



VC ECHOES

Valley Central Teachers' Association



Volume 8, Issue 1

September, 2005

Inside this issue:

Health Comparability	2
FAQ's about Health	3
TSA's/457B	4
Cafeteria 125 IRS Reimbursement	5
Read your pay stub	6
Direct Deposit Committee of 100	7
Tenure Recipients	8
Meetings/Pay Dates	9
Upcoming VCTA Events	10
Teacher Nominaion	11
Mac's Musings	12
Central Office Contact Information	13
Committee List	14
VCTA Minutes June	15

Welcome Back, Valley Central

It is a warm summer evening in August and already my thoughts have returned to the classroom, as I'm sure have many of yours. This is my twentieth year returning and yet I am as nervous as my first years. I remember speaking to former English Department Chair and beloved retiree, Kevin McFadden, about this last year and he confided to me that he still has "back to school" dreams! I guess it is in our souls as educators.

There is nothing as refreshing as returning to the classroom at the dawn of a new year filled with the hope and promise of learning for a whole new crop of students. The awkwardness of the first week will quickly fade and become comfortable and these strange faces at the desks in front of each of us will soon be the faces of "our kids." I am always amazed by what the students will remember from my classroom or those of my colleagues. Although "my kids" are in high school, they will speak fondly of middle school and elementary teachers and the experiences they remember from those years. They never speak about preparing for tests, or reaching standards... they remember the warmth and laughter, the wonder of learning and the love shown to them in those classrooms.



It is at this time of year that the famous quote by Henry Brooks Adams holds its most meaning for me: "A teacher affects eternity, he can never tell where his influence stops." I believe this is an important quote to remember every day of the year. Despite the stresses put upon classrooms by NCLB and State Ed., it is the teacher who will most affect the students and not some data-driven piece of information that may prove useless twenty years from now. Whether this is your first year or your last year, be sure to teach from your heart—in doing so you will certainly influence eternity. May your year be blessed with many teachable moments and your classrooms filled with wonder, love and learning.

—Patti Lunden (HS)

Vice President

The Questions about “Comparable” Health Coverage— Or Do I have to take the buy-out?

Who is entitled to insurance benefits?

As a salaried or full-time employee you are entitled by contract to insurance benefits (*health, dental and optical*). If you are married (*or marry in the future*) your spouse and dependents are also entitled to benefits.

If I am married, am I still entitled to health benefits?

It depends because there is a contractual comparability clause (Article XXV, D.2, Teachers’ Contract) regarding health benefits. (*Dental and optical benefits are not affected by this clause*). The Comparability Clause applies under the given conditions: **You are married and your spouse PROVIDES health coverage for you & that coverage is COMPARABLE.**

What if my spouse does not have health insurance benefits?

If your spouse does not provide insurance for you, you are entitled to family coverage.

What if my spouse’s health insurance is inferior in comparison to the insurance I could get through the District?

If your spouse’s insurance is not comparable you are entitled to insurance through the District.

How is comparability determined?

Comparability is determined by the District through a holistic comparison of both plans. Since plans vary from providing company to providing company, **you must** provide your insurance sum-

mary and booklets to allow for a comprehensive comparison. You should give a copy of the information to the Association, so that the Association can also review the plan as well in case you disagree with the District’s findings. If you find yourself having to review your spouse’s insurance with the District, you are strongly urged to have Rich Steger or Patti Lunden present with you. The VCTA negotiated this language with the District and our goal is to protect your right to have the best coverage available to your family.

What if the District determines my spouse’s health insurance to be comparable, but I disagree?

The contractual agreement allows for arbitration in such instances.

If I am not entitled to District health benefits, what do I get instead?

If your spouse’s coverage is determined to be comparable, and you agree with the finding; you are entitled to the District’s buyout (\$1800).

What if there is a change in my spouse’s insurance and it is no longer comparable or if I get divorced or lose my spouse?

If your marital status or insurance changes at any time, you can regain the District’s coverage immediately. If you have a previously unforeseen health situation, you may be able to regain coverage.

What if my spouse’s insurance is NOT comparable, but I would like to take the buy-out anyway?

You can voluntarily elect to take the Dis-

trict’s buyout if you would like to, as long as you are provided health insurance through another source.

What if I am single, never use my health insurance and would rather have the buy-out. Can I also elect to take it?

Not unless you have an alternate health coverage (*i.e. from another job*). You must show alternate coverage to elect to take the buyout.

