



CORNING TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

SNIPPETS**President Report, Rick Gallant**

In the movie, "Groundhog Day", essentially the same thing happens over and over, and over again. When I talk with friends outside of education, they often comment that school seems very much like that. There's the same first day, the same curriculum, the same quizzes and tests, the same vacations, marking periods, exams, last day, summer vacation.....and then, here we go again.

On the surface, I suppose they're right. Our schedule does bring a certain predictableness. In a way, that predictability is often a source of comfort. Even though every September we get an entire new group of students, each with their own challenges and rewards, we have dealt with those challenges before, and over the years we have assembled the perfect toolkits that assist us in meeting all of them. Every year we are confident that we will be able to pull it off one more time. After all, we always do.

I'm not sure if it's just me, but this year and last seem a bit different. Everything that's happening now has **not** happened before. We have new evaluations, new curricula based on new standards, and a new sense that we have to get there now, or better yet, yesterday. None of us has ever complained about the challenges our chosen career gives us. Quite the contrary, we expect them. They are, and always have been, part of what we do. Now though, many of those challenges seem to be imposed challenges. Imposed challenges from people and groups with little stake in what really happens in our classrooms.

Why are these people telling me exactly what to do and say in front of my class? Why are these people not putting their trust in me, the trained, experienced, caring teacher in the room? Why are these people telling me that I have to do more, and more, and way more things that have little impact on whether my students learn? All of us want to shout out....."Please!! Enough with the mandates, the changes, the scripts, just let me teach!!"

We **will** progress through the year. We **will** teach our students with honor, integrity, caring, and love. We **will** ensure that our students are learning the curriculum, learning how to learn, learning to function in the classroom, school, and outside communities, and maybe most importantly, learning how to be contributing, productive, caring, responsible people.

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

Snippets Editor:: David Rich, CPP West

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Every one of us is working toward those goals; every year since we've started, and every year until we're retired. There is no script for that, it comes from within.

Every year the challenges get greater, yet every year you all rise up to meet them. I have absolutely no doubt that you will do that yet again. No doubt, because you are by far the smartest, most professional, most caring group of people I have ever worked with. ***Yours Together, Rick***

CONGRATULATIONS!!!! To Kristen Schoonover (SEV), Megan Bowen (EHS), Ben Bowers (EHS), Meghan Dickens (NSB), Jen Santobianco (CFA), Trish Shugars (SEV), Dianne West (CR). (Tenure appointments that were effective 9/1/13).



Heart to Heart is making a difference one heart at a time...providing holiday assistance to many families of children in our school district who lack the resources to "make the holidays bright." And, CTA members have been an important part of this work for 10+ years.

Another way you can assist Heart to Heart is by purchasing a **Community Days 2013** coupon book for **\$5** (all money comes back to Heart to Heart) which provides you with over \$500 in savings at **Bon-Ton** on Friday, November 15 and Saturday, November 16.

To purchase a coupon book, contact Erin Merrill (emerrill@cppmail.com) ...
Thanks for your support!

CTA = Corning Teachers in Action

Vice President, David Rich

Editor's Note: I invite CTA members to share examples of our commitment to improving the community outside of the classroom. To begin this new column, I have shared West High's annual fundraising event for the Children's Miracle Network.

CMN Shorts Day at West High

For past the 7 years, West High faculty and staff have had an annual fundraising event for the Children's Miracle Network. I launched this event because my son is an Arnot NICU "graduate". He was born 12 weeks early and spent 59 days in the Neonatal ICU. Today, he is a healthy 11 year old and our family has been committed to assisting the Children's Miracle Network fundraise to support other families who need the NICU and pediatric department services at Arnot Ogden.

West High raises several hundred dollars (each year) in one day by selling teachers and staff a "casual day" sticker which entitles them to wear shorts to school on the Friday before Memorial Day break. This past May "Shorts Day" raised **\$455**. The "suggested donation" is \$2, but the staff consistently donates much more.

Shorts Day is so well supported, in my opinion, because there are many staff members who have had connections to the Arnot NICU and Pediatric units. 100% of the donations stay local to support AOMC.

West High could not have had this fundraiser without the support of our Executive Principal, Robin Sheehan. "It brings me great pride to see the generosity of our staff toward such a good cause. Many of our staff members have been directly touched by the NICU at the Arnot Ogden Medical Center. The Children's Miracle Network truly makes a difference, and so does our staff by supporting it", said Robin.

Children's Miracle Network Coordinator, Alene Goodman "We extend our heartfelt thanks to the faculty of Corning - Painted Post School District's West High School for donating the proceeds of their 'CMN Shorts Day' fundraising and awareness event in support of the Children's Miracle Network at Arnot Ogden Medical Center. In order to provide the highest quality care for the region's premature and critically ill infants, we rely on state-of-the-art medical equipment, an amazing medical team, and the generous support of community members like you."

