



Supreme Court Justice Scalia

U. S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia died on February 13, 2016. He was found dead on Cibolo Creek Ranch, in Shafter, TX. Born on March 11, 1936 in Trenton, N.J., he was married to Maureen McCarthy Scalia and they have nine children.

Justice Scalia was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan in 1986 as an Associate Judge. He was a defender of the U.S. Constitution. A staunch conservative he defended the original interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

His death could affect the results of pending Supreme Court cases including the Friedrich's Case. President Barack Obama could nominate a successor and the Republican controlled Senate could either confirm or not approve any candidate before the next Presidential election. At the moment there will be eight Supreme Court Justices instead of the total nine. With a vote on an issue of 4 to 4 a case would then go the lower court's decision and would be affirmed with no Supreme Court precedence. There is a chance that a case would be reargued before the 'new' Supreme Court. See page 2 for more information.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

YOUR 2015-2016 OFFICERS:

President

Ted Goerner

Executive V.P.

Thomas Devine

Administrative V.P.

David Simon

Treasurer

Michelle Lacroix

Editor

Joyce Bogdan

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Supreme Court Justice Scalia</i>	1
<i>WHEA Officers</i>	
<i>WHEA, CEA & NEA news</i>	2-6
<i>Your Credit Union</i>	7
<i>Quick Tips</i>	
<i>Current Issues</i>	8





WHEA, CEA & NEA News

Supreme Court Justice Scalia cont.

For more information go to:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-scalia-death-teachers-unions-20160214-story.html>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/scalia-public-sector-unions_us_56bfdb1ce4b0b40245c6f855

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/14/us/antonin-scalia-death.html?_r=0

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/us-world/article/Senior-Associate-Justice-Antonin-Scalia-found-6828930.php>

https://www.yahoo.com/politics/what-happens-if-a-liberal-is-confirmed-to-replace-133141375.html?soc_src=mail&soc_trk=ma

<http://www.businessinsider.com/what-happens-if-theres-a-4-4-tie-at-supreme-court-2015-6>

TEVAL

The state released the 2013-2014 ratings for 38,913 teachers. Of Connecticut teachers 98.4 percent received one of the top two ratings of exemplary or proficient. One third were exemplary and almost two thirds were proficient. CEA's executive director was not surprised by the states high scores. From the Hartford Courant, *State Releases Some Evaluation Ratings for Teachers*, by Kathleen Megan, February 2, 2016, "The new system cost \$13.5 million to develop and put in place. Of that, \$4.5 million was used to train evaluators who must decide-based on multiple factors-how well a teacher is performing." For more information see <http://www.courant.com/education/hc-teacher-evaluation-data-0202-20160202-story.html>.





WHEA, CEA & NEA News cont.

Elementary Workload Committee

The Elementary Workload Committee has been formed. The members are teachers Christine Newman, Duffy kindergarten; Jessica Dunn, Charter Oak second grade; June Mann, Braeburn second grade; and Lisa Garand, Duffy special education. The Start of the Year Committee is being formed.

West Hartford Cookin'

The Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools (FWHPS) will hold its West Hartford Cookin' on Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 6:30 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. at West Hartford Town Hall. The FWHPS shares an evening with celebrity chefs who are cooking their favorite dishes to serve to the guests. This fund raiser is to support the work of the Foundation which awards grants to West Hartford teachers to implement many different ideas that help their students. For more information go to <http://www.fwhps.org/>.

CEA R/A

The CEA R/A will take place on Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7 at the Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT. This is the main business meeting for CEA for this year. For more information about the CEA R/A go to <http://www.cea.org/about/ra/> . If you are interested in attending the CEA R/A please contact Ted Goerner at tedprez@gmail.com.





WHEA, CEA & NEA News cont.

ESSA

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) passed in Washington D.C. The main changes include that states can decide on using the Smarter Balanced Assessment Test (SBAC) and Common Core State Standards (CCSS). CEA is asking for the SBAC to be replaced with a CT test for grades 3 through 8. ESSA, also, could change teacher evaluations and the connection with student test scores. CEA is calling for revisions to the teacher evaluation guidelines in CT and they are bringing their concerns to the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC). If there is no positive action there, then CEA will continue with their efforts for a positive change with CT legislators. Other changes include test scores are not tied to federal money, while states and districts need to provide their own improvements and performance plans.

