

# VC ECHOES

An AFTCA and New York Teacher Award Winning Publication

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 7

JUNE 2004



**On June 24th, Valley Central bids farewell to many wonderful teachers, secretaries and paraprofessionals. The VCTA salute the contribution you have made to the community, the district and the VCTA. May your retirement be long, healthy and happy.**

**Thank you for all you have given to the children of VC.**

## Thank You VCTA Executive Council

**W**e have come to the end of another school year, and I would be remiss if I did not thank all the folks who make up the VCTA Executive Council. Building Representatives, Secretarial Representatives, and our Paraprofessionals met monthly to provide counsel on many issues discussed, served on committees and were

always committed to voicing the needs others.

My fellow officers gave endlessly of their time above and beyond the job description in their positions to help make Valley Central a better place to work and to learn.

I am pleased with the relationship we have been able to establish with the administration this year and am happy to report that there

were no grievances filed this past year. Hopefully this cooperation will continue in the future.

As this school year ends and we look forward to summer break, I hope each of our members have a restful break and look forward to returning to another year of "putting children center".

~ Tim Brown,  
President

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**In a completely rational society, the best of us would aspire to be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something less, because passing civilization along from one generation to the next ought to be the highest honor and highest responsibility anyone could have.**  
*Lee Iacocca*

## Gail Nozell Recognized for Outstanding Efforts

**G**ail Nozell, a speech pathologist at Montgomery Elementary, has recently been recognized and honored with two individual awards. She received the 2004 Orange County Youth Bureau Award for Outstanding School-Based Professional and the Orange County Human Rights Commission Award. Gail was nominated for both these awards for her continuing efforts to promote the acceptance and understanding of individuals with disabilities.

Gail has implemented noteworthy school campaigns for building tolerance. The Kindness Counts Campaign connects students to senior citizens or other community members who are shut-in or need a lift. Students decorate flower pots and deliver potted bulbs for winter blooms. She also plans the very successful Celebration of Capabilities Week. This week long event invites guests whom have overcome various disabilities for demonstra-

tions of their capabilities and simulation stations to help students understand the obstacles surmounted by those who live with sensory or physical disabilities.

As a communication specialist, Gail generously shares her expertise with staff members who have less understanding of the effects of disabilities on children's capacity to achieve. Her commitment to educating all of us to be more understanding and accepting of differences demands a cheer! Congratulations!!!



*Gail Nozell receives Youth Bureau Award from County Executive Edward A. Diana*

*~ Tammy Ryder,  
Montgomery*

## Paraprofessionals Attend NYSUT Conference

**O**n May 1st and 2nd, Kathy Lennon, Virginia Frisbie, Debi Zwart, Barbara Sager, Kathy Caltavuturo and Wendy Heaney attended the SPR Only conference. The conference was held at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown this year to accommodate the growing number of participants.

The conference offered several different informative workshops such as Presidents' Planning: Leadership Sills, Union Representative and NCLB/TA Certification Post 2/04. We chose different offerings to glean as much information to bring to our home unit as possible.

We also, quite naturally,

enjoyed the good food, leisure time and general comradery with each other.

Hopefully, this will become a regular informational weekend for our unit.



*Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Heaney  
Secretary, Para-Unit*

### Thanks for your Support of the Credit Unions Care for Kids Campaign!

Thanks to all members of the Valley Central School District who contributed to our annual "Credit Union Care for Kids" campaign! A donation of \$650 was made to Children's Cancer Fund, our designated charity. This year's mascot, Mickey the Moose, was very popular. Thanks to all who purchased the stuffed terrycloth moose and to those who made donations.

Special thanks to Diane Ruggles (HS) and Adrienne Hirschfield (Mont.) for their efforts in this fundraiser.

*Stan Davie, Manager VCFCU*



## **Making Strides<sup>®</sup> Against Breast Cancer**

*You or someone you know.*



*The VCTA will once again be sponsoring a  
District-wide Team for the  
Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.*

*Sunday, October 17th  
Woodbury Commons*

*Building Coordinators are needed for: Montgomery, Walden, and Maybrook.  
If interested contact Patti Lunden, HS.*

*You may sign up for the team and pick up Registration Packets  
At the VCTA Health TSA Fair on Opening Day, September 1st.*

## 2004 Representative Assembly

**T**his year even more than in years past, NYSUT is urging locals to fight for and strengthen retiree health care coverage and care. This comes on the heels of the Republican slaughter of Medicare and prescription benefits.

