



CTA SNIPPETS

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

CORNING TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Nov/Dec 2012

Volume 10 Issue 11

President Report, Rick Gallant

I just read the Snippets article I wrote last December. The first thing mentioned was how fast time seems to move now. I can honestly say that this last year has been even more of a whirlwind of school and CTA activity that few of us have ever experienced.

We have spent the entire calendar year researching, negotiating, and introducing the new APPR system. Ms. Caulfield and I had our last "roll-out" meeting this past Friday at West High. Every elementary and secondary meeting was extremely well attended. That shows not only the concern we all have over a new, unknown system being used to judge our abilities, but also our high level of professionalism as we want to be as well-versed in the process as possible. Today (12/3), the process will finally, officially begin. I am extremely confident that our talents as highly effective educators will be borne out when the "official numbers" come out in June.

For the past few months, every grade level and every subject area has undergone curriculum changes. It seems like just when we have something down, it changes. Every day that I go to the administration building, a different group of teachers is writing, re-writing, or tweaking curriculum. These teachers are working together to try to do what is best for their students. They're working hard despite being tired, underappreciated, and missing from the

very classroom they're looking to improve. I say kudos to all of you. The negotiating team, led by our Chief Negotiator Sharon Campbell has been listening in every building to your thoughts on what our new contract should include. If you were unable to voice your opinion at one of these meetings, please let Sharon or me know what ideas you have. Sharon's home e-mail is scampbell06@stny.rr.com and mine is coachgallant@yahoo.com. You will have another opportunity for input through an on-line survey that will be available the beginning of the year. Our plan is to begin negotiations in February.

Even with all of these things taxing our every effort, each and every one of us continues to do what we always do; we teach the kids of the Corning-Painted Post School District at the very highest level. As my Australian friends are fond of saying "Good on ya"!!

During this season of celebration, let's take the time to celebrate ourselves. We deserve it. I hope that you take the time to relax with your friends and families. I hope that you take the time to enjoy the wonderment of your kids, whether at home, school, or both. And, I hope that you take the time to reflect on the huge, positive role you have played in so many lives and will continue to do so. Thank you for all you do. ***Yours together, Rick***

Vice-President Report, David Rich

CTA Recognized in NYSUT United Magazine

CTA's Make A Difference Week/Heart to Heart supply drive was featured in **NYSUT's United magazine** in the "Locals in Action" column, page 29. NYSUT contacted me about the project after viewing it on our CTA website. What impresses me most about our association is that despite all of the changes and extra work involved in our profession this year, we still take the time to help the community in this annual event.

One of my roles as Vice-President is to help inform our members and the community of our efforts. To that end, I have been submitting news items to the CPP District Newsletter and also posting information on our website. Please help communicate our good news by contacting me and sharing information from your buildings and classrooms. Snap a picture with your phone and send it along too.

CTA Audit Committee Report Notice

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

An audit of CTA's financial records for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 has been completed. Audit Committee Members (**Glenn Stevenson, Jami Perry, Ann Marcellin**) met with CTA Treasurer Scott Shaddock, Accountant Lou Nettle, and CTA President Rick Gallant.

The Association's financial records were found to be in good order and a report has been sent to our state and national affiliates.

CTA's financial records may be examined by any member of our organization.

Contact CTA office at 936-4572.

Important Income Tax Information Regarding Tuition Reimbursement



What Has Changed?

As a result of an audit during the summer of 2012, the District was informed of calendar year educational assistance (tuition reimbursement) limits.

Employers can exclude up to \$5,250 of educational assistance during any calendar year. Employees must generally pay tax on the amount over \$5,250 and that amount should be included in the employees' wages (Form W-2, box 1).

How Will Payments Change?

For the 2012 calendar year:

Teachers that have exceeded the \$5,250 limit will have a non-wage item processed with the December 7, 2012 pay and will pay Social Security taxes on the amount exceeding the limit.

For example:

2012 tuition reimbursement of \$5,400 minus \$5,250 (limit) equals \$150 (taxable amount)

\$150 taxable amount will be reflected in the December 7, 2012 pay as a non-wage item

For the 2013 calendar year:

Teachers that exceed the educational assistance limit as established by the Department of the Treasury will have that amount processed as a Payroll item with all applicable taxes withheld.

Where Can I Get More Information?

- Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Publication 15-B (Employer's Tax Guide to Fringe Benefits)
- Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Publication 970 Tax Benefits for Education)
- Rick Gallant, Corning Teachers' Association President
- Pat Overstrom, Personnel Services

CTA Apparel Still Available

Order forms available on the CTA
Website: <http://corningta.ny.aft.org/>

Questions:

Contact David Rich, West High



Member Input Meetings for Negotiations

Nov. 6 - EHS

Nov. 7 - CR

Nov. 13 - WN

Nov. 14 - NB

Nov. 27 - WHS

Nov. 28 - CFA

Dec. 4 - GR

Dec. 5 - CS

Dec. 11 - SV

Dec. 12 - EV



Bring Your Parent To Work Day 2012

From Rebecca Pearce

Over 40 Corning-Painted Post District employees participated in the 15th Annual Bring Your Parent to Work Day on Friday, October 19, 2012 by inviting 45 parents and friends to spend the day celebrating our chosen professions!

