

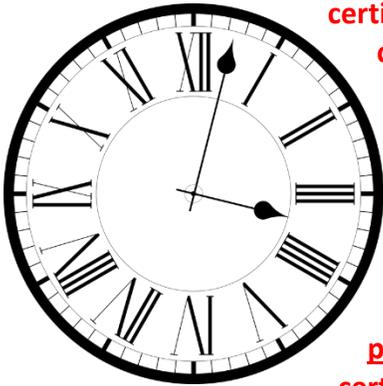
# THE MEMBER SHIP



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

## Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) and Me ~

- Who is required to complete CTLE (Continuing Teacher and Leader Education) hours? **Professional certificate holders (teachers who received their certification after 9/1/2004) must complete a minimum of 100 clock hours of acceptable CTLE during each 5 year period. Permanent certificate holders are not subjected to these rules.**



- When does the five-year period begin? **The five-year registration period begins when you registered as a "Registered" member in the TEACH system. Individuals who were issued their first Professional certification starting 7/1/2016 will be automatically registered for their initial five-year registration period. The registration period will begin the first day of the month when the certification was issued until the end of the month prior to their birth month in the fifth year.**
- What organizations are considered a sponsor and can deliver professional development hours? **The West Genesee Central School District is an approved sponsor; therefore, any professional development you received during staff development days or half days and Superintendent's Conference days, count towards CTLE hours. Additionally, professional development offered by BOCES, NYSUT Education and Learning Trust, courses offered through the West Genesee/Syracuse University, as well as, credit-bearing courses from accredited colleges and universities.**
- Is there a Language Acquisition requirement? **Of the 100 required CTLE clock hours, fifteen percent must be in language acquisition addressing the needs of English language learners, including a focus on best practices for co-teaching strategies, and integrating language and content instruction for English language learners.**
- Who is required to keep track of CTLE hours? **CTLE certificate holders shall maintain a record of completed CTLE, which should include the following information: the title of the program, the total number of hours completed, the number of hours completed in language acquisition addressing the need of English language learners, the sponsor's name and any identifying number, attendance verification, and the date and location of the program.**

# Sick Leave Bank Update



Our Sick Leave Bank is now in its second year. Of our 400 WGTA Members, 388 (97%) are currently enrolled in the Sick Leave Bank. Over the course of the past year and a half, the Sick Leave Bank has provided six of our members with challenging health conditions, some financial stability. Thank you to all of our members who have donated days. Your generosity has helped some of your fellow members through a difficult time. The majority of us will not end up accessing Sick Leave Bank days; however, this benefit acts as a safety net in case an unfortunate event occurs and someone's sick days have been exhausted.

Below you will find some reminders and information regarding the Sick Leave Bank:

- At the time of publication, the Sick Leave Bank will have approximately 700 days.
- Sick days are NOT donated to the bank each year. The initial donation of 2 days was required for membership.
- In the event that the Sick Leave Bank drops below 90 days, members will be required to donate an additional day.
- A member may request days from the Sick Leave Bank only after he/she has exhausted all accumulated sick days. Sick Leave Bank days can only be granted for absences due to an individual's prolonged illness or injury. A prolonged illness or injury is an illness or injury that is serious in nature and necessitates an extended absence from work for multiple, consecutive days. The general accepted time frame of a prolonged illness is two consecutive weeks. An employee does NOT have to use any unpaid days prior to petitioning the committee for days.
- Maternity leaves do not automatically qualify for approval by the Sick Leave Bank Committee. If there are extenuating circumstances, either prior to or after delivery, the Sick Leave Bank Committee will consider authorizing approval of the leave, provided the person requesting the leave has been deemed unable to work by her doctor and appropriate documentation is provided.
- Elective surgeries and recovery from such surgeries are not covered by the Sick Leave Bank.

The salary for an individual who is granted days from the Sick Leave Bank is paid at a rate of BA +0, Step 1 which is at the bottom of the salary grid.

