

WTU Update

Volume 24, Issue 5

January, 2016

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Colleague,

I hope you have a well rested vacation and enjoy the holidays with your family and friends.

I want to thank all of you for your professionalism and all the hard work that you do each and every day for your students. You have proven that you are dedicated to your profession.

I would also like to thank all of you who have been attending the recent School Committee Meetings. I encourage more of you to attend the School Committee Meetings in the future.

A special "thank you" goes out to the teachers and parents at Norwood Elementary School who have been joining together in solidarity outside of their school on Friday mornings.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year!

George J. Landrie, Jr.



INTEREST ARBITRATION UPDATE

Arbitration Panel

The three (3) person arbitration panel has been selected and consists of the following members:

- WSC appointed Mr. Ron Cascione as their partial arbitrator
- WTU appointed Mr. Bob Casey as their partial arbitrator
- The neutral arbitrator is Mr. Mike Ryan who was selected by agreement of the two partial arbitrators

The three arbitrators will sit as a panel and will preside over the hearings. The decisions of the arbitration panel are by majority vote.

Hearing Dates

As of today, the three arbitrators have agreed to two hearing dates. The first hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 and second hearing date is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

The School Committee's attorney, Andrew Henneous, is insisting that the arbitration hearings will be concluded within twenty (20) days of the first hearing which will be held on December 16, 2015. Obviously, this is unrealistic and the School Committee should realize that this timeline cannot be met. In any case, they should remember the following three facts:

REMEMBER!!!

- It is important to note that the decisions of the arbitrators are not binding on any matters involving the expenditure of money. The question to ask is: What proposals do not involve the expenditure of money?
- The School Committee filed for arbitration in the past and the result was the arbitration hearings lasted approximately two (2) years and was never concluded and it never produced a contract.
- A contract will only be reached when the School Committee does its job and negotiates a contract.

WORK RELATED INJURY

If you get hurt or injured at work, it is imperative that you notify, in writing, your principal. You also need to contact Margie Brown immediately in the Warwick School Department Human Resources Office so she can explain the procedure to be followed. In addition, you need to notify her by e-mail that you were injured on the job in order to have a record for yourself. Margie Brown is the person who works with the teacher, your health care provider, your physician, etc. Her direct phone line is 734-3075.

WTU 25 WEEK CLUB

We would like to thank all the members who joined the 25 Week Club. Also, we would like to thank the building reps for collecting and distributing the materials. If you have joined the 25 Week Club and would like a donation, please send us a letter in writing with your request. Send your request to the Union office in care of Julie Connors-Costello/Pauline Pinto. The drawings will be held after the school vacation.

Thank you,
Julie Connors-Costello
Pauline Pinto
Co-Chairwomen
25 Week Club

AFT OFFERS GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply for the 2016 Robert G. Porter Scholarship Program. AFT members and their children are eligible to participate in the program, which awards four \$8,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors and awards \$1,000 grants to AFT members who are continuing their education.

TO APPLY:

- Applications are now available online. The deadline for application is March 31, 2016.
- Download the application from the AFT website at go.aft.org/scholarships.
- E-mail an application request to porterscholars@aft.org.

UNITED WAY/FUND SUCCESSFUL AGAIN

Warwick teachers once again have demonstrated their commitment to helping those less fortunate. This year's total for the WTU United Way and the Fund campaigns was \$6,333.00. We certainly want to extend a special thank you to all those who participated in this year's campaign.

Our annual United Way/Fund incentive drawings were conducted at the December General Membership Meeting. The winners of the gift certificates are as follows: \$10 Papa's Ice Cream—Anita Boyd (Robertson), \$25 Char's Flower Shop—Diane Chaplin (Aldrich), \$25 Imagination Hair—Nick DiFilippo (Pilgrim), \$25 Islander—John Paolino (Robertson), \$25 Islander—Kate Sharkey (Hoxsie), \$25 Greenwood Inn—Bart Balog (Wickes), \$25 Greenwood Inn—Cindy Bowden (Wyman).

PENSION BENEFICIARY

It is very important to keep your beneficiary information updated. Remember, you have both a defined benefit pension and a defined contribution account. Be sure to update your beneficiary on both of them.

You can access your records with the Employee Retirement System of Rhode Island.

You may contact ERSRI by telephone at 462-7600 or at their website, www.ersri.org.

PLEASE NOTE



**Jan. 13th- WTU Executive Board Meeting
3:30 p.m.**

Jan. 18th - Office Closed



**Jan. 27th - Building Rep. Meeting
3:30 p.m.
Winman**

WTU FAX NO. 739-2287 WTU PHONE NO. 739-2260

**WEBSITE:
warwickteachersunion.org**

WTU EXECUTIVE BOARD

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WTU Update is a publication of the Warwick Teachers Union, Local 915, AFT, RIFTHP, AFL-CIO