NYSUT was also pushing locals to educate their members regarding the Bush administration's poor backing of public education and workers rights. This is evident with both the lack of funding for the No Child Left Behind Act and the reduction of overtime pay for hourly employees.

We must remember how important collective bargaining is

for all workers in all fields of employment. A recent example of how not having collective bargaining hurts the American family can be seen at nearby IBM. Some employees making approximately \$35,000—\$40,000 a year were informed that since IBM did not make large enough profits this year, there would be no raise. I wonder if the CEO will be getting a raise? What would our future hold without collective bargaining?

~ Rich Steger,  
Vice President



## How does NYSUT decide what candidates to endorse?

**N**YSUT lobbies for legislation on behalf of members and the institutions in which they work, and against bills that would be harmful to members, public education, health care, working families and society at large. These efforts are most successful when done in a non-partisan manner.

The NYSUT Board of Directors makes endorsements following a thorough procedure which includes a statewide endorsement conference. That conference features input from local union presidents, a statewide Political Action Committee and NYSUT's Legislative Department. The conference and the Board considers incumbents' voting records on important education and labor bills when considering endorsements. Following NYSUT's Endorsement Conference, the Board acts on the final recommendations of the PAC and the Executive Committee. NYSUT stays neutral in open races unless

there is a compelling reason to make an endorsement.

NYSUT does not make an endorsement in presidential elections. The American Federation of Teachers, NYSUT's national affiliate, makes presidential endorsements.

~ NYSUT Legislative Dept.

### Endorsement Conference in August

This year's NYSUT Endorsement conference will be held Aug. 2-4 at NYSUT Headquarters in Latham. NYSUT's Legislative Dept. is urging local presidents and political activists to gather information from the membership that could be helpful in making endorsement recommendations.

"It is important to us that all of our members are represented in this very important function," said Alan Lubin, NYSUT executive vice president. "We'd like to increase participation and the level of input from all sectors of our membership, particularly from our higher ed affiliates."

Local presidents will be asked to make recommendations for all races in NYS—Senate, Assembly and Congress. "Voting records are important, but so too is the relationship of the local leaders with elected officials and candidates for public office. We need the locals' input to have a successful conference," said Lubin.



## Creating Ripples

“Let not one be discouraged by the belief that there is nothing one man or woman can do against the enormous array of the world’s ill against misery and ignorance, against injustice and violence. Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events.”

“Each time a man or woman stands up for an ideal, or strikes out against injustice, or acts to improve the lot of others, he sends a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance...”

~ Robert F. Kennedy, June 6, 1966

## God Creates the First Teacher

**O**n the 6th day, God created men and women.  
On the 7th day, he rested.



The TEACHER was equipped with soft hands to wipe away the tears of the neglected and lonely student...of those of the sixteen year old girl who was not asked to the prom.

And into the TEACHER God poured a generous amount of patience. Patience when a student asks to repeat the directions the TEACHER has just repeated for someone else. Patience when the kids forget their lunch money for the fourth day in a row.

Patience when one-third of the class fails the test. Patience when the text books haven't arrived yet, and the semester starts tomorrow.

And God gave the TEACHER a heart slightly bigger than the average human heart. For the TEACHER's heart had to be big enough to love the kid who screams, "I hate this class; it's boring!" and to love the kid who runs out of the classroom at the end of the period without so much as a "goodbye", let

alone a "thank you".

And lastly, God gave the TEACHER an abundant supply of HOPE.

For God knew that the TEACHER would always be hoping. Hoping that the kids would someday learn how to spell... hoping not to have lunchroom duty... hoping that Friday would come... hoping for a free day... hoping for deliverance.

When God finished creating the TEACHER, he stepped back and admired the work of his hands.

And God saw that the TEACHER was good. Very Good!

And God smiled, for when he looked at the TEACHER, he saw into the future.

He knew that the future is in the hands of the TEACHERS.

And because God loves Teachers so much, on the 9th day God created "Snow Days "

~ From the Internet,  
Submitted by Liz Papasca, HS

Not so much to recuperate, but rather to prepare himself for the work he was going to do on the next day. For it was on that day - the 8th day - that God created the FIRST TEACHER.

This TEACHER, though taken from among men and women, had several significant modifications.