What if I have changes but fail to inform the District (For example, you get married—have comparable coverage by spouse but never tell the District)

You would be committing an act of fraud. The comparability clause is contractual just like your salary. It would be illegal for the District to hire you as a teacher, sign a contract to pay you and then never give you a paycheck. Likewise, you as a VCTA member (*or agency fee payer since this is a closed shop*) are bound by the clauses of the contract. If the District becomes aware that you have not disclosed such information to them—you could be facing legal charges and disciplinary action.

Who can I contact with questions?

Vice Presidents Rich Steger, Walden Elementary OR Patti Lunden, High School

If you are injured while at work, you *may* be entitled to Worker’s Compensation.

The District’s Worker’s Compensation carrier is:

Wright Risk Management, 377 Oak Street, Garden City, New York 11530-6542

Give this address to your doctor if you have a workman’s compensation claim.

Marvin Anderman is a Worker’s Compensation attorney. His phone number is (212) 227-2300. Members should contact him (and the VCTA) if they are having problems with a workman’s compensation claim.

FAQ Concerning Health Insurance Choices

What health insurance choices do I have?

You have a federal right to choose an HMO rather than the indemnity plan offered by the District.

What is the indemnity plan?

The indemnity plan offered by the District is the Orange-Ulster School District Health Plan. This plan allows you to stay in the GHI/Devon/Beechstreet network or go outside the network with applied deductibles and 20/80 (reasonable and customary) coverage.

What HMO's can I choose from?

You can choose any HMO you'd like, however the VCTA has helped to make three HMO's easily accessible. They are: Empire-Blue Cross/ Blue Shield, MVP, & GHI HMO.

Will I have to pay anything to choose an HMO?

If you choose to use an HMO, the District will pay the dollar amount that they would have paid to the indemnity plan to the HMO. You are responsible

to pay the difference if the HMO is more. That difference is deducted from your paycheck pre-tax. (This is in addition to the 5% already deducted toward health insurance).

If I didn't get a chance to pick up information on the health plans during the Health/TSA Fair, who should I contact?

If you would like information on the OUSDHP, contact Central Office. If you want information on Empire, MVP, or GHI contact Rich Steger at WaldenElementary.

What does the VCTA recommend concerning the health plan choices?

That decision is yours to make. The VCTA wants you to know you have a right to choose, but does not endorse any one plan over another. Consult your physicians, family, friends, colleagues, or the Internet to help you make your decision. Also ask yourself "What if..." questions, to be certain that doctors and hospitals would be available to you

if you needed them in the future.

What if I choose a health plan and then don't like it? Am I stuck with it until I stop working here?

No. You may change your health insurance every year, deciding in October (the open enrollment period) to change for the following year. The VCTA hosts the annual Health/TSA fair to let you continually compare coverage options. However, you must stay with the plan through December 31st of the year, once selected you will not be able change again until the next October.

If I decide to switch insurance plans, when does the new coverage begin?

If you select a different option this October, it will take effect as of January 1, 2006 will not change unless you select another option next October.



"The VCTA wants you to know you have a right to choose, but does not endorse any one plan over another."

How do I make a change?

Fill out the application form from the HMO you have selected and send it to Christina Howe at Central Office by 28 October .

Who can I contact with questions?

Rich Steger, VCTA VP, Walden Elementary, office 457-5899.

The VCTA does not receive the rates for the HMO insurances until sometime in September. The chart comparing the four health plans will be published in the October 2005 issue of the *VC ECHOES*. It will also be distributed to buildings. You must inform the District of your intent to change (a filled out application form for the HMO is enough to do this) by October 28th. Completed forms must be sent to Christina Howe at Central Office.

Ninth Annual VCTA Health/Investment Fair

The VCTA chose to select a small number of investment companies on the basis of recommendations from our members and invite them to our annual Health/Investment Fair. These advisors have been asked to provide the best advice and investment options according to member needs.