—John Mannion, WGTA President

# Why Disability Insurance?

The need for disability insurance is often overlooked by most. Of the many types of insurance, disability insurance is very important to have but often overlooked. According to the American Council for Disability Awareness, 1 in 4 Americans will experience a disabling illness at some point in their lives. With those odds, taking your chances without disability insurance can have a devastating effect, both financially and personally. Imagine being both sick and without an income.

If you have over a million dollars invested, then you don't really need to have disability insurance. You are self-insured. For the rest of us who don't have a million dollars, disability insurance is required to protect us in the chance we can't work for long periods of time (90 days to 15+ years).

If you become disabled (too ill to work), you have your available sick days as well as 90 days of sick bank days. That is if you have officially joined the WGTA sick bank. So, what happens after you run out of sick days and sick bank?

This is where disability insurance comes in. You can purchase disability insurance that will cover a certain percentage of your income for short and long term illness. It is a good idea for everyone to have good long term disability insurance that will provide you with protection up to retirement age.

The average cost for disability insurance is \$37 per month (\$444/year). NYSUT members have access to discounted disability insurance through Metropolitan Life (administered through MERCER)

You can learn more about available NYSUT member benefit disability insurance by clicking/visiting:

<http://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/insurance/disability-insurance>  
<http://www.nysutmbteinsurance.com/Insurance-Plans/Disability-Insurance>

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about disability insurance.

Michael Perkins  
Vice President  
WGTA  
[beakerperkins@gmail.com](mailto:beakerperkins@gmail.com)



## Dawn Personte, Vice President (Negotiations)

The wealth of knowledge and preparation that a negotiation team needs is immense. Since I accepted my role in the WGTA as VP of Negotiations, I have been eager to learn more about the union as a whole, as well the negotiations process. I had the great pleasure of attending the NYSUT conference in Cooperstown in October. While at the conference for two days, I was immersed in the negotiation process. I learned information regarding the evolution of the Taylor Law, the Public Employees Fair Employment Act. This is the basis of why we negotiate as a



bargaining unit. In addition, I learned the rules of negotiating, the items needed to prepare for the process, and how to look at the language of a contract. A highlight of the workshop was participating in a mock contract negotiation. As you know, our current contract is in effect until June of 2020. The WGTA will

begin preparing for our next contract as soon as 2018. I am open to hearing about what is important to you in our next contract and look forward to representing you in these negotiations. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at [dpersonte@gmail.com](mailto:dpersonte@gmail.com).

### Contact Your WGTA Executive Officers

<http://www.wgta.net>

John Mannion, President

Email: [mannionforwgta@gmail.com](mailto:mannionforwgta@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



Stop in today to  
**Camillus' Premiere Pizza Pub**  
*featuring the Best in the West:*



PIZZA – WINGS  
BURGERS  
SALADS – WRAPS

*The Wildcat offers Catering, Free Delivery,  
and is the perfect spot  
for hosting your Parties!*

3680 Milton Ave. · Camillus, NY 13031  
(315) 487-2222  
wildcatpizzapub.com



*Get 10% off food purchases under \$50 when you  
show your West Genesee Employee ID.*

# Dates to remember!!



**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP AND LUNCH**

Tentative Date: **SATURDAY, May 5, 2018, 10AM - 12PM**



**“DINNER OF 100” at Coleman's**

**Wednesday, JUNE 20, 6PM - 9PM FREE TO THE FIRST 100 WGTA MEMBERS AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS! FREE DRINKS, FREE FOOD, FABULOUS DOOR PRIZES!**



TO RECEIVE ONE OF THE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES IN THE CONTRACT, AN EMPLOYEE MUST INFORM THE DISTRICT OF THEIR INTENT TO RETIRE BY **MARCH 23, 2018**. You then must file with NYSTRS within three months of your retirement date (after **April 1, 2018**).