In general, God made the TEACHER more durable than other men and women.

The TEACHER was made to arise at a very early hour and to go to bed no earlier than 11 :30 pm.-with no rest in between. The TEACHER had to be able to withstand being locked up in an air-tight classroom for six hours with a room full of antsy students on a rainy Monday. And the TEACHER had to be fit to correct 103 term papers over Spring break.

Yes, God made the TEACHER tough...but gentle too.

# Every day in America

**85,444 workers**  
lose their jobs.

**14.7 million**  
workers are jobless, underemployed  
or have given up looking for work.

**43.6 million**  
people have no health insurance.

**4,227 people**  
file for personal bankruptcy.

**12,878 workers**  
are injured or made ill by their jobs.

**6.8 million**  
people are in the workforce but are still poor.

**11 million**  
children attend broken-down schools.

Source: America@work

**America deserves better**

Register to vote

*<https://electionimpact.votenet.com/aft>*

## Highlights from the April and May VCTA Executive Council Meetings

### April Minutes

**Secretary's Report:** February Minutes were amended to reflect that Kathy Bordone was present.

**Paraprofessional Report:** Kathy Lennon indicated that the para contract has been signed and is being copied at Central Office.

Kathy Lennon reported that 6 para representatives will attend a conference this summer.

**Elections Report:** NYSUT bases their endorsement of candidates on his/her voting record on educational issues.

**BOE Report:** Tim Brown reported that the VCTA is willing to endorse candidates with a positive interest in education. There are no contested positions for May's election.

**Retirees:** Kevin McFadden asked if there had been any resolution regarding state mandate for retirees and any resolution for tier reinstatement. Tim Brown indicated that at General Committee, it had been voted "yes" to move the resolution forward. Rich Steger indicated that some resolutions regarding retiree health (benefits) were combined with other resolutions and moved on.

**Old Business:** Marc Sperry stated that Central Office does not forward money to 457 and 403b plans until the end of the month. Tim Brown indicated that he will check into this.

Carolyn Zayas asked whether the Intergrade Pro feedback had been acted upon. Tim Brown stated that the concerns would be addressed for the upcoming school year.

Chris Brand asked if there was an update on committee stipends. Jay Sussdorff reported that a recommendation has been made to the negotiations team.

**New Business:** Chris Brand indicated that Adobe Acrobat Reader is needed to access the ECHOES on the VCTA website. Joe Collins requested that Chris put a link on the website to Adobe Acrobat reader. If anyone has suggestions for Chris, there is a link on the website

to email him. Prescription drug information is also posted.

Chris Brand reported that there had been a problem in Montgomery regarding the lack of heat and asked if there was a minimum legal requirement for classroom temperature. Jay Sussdorff stated that this had been discussed at Central Office and that attempts were made to address this problem as soon as possible. If this type of situation happens again, contact the building principal and Tim Brown or Jay Sussdorff. Tim Brown indicated that Central Office addressed this issue by making room shifts while repairs are in progress.

Toni Sperry stated that the VCTA has allocated a total of \$1000 for retiree gifts. This year there will be 25 retirees. Toni suggested that this be discussed at the next VCTA meeting, as well as what to do for paras and those who haven't taught in the district very long.

Retirees will be invited to our June meeting. Laurie Hey will confirm the availability of the larger room at Spruce Lodge.

Gail Nozell reported on her research obtaining union-made shirts, hats and visors with the VCTA logo. Denim shirts will be \$29 and khaki hats/visors will be \$12.50. There will be a digital photo of the items available when ordering.

Rich Steger indicated that the OUSDHP cards say GHI for NYS and Devon for NJ and PA, but the NYS will also accept Devon.

### **President's Report:**

A memo regarding the proposed shift of school day was distributed.

A memo indicating retirees and the twenty-five year staff members was distributed. Margaret Costic's name was added, as were Anna Bestenheider and Terri Russo. Laurie Hey will send invitations to our retirees to the June meeting.

Collaborative follow-up: A copy of a memo from Steve Berman was distributed. The memo stated: "A collaborative class includes a general education teacher and a special education teacher. If a teacher is absent, then a substitute would be required as a teacher cannot



provide general and special education instruction simultaneously." Tim Brown indicated that teachers are saved harmless and that the district ultimately is responsible. The teacher would be remiss if he/she didn't document that the IEP was violated. Let your building principal know if IEP's are being violated.

