



THE MEMBERSHIP

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

President's Notes

Our Members are Amazing!

As we end another year I'd like to focus on our amazing members. Here are just a few examples of how West Genesee Teachers' Association members have gone above and beyond this past year.

National Board Certification - by Kim Smith

Congratulations to Pam Ciarla, Sue Francesconi, Alyssa Hammerschmidt, and Ellen Miller who recently became National Board Certified Teachers. Each of these teachers is to be commended for achieving National Board standards. They deeply analyzed their practice, showcased their talents in the classroom and demonstrated dedication to their students and the teaching profession. We are fortunate that our union supports the National Board process in several ways. With NYSUT's strong support, the Legislature and Governor established the NYS Albert Shanker Grant Program. Each of these teachers was able to access and use Shanker grant funding to cover the fees for the required components. In addition, the Education & Learning Trust (ELT) offers courses to candidates in the National Board process - up to 12 graduate credit hours through SUNY Empire State College at a discount of 40%. Finally, at West Genesee, we are fortunate to have our NYS Teaching Center support a cohort and provide a Professional Learning Facilitator and building use. We can be very proud that West Genesee has 10 NBCTs and 5 candidates currently in the process. If you have any questions or seek support, please do not hesitate to ask a Union Representative or Kim Smith, National Board PLF.



Adult Good Samaritan Hero Award - Danielle Binns (Camillus)

Our very own Danielle Binns was honored with the American Red Cross' Adult Good Samaritan Award this past December 7th at the annual "Real Heroes" dinner. Here's an account of the heroic action that Danielle is being recognized for:

On April 26, 2022 at approximately 6:45 pm at the Friendly's Restaurant in Clay, Danielle Binns had just sat down with her 5-year-old daughter and a friend, when she suddenly heard another mother in the restaurant yell "my baby is choking." Danielle, who is a teacher in the West Genesee School District and an EMT for Waves, TLC, and Dome Medical, jumped into action; she informed the mother she was an EMT and grabbed the 3-year-old little girl, who wasn't breathing and was clearly choking. Danielle started doing back blows on the child, and 9-1-1 was called. After four hard back blows, the little girl vomited all over and was finally able to breathe again.

After this entire incident, Danielle used an interview with [Syracuse.com](https://www.syracuse.com) as an opportunity to remind people of the importance of knowing how to help someone in need, as anyone can choke or have a medical emergency at any time. She was quoted as saying "That could have been anyone... You don't have to be an EMT. You could be a civilian who is trained in CPR. You just never know when you might be needed to help someone else out."



Those of us who know Danielle understand her commitment to helping others and teaching. Danielle has provided CPR/First Aid training for the WGTA in the past and will be providing training for WGTA members this coming January 31st and February 2nd. This is a two day training that will be held at West Genesee Middle School from 3:45 pm to 5:30 pm each day. The training is free. Certification cards will require a \$25 fee. If you'd like to participate please click on the link [here](#).

Rick Duggan Celebrates 50 Years of Teaching

On Thursday, November 10th, the WGTA recognized and celebrated Rick Duggan's 50 years of teaching in the West Genesee Central School District. It was a fantastic event at the WILDCAT that included more than 200 colleagues and friends of Rick. For those of you who missed the celebration, here's a little information that we shared about Rick and his 50 years at West Genesee.

Richard C. Duggan was born in Buffalo, New York in the year 1951. He grew up there with his older brother Tim, and twin siblings Brian and Cindy. He attended Grammar School (K-8) at Saint Thomas Aquinas and then high school at Bishop Timon (grades 9-12). Rick then went on to get his BA in education at SUNY Brockport and a Masters of Reading education at SUNY Cortland.

In 1973, Rick came to Syracuse and accepted a 6th grade position at Fairmount Elementary School where today's Camillus Town Hall stands. Since then he's taught at the following buildings:

- Stonehedge 6th grade
- Onondaga Road 4th through 6th grade
- Stonehedge 2nd grade
- Onondaga Road 4th and 6th grade
- Stonehedge 2nd grade
- Onondaga Road 6th grade
- WGMS 6th grade for the past 35 years



Rick with John Mannion

Rick with NYSUT Executive Director Melinda Person

It was a great night celebrating Rick! A lot of stories and laughs were shared. Mr. Bills recognized Rick with a one and only 50 year pin from the district. Senator John Mannion presented Rick with a New York State Senate Proclamation honoring Rick for his 50 years of service.

Thank you to Rick for being a model of professionalism and perseverance!

Another Win for Mannion!



I'm sure that you've all heard by now that John won reelection to the State Senate by 10 votes. I'm not sure, but that has to be the closest senate race in New York history.

This is a huge win for district 50, a huge win for education, and a huge win for the teaching profession in New York State!

The results of this race show that every vote counts. Yours certainly did this time. Thank you to those who supported our own and supported teachers, students, and public schools!

Stand with our Sisters and Brothers in Labor Solidarity!

As employees of Starbucks continue to fight for reasonable and fair working standards and their right to organize, we can help spread the message of union strength! Next time you stop by Starbucks, give the name UNION STRONG for your order.



ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT RETIRING IN THE NEXT 5, 10, 20, OR 30 YEARS?

