



Year of Education

This is the Year of Education. Be sure to stay informed. Be sure to tell your family, friends, parents, colleagues about the issues. Be sure to contact your legislators.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

YOUR 2011-2012 OFFICERS:

President

David Dippolino

Executive V.P.

Thomas Devine

Administrative V.P.

Lillian Rausch

Treasurer

Allayne Sundt

Editor

Joyce Bogdan

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Year of Education</i>	1
<i>WHEA Officers</i>	
<i>Workshops</i>	2
<i>'WHEA World' Purpose</i>	
<i>WHEA, CEA & NEA News</i>	3-8
<i>Leading Students</i>	9-10
<i>Kudos go to:</i>	11
<i>Your Credit Union</i>	12-14
<i>Quick Tips</i>	
<i>Current Issues</i>	
<i>News Form</i>	

WHEA News

Meetings/Workshops

On May 1, 2012 from 4:30 PM until 5:30 PM at Conard High join teachers from Avon, West Hartford, Bloomfield and CREC. This presentation looks briefly at the national education reform picture and focuses on what is happening now in CT. Learn about the people and organizations behind the movement, how can you stay informed and what actions can you take.

Save the Date for the 52nd WHEA/WHAA Recognition Dinner to be held on Thursday, May 17, 2012 at the Farmington Club.

If you are interested in a specific workshop topic please let your building rep. know.



'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 news, awards and achievements about you and your colleagues so that we can publish the information in upcoming newsletters. Please send the 'News Form' to the PR chair at wheaworld@whea.org. The form can be found on the last page of this edition.

Let's share our wonderful accomplishments with our colleagues!

Start

By Joyce Bogdan

No matter where you are,
Wherever you have been.
Where is the start line?
Let's go there and begin.
Nothing from the past,
Tells where you will go,
Just move forward to your
Future goal.

WHEA News cont.

WHEA Officers and Your Representatives

Rep. Council Officers: **President** David Dippolino, Conard math teacher; **Executive Vice President** Thomas Devine, Hall social studies teacher; **Administrative Vice President** Lillian Rausch, Charter Oak ESOL teacher; and **Treasurer** Allayne Sundt, Conard and Sedgwick math teacher. The new officers assumed their office on July 1, 2011. Congratulations!

Building Representatives, Alternates and Committee Chairs for 2011-2012

Rep. Council Chair: David Simon, Hall **Vice Chair:** Chris Islaub, Conard

CEA UniServ Representative: Sara Pomponi

Building Reps.: **Aiken**—Lisa Horan, Pat Vaninwagen; **Braeburn**—Kim Maloney, Theresa McKeown; **Bristow**—Greg Burns, Marcelo Pelliccioni; **Bugbee**—Maria Bateas, Anthony Weber; **Charter Oak**—Jessica Kazigian, Gina Navarra; **Conard**—Steven Bassi, Carol Chase, Kim Hoffman, Chris Islaub, Adam Linker, Hannah Marks-Hamilton, Lynn Racz; **Duffy**—Lisa Garand, Sheila Levanti; **Ed. Center**—Christine Newman; **Hall**—Kristin Bieniaszek, Michelle Flaucher, Kim Hart-Kindelberger, Jennifer Lanese, Michelle Nicklas, Michael Wilkosz; **King Philip**—Kate Kiesewetter, Jenn Ukanowicz-Parrett; **Morley**—Megan Wares, Tony Wilusz; **Norfeldt**—Wendy Baker, Mary Sheridan; **Retired**—Helen Hughlett; **Sedgwick**—Joyce Bogdan, Linda Gengel, Jen Prigodich, Sara Tamborello, Jennifer Tauro; **Smith**—Sharon Courneen, Jane Macca; **Webster Hill**—Jennifer Burkey, Debbie Kotler; **Whiting Lane**—Wendy Martin, Patricia Orticari; **Wolcott**—Bonny Butkiewicz, Andrew Sparkes.