VOTE Cope results were distributed.

Hepatitis B Vaccine information was distributed.

Workers' Compensation Campaign and Workers' Memorial Day information was distributed. A form was included for reps to have members in their building sign. The petition forms will then be mailed to Albany.

Patriot Act Information was distributed.

NCLB Information from AFT was distributed.

Jusiticing Newsletter was distributed.

Per Diem payments vs. Sick Days: It is the position of the VCTA that you can never be changed from a salaried employee to an hourly employee if all sick and personal days have been used. In one situation, the teacher signed a statement giving the District the right to take money out of the teacher's next paycheck if additional days are taken. It is our position that paychecks may not be delayed.

Interview Committees: The VCTA officers will select one member to serve on interview committees; the general VCTA membership within the building selects the other.

Honor Human Rights Award Recipient: Gail Nozell is a 2004 recipient of this award, presented by the Orange County Human Rights Commission. A motion was made and carried to send a \$100 to Central Office to cover the cost of any additional guests Gail may wish to invite to the presentation.

The VCTA Budget/Dues information was presented. The para rep amount was changed to \$750. A motion was made and carried to present the budget to the general membership.

Financial Controls: Tim Brown reported that Washington has told the AFT to clean up their act. In NYS, 30 locals have had problems with their financial records. The AFT will now have stiffer requirements. Locals should have three  
(continued on page ten )

## Highlights from the May VCTA Executive Council Meeting

*(continued from page nine)*

independent, non-officers go over the books every two years. Tim indicated that he will ask Kevin McFadden and Arline Friedman to find three retirees with accounting experience to go over our books.

**Negotiations Update:** Jay Susdorff reported that there have been 12 meetings since November. Many items have been discussed. Negotiations are on-going and are progressing.

### May Minutes

General meeting notices and ballots were distributed to representatives from each building. Ballots will be dropped off in Room 97 of the High School after the vote. VCTA members who drop off ballots will assist Doug Straebler with the counting. These members will report voting results back to their buildings the next morning. Kevin McFadden and Arline Friedman will assist with counting the ballots.

Lists of in-district NYSUT members and a scripted paragraph were distributed. Exec Council members will call the NYSUT members on their list and remind them to vote on the VC budget at their assigned elementary school.

**Election Results:** VCTA budget: 238 yes: 4 no. Officers re-elected: Tim Brown (President), Jay Sussdorff (Vice-President), Rich Steger (Vice-President), Laurie Hey (Secretary), and John Bonagura (Treasurer).

The remaining portion of the meeting was devoted to presentation and discussion of the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement. A motion was made and carried to present the proposed CBA to the membership.

*The June Executive Council meeting was held on June 8 at 4:00 pm at the Spruce Lodge, Coldenham, NY.*

2004– 2005 VCTA Meeting Schedule:

*All VCTA Executive Council Meetings are open to the General Membership.*

The following meetings will be held in the Professional Library of the HS at 3:45 pm.

Tuesday, September 21, 2004  
 Tuesday, October 19, 2004  
 Tuesday, November 16, 2004  
 Tuesday, December 14, 2004  
 Tuesday, January 18, 2005  
 Tuesday, February 15, 2005  
 Tuesday, March 15, 2005  
 Tuesday, April 19, 2005  
 Tuesday, May 17, 2005  
 \* Tuesday, June 7, 2005

\*The June meeting is a dinner meeting and is not held at VCHS.

## Mac's Musings . . . (from the Retiree side)



### Some Endnotes

I recognize the fact that I end the year with a column much like the column of the previous year. However, some things are constant in an inconstant world. For example, I am convinced that time goes faster as one grows older. It certainly has been true for me. Years, semesters moments spent marveling at the wonders of grandchildren, retained delight in the teaching/learning process

roll on and on. At this time of year especially, there is a joy mixed with sadness at the retirement of many of our cherished colleagues. The joy is in the fact that they will rejoice in the freedom to do many new and exiting things, to conquer challenges yet unknown. Retirement is a second spring in the life of the retiree. My sadness is a reflection that their experience, knowledge—wisdom, and personal care for others will not be known to new generations of VC kids. A consoling thought in this regard is that the present teachers at VC and those to come will bring the same love for young people and subject matter. Best to our new retirees and welcome to our ranks. *Tempus fugit.*

I have (as usual!) some strong feelings about the school district's budget being defeated on May 18th. Certainly, plenty of notice was given to voters (newspaper articles and letters to

the editor, a district budget newsletter mailed to voters, a VCTA postcard mailing, phone calls from VCTA members on voting day, a six day card from the district, this humble column, etc.) Still we did have the positive turnout we should have had. The public had an opportunity to work on a budget committee, and there was a public meeting a week before. The budget was lean and trim, a result of hard work by board and administration. VC has always given top notch education while being fiscally prudent. Tomorrow (June 10) is the vote on a revised budget. I trust that voters will come out and support it.