<p>Dave Mazzetti American Express Financial Advisor 25 Market Street Poughkeepsie, NY (845) 454-3021</p>	<p>Christopher A. Joy, LUTCF Joy Insurance and Investments 639 E. Main Street Middletown, NY 10940 (845) 342-4888</p>
<p>Richard C. Gridley, Investment Consultant Tax Relief Investments 72 North Montgomery Street Walden, NY 12586</p>	<p>James Stout ADVEST 25 Main Street Goshen, NY 10924</p>
<p>Al DeLorenzo Aetna Investment Services, Inc. 114 Route 17K Newburgh, NY 12550</p>	<p>Jacqueline Dufrene Edward Jones 159 Ward Street Montgomery, NY 12549</p>

If you ever have any concerns regarding one of these companies, please inform the VCTA so that we can re-evaluate their inclusion. You are not limited to using only these companies, you can choose from over 40 vendors in use by VC employees. **The VCTA wants to make you well aware of the option of 403(b) and 457(b) plans, but what you do with your money is your own business. The VCTA does not endorse or make any plan recommendations. We are only providing information.**

As a courtesy to the District, the VCTA also invites three financial companies with whom they deal extensively:
Ed Hogan, Faculty Services (common remitter for TSAs)/Vince Mazzetti, Myles Financial Services (handle the Cafeteria 125 Plan)/Joe Laiz, 457(b) Administrator
 These are not VCTA selected companies, however, if you have concerns regarding any of them, contact the VCTA so we can let the District know.

Payroll deduction forms submitted for TSA or 403 (b) accounts before November 1st will take effect January 1st, changes submitted before July 1st will take effect September 1st.

NYS DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN (457b)

Available to VCTA members!

The NYS Deferred Compensation Plan is available to our members. Like the TSA (403b), this plan allows you to shelter money pre-tax for retirement savings. The 457(b) plan coupled with the 403(b) has almost doubled the amount of money that you may shelter! The 457(b) plan is open for enrollment before Nov. 1st for a January 1st effective date and before July 1st for a September 1st effective date. *For a review of full language, contact your building representative.

Joe Laiz is the District's Plan Administrator

To obtain more information on the Deferred Compensation Plan:

Toll Free: (800) 422-8463 24 hours a day

Web Site: www.nysdcp.com

What is a Cafeteria 125 Plan? Is it for you?

Although a Cafeteria 125 Plan has nothing to do with food—it does allow you to save money two ways—which may allow you to go to an expensive restaurant with your “found” money! Cafeteria 125 Plans (also known as *Flexible Spending Accounts*) allow you to shelter money from taxes (*NO Federal, State, or FICA*) for the purpose of medical reimbursement or dependent care. The IRS allows a payroll deduction up to \$5000 pre-taxed for dependent care (*day care for a child or dependent adult so that you can work*). As you pay your day care provider, you submit receipts and are reimbursed from your Flexible Spending Account. The savings are realized a second time when you file your taxes as that income will not be subject to taxation.

Likewise, you are able to shelter \$2000 for Medical reimbursement of money that you pay for services not covered by insurance (*co-pay, prescription co-pays, dental or optical expenses*). Unlike the De-

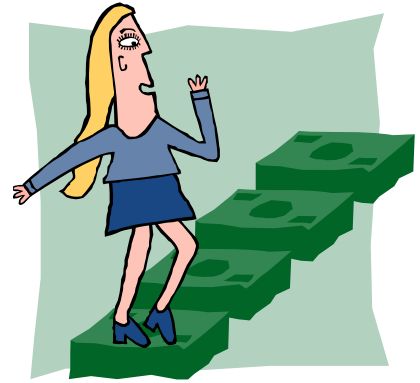
pendent Care account, you may claim full reimbursement from your Medical account on the first day of the plan year.

It is important to realize that any money not claimed during the plan year (October 1st—September 30th) is forfeited, so be sure to only shelter money you know you will be using.

The Cafeteria 125 Plan is part of the benefits package the Union negotiated on behalf of its members and should be taken advantage of if it is beneficial to you.

The District has chosen Myles Financial Services to administer the Cafeteria 125 Plan. You may have already received and signed off on a letter to Myles over the summer. Otherwise you must meet with a representative from Myles even if you don't want to participate in the plans to sign off to that effect.

At these meetings, Myles representatives should only be explaining your options concerning Cafeteria 125 Plans. Although they offer other finan-



cial services, it is not the purpose of this meeting time to promote those products. If you wish to speak to them about such products, they should make an appointment with you for another time. Should you feel that this is not the case, or you are being pressured to look at other products at that time, contact Vice President Rich Steger (Walden Elementary).

**The 2005 IRS rate for mileage reimbursement is:
40.5 cents per mile.**

(Please note that this is an increase from 2004)

Contract Article XD: “For personal automobile use, teachers who are assigned to more than one (1) school per day shall receive the following compensation mileage reimbursement at the rate used by the IRS.”