In March plan on attending a CEA Regional Meeting “ESSA and You.” The Hartford County meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2016. See flyer at <http://www.cea.org/contact/2015/dec/essa-and-you.cfm>

For more information about ESSA see <http://www.cea.org/issues/press/2015/dec/09/every-student-succeeds-act.cfm>

CEA New Teacher Conference

The New Teacher Conference presented by CEA will take place on Friday, March 19, 2016 at Mohegan Sun Convention Center. If you are a new teacher with 1 to 6 years in the classroom, this is the conference for you! There are several sessions to choose from to help you improve your skills as a new educator. Topics include classroom management, teachers and the law, parent/teacher relations, TEVAL and more. The cost of registration and travel expenses will be reimbursed by WHEA. Please sign up at <http://www.cea.org/contact/2016/feb/new-teacher-conference.cfm> and also email WHEA President Ted Goerner at tedprez@gmail.com .





WHEA, CEA & NEA News cont.

CEA Hartford County Forum

The second CEA Hartford County Forum for this year was held on Monday, January 25, 2016 at 4 PM at Maneeley's, 65 Rye Street, South Windsor. Several WHEA members were part of over 300 CEA members that attended this business meeting. There were reports from the officers and committees. Candidates who are running for the six Director positions and the two Vice Chairs spoke. Our own Tom Devine is running for Board of Directors. The vote takes place with a ballot in the CEA Advisor. Be sure to look for the ballot in the CEA Advisor and mail it in. Also, running for CEA Secretary are Elaine Gencarelli and Stephanie Wanzer; and unopposed for CEA Treasurer is Tom Nicholas. Those offices will be voted on during the CEA R/A. A presentation about the Friedrich's v. California Teachers Association Case in the U.S. Supreme Court was very informative. NEA, CEA and WHEA are following this case very closely. The next CEA Hartford County Forum will be on Monday, April 4, 2016 at Maneeley's. Registration begins at 4:30 PM and the meeting begins at 5:00 PM. If you are interested in attending the next meeting please email President Ted Goerner at tedprez@gmail.com.



WHEA, CEA & NEA News cont.

NEA R/A

The NEA R/A will take place on Saturday, July 2 through Thursday, July 7 in Washington D.C. This is the main body of NEA that conducts the business for the year. For more information about the NEA R/A go to <http://www.cea.org/about/ra/> . If you are interested in attending the NEA R/A please contact Ted Goerner at tedprez@gmail.com.



Read Across America

Read Across America is an annual celebration on March 2, author Dr. Seuss' birthday. This program motivates reading and promotes awareness of the importance of reading for every child. This event is sponsored by NEA and CEA. You can share your reading activity with CEA at <http://www.cea.org/contact/2016/feb/read-across-america-day-march-2.cfm>.





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 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.

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Quick Tips

Quote:
"Knowledge is power."
Francis Bacon

- 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 and CEA. If you are not receiving them contact your building rep.
- Check out the Member Benefits pages 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 email the PR Chair.
- 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 Connecticut news Governor Dannel Malloy's budget plan includes a loss of thousands of state jobs. One of the most important issues involves the impact of the state budget on pensions and education funding. For more information see <http://www.cea.org/issues/news/2016/feb/03/state-budget-proposals-impact-on-pensions-and-education-funding.cfm>



Local News

West Hartford Mayor Scott Slifka is stepping down as Mayor. He has been mayor since 2004 and has now taken a position as Deputy General Counsel for The Lego Group. He will step down in the spring after the town's budget is adopted.

Town Manager Ron Van Winkle will explore the possibility of Wi-Fi service in West Hartford Center. At the meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 the town council voted five to three to look into this cost. The three Republicans voted against the exploration because the cost may outweigh the need. For more information see <http://www.courant.com/community/west-hartford/hc-west-hartford-town-council-building-density-0210-20160209-story.html>.