STATE OF OUR UNION: PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

This summer has been a very busy and productive one. We have accomplished many of the goals I set when I first took office, and I believe we have moved forward as a union.

On Thursday, August 20, 2015, the negotiating team, Matt Scully, Jillian Caci, Deborah Bouley, Brenda Fry-Underhill, Ken Moeller, and I came to an agreement with the District on a Memorandum of Agreement which will cover three years, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017, when ratified. The team and I worked very hard to fulfill the needs of our members. The MOA will be distributed to all NTA members on September 8, 2015. There will be an NTA General Membership meeting on September 17, 2015 at 4:30 PM at NFA Main in the auditorium. This will be an opportunity for the members to hear from the negotiating team and ask questions. I hope many of you will attend. The ratification vote will be held on September 24, 2015.

As a result of our #PushBackWearBlack activities this summer, the NTA was able to settle the problems faced by our summer school teachers housed in Balmville School, Heritage Middle School, and NFA North Campus. The District agreed to compensate the teachers for the additional 30 minutes of work they performed each day in their respective summer school programs. I would like to personally thank all of the NTA members who participated in the Friday morning “walk-ins” and who joined us at the BOE meeting where I presented the many problems summer school teachers were facing and reminded the District that our working conditions are the students' learning conditions.

Your activism paved the way for the Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement we were able to negotiate.

This summer two arbitrations regarding the elementary pre-

THE PENDULUM IS BACK!!

The Pendulum, the Newburgh Teachers Association’s official newsletter, is returning to action for the 2015-16 school year. The bi-monthly publication will focus on union-related issues facing the district and public education on the whole, as well as news-worthy educational human interest events. It will feature a “Congratulations” section for NTA members who have hit certain professional and personal milestones and achievements. It will also contain a “Condolences” section. The first of five four-page issues will hit NTA members’ mailboxes at the end of October. It will also be available on the NTA website, www.newburghtea.org.

The Pendulum is a three-person team of NTA members. Darrell Kuhn of the Newburgh Free Academy Main Campus is CONTINUED ON BACK

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STATE OF OUR UNION: PRESIDENT'S UPDATE continued

paratory time have been moving forward. Many teachers volunteered to give testimony this summer; and both arbitrations are continuing into the fall. I will update you on their progress as it occurs.

We have also been working on improving our communication with our members. We have upgraded our email and text blast providers. We also are revamping our website, Facebook page, and Twitter account, all of which were instrumental in our successful summer school campaign. I want our members to be informed and to be active participants in their union. I believe communication is the key to unity, and I will continue to find ways to reach out to all of our members.

In July a meeting was held to discuss the rights of NTA “special members”, and members of the NTA Board of Directors and members of the Retired Teachers Chapter attended along with the NTA Labor Relations Specialist Angela Pace. After reviewing both the NTA and the NYSUT Constitutions, it was confirmed to everyone’s satisfaction that “special members” i.e. retirees may vote and be seated as NYSUT Delegates. As a result, the NTA Board of Directors later rescinded a motion put forth last February by past president Art Plichta. However, the AFT Constitution does not allow for our “special members” to vote or be seated, so I have applied to the AFT Executive Council for a charter for an organization of retired members on behalf of the members of the RTC.

Work was also done on the NTA Offices. The oil tank has been removed, painting has begun, and estimates for repairs on our roof are being considered. The NTA bought the building in 1998, and we are one of the few locals who own their own office space. The new officers and I feel it is very important to maintain our building, and I would like to express my appreciation to Chris Cotton and Frank Wolf who have generously agreed to re-institute the NTA Building Maintenance and Oversight Committee.

We are in the midst of the biggest attacks we as a union have ever faced. We may lose our rights to due process, to collectively bargain, and most importantly, our students’ and children’s rights to a public education. It will take everyone’s voice to be heard over the din of politicians and well funded organizations that are attacking and scapegoating teachers. I want to assure you that I will work hard to move the NTA forward, and I will fight for what is best for the members of the NTA, but I am not the NTA. It is a union of individuals who must care about and protect our rights. You are the union.

In solidarity,
Stacy Moran
President of the NTA