



# THE MEMBERSHIP

The Newsletter of The West Genesee Teachers' Association <http://www.wgta.net>

## Your vote is your voice!



Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in my latest endeavor. The support and assistance has been overwhelming. Many have asked me about the future of the WGTA Executive Officer positions, if I am successful in November.

The WGTA is bound by its Constitution and Bylaws which provide guidance regarding a transition of powers. Article III.B.1 clearly states that the Elected Vice President in the event that the President is unable to serve. The Elected Vice President is Mike Perkins, a fifth grade teacher at Stonehedge. Mike has experience in negotiations, grievances, and is knowledgeable regarding APPR and state education law. Mike would become the president on January 1, 2019 and would serve out the remainder of the term until June, 2019. The WGTA officers, cabinet and I have great confidence in Mike.

***III.B.1 The Vice President shall: Preside in the absence of the President and shall become President in the event that Officer is unable to serve.***

This would create an opening for the office of Vice President. That position can be filled by either a general election or by approval by the Cabinet of a WGTA Member that is submitted by the President. If they are faced with having to provide a transition, the WGTA Cabinet will discuss and approve which of the two procedures to enact.

***II.B.2. A vacancy occurring in any office, except that of President, the Cabinet shall authorize a specialelection by the general membership or direct the President to submit to the Cabinet for approval the name of the a candidate for the office in which a vacancy exists. A 75% positive vote of those cabinet members present and voting is required for approval. The appointment will terminate at end of the original term.***

☐ John Mannion, WGTA President



<https://www.queensyoungleaders.com/calling-all-mentors/>

## **WGTA Recruiting Mentors for New Teachers**

WGTA's New Teacher Welcoming Committee is developing a program that will orient and support new teachers in our district. This is not to be confused with district, grade level and content area mentors; district mentors provide a valuable curriculum support. WGTA mentors will provide a union focus of support for new teachers.

As we anticipate life after "Janus," the need to bring new teachers into our "fold" is essential. Our vision is to have WGTA mentors work with building leaders and building representatives as they welcome and support our newest teachers to tenure. WGTA mentoring teams will connect with their mentee in the fall, provide an overview of the contract, encourage WGTA membership and share sick bank options. Mentors will help their mentees fit in as they learn the building's politics and navigate administrative expectations.



<http://www.providence-church.com/10-church-news/99-we-want-you>

Ultimately, our goal is to help new teachers feel at home in their new school. Please consider becoming a WGTA mentor for a new teacher in your building.

Mary Gotham, Treasurer



# Financial advice shouldn't be a one-size-fits-all approach!

Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- the program provider of the NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Financial Counseling Program -- understands the unique benefits and retirement options of NYSUT members and how to address your specific financial needs.

**There are two types of services available: a Full-Service Program and a 403(b) Advisor Option.**

## Financial Planning Center

Member Benefits also offers NYSUT members access at no charge to an online Financial Planning Center. Choose from more than 100 modules on a variety of financial topics.

## **NEW! -- Student Loan & Debt Consolidation Services**

The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation is pleased to announce the endorsement of Cambridge Credit Counseling as a provider to assist NYSUT members and their loved ones with better understanding their student loan re-payment options and/or debt consolidation. **Learn more about this new endorsed program by visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org/cambridge](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org/cambridge).**

## Expert legal assistance for NYSUT members

### The program offers:

- Low annual cost of just \$85 (\$55 for retirees)
- Unlimited toll-free legal advice
- Includes Simple Will, Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy & Living Will
- Two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney

Did you know NYSUT members have access to expert legal assistance for everything from preparing crucial estate planning documents to dealing with traffic violations?

Provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C., the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan offers access to a national network of attorneys that deal with personal legal matters.

For an additional fee, Plan participants can add an Elder Law Rider and/or Business Protection Rider that provides access to attorneys who specialize in these areas.



Learn more by visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or calling 800-626-8101.

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.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RETIREES!

**MICHELE ALMONTE**

32 YEARS – PSYCHOLOGIST – WEST GENESEE MIDDLE

**KATHLEEN (KATHY) BYRNE**

21 YEARS – MATHEMATICS TEACHER – WEST GENESEE MIDDLE

**MARGARET (PEG) CURTAIN**

20 YEARS – ELEMENTARY TEACHER – SPLIT ROCK ELEMENTARY

**CHERYL MIEDANER**

20 YEARS – SOCIAL STUDIES – WEST GENESEE HIGH SCHOOL

**PATRICIA (PATTY) MUNLEY**

29 YEARS - SPECIAL EDUCATION- STONEHEDGE ELEMENTARY

**LAURA RICHARDS**

5 YEARS – NURSE – STONEHEDGE ELEMENTARY

**MARGARET (MIDGE) WERTH**

24 YEARS – ELEMENTARY EDUCATION – SPLIT ROCK ELEMENTARY







## For Next Year .....and in the future

Dinner of 100 JUNE 20<sup>nd</sup> 6PM – 9PM COLEMAN'S **ALL SPOTS ARE FILLED!!!!**



Complementary dinner, drinks and door prizes. If you already signed up, please keep this date in your calendar. There is a waiting list so if you cannot attend, please contact us ASAP!!

**Flex 125 Spending Plan OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>**

To have pre-tax dollars placed in an account to pay for childcare or health costs not covered by insurance, submit the completed documents to the District Office by this date. For more information, see your beginning of the year packet or attend the district's informational session on open enrollment. The plans run January 1 to December 31. These plans help lower your taxable income.

