



Update from the President

To our members,

Many exciting things are happening in the WHEA. The negotiating team is very dedicated and is working very hard for you this year. We have used the answers to the survey and the issues discussed at the meetings held last year as our starting point in the negotiating process. We have already had several meetings with the Town and the process is moving along.

In our continuing mission to unite West Hartford teachers, we held our first social event on Friday, November 12, 2010 at Murphy and Scarlett's in Farmington. Many of our colleagues attended and had a wonderful time sharing thoughts, ideas and concerns. We will be holding more socials as the year progresses. Our first seminar of the year will be held on January 20th at Sedgwick Middle School. The topic will be on the special education process.

As we welcome some new building representatives, we are always looking for more people who are interested in taking an active part in the WHEA. Many positions only need a little bit of time but help all of us in a large way. If you are interested in becoming more involved please contact your building rep. or the WHEA office for ideas.

Amazingly, we are into the beginning of the second quarter of this school year. Report cards are done and conferences are completed. We look forward to the Thanksgiving break to enjoy our family and friends and to be thankful for all that we have.

The WHEA Executive Committee wishes all of you a happy, safe, and enjoyable Thanksgiving and holiday season!

David Dippolino
WHEA President



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

YOUR 2010-2011 OFFICERS:

President

David Dippolino

Executive V.P.

Theresa McKeown

Administrative V.P.

Margo Parenti

Treasurer

Tom Hine

Editor

Joyce Bogdan

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Update from the President</i>	1
<i>WHEA Officers</i>	
<i>Workshops</i>	2
<i>Your Newsletter</i>	
<i>WHEA News</i>	3-5
<i>NEA & CEA News</i>	
<i>Leading Students</i>	6-7
<i>Kudos go to:</i>	8-11
<i>WHREA Corner</i>	
<i>Your Credit Union</i>	12-14
<i>Quick Tips</i>	
<i>Current Issues</i>	
<i>Awards & Accomplishment</i>	
<i>Form</i>	

Workshops

The West Hartford Education Association (WHEA) continues to plan for this year's workshops and social events. The first workshop will present 'Mythbusters, Understanding your Legal Rights and Responsibilities in the Special Education Process.' It will be on January 20, 2011, at Sedgwick Middle School in the MultiPurpose Room. This workshop will be presented by Robyn Kaplan-Cho, CEA Program Development Specialist. Mark your calendars for other workshops presented by Robyn on February 10 and April 7. For further information see your building representative.



Your Newsletter

WHEA World' Purpose

The WHEA has been working for the advancement of West Hartford's public school teachers, children and schools since 1928.

The purpose of our 'WHEA World' newsletter is to keep members informed about the latest news and achievements of our colleagues.

Please pass along any information about awards and achievements that you and your colleagues have received so that we can publish them in upcoming newsletters. Please send the 'Award and Achievement Form' to the PR chair at wheaoffice@gmail.com. The form can be found on the last page of this edition.

Let's share our wonderful accomplishments with our colleagues!

Teaching

By J. Bogdan © 8/10

We begin each day with enthusiasm for our students. We know our objective for the lesson. We know the methods and strategies that will apply. We know our students as we adapt and adjust the plan. We know that our students are there to learn and we have taken that challenge, as teachers, to teach and inspire our students.

WHEA News

Your Representatives

The following are building representatives and alternates for 2010-2011.

Representative Council Chair: Jasdeep Singh

CEA Representative: Sara Pomponi

Building Reps.: **Aiken**—Pat Vaninwagen; **Braeburn**—Kimberly Maloney*; **Bristow**—Greg Burns, Marcelo Pelliccioni, Allayne Sundt; **Bugbee**—Anthony Weber; **Charter Oak**—Mary Ann Muccino*, Lillian Rausch; **Conard**—Carol Chase, Kim Hoffman, Chris Islaub, Sam Rader; **Duffy**—Brenda Key, Sheila Levanti, Jen Prigodich; **Ed. Center**—Christine Newman; **Hall**—Gay Adams, Tom Devine, Donna Fernandes, Michelle Nicklas; **King Philip**—Katherine Kiewetter*, Jenn Ukanowicz-Parrett; **Morley**—Megan Wares, Tony Wilusz; **Norfeldt**—Wendy Baker, Mary Sheridan; **Retired**—Helen Hughlett; **Sedgwick**—Joyce Bogdan, Linda Gengel, David Simon, Jennifer Tauro; **Smith**—Tracy Bennett, Sharon Courneen; **Whiting Lane**—co-reps. Wendy Martin* and Patricia Orticari*; **Wolcott**—Bonny Butkiewicz.