Please share your contributions to the community for our upcoming issues of Snippets!

About CMN:

The Children's Miracle Network at Arnot Ogden Medical Center has raised more than four million dollars to support health care services for infants and children in an eight county region of southern New York and northern Pennsylvania. One hundred percent of all funds raised locally stays in our community. Arnot Ogden Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit cares for more than 360 premature or critically ill infants in need of highly specialized care each year. The Medical Center also has a very active pediatric program that serves hundreds of children annually.

CTA's Make A Difference Week Oct. 21—25



Heart to Heart of the Southern Tier, Inc. began 16 years ago. It provides personalized holiday gifts to more than 350 children in the Southern Tier who would not receive them otherwise. Most of the children attend school in the Corning Painted Post school district. In addition to the personalized gifts, each family receives a household bag with items not covered by food stamps. The Corning Teachers Association has been instrumental in helping us gather these supplies through their 'Make a Difference Week' each fall. Each year reminds us of the number of people who can be served by our program. We would not be able to do any of this if it was not for the generosity of our volunteers. Thanks to the CTA for all the help and support you provide.

PLEASE HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY BRINGING IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM, OCT 21-25:

Toilet paper
Shampoo /Conditioner
Kleenex
Toothbrushes (both adult and children's)
Toothpaste
Body bar soap
Deodorant (men's and women's)
Dish detergent
Laundry detergent
Paper toweling

WEST HIGH /CO
EAST HIGH/ HSLC
CFA
NSB
CARDER
WINFIELD
GREGG
SEVERN
ERWIN VALLEY
CALVIN SMITH



Bring Your Parent to Work Day



Bring Your Parent to Work Day

Bring Your Parent to Work Day has been an annual event in our District for the past fifteen years. It

was begun in 1998 by now-retired District Art Teacher Sue St. Louis. St. Louis explained, *"When my parents both passed away, it sadly occurred to me that they had never seen me teach. Knowing how proud parents are of their children, no matter how 'grown up' they are, and taking a slight twist from 'Bring Your Child to Work Day,' **Bring Your Parent to Work Day** was born."* The project has been sponsored each year by the Corning Teachers' Association.

The 16th Annual Bring Your Parent to Work Day will be held on October 18, 2013. Since 1998 we have had over 1,000 parents and guests enjoy time in classrooms, offices, and on busses watching (and sometimes helping with!) what their son, daughter, or special friend does for a career.

Each guest also receives a "thank you" gift from CTA for celebrating the day. We hope that each time the gift is used the fond memories of the day will put a smile on faces.

We hope to see you and your parents this year and look forward to holding the event again next year!

Rebecca Pearce
Corning Free Academy

News from Members...

from Shawn Finan, Winfield

Over the summer I was fortunate enough to have CTA members (past & present) visit me in Florida. Suzy Halm and Yvette Lebaron were the first to arrive and stayed from July 10th-17th. We hit the following hot spots: Sharky's at the Pier in Venice, Nokomis Beach, Siesta Key Beach, Boca Grande Beach, The Red Barn Farmer's Market in Bradenton, and Fisherman's Village in Punta Gorda.



Next to fly in were Cyndy Adler and Karen Whitman from August 4th-10th. In addition to Sharky's, we ventured to Sanibel Island where we took an airbus ride and saw dolphins and manatees swimming next to the boat. Karen, Cyndy and I also spent time at Myakka State Park, Siesta Key, and the jetty in Nokomis.



My friends Doreen and John arrived on August 17th. They flew down and drove back with me. We went to the Miromar Design Center, Boca Grande Beach, IKEA, Red Barn Farmer's Market, outlet malls, and stopped in Savannah, GA for two days, on the way home. In Savannah we did a Ghost Tour, the River



Walk, ate at Uncle Bubba's Oyster House, and visited Tybee Island.

While entertaining my fellow CTA members, friends and family, I sold my two-story townhouse and purchased a one-story house within the same development. Fate was on my side because within five days I listed my house, showed it, had an offer on it, made an offer on the new house and my offer was accepted. I owe a big 'thank you' to Doreen and John for helping me pack up the townhouse and put everything into storage. On Friday the 13th I closed on both houses and began moving into the new house. Luckily, I will have time at Christmas to finish unpacking and get the house set up so that another CTA member, Denise Kilburn, and her husband can enjoy the place for 3 months. Even though the summer flew by and was very busy, I was lucky to spend time with such wonderful people!



from Laurie Murphy, NSB

Megan Lewis, daughter of Laurie Murphy (health teacher at Northside Blodgett) will sign her National Letter of Intent to attend Adelphi University on Long Island during the early signing period in November. Megan received a combination athletic and academic scholarship to catch for the Panthers softball team and will pursue a degree in Bio-Chemistry.