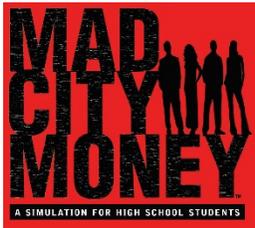


Applications for Sabbatical Leave must be submitted between February 15 and March 15, 2018.

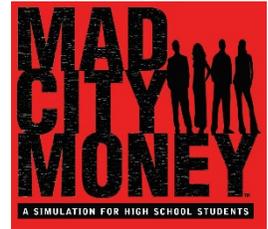
Pick up some WGTA Merchandise at Just the Right Stuff;  
click on the link below.



[WGTA Apparel Store](#)



**MAD CITY**  
**MANIA!**



Each year Westar Federal Credit Union hosts a financial life skills event, “Mad City Money” with West Genesee High School. This is a simulation that allows the students to get a taste of the real world complete with occupations, salaries, spouses and/or children, student loan debt, credit card debt, and medical insurance payments. High school students take on the role of an adult in the futuristic Mad City. The challenge for the students is to visit merchants to select housing, transportation, food, household necessities, as well as other wants and needs while maintaining a budget and saving for the future. Mad City provides a great opportunity for students to learn vital life skills and it’s a lot of fun for the merchants, all of which are volunteers from the community. The continued success of this program is made possible by the amazing community volunteers we recruit each year.

Our next event is **May 18, 2018** and includes the ENTIRE junior class (400+). This is our biggest event yet. If you would like to help, please email Cindy Kraus: [cindy.westar@cnyemail.com](mailto:cindy.westar@cnyemail.com)

# “Genny” Good News

Five teachers within the West Genesee CSD have been awarded the Albert Shanker Grant by the New York State Department of Education. The teachers who have received this grant are Lindsay Spinks, Dawn Personte, Claire Schulz, Kelli Barbuto, and Denise Kaley.

Congratulations to these teachers who were rewarded for their hard work and dedication.



Above: West Genesee teachers are working at the NYSUT Headquarters Building exploring or pursuing National Board certification. The teachers in the photo include: Claire Schulz, Denise Kaley, Kelli Barbuto, Lindsay Spinks, Christina Castaldo, Olga Powers and Dawn Personte.



**Important Tax Information  
for WGTA Members  
2017 Union dues - \$792.03**

# The Back Page

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.

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.

## Membership has its privileges!

*Your union is steadfast in its fight for better contracts, safer working conditions, fair pay, advocacy, and upholding the labor rights of the dedicated women and men proudly working in the education and health care industries on a daily basis.*

**But your NYSUT membership does so much more!** It also provides you with the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of more than 40 endorsed programs & services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality, competitive insurance plans.



**As an Example: With the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed MetLife Auto & Home insurance program, NYSUT members receive special group rates on auto insurance, homeowners insurance as well as motorcycle, boat, personal property and other types of insurance -- rates that are NOT available to the general public.**

That is why we encourage you to always look for the “Endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits” logo before you or your loved ones make any purchasing decisions.

Visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call **800-626-8101** for specific information about this program.



## Newly endorsed Member Shopping Program available for use!

We heard the requests of the NYSUT membership and spent months diligently researching new member shopping program options. The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation is pleased to announce that the Purchasing Power Member Shopping Program is now available for use by eligible NYSUT members.

Purchasing Power is an online shopping option that offers another way to purchase brand-new, brand-name products and pay for them over time through the ease of payroll deduction or ACH withdrawals. Eligible NYSUT members can enjoy access to products such as computers, appliances, jewelry, furniture, televisions, electronics, travel packages and much more.

While Purchasing Power is not a discount program, it can save you money and stress compared to high-interest credit cards or rent-to-own stores. As always, you are encouraged to shop and compare before making any purchasing decisions.

Visit [nysutmbc.purchasingpower.com](http://nysutmbc.purchasingpower.com) or call **800-537-3135** to learn more.



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.

Jan/Feb. '18