How to Read Your Pay Stub:

VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOLS

944 STATE ROUTE 17K
MONTGOMERY, NY 12549

DATE: 09/25/04

Employee Name SALLY FLOATER ①	Employee Number 2916	SSN 999-98-9998 ②	Pay Period 08/30/04 - 09/10/04 ③	Building 00DIS ④	Ref# 268126
Earnings	Units	Rate	Current Pay Period	Cal Year To Date	Fis Year To Date
CONTRACT ⑤			1,678.57	1,678.57	
PER DIEM ⑥	14.00	80.00			
Totals			2,798.57	2,798.57	2,798.57

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION:

- Employee Name
- Employee Social Security Number
- Pay Period ending for hourly wages only
- Building the check is being sent to

EARNINGS INFORMATION
(for Current Pay Period, Calendar Year to Date and Fiscal Year to Date)

- Contract – biweekly salary amount
- Per Diem wages – coaching and/or chaperone pay would also appear in this area

Deductions	Current Pay Period	Cal Year To Date	Fis Year To Date
FICA ⑦	173.51	173.51	173.51
FEDERAL ⑨	256.72	256.72	256.72
CITY ⑪	0.00	0.00	0.00
CR UN ⑬	50.00	50.00	50.00
TRS ⑮	83.96	83.96	83.96
TSA	100.00	100.00	100.00
FLEXMD	16.43	16.43	16.43

Deductions	Current Pay Period	Cal Year To Date	Fis Year To Date
MEDI ⑧			
⑩ STATE			
457BNYS ⑫			
⑭ TCHDUES			
UNTDWAY ⑯			
Totals	897.31	897.31	897.31

DEDUCTIONS INFORMATION
(for Current Pay Period, Calendar Year to Date and Fiscal Year to Date)

- FICA – Social Security Tax 6.25%
- Medicare Tax 1.45%
- Federal Tax (sheltered for TSA & TRS contributions)
- State Tax (sheltered for TSA only)
- City Tax (not applicable)
- 457BNYS – Deferred Compensation Plan deductions
- CR UN – Credit Union deductions
- TCHDUES – Teacher dues deductions
- TRS – Teacher Retirement System deductions
- UNTDWAY – United Way deductions
- TSA -- 403 (b) deductions
- Health Insurance deductions

EXEMPTION INFORMATION

- Federal tax exemptions and additional withholdings claimed from W-4
- State tax exemptions and additional withholdings claimed from W-4
- City tax exemptions and additional withholdings (not applicable)

RETIREMENT SYSTEM INFORMATION

- Retirement System, Employee's TRS or ERS number and Tier

CONTRACT SALARY

- Annual Contract Salary as stated on salary agreement

CHECK TOTALS

- Gross Pay
- Deductions – total of all deductions, voluntary and required
- Net Pay = Gross Pay less Deductions
- Direct Deposit – Amount deposited directly into employees bank
- Check Amount = Gross Pay less (Deductions and Direct Deposit)

Exemptions	Additional Withholdings	Retirement Sys	No.	Tier	Contract
FED: M02 ⑰	0.00	TRS ⑳	full	4	35,250.00 ㉑
STATE: M02 ⑱	0.00				
CITY: ㉒	0.00				

	⑳ Gross Pay	㉑ Deductions	㉒ Net Pay	㉓ Direct Deposit	㉔ Check Amount
Check Totals	2,798.57	897.31	1,901.26	0.00	1,901.26

THIS DOCUMENT HAS INVISIBLE FLUORESCENT FIBERS - VIEW UNDER BLACK LIGHT - ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK - HOLD AT ANGLE TO VIEW

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
944 STATE ROUTE 17K
MONTGOMERY, NEW YORK 12549
PAYROLL ACCOUNT

KeyBank National Association 50-889219
KeyBank

268126
CHECK NO. 268126

****1,901 DOLLARS and 26 CENTS******

DATE: 09/25/04
AMOUNT: \$ **1,901.26

VOID

SALLY FLOATER - 00DIS
123 OLD LANE
OLD CITY, NY 000000

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

Jan Phelps
DISTRICT TREASURER

Direct Deposit— More Convenient for You

If you have direct deposit, verify that your check is being sent to the correct bank. If you do not have it, but would like to, you may sign up for it through October 1st. See your building principal for the form. Direct Deposit saves you a trip to your bank and a trip to school if a payday falls on a snow day!