News from Members...

from **Andrea Cohen, Calvin U. Smith**

In July, Andrea and Dan Cohen, along with their daughters, Amanda and Danielle, spent three weeks travelling. The first week was spent in Sun River, Oregon, where they spent 5 days with family, meeting new cousins and step-siblings. The week was quite relaxing, with no schedule, and nothing more demanding than kayaking (or supervising children while they were kayaking) and lounging around in the beautiful outdoors. After a week in Oregon, the family traveled to Kyoto and Tokyo Japan. What an amazing experience. The Cohen's enjoyed experiencing Japanese culture, architecture, and history. They especially enjoyed the time spent with friends who had moved back to Japan last summer after 6 years in Corning. On the way home, the Cohen's spent three days in Oahu, Hawaii. While quite worn out, they enjoyed the beach, some paddle boarding, and the sights and sounds of Waikiki. The family toured Pearl Harbor – a very impactful adventure. To say this was a trip of a lifetime is an understatement!

Bring Your Parent to Work Day



October 18, 2013

CTA SNIPPETS

March/April 2013

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

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2013-2014 CTA Building Representatives

CO (1)

CR (3)	Kay Keeney	Grade 2	13-15
	Erin Merrill	Reading	13-15
	Nancy Bergenstock	Grade 1	13-15
	April Christman	Grade 3	13-15
EV (2)	Tammy Smith/Adam Graves		12-14
GR (2)	Cathy Nagle	Grade 2	12-13
	Kerry Stone	Speech	12-14
SV (3)	Angela Nichiporuk	K	12-14
	Susanna Mason	Speech	12-14
	Karen Cleary	Grade 2	13-15
CUS (2)	Trish Shafer	Grade 2	12-14
	Mitch Peck	Grade 3	13-15
WN (2)	Shawn Finan	Reading	13-15
	Doreen Bonomo	Grade 1	12-14
CFA (4)	Ashley Bowers	Reading	12-14
	Janette Crawford	Special Ed	12-14
NSB (4)	Mimi Whittenhall	Grade 6	12-14
	Nicholas Rossington	Science	12-14
	Elisabeth Hanley	Special Ed	12-14
EHS (5)	Adam Ruth	English	12-14
	Katie Paulison-Harris	English	12-14
	Ben Bowers	Science	12-14
	Tammy Marsh	Science	12-14
WHS (5)	Joelle Groff	Sped	13-15
	Stacie Martinec	Media	12-14
	Martha Marks	Business	12-14
	Lori Pruyne	English	13-15

CTAR (non-voting) Cheryl Jordan

Needed for a quorum: 17

CTA SNIPPETS

March/April 2013

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CTA Executive Council Meetings

Open to All Members

4pm, West High Media Center

September 12

October 3

October 17

November 7

November 21

December 5

December 19

January 16

February 6

March 6

March 20

April 3

***May 1**

(*Election of Officers and Delegates)

May 15

***June 5**

(*Budget Vote)

June 19

The benefits of an *online* bank

Have you heard of online banks? These are banking institutions that do not utilize actual “brick and mortar” branches; instead, they offer banking services that are predominantly done online.

So why consider using one of these types of banks? Online banks are often able to offer superior rates and incentives since they don't have physical locations -- thereby passing these savings along to their customers.

Many people decide to utilize online banks in conjunction with their current traditional bank to secure higher rates for supplemental accounts, such as term-based certificates of deposits (CDs), savings accounts or IRAs.

The Member Benefits Corporation endorses the GE Capital Retail Bank Deposit Program, which is an online banking service that allows NYSUT members and their families to take advantage of some of today's most competitive interest rates.



GE Capital Retail Bank

*4 reasons to use the
GE Capital Retail Bank Deposit Program:*

1. Earn preferred interest rates on Money Market Accounts, High-Yield Savings Accounts, CDs, and IRAs.
2. Access your money and account information 24/7 by phone or online.
3. Grow your funds, finance a vacation, save for retirement, and much more!
4. All GE Capital Retail Bank Deposit Program customers receive free identity theft resolution services.

Learn how the GE Capital Retail Bank Deposit Program can help you save by calling toll-free 866-226-5638 or visiting gecrbatwork.com (enter “NYSUT” in the company or association name box).

Financial expertise customized for your situation



Looking to 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; or maybe tips for getting your credit under control?

The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Financial Counseling Program – provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. – offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation.

The program offers:

- Up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.
- In-person consultations at least once per calendar year at your NYSUT Regional Office or Stacey Braun's New York City office
- 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 available for an annual fee of \$185.

For more information, call **800-626-8101** or visit 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.