**Reminder to Retirees from Central Office:** Index is our insurer. GHI is our provider, not our insurer. Thanks, Polly.

### Condolences

Retired teacher and Retiree advocate, Bernhardine Gage passed away recently.

*(continued on page twelve)*



## New Banking/Mortgage Program now available

Members have a new benefit from New York State United Teachers Member Benefits available, Preferred Savings Plus<sup>SM</sup> from MetLife Bank<sup>®</sup>.

While most members have an established banking relationship with a local bank or credit union, Preferred Savings Plus provides an easy vehicle to build up your savings in a high interest-bearing account. MetLife Bank offers NYSUT members some of the highest interest rates in the country on certificates of deposit, money markets and savings accounts, all FDIC-insured for up to \$100,000.



MetLife Bank also offers home financing programs (mortgages and home equity loans) with the strongest service guarantees in the industry through its relationship with PHH Mortgage Services, one of the nation's largest lenders. For example, they will beat any lender's price or pay you \$500. You are guaranteed a same-day loan decision or you'll receive \$250. Finally, your loan will close by your requested date or your interest rate will be reduced by one-eighth of one percent for the life of the loan.

MetLife Bank CDs are available in a variety of terms to suit your short- and long-term investment needs. You can rest easy knowing the funds you set aside in Met CDs will be there when you need them, earning high rates. Plus, you only need \$1,000 to open a Certificate of Deposit.

Money Market Accounts and High-Yield Savings Accounts offer a tiered interest rate based on the amount of money in the account. Whether you are setting aside funds for a rainy day, saving toward a special occasion or waiting for the right investment, you will have quick and easy access to your account information by phone, Internet, mail or ATM 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

With the Money Market Account, you can receive a reimbursement up to \$5 per monthly statement cycle when accessing non-MetLife Bank ATMs. No minimum deposit is required with the Money Market Account, and your first order of 30 standard checks is free. A minimum deposit of \$50 is required to open a High-Yield Savings Account.

The Preferred Savings Plus Automated Savings Plan is an incredibly easy way to build your balance. MetLife Bank will make regular transfers from your current checking account at another bank to your new money market or savings account. To get started, speak to one of the banking advisors after opening your account.

For more information or to open an account, call MetLife Bank toll-free at **1-866-NYSUT22** (1-866-697-8822), or log on to **[www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org)**.

## Mac's Musings . . . (from the Retiree side) *(continued from page ten)*

Our sympathy to her son and daughter.

### Looking Ahead

Classes resume at VC before Labor Day this year. The 22nd Annual Retiree Dinner will be held after Labor Day, as is our custom. The date is Wednesday, September 8th, at 12:30 pm at Camillo's Crossroads, Scotts Corners. Mark your calendar. This is for all VC retirees. We always have a good time, renewing old friendships and re-telling the old stories. As usual, I'll send out a summer "Musings" with further information at the end of July. A very special invitation to our new retirees (*and a cautious "Welcome Back" to Table 8; formerly Table 5— you know who you are!*)

### Retiree Alert!

If you intend to work for a public employer and are over 65, there is no limit on what you can make; if you are under 65, the limit is \$27,500 per year. There are some options to consider in the "under 65" category. See the June 2 edition of New York Teacher (*"Your TRS Pension," p. 21*) And call TRS for further clarification, if necessary. (1-

800-348-7298)

### Any Takers?

VC is always looking for highly qualified subs. There is a need, and some retirees are interested in doing a day or two or more a week. If you are so inclined, please call Muriel at Central Office (457-2400 x 8119)

### Nobody asked me, but ...

The education governor (surely you remember George Elmer Pataki) is predicting his budget for education on federal aid, which the geniuses in Washington are cutting. Am I missing something here?

