

VC ECHOES

An *AFTCA and New York Teacher Award Winning Publication*

On behalf of the VCTA, NYSUT, AFT, and the AFL-CIO; We Welcome Our New Members

The VCTA is your local union and we attend to local, state and national issues as well as bargain collective bargaining agreements with the District on behalf of the membership. We have about 450 teachers in our teacher unit, 140 paraprofessionals in the para unit and 21 secretaries in the secretarial unit. We also include 175 retired members. The Executive Council is made up of building representatives from each building and representatives from the paraprofessional and secretarial units. We also have retiree representatives. The council meets on the third Tuesday of each month, at the VCHS Professional Library.

About NYSUT, AFT and AFL-CIO

New York State United Teachers is 500,000 people who work in, or are retired from, New York's schools, colleges, and healthcare facilities. We are classroom teachers, college and university faculty and professional staff, school bus drivers, custodians, secretaries, cafe-

teria workers, teacher assistants and aides, nurses and healthcare technicians. NYSUT is a federation of more than 900 local unions, each representing its own members. We are part of the American Federation of Teachers, the fastest growing union in the United States. We are also part of organized labor - the AFL-CIO - and of Education International, with more than 20 million members worldwide.

We range in size from tiny locals of fewer than 10 members to the United Federation of Teachers, which represents 130,000 teachers and other school employees in New York City.

We are dedicated to improving not only our working conditions, but also our professions. We're united in a common commitment to improve the quality of education and healthcare for the people of New York. NYSUT is a grassroots organization. We elect the people who lead our local unions and or state and national affiliates. We elect delegates to a state conven-



tion - the Representative Assembly - who discuss issues and set policy that determines the programs and services that NYSUT provides us.

Our NYSUT officers, elected by the Representative Assembly, oversee a staff of more than 300 that carries out the union's business. The convention delegates also elect a Board Of Directors, which determines policy between conventions.

Tim Brown is President



years I have served as a building representative, union negotiator, vice-president, and president. As president, I have represented the VCTA at the NYSUT Representative Assembly, AFT Convention and at the Committee of 100. I write and present grievances on behalf of the Association and oversee the work of the Officers and Building Representatives.

My parole officer supports my union activism and does not believe my involvement in the VCTA to be a violation of my parole restrictions.

Editor's Note— Tim Brown does not have a parole officer and has never been in jail (that we know of).

I have been a health teacher at the high school for the past 18 years. During these

Jay Sussdorff is Vice President

I have been a teacher at Valley Central for 31 years, 8 at the middle school and 23 at the high school. I coached girls' basketball for 19 years. I was a building representative at the high school for a year and have served as your vice-president for the last five



years, focusing on high

school issues and health and safety concerns for the entire district, as well as negotiating the upcoming contract. I have enjoyed my time in these capacities and can bring historical perspective, knowledge and a desire to continue to serve my colleagues best interests to the table.

Rich Steger is Vice President

I have been a teacher at Walden Elementary School for nine years. I have been Vice-President of the Association for five. Before that I was a building representative. I have been the VCTA representative for the Orange County Teachers' Association, and a delegate to the NYSUT Representative Assembly. My job as vice-president focuses on elementary issues and

health insurance issues. I have planned the last three health fairs and organized the opening day greeting table. I have served on the Professional Development Planning Team and the Annual Professional Performance Review committees. I have been the union's voice on many interview committees. I also organize the Association's New Member Buddy system and I have been in charge of Public



Relations. I look forward to continuing to serve the members of the VCTA.

Laurie Hey is VCTA's Secretary

I teach music at the middle school for the past 17 years.

I have served the VCTA as a building representative for many years, the Grievance Chair, and have been secretary for the last three years. My secretarial duties have



included planning social events for the Association, taking minutes at meetings, distributing form letters for retirement and maternity and advising on leave matters and attending

Cabinet meetings with the superintendents and officers. I also serve on the Professional Development Team as a representative for the VCTA.

John Bonagura is the VCTA Treasurer

I have taught at East Coldenham Elementary School for over thirty years. I am a fifth grade teacher. I have served as the Association's treasurer for over twenty years. I am also the treasurer for the Benefit Trust. As treasurer, I handle member reporting to NYSUT. I attend Board of

Education meetings regularly to keep the Association informed of what is happening. I have represented the VCTA on numerous committees including the Annual Professional Performance Review and the Professional Development Team.