Alternate Reps.: **Braeburn**—Allison Raggie; **Bristow**—Sandi Harss; **Charter Oak**—MaryAnn Muccino; **Conard**—Adam Linker, Sam Rader; **Duffy**—Brenda Key, Clare Taylor; **Norfeldt**—Trudy Davis; **Retired**—Anna Mae Maglaty; **Sedgwick**—Jas Singh.

Committee Chairs: **Membership**—Chris Islaub, Conard; **PR**—Joyce Bogdan, Sedgwick; **Social**—Theresa McKeown, Braeburn and Bugbee.

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 the 2011-2012 school year: annual meeting May 7, June 4.

WHEA News cont.

Meet Your Legislators

On Sunday, March 4, 2012 CEA members were invited to Sedgwick Middle School cafeteria to *Meet Your Legislators*. Many members were there to speak about issues and concerns as well as, ask our legislators questions.



On the left from left to right are Bristow teachers Kathy Egan, science and Angela Weston, world language. On the right are Theresa McKeown, Braeburn and Bugbee Quest teacher and Jameth Mikan, Sedgwick world language teacher.



On the left from left to right are Paul Dailey, Somers' art teacher and Martina Miga, Bristow and Charter Oak music teacher. On the right are Sara Pomponi, CEA UniServ Rep. and State Senator Beth Bye.



On left and from left to right are Jen Prigodich, Sedgwick special education, Maureen Curran, Duffy first grade teacher, State Representative Brian Becker and David Simon, Hall world language teacher. On the right are State Representative Brian Becker, David Simon, and Peter Letizia, Sedgwick social studies teacher.



WHEA & CEA News cont.

Meet Your Legislators cont.



On the left and from left to right are Jeff Leake, CEA Treasurer, Lillian Rausch, WHEA Administrative Vice President, Sheila Cohen, CEA Vice President. On the right are State Senator Beth Bye, Sara Tamborella, Sedgwick English teacher, Jean Molloy, Farmington social studies teacher and Patricia Dabney, Avon special education.



Education Reform

Education Reform is coming. Are you ready? Both the new Education Commissioner and Governor Malloy have stated that Education Reform and closing the Achievement Gap will be major initiatives over the next two years. The Superintendents' Association has put forth a bold package of reforms that will also be a part of the mix.

CEA has geared up for the 2012 legislative session in which bills will be brought up by CEA and the members of the legislature that will directly impact teachers. Some of the topics include school funding, tenure and seniority, teacher evaluation, and school climate. You can contact your State Representative and/or State Senator and ask him/her to support the proposals made by you and your colleagues in "A View From the Classroom." You can call or email your State Senator using the following link: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CGAFindLeg.asp> .

WHEA & CEA News cont.**The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund**

“The purpose of The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund (HBMF) is to help needy teachers who have served but are no longer active in the teaching profession.” The fund was established in 1953 and named after Henry Barnard who served as the third president of CEA. It has been helping teachers stay independent with financial and other assistance as needed. The WHEA helps this fund by contributing. One of the ways that WHEA helps is with the posting of the *Trading Post*. You can help by starting to look in your closets, attics and garages for anything you would like to put in the first *Trading Post* of the year. Dates and further information will follow. To learn more about The Henry Barnard Memorial Fund go to www.henrybarnardfund.org

CEA

The Hartford County Council met on Wednesday, March 21, 2012. This year is an election year for CEA President, CEA Vice President, NEA Director and NEA Director alternate. Candidates running for these positions spoke to members. Old and new business was conducted.

The CEA/RA (Representative Assembly) will be held on Friday, May 4 beginning at 4:00 P.M. and on Saturday, May 5 at the Marriott, Crowne Plaza, Cromwell. The CEA/RA includes representatives from across Connecticut making decisions and voting for the new officers and other important items. For more information please call or e-mail David Dippolino.