Several staff members commented that their parents look forward to attending this event each year. Some travel from a distance and make a fun-filled weekend out of the day. The pride parents feel as they watch *their* child interact with, instruct, guide, and support the children in the classroom and school building is sometimes difficult to articulate. The pride a staff member feels knowing his or her parent is seeing and experiencing how he or she makes a difference each and every day is usually expressed with a huge smile and a hug!

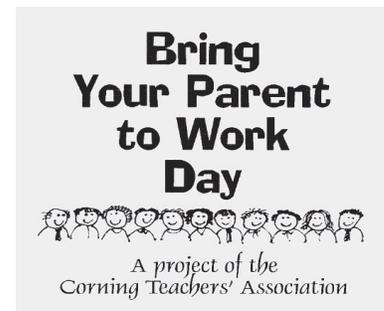
Bring Your Parent to Work Day was begun in 1998 by now-retired art teacher Sue St. Louis as a way to recognize and thank our own parents for the part they may have played in steering and supporting our career choices as educators. Corning Teachers' Association organizes the day each year and provides a gift item to the visiting guests.

A bonus was added this year to encourage involvement in the day! A staff member in the building with the greatest number of staff participating had the chance to win a \$50.00 Visa gift card! Severn Elementary took top honors with eight participants and Diane Friends was the recipient of the \$50.00 gift card! Congratulations!

Many thanks to all who helped make this year's celebration a success. We look forward to welcoming YOUR parent or guest to next year's event!

Mark your calendar now to celebrate the 16th Annual Bring Your Parent to Work Day on Friday, October 18, 2013!

Thanks to Rebecca Pearce for organizing this annual event!!



Good News and Info from our Members....

From Ellen Blide, NBMS

My husband, Joe, and I are really excited to announce that we are expecting our first baby in June 2013!

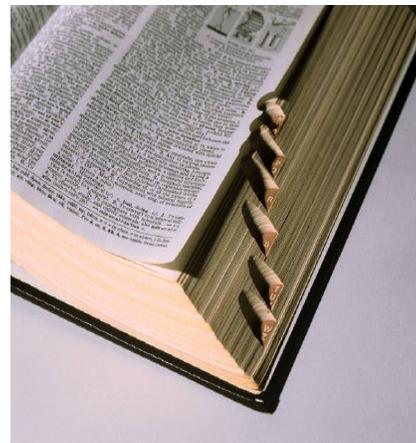
From Brian Ellison, NBMS

Brian completed his very first half-marathon in Philadelphia on Sunday, November 18th.

DICTIONARIES

EVERYWHERE!

The Corning Elks' Club continues their successful Dictionary Project—purchasing dictionaries for all third grade students in our district. Thanks to all who helped make this valuable project work!



Heart to Heart Open House Invite

December 6, 2012

5 to 8 pm

Heart to Heart Headquarters

The Shops, Chambers Road, Horseheads

(by Chilis)

SNIPPETS Editor: David Rich

Contact: drich@cppmail.com

Planning a trip? Let Member Benefits help!

Are you finally looking to book that fantastic getaway to the Caribbean or Europe that you've always been dreaming about? Maybe you've got a business trip that you need to plan? Or, do you need to rent a car to get around town as part of your next excursion?

Let your friends at NYSUT Member Benefits help! We've got a variety of endorsed discount travel programs designed to help you keep a few more dollars in your wallet while enjoying some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

If big savings is your game, the Member Benefits-endorsed travel program offered by Wyndham Hotels & Endless Vacation Rentals is for you! NYSUT members can enjoy savings of up to 20% at nearly 7,000 participating hotels among 15 hotel brands with Wyndham Worldwide; meanwhile, save 25% at more than 200,000 vacation rentals in 100 countries with Endless Vacation Rentals.

Wyndham Hotels has the right hotel for you at the right price – whether it's an upscale hotel, all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective. With Endless Vacation Rentals, NYSUT members can save on resort condos, villas, homes, and cottages that provide space and flexibility ideal for families and groups of friends traveling together.

These aren't your everyday run-of-the-mill hotel rooms! Accommodations range in size from resort studios to multi-bedroom units. And, many units feature large living rooms, dining rooms, fully-equipped kitchens, and laundry facilities.

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.

Nov./Dec. '12

Whether you're looking for a multi-bedroom condo in Orlando or Las Vegas, or a luxurious resort in Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe, or Canada, Endless Vacation Rentals offers the space and comforts-of-home to make each stay a memorable time!

Need to rent a car as part of your next trip? NYSUT members can get discounted rates on passenger car rentals with the following companies: Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise,

Hertz, and National. You can even receive 20% off local or one-way truck rentals from Budget Truck Rental.

Finally, don't forget about TripMark.travel if you're looking for great deals on the most beautiful vacation spots in the world. This program provides NYSUT members and their family and

friends with online and offline (toll-free travel agents) leisure travel benefits.

TripMark.travel allows you to effortlessly book flights, hotels, vacation packages, and cruises online for personal and business travel needs. With a simple interface and advanced encryption technology, your information is safe and secure – giving you peace of mind as you plan your next trip.

Learn more about these endorsed programs – including how to access discounts, unique website codes and website links – by contacting Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org. Happy travels!



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