**Open Enrollment Insurance Informational Session**

**ON OR AROUND SEPTEMBER 13th**

**Open Enrollment Period**

**Ends on or around SEPTEMBER 18th**

If you are changing your coverage in any way, the documentation needs to be submitted prior to this date.

**Retirement Notification To The District To Receive A Financial Incentive**

**MARCH 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## **Sabbatical Applications Submitted**

**BETWEEN FEBRUARY 15 AND MARCH 15, 2018**

Individuals interested in taking a sabbatical must submit their application to the Superintendent between the dates of February 15 and March 15. Requirements for taking a Sabbatical Leave include working continuously in the district for seven years, immediately prior to applying. Those on leave maintain full benefits and receive 75% of their salary during a full-year sabbatical. Individuals receive their full salary if taking a half-year sabbatical. Upon returning, individuals must work for the district for two years following the sabbatical.

## **Sick Bank**

**PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>**

Our Sick Leave Bank is available to all members. Forms for enrolling in the Sick Leave Bank are available on our website, [wgta.net](http://wgta.net). To join, members must donate two sick days upon their initial enrollment or can enroll at the beginning of any school year, forms must be submitted to Building Secretaries by October 1<sup>st</sup>. To access the Sick Bank, employees must have used all of their current and prior sick days. I encourage all of our members to seriously consider enrolling to assure that in the unfortunate situation where a member is ill, they are still receiving a salary. The maximum length of a Sick Bank Leave is 90 days. Employees will be paid at the same rate as STEP 1, BA +0 on the salary grid.

## **New Club Advisor Approval**

**April 1, 2019**

Individuals interested in starting a new club must submit their proposal to the Superintendent prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>

## Westar is Mad About Mad City Money!

On Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Westar Federal Credit Union facilitated Mad City Money at West Genesee High School. The event was an in-school simulation city wherein students were assigned roles including jobs, spouses, children, and debt, so they could experience the trials and tribulations of their financial futures. The event provided the junior class students with the opportunity to foster a more educated understanding of how their financial responsibilities affect every aspect of their lives.



Cindy Kraus, our curator of the event noted the passion of the Credit Union and its staff allowed for the event to facilitate a lasting relationship between the students and their economic futures. "Westar FCU supports the Credit Union philosophy of '*people helping people*,'" Kraus said, "teaching students valuable financial life skills is one of our most important duties." All of us here at Westar are overwhelmed by the amount of support from the school, from the many volunteers we had, from the community overall, as for each component played an intricate role in allowing this event to run smoothly, and for that we are grateful.



### Contact Your WGTA Executive Officers <http://www.wgta.net>

John Mannion, President  
Email: [mannonforwgta@gmail.com](mailto:mannonforwgta@gmail.com)  
School: 315-487-4601  
Cell: 315-333-2094

Mike Perkins, Vice President  
Email: [beakerperkins@gmail.com](mailto:beakerperkins@gmail.com)  
School: 315-487-4631

Keith Newvine, Vice President (Grievances)  
Email: [konewvine@gmail.com](mailto:konewvine@gmail.com)  
School: 315-487-4601

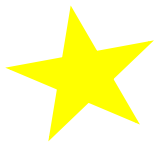
Mary Gotham, Treasurer  
Email: [megotham@gmail.com](mailto:megotham@gmail.com)  
School: 315-487-4601

Dawn Personte, Vice President (Negotiations)  
Email: [dpersonte@gmail.com](mailto:dpersonte@gmail.com)  
School: 315-487-4631

Jeanine Stables, Secretary  
Email: [jstablesster@gmail.com](mailto:jstablesster@gmail.com)  
School: 315-487-4653



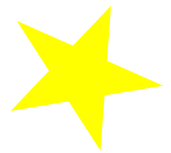
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## WGTA Election Results



Thank you to everyone who voted in our recent election. Thank you to the commitment that our cabinet members carry out in support of fellow teachers and nurses. It is greatly appreciated.

### STB

L- Allyson Stalter  
R- Stephanie Skardinski

### STG

L-Courtney Lyons  
R- Dawn Personte

### EH

L- Janet McDonald  
R- Heather Thome

### OR

L- Kristin Hudson  
R- Kathy Gauthier

### SR

L- Melanie Callahan  
R- Kim Grome

### WGM

L- Mary Weaver  
R- Mary Beth Smith  
R- Dee Fitzpatrick

### CMS

L- Dale Keida  
R- Sharon Bush  
R- Jamie Abdo

### HS

L- Chris Paoli  
L- Rob Manipole  
R- Theresa Mosey  
R- Pat Haines  
R- Craig Dowler  
R- Molly Devaney

# The Back Page



## Rosewood String Quartet

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for your special event

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parties

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Maggie Mercer 315-635-3241

Your guide to services, deals, and promotions for the  
WG education community

We want to advertise for you! Are you an artist, a carpenter, a house painter looking to advertise your services? Advertisements in “The Member ship” are provided free to West Genesee Teachers' Association Members and their family.

Please send your advertisement to Shana Michel (WGHS) at [shanamccaffrey@gmail.com](mailto:shanamccaffrey@gmail.com). The only other advertisements that are run in “The Member Ship” are those provided by NYSUT, AFT, or the AFL-CIO.

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