CEA Summer Leadership will be held from Monday, August 6 until Wednesday, August 8, 2012. It will be held at Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT. Further information to follow.

WHEA & CEA News cont.

WHEA

Our social event was held on Friday, March 30th at Murphy and Scarletti's. Many members attended and enjoyed sharing with colleagues.

The WHEA Future Negotiations Team has opened meetings to the members in order to share information, ideas, and concerns. The first meeting was held on Monday, April 4 and a follow up meeting was held on April 23. Many members attended to share their ideas. The next meetings will be on Monday, 5/14; and Monday, 5/21 in the Multipurpose Room (MPR) at Sedgwick Middle School from 4 PM until 5 PM.

The WHEA/WHAA 52nd Recognition Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2012 at the Farmington Club, 162 Town Farm Rd., Farmington, CT, from 5:30 PM until 10 PM. This is an opportunity to honor our colleagues and community members who are retiring teachers, Citizen of the Year, Member of the Year, and Teacher of the Year.

Look for the WHEA Booth at *Celebrate West Hartford!* On Saturday, June 9 and Sunday, June 10, in West Hartford Center.

West Hartford's Cookin', fundraiser for the *Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools*, was held on Saturday, March 24th in the Town Hall auditorium. David Dippolino was one of the thirty-two local celebrity chefs who volunteered to cook a variety of appetizers, entrees, and desserts. The proceeds go to the Foundation which in turn helps West Hartford teachers and students.



CEA & NEA News cont.**NEA Fund**

By Bob Brown, CEA Chair for NEAFUND

This is VITAL to our profession. Big money, to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, is now being raised to undermine public schools, collective bargaining and our union. The only way we can fight back is political action—Congress, the President, and our state political leaders make ALL of the crucial decisions about our profession. The NEAFUND is the only way we can raise money to fight back. This money is used to support leaders teachers endorse, to run ads, and to influence political leaders to listen to us and do what we think is best for public schools. We CANNOT use dues money by law—we depend on teachers' voluntary contributions. Please give something—even \$10 from every teacher would help enormously. Please use the envelope for your contribution.

NEA News

Stay informed with National issues that are affecting teachers throughout the country. Check out *NEA advocacy: Your Values and Activism in Action!* at www.educationvotes.nea.org. Log on and join today. Your voice is needed for action!

The NEA/RA (Representative Assembly) will be held in Washington D.C. from Saturday, June 30 until Thursday, July 5, 2012. If you are interested in attending call or e-mail David Dipolino.



Leading Students

Artbeat

The 2012 annual *Artbeat* had their opening reception on Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at the Salt-box & Clubhouse Galleries, Buena Vista Rd., West Hartford. The art teachers from across the town help to display their students work.



Empty Bowls

The Empty Bowls Program is a nationwide project to educate students about hunger and poverty and to raise funds for local community organizations. West Hartford High Schools became involved with *Empty Bowls* in 1999 with the efforts of some very dedicated teachers and students. Initially, Liz Devine at Hall and Penni Grigoraitas, the following year at Conard, had been the motivating force behind its success. The schools have involved the Art department for making the bowls, the Tech Ed. Department for publicity and the Family and Consumer Sciences Department for making the soups. Since the initial start of the program torches have been passed to new advisors and other support teachers. Hall and Conard together have raised over \$40,000. This year Kim Hart-Kindelberger and Penni Grigoraitas who is still involved in training others, worked together with art teachers Brigid Kennedy and Joanne Barry-Dutro whose students and colleagues created over 400 bowls for the banquet. Jessica Brand, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher helped by working with her students to make some fantastic soups! People who attended the event enjoyed the evening. They had to make a “big decision” as to which bowl to select and which soup to try. They waited with anticipation as the door prizes were awarded. Everyone had a great time.



Leading Students cont.

