for Ernie Davis Mentoring Program @ East High School	\$75.00
Stephen Edgerton	CFA	Technology Grade 7	all 7 <sup>th</sup> Graders (85 – 170)	Purchase supplies such as plastic straws and brass paper fasteners for building geodesic dome models	\$100.00
Sharon Campbell	Erwin Valley	Grade 3	22 - 65	Match funds with EV PTA to purchase a document camera to be used in all subject areas	\$100.00

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<b>Applicant</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Subject Area/ Grade</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Cindy Watson	C. U. Smith	Grade 4	40	Purchase 20 copies of "Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims" for Native American Living History project and Day	\$100.00
Patricia Seger	Carder	Library Grades 1 - 3	15 - 115	Purchase 9 copies of Pokemon books to be used as a new- book-to-read incentive for early readers	\$100.00
Susan Carry	Frank Pierce	Pre-K Special Education	24	Purchase camera supplies: SD card, card reader, rechargeable batteries, battery charger, and case for the camera which will be used to take photos around the building to be used for communication with non-verbal students	\$60.00
Kim Pitcher & Lisa Bartlett	Winfield	Grade 4	21	Purchase food supplies to use for baking projects that coordinate with books read and Science topics; Purchase "healthy snacks" for NYS Testing in April	\$100.00
Diane Friends	Severn	Grade 2	23	Purchase books, robe, and a red carpet for "Royal Reader" program to improve reading fluency and confidence	\$100.00



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# “The Seven Deadly Sins”

Adapted by Rick Gallant, from neatoday 2013

As CTA, NYSUT, and AFT members, we are entitled to top-level defense if we are facing disciplinary charges. However, there are some things that even the best defense will have a hard time getting you “off the hook from”.

## **Seven things to avoid at all costs:**

### **Sin: Walking off the job.**

Grieve after complying-don't leave. The only exception is fleeing from an immediate physical threat.

### **Sin: Quitting before you talk to us.**

Prior to resigning from your position, please contact that union office so we can discuss your employment situation and review your rights.

### **Sin: Ignoring Substance abuse.**

If you have a drug or alcohol problem, get help. The District provides the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Its free and confidential. For further information, contact the union office.

### **Sin: Using computers for any personal use.**

The district can know everything you've looked at down to the nanosecond and they have the computer records to prove it.

### **Sin: Leaving students unsupervised.**

When you walk away, something could happen. Having someone “watch” from the next room isn't enough. The number one job of a teacher is to supervise students.

### **Sin: Texting/emailing jokes to students.**

Do not communicate with students in any way other than a professional manner.

### **Sin: Calling in sick then posting pictures of yourself at the lake, mall, or Disneyland on Social Media sites (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.)**

Enough said.

## Good News and Info from our Members....

**From Kim Pitcher**—Congratulations to my son, **Luke Pitcher**, who was promoted in early November to Director of Digital Marketing and Social Media for the Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida. This year the Orange Bowl was the host to two major events in the first week of January. The 2013 Orange Bowl between Northern Illinois and Florida State and the 2013 National Championship Game between Alabama and Notre Dame. The next big event is the Orange Bowl Lacrosse Classic at Sun Life Stadium. Michigan and Army will play in Men's Lacrosse. In Women's Lacrosse, my niece, **Kirkland Locey** (8), who plays for Syracuse University, will take on Florida.

**From Jennifer Gillette**—I would like to extend my deepest, most sincere gratitude to everyone in our district who sent support and prayers to my husband, Andy, my family, and to me. I am very lucky to work in a district with extremely supportive staff and administrators. My husband's serious illness began in July and he was life-flighted to the Cleveland Clinic. Andy stayed in Cleveland for six months. Andy had multi-organ failure, but miraculously, all of his organs have completely healed or continue to be on the mend. He became well enough to go to St. Joseph's hospital in Elmira to do physical therapy. After being at St. Joseph's hospital for a week, Andy is now healing at home with his family. Soon, he will be back to work at GST BOCES offering his computer services!

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# Legal & financial plans available to NYSUT members!

NYSUT members can get quality legal and financial assistance for themselves and their families by purchasing the Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan or Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Financial Counseling Program.

## Legal assistance when you need it!

For an annual fee, the Legal Service Plan -- provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning.

With the base plan, you'll get access to unlimited, toll-free legal advice from plan attorneys. In addition, when you enroll in the plan, you'll receive two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney.

The plan also provides for one Simple Will or update at no charge each year, along with a Durable Power of Attorney, Living Will and Health Care Proxy -- important documents to have in place before the need for them arises.

NYSUT members can purchase the Legal Service Plan at the special cost of \$85 per year or \$55 per year for retirees; an Elder Law Rider and/or Business Protection Rider are available for an additional fee.

Participating locals can also take advantage of further savings through payroll or pension deduction.

*\*\*Please note that if you belong to a local association that provides a group legal service plan through the local or its Benefit Fund, remember to take advantage of the plan's benefits.*

## Financial expertise customized for your situation

The Financial Counseling Program -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation.

Through the program, you'll learn how to properly invest your assets to build a college savings or retirement fund; what to look for when purchasing or financing a home; and tips for getting your credit under control.



This full-service program provides you with up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.

In-person consultations are available at least once

per calendar year at each NYSUT Regional Office as well as at Stacey Braun's New York City office. The program also includes access to Stacey Braun's password-protected website and a 24-hour email helpdesk for basic financial questions.

NYSUT members can purchase the Financial Counseling Program for an annual fee of \$260. A 403(b) Limited Plan is also available for an annual fee of \$185.

Participating locals can also take advantage of further savings through payroll or pension deduction.

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Learn more about either of these endorsed programs by contacting Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** or visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org).

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.