Also, this year two pay dates fall when we are out of school on break: Dec 30th and June 30th! You will appreciate the convenience of direct deposit on days like this!



Your money comes easily with Direct Deposit!

Committee of 100

The Committee of 100 is NYSUT's grassroots lobbying arm. Local Associations designate an individual to go to Albany to lobby senators and assemblypersons. When it began more than 20 years ago, this grassroots, state-wide lobby group numbered 100 NYSUT members. Today over 500 activists go to Albany twice each spring to meet with legislators regarding state aid to education and other issues important to

NYSUT and its members.

This past spring our PAC (political action committee) representing ED14, met with Bill Larkin, Nancy Calhoun, Annie Rabbitt, and Tom Kirwan to discuss our concerns relating to issues such as funding for education, 55/25 retirement, Taylor law, negotiating impasse, CFE (Campaign for Fiscal Equity), and educational issues related to our area. In our meetings, all legislators were supportive of our concerns and

shared their opinions and ideas. Following our sessions, we met and discussed our impressions and prepared reports for NYSUT.

The Committee of 100 is important in that it allows us to meet with legislators from our area to discuss issues that directly impact education and our local membership.

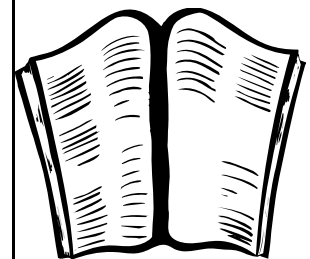
—Laurie Hey (MS)

VCTA Secretary

VC ECHOES Deadlines and Publication Dates 05-06

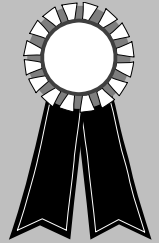
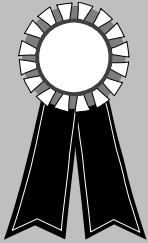
Deadline: September 23, 2005
 Deadline: November 23, 2005
 Deadline: January 27, 2006
 Deadline: March 24, 2006
 Retiree Issue: Deadline: May 12, 2006
 Deadline: June 10, 2005

Publication: October 7, 2005
 Publication: December 9, 2005
 Publication: February 10, 2006
 Publication: April 7, 2006
 Publication: May 26, 2006
 Publication: June 17, 2006



Get those articles in!

Congratulations to the twenty-two teachers who received their tenure pins today!



District:

Dawn Sheehy Remedial Reading

Berea:

Katherine Gusmano Guidance Counselor
Stephanie Peters Special Education

High School:

E. Chris Forman Social Studies
Lucy Galanin Mathematics
Joette Hunter English
Anna Leo Special Education
Jennie Meehan Science
Tara Nicoli Special Education
Keith Sexton Social Studies

East Coldenham:

Ruthanne Giattino Elementary Education

Montgomery:

Susan Dami Elementary Education
Christopher McFadden Elementary Education
Bonita Strader Remedial Reading

Middle School:

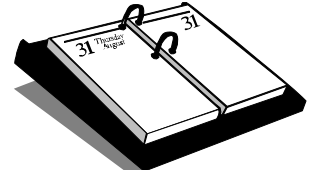
Kristina Banasiak Special Education
Diane Dinsmore Special Education
Jennifer Hoffman English
Heather Martin Social Studies
Kelly O'Dell Mathematics
Kimberly Tyson Special Education

Walden:

Diane Cassell-Smith School Social Worker
Kerry Devine Special Education

We are very proud of you!!!

Important Meetings and Pay Dates



**Mark Your
Calendars!**

VCTA Executive Council Meetings

All VCTA Executive Council Meetings are General Meetings to which the entire membership is invited.

The meetings are held on Tuesdays, in the Professional Library at the HS*, and are called to order at 4:00 pm.

September 20, 2005
October 18, 2005
November 15, 2005
December 20, 2005
January 17, 2006
February 21, 2006
April 25, 2006
May 16, 2006
***June 13, 2006**

*The June Meeting is a dinner meeting held at the Spruce Lodge. New Retirees are congratulated at 4:00 pm, dinner is served at 4:30 pm, and the meeting is called to order at 5:00 pm. If you wish to attend the dinner, call Laurie Hey, 457-5899 and she will tell you the cost.