Alternate Reps.: **Aiken** — Lisa Horan*; **Bristow**—Sandi Harss; **Bugbee**—Maria Bateas; **Charter Oak** —Michelle Hadlock*; **Duffy**—Clare Taylor; **Norfeldt**—Trudy Davis; **Smith**—Jane Macca.

*Welcome to new representatives

Contract Negotiations

The 2010 WHEA Negotiation Team is working on our new contract which will go into effect July 1, 2011. The members of the negotiating team are Margo Parenti, David Dippolino, Theresa McKeown, Jasdeep Singh, Tom Devine, Mary Sheridan, Kim Hoffman, Tony Wilusz, and Greg Burns. Thank you for all of your hard work!

WHEA Rep. Council Meetings

The WHEA Representative Council meets monthly to discuss issues of importance for our teachers and schools. The meetings are attended by the elected Representative Council members and alternates from each school and are open to our membership. Most meetings are held at Conard High in room 169 from 4 P.M. until 5 P.M. The following are the dates for 2010-2011 school year: December 6, January 10, February 7, March 7, April 4, Annual meeting May 2.

WHEA News

WHEA Social Event

This year's first WHEA social event was held on November 12, 2010 at Murphy and Scarlett's in Farmington, CT. There were teachers from many schools and a great time was had by all!



On the left are John Tracey, Sedgwick social studies, and Carol Chase, Conard math.
On the right are Floyd Campbell, retired Sedgwick English and presently KP ISS, and Tom Hine, Sedgwick English and WHEA Treasurer.



On the left are Nancy Barton, Smith art and Laurie Noyes, WHEA office secretary.
On the right are Holly Coleman, Conard math and Mike Fadziewicz, Conard math.



On the left, and from left to right, are Hall teachers Patrick McManus, history; Jessica Brand, family and consumer science; Jeff Billing, math; Neil McEwan, history; Scott Sampietro, technology education; and Christina Tysh, math.
On the right are David Simon, Sedgwick world language, and Allayne Sundt, Bristow 7th grade math.



On the left are Chris Kueffner, Bristow 6th grade math, and Tom Lucey, Whiting Lane 5th grade teacher.
On the right are Patrick Nobou, Sedgwick world language, and Neil McEwan, Hall history and Fulbright Scholar from Scotland.



NEA and CEA News

Candidates Night

CEA was hard at work during the election season at the October 20, 2010 Hartford County Council meeting at the Chowder Pot Restaurant, in Hartford. Members were invited to 'Meet the Candidates'. Several candidates attended and spoke to members. John Larson addressed the group with political news and information. He also emphasized the important resource in the U. S. Library of Congress. He pointed out the immense quantity of materials that are available and the wealth of primary resources in the National Archives. The Library of Congress can be accessed on the internet. This program was followed by a dinner for members and the CEA County Council business meeting. David Dippolino was elected as one of the two Vice Chairs for Hartford County Council.

A Talent Show was held on October 28, 2010 at the Aqua Turf, in Southington. The monies raised were for the benefit of the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education. Our own Brenda Key, Duffy third grade teacher, sang in the show. A workshop on 'Professional Issues Updates' was held on November 16 at the Chowder Pot, Hartford. The next Hartford County Council meetings are January 26 and March 30, 2011.



From left to right: Theresa McKeown, Braeburn and Bugbee Quest teacher; Representative John Larson, and Brenda Key, Duffy third grade teacher, at the Hartford County Council 'Meet the Candidates' meeting.

*Teacher *Stars* in CEA Publications*

At the start of each year we receive publications and information from CEA. This year there was a surprise as we looked at our pamphlet, calendar and the 'Education Week' poster. There were familiar, smiling faces on the covers and poster of this year's materials. Sedgwick's Ted Goerner, 8th grade science teacher, and Rona Berkowitz, 6th and 8th grade reading teacher; along with some students were stars on the covers. Their energetic, enthusiastic photos show what kind of teachers they are and how they enjoy working with their students. Rona said about the experience, "I never stop being impressed by the enthusiasm and eagerness to learn that is shown to me daily by my students."

Leading Students

Unified Theater

On November 19, 2010 the West Hartford Unified Theater will present their production "Channel UT TV." This will take place in the Sedgwick auditorium at 5 P.M. The Sedgwick students will present skits and dance numbers that they produced and directed.

The mission of Unified Theatre is to create a theatrical production equally featuring the talents of individuals with and without special needs. Unified Theater is advised by Melissa Lotstein and Denise Brezinski with assistance from Heather Pelkey and Amy Tebecio. The students are the leaders, directors and producers.