I assume that everyone must realize that "No Child Left Behind" is (*in the words of the Bard*) "mouth honor".

### Amen

Thanks to VCTA officers and Echoes editor, Patti Lunden, for including retirees in their deliberations. We appreciate. Special gratitude to Arline (You can't vote, Mac!) Friedman and Orin Segall for staying involved in retiree stuff with me. Extraordinary gratitude to those of you who have been reading

my "stuff" for the last eleven years. What patience!

If you have not responded to VOTE-Cope through material sent to you, you may do so by sending a check, made out to NYSUT—VOTE-Cope, to Toni Sperry, Vote Cope Chair, 11 Westwood Drive, Walden, NY 12586. VOTE-Cope has enabled NYSUT to do good things for retirees and active teachers. Thanks for your generosity in the past. And special thanks to Toni Sperry, long-time VOTE-Cope chair.

I'm about out of words for School Year '03-'04. I've enjoyed talking to all of you through Echoes. Have a wonderful summer. Be well. "Good night, Mrs. Calibrash, wherever you are." And to you, my colleagues and friends—*Keep pushing back the barriers of ignorance in whatever venue life finds you. Thanks again.*

*Peace.*

*~Kevin McFadden*

*Retiree Representative*

## The Seventh Annual VCTA Health and TSA Fair

**Wednesday, September 1st**

**7:00 am—8:25 am**

**(before Convocation)**

**In the HS Lobby**

***Representatives from Health Insurance Companies  
and Financial Advisors will be present.***

At the Fair, you can gather materials for review to make sure that you have the best health coverage for your family and yourself, and give you an opportunity to consider investment options that will help you save on taxes now while at the same time preparing for your retirement.

*If you wish to change your health coverage, you can sign up for the new coverage in October 2004 and the change will take effect in January 2005.*

**The best way to prepare for the Fair is to take some time this summer,  
to review your current health coverage and financial investments and be sure that  
they best suit your needs.**



## Advertising Section

Ads that appear in the VC ECHOES are seen by the 750 members of the VC Educational Community and their households. If you would like to advertise in the next issue of the VC ECHOES, use the form below.

### VALLEY CENTRAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

1175 Route 17 K

Montgomery, NY 12549

Tel./Fax: (845) 457-5899

VC ECHOES

### ADVERTISEMENT CONTRACT APPLICATION 2004-2005

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Issues ad is to appear in: Sept. \_\_\_\_\_, Oct. \_\_\_\_\_, Dec. \_\_\_\_\_, Feb. \_\_\_\_\_,  
April \_\_\_\_\_, Retiree Issue (May ) \_\_\_\_\_, June \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Size of Ad:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100

*\*Please attach scanner ready ad sketched design.*

*Size of boxes on back of form is approximate and may be slightly smaller or larger.*

**1/8th page = \$10 per issue      1/4 page = \$20 per issue      1/3 page = \$30 per issue      1/2 page = \$50 per issue, Full page = \$100 per issue ( An additional \$30 first time set up if not scanner ready)**

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

By signing this contract you agree to the following:

*We = VCTA, You = advertiser*

- 1) We reserve the right to deny an application without explanation. We do not accept applications for political advertisements, lest they be considered endorsements. We also reserve the right to cease publishing any ad at any time, refunding any money prepaid for publication. We do not accept advertisements from those who attack the AFL-CIO, AFT, NYSUT, or the VCTA.
- 2) We reserve the right to choose the ads published according to space available per issue, refunding any prepaid money should we choose not to publish the ad in a given issue. Should you choose to terminate this contract prior to its fulfillment, you will be refunded money prepaid for issues not yet printed on the date of termination.
- 3) You agree to provide scanner ready art for the ad or pay the first time set up fee. Should you choose to change your design from a previously submitted design, you agree to provide scanner ready art or be subjected to the set up fee again. The set up fee is applicable to each design rather than business.
- 4) If you are not a member, you will receive the page your ad was printed on by fax or mail. You understand the entire issue is provided only to members, however it can be viewed on the VCTA website: [www.frontiernet.net/~vcta](http://www.frontiernet.net/~vcta)
- 5) We reserve the right to change the date of publication within 2 calendar weeks.
- 6) You agree to prepay by cash or check (*payable to the Valley Central Teachers' Association*) for the advertisement(s) upon acceptance of this application. You understand that if we owe you a refund due to conditions #1 or #2, you will receive a refund check after the publication of the issue from which your ad was omitted with notification that it was omitted.
- 7) You understand that this contract expires at the end of the school year. You will receive an application for the next year's issues at the end of the contract year. You will be given preference as a returning customer at the discretion of the editor.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please Return this form with ad to be scanned or information to: Patricia Lunden, VCTA, 1175 Rte. 17K, Montgomery, NY 12549