Board of Education Meetings 2005-2006:

September 12, 26
October 11, 24
November 14, 28
December 12
January 9, 23
February 13, 27
March 13, 27
April 10, 27 *
May 8, 22
June 12

All Board of Education meetings are held at the Administration Building Board Room at 7:00 pm. Student presentations when scheduled begin at 6:45 pm.

*Tenure Review

Teacher's Pay Dates 2005-2006:

September 9	April 7
September 23	April 21
October 7	May 5
October 21	May 19
November 4	June 2
November 18	<i>June 9-Health Buy-back</i>
	June 16 (Reg and Multi)
	June 30- (<i>No vol. ded.</i>)
December 2	
<i>December 9- Health Buy-back</i>	
December 16	
December 30- (<i>No voluntary deductions</i>)	
January 13	
January 27	
February 10	
February 24	
March 10	
March 24	



Upcoming VCTA Events...

Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk — October 16th

The “Making Strides Walk” will be held on October 16th at Woodbury Commons. This is a non-competitive 5K walk through the Commons. Over the years, this event has raised millions of dollars for research and other programs designed to combat this deadly disease as well as to support patients in their struggle against its devastating effects. The VCTA participates each year under the NYSUT banner and has been very successful. Please join us this year for this important cause. Further information will be distributed soon.

Contact Patti Lunden, Vice President at ext. 7664 with any questions.

Mark Your Calendars Now!!



*Please join us in making a difference
on October 16th!*



VCTA FALL FEST 2005

Date: Friday October 21, 2005

Time: 3:00 pm—6:00 pm

Place: Stony Ford Clubhouse
at Orange County Park



This event is free for all active and retired members and their spouses or significant others.

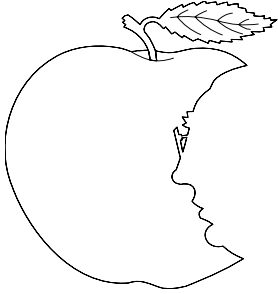
Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar, Prizes!!!

Please Join Us!

A good time will be had by all!

See you there...

Directions: Stony Ford Country Club is located in Orange County Park. Take 17K through Montgomery to the intersection of 17K and 211. Turn LEFT on to 211, follow through village to Rt. 416 (LEFT at the airport). Take 416 and watch for signs for the Country Club which is located at the top of the hill.



*We're looking for a few great teachers...
And we know they're in VC Classrooms.*

Each year the District
in conjunction with the Association
nominates a teacher to be considered for
NEW YORK STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

Nomination requires nominator to fill out paperwork.

*Please submit the name of a colleague who you believe
exemplifies the phrase "Great Teacher."*

Colleague's Name _____

Colleague's Building _____

His/Hers Years teaching _____ His/Hers Years at VC _____

Why should this person be VC's candidate for Teacher of the Year?

Your Name _____, VM _____

Return this form to your building rep. by October 28th.

Mac's Musings (from the Retiree Side)...

Greetings!
The Calendar says July 23, the deadline calls for Echoes submissions by August 1st, and I would not want to be late for our new editor, Meghan Riley, to whom I bid a hearty welcome aboard.

And so, welcome back, Valley Central. Another opening, another show. Wow! I have absolutely no idea how time flies so quickly. I look (only occasionally) in the mirror and recognize the ravages of old Father Time, but then shut out the lights and go merrily on my way: a new course for my Elderhostelers at Mt. St. Mary starting on July 31—33 students this year aged 55-89! ; another new course to teach in the Mount's L.I.F.E. program come September 13. Life is good.

My wish for all teachers, administrators, staff folks is that 2005-2006 will be a most successful school year and that the kids have a happy, fruitful, successful year. That is what counts.

—Nobody asked me, but...

I have been asked

again this year by the district to give a talk on life at VC to this year's new teachers. I'm to do this on August 29th during their orientation program. Although I have done this before, the opportunity affords me the joy of and need for reflection. I have written often about the need for *cura personalis* in teaching (a concept stolen from my Ignatian background) and the importance of showing this personal care to each of our students. (See June '05's Echoes) My reflection this summer has reminded me again how important this *cura personalis* is in the relationships among all members of the school family: not only toward the kids. For a family to be happy and productive, all members must be sensitive towards each other. It is this that can and does make a school family successful. It is so important that we be "all for one and one for all." This has been VC's history and, we hope, will be its future. Thanks for bearing with the long-winded me.

—Condolences

This month brought news of the death of Howard Feldsher, retired music teacher and band director

from the middle school. A talented instrumentalist and arranger, he brought his love of music to his teaching. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, Eileen.