Raptor/Falconry Program

On October 22, 2010 Falconer Jonathan Wood, his birds of prey and falconry returned and intrigued audiences at Sedgwick. Funded by the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools and the West Hartford Administrators Association, this special program teaches students about the importance of these predators in Connecticut's food web. Sarah Faulkner, 6th and 7th grade science teacher and organizer of the program, explained that the students learned "the differences among the different kinds of raptors, and their historic role in partnering with man to hunt." There were about 20 live birds and several of the birds flew in the gymnasium.



Leading Students cont.

Community Mural

Sedgwick designated October 20, 2010 as Community Day. The entire school participated in many different programs to build community spirit. As part of the day, each adult and student in the building created a work of art representing themselves on a one inch by twelve inch piece of paper. The three art teachers, Rachel Martinelli, 6th grade; Susan Gudat, 7th grade; and Nicole West, 8th grade; wove the strips together to form a mural to represent the entire school community. The mural is displayed on the wall outside the main office.



From left to right: Susan Gudat, Rachel Martinelli, and Nicole West are ready to start weaving the community mural.



The Community Mural is on display at Sedgwick Middle.

Kudos go to:

Fulbright Exchange Teacher

Each year the U.S. State Department offers scholarships to international and U. S. teachers to allow them to exchange jobs and lives for one year. The award comes from the British Council in the United Kingdom and the Fulbright Award Program through the U. S. State Department.

This year, Hall High School is pleased to welcome Neil McEwan through this program. Neil, a Fulbright Exchange teacher, is in the social studies department replacing Maryam Wardak, Hall social studies teacher. Maryam is teaching in Neil's position in Scotland while Neil is teaching Modern World History and American Government in West Hartford.

Neil received the award in London, England in April 2010. Neil said, "I have been extremely lucky to have applied to a program such as the Fulbright and not only be accepted, but find myself ending up in a place like West Hartford. To be able to learn from and hopefully contribute towards such a successful school system is a great privilege and I look forward enormously to all the challenges and opportunities that present themselves this year."

Neil McEwan in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China. Photo taken by Neil McFadyean, Head of World Studies, Scotland.



Teacher's Institute

John Tracey, 7th grade social studies teacher at Sedgwick and Marty Keena, 6th Grade social studies teacher at King Philip, collaborated to present at the '2010 Connecticut Council of Social Studies Conference' held at Central Connecticut State University. The topic of their presentation was their experiences at the Teacher's Institute at 'George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens'. While sharing the rigor of their experiences, they encouraged those in attendance to pursue the application process for the upcoming summer 2011 session. Educators interested in this outstanding opportunity are encouraged to contact John and Marty directly, or investigate the Mount Vernon website at www.mountvernon.org.



Kudos go to cont.:

Teacher's Awards

James Solomon, Hall English teacher, has received the 2010 National High School Boys Tennis Coach of the Year, from the National High School Coaches Association in Easton, PA. He was nominated and selected by the group “based on achievement, years of service and commitment to the sport and its athletes.”



The Connecticut Art Education Association has nominated **Joanne Barry-Dutro**, Hall art teacher, for National Art Education Association Teacher of the Year.



The American High School Theatre Festival has selected **Sean Harris**, Hall theatre teacher, with his theatre students, to represent North American at ‘The Edinburgh Fringe Festival’ in August.



The West Hartford Teacher of the Year, **Scott Ferguson**, Hall English teacher, was part of the Park Road Parade in October. Many groups, and bands took part in this annual parade. It was a beautiful fall day and many spectators turned out to enjoy the event.



Scott Ferguson in the
Park Road Parade

Kudos go to cont.:

COLT Conference

On Monday, October 25, 2010 the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (COLT) Fall Conference was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT. The 2010 conference titled “World Languages: Essential 21st Century Skills for Global Citizens” was attended by many different language speakers from across Connecticut.



From left to right: World Language teachers Michaela Volovsek, Hall, Marcelo Pelliccioni, Bristow, and John Hegarty, Conard at the COLT conference.



Marcelo Pelliccioni and Joyce Bogdan at their presentation.

6th Annual Golf Outing

Conard High School's 6th Annual Ashleigh and Jennifer Memorial Golf Outing took place on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at 12:00 P. M. at Rockledge Country Club. Ashleigh and Jennifer were honor students, active in sports and the arts, volunteered, and enjoyed their family and friends. The annual event takes place in memory of these two wonderful young women. “The proceeds from this outing are awarded to students in their senior year who exhibit the creative and compassionate qualities possessed by these two young women.” who were tragically lost five years ago. We thank Ted Holmes, Adjusted Curriculum teacher, for coordinating this event. Ted is the girls' golf coach and Ashleigh was a starter on the 2004 team.