Hello! West Hartford

“*Hello! West Hartford, A Year in Revue!*” the first anniversary celebration will be held on Monday, April 30, 2012. After one year and ten languages celebrated, come and enjoy a fun program of entertainment to share our cultural diversity. This will take place at the West Hartford Town Auditorium, 50 South Main St., from 6:30 until 8:30 PM. Please RSVP at 860-325-0852 or email hellowesthartford@gmail.com. Come celebrate with our students, community and business members!

Hello! West Hartford is a town-wide initiative to build bridges between community members. Many schools and community groups are participating and showcasing the over 70 languages spoken in West Hartford. Check out the website at www.hellowesthartford.org. See the award winning videos on the site, send in a thought on the blog, click on the globe and scroll down to print “hello and welcome” in the featured language each month to hang where you work or live. Also look for *Supper @ Seven* where you can get involved by visiting seven different world restaurants to sample their cuisine and/or have a coffee or tea. You pick the seventh item on the menu. Then write down the items that you had and post them on the website and/or at the *Hello! West Hartford* booth at *Celebrate West Hartford* in June.

TSA Train Show

Cathy Lukas, Sedgwick 8th grade technology teacher, is the advisor for Technology Student Association (TSA). On Saturday, April 28 from 9 AM until 5 PM and Sunday, April 29 from 9 AM until 3 PM, TSA will present the 6th Anniversary Train Show at Sedgwick Middle School. The show will feature Torrington Area Model Railroaders, Valley N-Trak, TSA alumni train layouts, and the Sedgwick TSA members. This is a fundraiser to help with the cost for Sedgwick TSA members to participate in the state and national conferences. Admission for Adults is \$5, Students \$2, Seniors \$2 and children under 10 years old are free. There will also be a bake sale. Come join the fun!

Kudos go to:

NAEP Test

The National Center for Educational Progress (NAEP) test is given to a randomly selected group of students as a measure of student's achievement. This year West Hartford ranked 6th in the nation. The Commission of Educational Statistics is part of the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about this year's results see: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/galleries/2011/01/21/america-s-smartest-kids.html#slide6>. For more information about the NAEP tests see: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.

Visit

Some special education teachers participated in the *Farmington Valley Interdistrict Collegial Visitation* event. Maria Marchese and Jessica Rucci-Koch, King Philip, Amy Tebecio, Sedgwick, Page Croce, Hall interim teacher, and Rosalind Dobrowolski, Department Supervisor, visited Westwood Upper Elementary School in Farmington, CT.



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 surcharge-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 77th 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

Quote:

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start."

Nido Qubein



- 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 *News Form* on the last page of this issue. Watch for your news in upcoming editions.
- Questions, concerns? Talk to your building rep.
- Check the website for the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools Grants at www.fwhps.org.

Current Issues

National, State News

In national news Congress has begun reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), presently No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Senator Blumenthal is on the Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee which is in charge of this legislation.



Candidates are continuing their campaigns for the Presidency. The main Republican candidates are Mitt Romney, and Newt Gingrich. One of the those will run against Democrat Barack Obama.

In state news Governor Dannel Malloy has made stops around the state on his education reform tour. Many teachers, parents, and citizens have attended and spoken against many point in this bill. With the many letters and contacts to legislators several changes have been made to the bill. Continue to follow this bill, keep up to date at www.cea.org, and continue to contact your legislators.

Local News

You can access your local, state and national elected officials on the West Hartford Public Library website at www.westhartfordlibrary.org.

For Board of Education (BOE) meeting documents see <http://www.whps.org/whps/primary-offices/boe-page/documents>.

On Tuesday, March 6, 2012 Karen List, Superintendent of Schools, presented to the Board of Education the annual budget. She presented a proposed \$138.89 million budget for the 2012-13 school year. This begins the budget process that ends with the Town Council's adoption of the overall budget on April 24.

For more information see www.whps.org.



News 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 wheaworld@whea.org. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at 860-463-2547.

Joyce Bogdan
PR Chair