—What's up with the Retiree Luncheon?

I'm glad you asked! We are set for the Crossroads on September 7 and hope to have a big crowd for the 23rd annual bash. I'm in the process of sending out 250 (!) announcements. The luncheon is for all VC retirees. I'll let you know how it all turns out. Special thanks to Polly Coniglio at Central Office for generating labels for all retirees (and a happy retirement to Polly!) Also many thanks to Jill Conklin at the high school for her typing and copying of luncheon material. Also to the staff of VCFCU (Stan Davie and Co.) for keeping the luncheon account and working the postage meter. Their kindness makes things a lot easier for this disorganized old goat.

(cont'd on page 13)



The Mac Attack is Back!



"For a family to be happy and productive, all members must be sensitive towards each other."

Attention Everyone:

The VCTA office phone is currently out of order. The fax is working (457-5899).

If you need to contact a VCTA Officer, please leave a message for the officer at their building with a member of the secretarial staff.

Thank You for Your Patience!

Mac's Musings (from the Retiree Side)...(cont'd)

--Life after VC

—I received a great letter from Bruce Sequin (MS retiree). As always, he and Joan are very busy in Champlain country. He reports that the ice has melted. Bruce often comes down for the retiree luncheon.

—Also a note from Marion Underhill (HS English and Chair retiree). She sounds great and drops a line often.

—E-mail arrived from peripatetic photographer and gallery guy, Tom Knieser, announcing that his work is being shown at Riverwalk in Newburgh from July 30th to August 27th. He has some great work. Tom is retired HS math chief.

—Ditto the work (photography plus) of Joe DiBello, retired HS principal. Joe's work is on display at his own gallery on Rt. 17K in Montgomery.

—I hope that retirees will e-mail me or write me with news of their lives post-VC. It eases the burden on the scribe. (gkmcf@aol.com or 6 Jessup St. Walden, NY 12586)

--And you thought this would never end

Just a reminder—as I do each year in the first issue— that many of the views and comments in this space are mine and do not necessarily reflect the views of the VCTA, NY-SUT, State Ed. Dept., the district, or Mrs. Calibash. I continue to be grateful to the VCTA for allowing

this voice of retirees to be heard. I welcome any comments from active or retired members.

--Amen

Thanks for turning to the back pages. A pleasure to be back with you for another school year. Until next time, keep pushing back the barriers of ignorance in whatever venue life finds you. Peace.

—Kevin McFadden

Retiree Rep.

Problems for Central Office?: What to do....

If you have a problem for central office, you should make your initial contact through e-mail. Also, if you do send an e-mail, you should send a courtesy copy (cc:) to Tim Brown so that the VCTA is aware of any problems members may be having.

Contact Information for Central Office:

Name/ Email Address:	Questions Concerning:
Dr. Richard Hooley — rhooley@vcsd.ouboces.org	Any questions or concerns that do not fit the following parameters
Christina Howe — chowe@vcsd.ouboces.org	Business Office—payroll, TRS, insurance, purchasing
John Hunter — jhunter@vcsd.ouboces.org	Curriculum & Instruction—prof. Dev., mentoring, credits
Pamela Roberts — proberts@vcsd.ouboces.org	Human Resources—teacher files, salary contract agreements, leave requests

Committee List for 2005-06

Newsletter Editor: Meghan Rilley (HS)

Dental and Optical Trust: Sandy Strauss (MS)

Scholarship: Bob Jurgens (HS)
Mary Bleau (MS)
Kathy Bordone (W)
Lori Myerson (W)

Elections: Doug Straebler (HS)

Echoes Articles:

Berea: Donna Clark
East Coldenham: Holly Bacon
Maybrook: Donna Lloyd
Montgomery: Chris Brand
Walden: Patty Joy
Middle School: Joe Collins
High School: Mindy Kane

Budget Vote Analysis: Beth Como (EC)

Mid-Hudson Teacher Center: Kelly Abiodun

Professional Development: John Bonagura (EC)
Rich Steger (W)
Laurie Hey (MS)
Mary Bleau (MS)
Ruthann Giattino (EC)
Patti Lunden (HS)

Phone Bank: Bob Jurgens (HS)
Sandy Tarallo (May)
Kevin McFadden

Refreshments: Meghan Rilley

Banner: Joe DeVenuto
Sandy Strauss

Defensive Driving: Toni Sperry (Mont)