This year there were 18 groups playing golf, and 110 people attended the dinner. The event raised about \$3,700.00 Over the past five years the event has awarded \$25,000 to scholarships.

WHREA Corner

WHAT IS THE WHREA?

By Ken Sopelak

The West Hartford Retired Educators Association is your retirement organization of retired and active educators, 55 years and older, who have one goal in common . . . to get the most out of retirement by protecting and improving retiree benefits, assisting each other, supporting education, and maintaining friendships.

Our Executive Board and membership are currently hard at work lobbying our State Legislators to restore funding to the retirees insurance fund and preventing cuts in retiree's benefits. The WHREA is an affiliate of the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut (ARTC). ARTC maintains a full time executive director, a professional lobbyist, and a public relations consultant who work on behalf of almost 10,000 members. The WHREA also supports the work of the CEA-R.

You do not need to be retired to support our work or use our services! Membership is open to any teacher or administrator, 55 years or older. Dues are only \$25 per year (or \$80 lifetime). If you would like more information about the WHREA, please contact me at **kensopelak@comcast.net** or our membership chairperson, Anne Keegan, at **afkeegan@aol.com**.

Your Credit Union



Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union

All West Hartford Public Schools staff, employees, volunteers, and students are eligible for membership in Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union. The credit union offers a wide variety of products and services, including savings accounts, checking accounts, loans, mortgages, credit cards, debit cards, direct deposit, and on-line banking. In addition, they are part of a network of over 30,000 sur-charge-free ATMs nationwide.

Franklin Trust was founded as a teachers credit union in 1934. Now the fourth oldest federal credit union in the country, they are celebrating their 76th anniversary this year.

The credit union’s West Hartford office is located at 927 Farmington Avenue, near Blue Back Square. Their Main Office is at 632 Franklin Avenue in Hartford. For more information, including a form that allows you to sign up through the mail, call Franklin Trust at (860) 296-4379, ext. 203. They can be found on the web at www.franklintrust.org, as well as on Facebook and MySpace.

advertisement

Quick Tips

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled." Plutarch



- Check out upcoming events, e-mail addresses for officers at www.whea.org.
- Attend your Building Rep’s monthly 10 minute meetings. Stay informed!
- Check out the home mailings from NEA & CEA. If you are not receiving them contact your building rep. Check out the websites at www.nea.org and www.cea.org.
- Stay informed with school policies and information by visiting www.whps.org.
- Read ‘WHEA World’ at www.whea.org. To add your news, please complete the ‘Award and Accomplishment’ form on the last page of this issue. Watch for your news in upcoming editions.
- Questions, concerns? talk to your building rep.
- See fwhps.org for the latest grants awarded to teachers.

Current Issues

National, State News

Check the websites at www.cea.org and www.nea.org for ongoing information on important state and national issues. Stay current with the latest information. You can sign up for updates through the blog at the CT Education Association (CEA) .



The results of the November 2, 2010 election at the national level are Richard Blumenthal for the U.S. 5th Senatorial District and John Larson for the Representative in Congress in the 1st Congressional District. At the state level the next Governor and Lt. Governor are Dan Malloy and Nancy Wyman. In other state positions for the 5th Senatorial—Beth Bye; Representative Districts—18th Assembly: Andrew Fleischmann; 19th Assembly: Brian Becker; 20th Assembly: David McCluskey; for Secretary of State—Denise Merrill; for Treasurer—Denise Nappier; for Comptroller—Kevin Lembo; and for Attorney General—George Jepsen.

Local News

You can access your local, state and national elected officials on the West Hartford Public Library website at www.westhartfordlibrary.org. On the website click on Town of West Hartford Links on the left column, then click on Local Elected Officials. The list includes the elected official's position, their name, address, phone number and e-mail address. You can log onto the website for further information.



Board of Education meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. They are held in the Town Hall, Legislative Chambers, room 314. Log onto www.whps.org for further information.

The results of the November 2, 2010 election at the local level are for Judge of Probate—Sydney W. Elkin; for Registrar of Voters—Eleanor M. Brazell, Republican; and Carolyn J. Thornberry, Democrat.



Award and Accomplishment Form

Date:

Name(s):

School(s):

Subject/Area:

Grade level(s):

Name of the Award or Accomplishment:

Description:

When and where was this received?

Why and how did you receive this honor?

Awarded by whom?

A quote from you:

Attach a photo.

Congratulations on your achievement!

Please e-mail this form to WHEA at wheaooffice@gmail.com. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at 860-463-2547.

Joyce Bogdan
PR Chair