NYSUT's Mid-Hudson Regional Office is sponsoring a *FREE* * New Member Workshop to introduce new members to the Union and cover different topics of importance to them

Choose either one to attend

**Tuesday, October 7th at Holiday Inn, Kingston, NY
or Monday, October 20 at Clarion Inn, Newburgh, NY**



Agenda

**3:30 to 4:30 Registration/Review of Exhibits
4:40 to 5:55 Session I- Concurrent Workshops
6:00 to 7:15 Session II- Repeat of Concurrent Workshops
7:15 to 8:15 Dinner/Remarks/Door Prizes**

WORKSHOPS

Certification Issues Classroom Management

What Every New Teacher Should Know:

**There is a \$25 registration fee, that will be returned to you. Contact VCTA Office for information, 457-5899.*



There are no greater advocates
for children and education
than teachers and teacher unions.

Valley Central Teachers' Association
1175 Rte. 17K
Montgomery, NY 12549
Tel./Fax: (845) 457-5899

President, Timothy Brown (HS)
Vice President, Jay Sussdorff (HS)
Vice President, Richard Steger (Walden)
Secretary, Laurie Hey (MS)
Treasurer, John Bonagura (EC)

Building Representatives

Berea: Carol DeMico, Sara Ackerson,
Robin Sinclair-Scott,

Mavbrook: Donna Lloyd, Linda Siegel

East Coldenham: Holly Bacon, Beth Como

Walden: Patty Joy, Randy Sutter,
Kathy Bordone, Barbara Wutch,
Mary Ellen Mangiamiele

Montgomery: Toni Sperry, Chris Brand

MS: Mary Bleau, Bill Burretto, Tammy Coleman,
Joe Collins, Mary Goldberg,
Marc Sperry, Mike Steele

HS: Maureen Goodenough, Glenn Eckert, Bob Jurgens,
Jean McMahon, Eileen Purcell, Diane Ruggles,
Doug Straebler

Secretarial Representative: Lucy Fox (HS)

Paraprofessional Representative: Kathy Lennon (W)

VC ECHOES Editor

Patricia Lunden, (HS)

NYSUT

www.nysut.org

AFT

www.aft.org

AFL-CIO

www.aflcio.org

Mid-Hudson Teacher Center:

(845) 255-2885

<http://www.mhtc.dcboces.org>

Employee Assistance Program

1-800-962-7487

Visit us on the Web!
www.vcta.net

The VC Echoes is the official
publication of the Valley Central
Teacher's Association – Local 3076
and is published regularly throughout
the school year.

Article contributions or Letters to the
Editor should be sent to
Patricia Lunden, HS.

Any articles submitted to the VC
Echoes will also be posted on the
VCTA Web page.

As a member of the Valley Central Teachers' Association

(VCTA- our local union) ,

you are also a member of New York State United Teachers

(NYSUT—your state teachers' union),

and the American Federation of Teachers

(AFT- your national teachers' union)

and the AFL-CIO

(your national labor association- we are Local 3076).

The Other Side of the Desk...

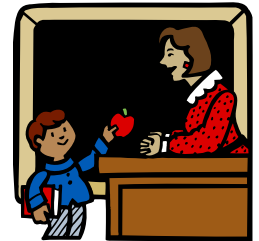
Congratulations,
you have made it
to the "other side
of the desk".

Here's some advise for a
good year.

- A Take your vitamins. Kids are can be cute, but they also carry germs- and likely you won't have a strong enough immunity build yet to avoid colds, flus and stomach bugs. Also wash your hands often. And keep the kid's tissue box on the other side of the room from your desk. It's also a good idea to carry pain reliever and Immodium-D in your briefcase.
- A Secretaries know everyone and everything. They are an educator's best friend. Befriend your secretaries immediately and treat them well!
- A Custodians can fix anything (*think MacGyver*) and know where everything is. Befriend your custodians immediately and treat

them well also!

- A Get used to timing your snack and bathroom breaks.
- A Get your rest. The school day will fly and after running errands, checking voice and email, and breathing for a second you'll have little time to plan and prepare during the school day. Budget your time wisely outside the school day so that you have time to rest and relax.
- A Take time to get to know your colleagues. Attend building parties, and the VCTA Fall Fest (October 17th). VC has a tradition of hiring compassionate folks are will become your "school family" -get to know them all, new and old.
- A If you have a question, ask it. Teaching can be lonely if you leave your classroom. Get to know the other folks teaching your level or subject, the specials and the old-timers or



veterans.

- A Find out who your building reps are. They can advise you on a variety of subjects. Don't hesitate to seek their help if you need it.
- A Don't worry if a lesson doesn't go exactly as you envisioned or planned. You can always re-teach a lesson if the kids didn't quite grasp the concept—and the next time you teach it, it will go better.
- A Remember to plan ahead for summer break so that you won't be strapped financially. Establish a savings account or plan on a summer job.
- A Enjoy your first year, these are the students who will make the greatest impression on you.

Have a great year!

~Patti Lunden,