**These are the sizes available for ads, attach ad or sketch to form**

**1/8 page = \$10 per issue**

**1/3 page =  
\$30 per issue**

**Full Page = \$100  
per issue**

**1/4 page = \$20 per issue**

**1/2 page = \$50 per issue**



## Advertising Section

These ads will be seen by over 750 members of the VC Educational Community and their households. If you would like to advertise in the next issue of the VC ECHOES, contact Patti Lunden, 457-5899 for rates.

### You help give others a bright future. Do the same for yourself.

With a 403(b) plan, money is taken out of your paycheck before taxes and deposited directly into a tax-deferred account.

That makes it a convenient and worry-free way to help make sure your retirement is everything you want it to be. Call your local American Express financial advisor today and learn more about how a 403(b) plan can help you do more.

**David J. Mazzetti**  
*Personal Financial Advisor*  
**Mazzetti and Associates**  
25 Market Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY  
(845) 454-3021



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**MINT Condition:** 2001 Jeep Wrangler, 4.0, 5 Speed, 9K miles, yellow, \$4500 in extras, Mickey Thompson tires, **has never seen salt or snow**, \$18,000 or Best Offer. **Melissa Bonacic 858-2546** Leave Message

### For all your summer needs...

*Summer Hours:*  
**Monday– Friday**  
**8:00 AM—3:00 PM**



(845) 457-5592/5862  
[www.vcfcu.com](http://www.vcfcu.com)



*“Where people are worth more  
than money.”*

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

*The first edition of the 2004-2005  
school year will be published September  
1st. Submissions are due by August 1st.*

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

*Salary Agreements  
will be mailed to teachers  
over the Summer.*

*The page of the contract listing salary for the coming year  
will be enclosed for your verification.*

**Remember:**

*There will be 22/26 pay periods  
for the 2004-2005 school year!  
Budget accordingly!*

## Summer Work

The long school year is finally over. You're looking forward to a few weeks of rest and relaxation. Could you imagine leaving for the summer before you cleaned up your classroom? Or before your grades were computed? How about leaving before your final tests were scored or before report cards are filled out? Maybe just walk out of the room without even picking up your desk! After all, there's always tomorrow to finish up—those kids can just wait to see if they've passed your class and all that work on your desk—it's really not going anywhere...is it?

Can you imagine the outrage if you walked out of your classroom like that for the summer? I imagine your first glass of iced tea wouldn't even be poured before your principal would be calling your home, to find out just what in the world you'd been thinking? Certainly your professionalism would be in question. Of course, no Valley Central teacher would think to leave

for summer vacation in such a manner.

Yet, our state legislators have done just this. They have left for the summer without a budget in place, and the legislator leaders are not too sure they'll even have one by August—what's the rush—school only starts a month later. Legislators passed a law that requires school districts to put school budgets up for a public vote on the third Tuesday of the month of May. Should that budget fail, by law, school districts may resubmit the same, or a pared down budget only one more time. By law, the state budget is to be in place by April 1st. This would give schools sufficient time to create a budget based on state aid formulas. This has not happened for 20 years.

This year, the state pass rate for school budgets presented May 18th was only 85%, down 9% from the year before. Were this the score of an ELA or Regents, certainly eyebrows would be raising at State Ed. As we endured our own

budget failure, I was reminded of the budget wars of several years ago when student needs seemed to be pitted against the fixed incomes of senior citizens. It is time, I hope, we ever have to relive. That is why I would like to suggest that even if your classroom is clean, your desk is cleared, your tests graded, your report cards mailed, you still aren't done with your school work. You need to contact your state legislators and let them know that not having a state budget on time is not acceptable. (www.nysut.com) You need to let them know that it is not fair that senior citizens are pitted against students—it is not fair that school taxes are the only taxes given to a direct vote. You need to let them know that we don't walk away from our classrooms before our work is finished—and that they should learn from our example.

*~ Patti Lunden,*

*Editor*