No matter how far along in your teaching career, now is a good time to start planning for retirement. If your retirement is looming (within the next 5 years), you absolutely need to start planning. The NYS Teachers Retirement System is there for you!

1. The first step is to watch your mailbox. NYSTRS will be mailing your Annual Benefit Profile this month.

READ IT! SAVE IT!

Use your NYSTRS retirement account number, listed on the Benefit Profile, to go online to NYSTRS.org to create your myNYSTRS account.

2. Check out the fabulous NYSTRS.org website! Click on the user-friendly links to learn everything you need to know. Especially helpful are the links under the “Retirement Planning” tab and the “Video Library” (start with “NYSTRS Benefits Series” part 4).
3. If you have Active Duty Military service that precedes or interrupts your NYSTRS teaching time, be SURE to submit your DD-214 to earn more Service Credit toward your Pension Factor ASAP! See the NYSTRS.org video, “Claiming Veteran’s Service”. The same is true for other New York State, county, town, or village service credit for jobs you worked prior to your NYSTRS service see the NYSTRS.org Library video, “You Deserve the Credit”.
4. Members who have prior service credit should apply to buy back that credit as soon as possible, to save money, and to potentially be qualified for the pension benefits of the Tier on which they first worked as a public servant in New York State, County, or Local Government. E.g., Someone who was a Lifeguard at Jamesville Beach during high school, may qualify to be on the Tier that was in effect at that time!
5. There are several ways to get a pension estimate before you retire. The Benefits Profile you receive in the mail this month will have your estimated pension benefit. You can also find it online at NYSTRS.org. You may also schedule a 1:1 Benefits Consultation. There are 35 sites available across New York, or you can call 1 (800) 348-7298 x 6100 to schedule a personal benefits appointment. You can also attend a day-long PREP seminar. Your pension will be paid by direct deposit on the last business day of each month. The amount will depend on your Final Average Salary (the average of 3 highest consecutive years of full-time service), your Service Credit, and your Retirement Age.
6. When you are ready to retire, you will need to do TWO things: resign from your position in the District AND retire from the State. Our 2016-2020 WGTA contract says that in order to be eligible for a retirement award, you must write a letter of intent to resign your position “at least 3 months prior” to your retirement date. (This year, do it before March 24, 2020.) In order to retire from the State, you have to submit your intended retirement any time from 0 to 90 days prior to your date of retirement. (If you are about to reach a 20 or 30 year milestone, file

with NYSTRS closer to the deadline.)

7. ***For Protection Only* Disability Retirement**-If you face a potentially life-threatening illness or surgery, consider filing a disability retirement application. Doing so provides a safety net for you and your beneficiaries. In most cases, the lump-sum retirement payment a beneficiary would receive if something happens to you would be significantly more than an in-service death benefit. Contact our Disability Unit at (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6010 for estimates and additional information before making decisions.

Contact Your WGTA Executive Officers

<http://www.wgta.net>

Michael Perkins, President
Email: perkinsforwgta@gmail.com
School: WGMS (315) 487-4618

Christina Castaldo, Treasurer
Email: ccastaldowgta@gmail.com
School: STG (315) 487-4631

Dawn Personte, Vice President
Email: dpersonte@gmail.com
School: STG (315) 487-4631

Jeanine Stables, Secretary
Email: jstablesster@gmail.com
School: WGMS (315) 487-4618

Conor Murphy, VP Grievances
cdmurphy84@gmail.com
School: HS (315) 487-4592



**Hungry?
Need a car rental?
Looking for a good deal on a hotel or flight?**

The NYSUT Member Benefits Discounts & Deals program helps you make every dollar count. Save up to 50% on:

- Restaurant dine-in or take-out
- Groceries and food delivery
- Meal subscription services
- Clothing and shoes
- Oil changes
- Hotels and flights
- Car rentals

**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
nysut
Working to Benefit You

MB Discounts & Deals offers more than 21,000 deals throughout New York State along with hundreds of thousands nationwide. You can even refer your favorite local business (restaurant, coffee shop, workout facility, etc.) to join the network and provide NYSUT members with a special discount. Don't miss out... register your account today!

Member Benefits is proud to endorse MB Discounts & Deals along with dozens of other programs and services that may be able to benefit you and your family members. Take some time to explore our website to find out how we can help you make every dollar count!



**Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,
visiting *memberbenefits.nysut.org*
or calling 800-626-8101.**

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Sept/Oct 2022

The Back Page



Rosewood String Quartet

Classical and popular music

for your special event

Weddings, receptions, cocktail hours, parties

Rosewoodstringquartet.com

Maggie Mercer 315-263-2087

GOT KIDS?

Bounce Physical Therapy

Helping CNY kids get better since 2006



315-214-3431

babies.kids.teens

sports.handwriting.sensory.milestones

Liverpool.NY

BOUNCE PHYSICAL THERAPY
PRESENTS

FREE TUMMY TIME CLASS

Saturdays at Bounce PT in Liverpool NY
Email: MasteringmilestonesCNY@gmail.com with
any questions and to reserve your spot!

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 contact Michael Perkins at perkinsforwgta@gmail.com

The Member Ship is published by the West Genesee Teachers'
Association-3106, P.O. Box 417, Camillus, NY, 13031-0417.
Affiliated with the New York State United Teachers and the American
Federation of Teachers, NEA, AFL-CIO.