VOTE/COPE: Robin Sinclair-Scott (B)
Arline Friedman (Retirees)

Grievance: Laurie Hey (MS)

Committee of 100: Laurie Hey (MS)

Teachers Retirement System: Patty Joy (W)
Patti Lunden (HS)

Blood Drive: Diane Ruggles (HS)

Membership Reporting: John Bonagura (EC)
Beth Como (EC)
Holly Bacon (EC)

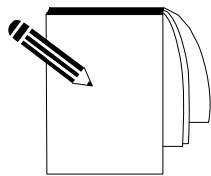
VCTA Shirts: Laurie Hey (MS)
Tim Brown (HS)

Financial Controls: Kevin McFadden

Correspondence: Eileen Purcell (HS)
Carolyn Zayas (HS)
Glenn Eckert (HS)

VOTE/COPE Building Coordinators:

Berea: Erin Davis
High School: Patti Lunden, Tim Brown
Middle School: Tammy Coleman
Walden: Mary Ellen Mangiamele
EC: Holly Bacon
Maybrook: Donna Lloyd
Montgomery: Gail Nozell



VCTA June 2005 Meeting Minutes



Elections Report:

A motion carried to appoint Meghan Riley as Newsletter Editor and Kathy Bordone as VCTA Webmaster.

Tim Brown referred to the section of the VCTA Constitution regarding the replacement of officers who do not complete their elected terms. He instructed reps present to notify their building members that anyone interested in running for the Vice President's position (which will be vacant, due to Jay Sussdorff's retirement), that they have 15 days to give notification of interest and prepare a bio. If there is a contested election, voting will take place on 6/23. A motion carried to have the VCTA Secretary, in absence of the membership, cast a single vote for Patti Lunden in the event of an uncontested election.

Board of Education Report: Nothing at this time.

Dental/ Optical Trust:

Sandy Strauss requested a motion to appoint D/O Trustees. A motion carried to appoint Doug Straebler, JoAnn Nowicki, and John Solan as 3-year trustees.

Sandy Strauss reported that Ciardullo Printing is finishing the printing of D/O Booklets. He would like to get the booklets out to members during the last week of school.

Sandy stated that there will be an increase in the yearly maximum coverage, from \$1250 to \$1500. This is also the first time that the Trust will pay for implants (dental).

President's Report:

Postings- Time Brown stated that openings must be posted (i.e.: on the District webpage). In the next paycheck, there should be a note informing staff to check the District website for job postings.

Interactive Museum: The VCTA logo for the interactive museum was attached. The cost is approximately \$60 per 1/2 page.

CLC Meetings for 2005-2006- Joe Collins and Erin Davis will be representing the VCTA at the Central Labor Council meetings next year. Applause was offered for Joe DeVenuto and Mike Steele, who were the 2004-2005 reps at CLC.

Labor Day Ballgame- Tim Brown requested that reps take the back page of the President's agenda to their buildings and let him know if anyone is interested in participating and he will order a block of tickets to the Renegades game. Tim would also like to have a VCTA banner made to bring along.

A motion carried to present a maximum of 5 scholarships at \$500 each.

Tim Brown indicated that this is the first year that the Donald Brooks scholarship will not be presented, as no graduating senior has indicated plans to enter the teaching profession.

At this time, retirees Maureen Radl, Robert Mooney, Ed Rechterovic, Christine Verlezza, Merylyn Tyson, Marc Sperry, and Jay Sussdorff were recognized. Retirees were presented with a VCTA certificate, a NYSUT certificate, a NYSUT pin, a check, and a retiree booklet/guide. Retirees Theresa Concors, Joan Bernardini, and Cecelia Cornwell were unable to attend, but were also acknowledged.

The next Executive Council meeting will be held September 20 at 4:00 PM at the VCHS Professional Library, Montgomery

—Laurie Hey
Secretary, VCTA

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

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*

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) You will receive the page on which your advertisement appears from each issue in which it is published as proof that it was published 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
- 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: Meghan Rille, VCTA, 1175 Rte. 17K, Montgomery, NY 12549
 Ad can be e-mailed to vcta@frontiernet.net and then check/form sent under separate cover.

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 Meghan Riley, 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



American Express Financial Advisors, Inc. Member NASD. American Express Company is separate from American Express Financial Advisors, Inc. and is not a broker-dealer.



"Where people are worth more than money."

17 Walnut Street
Montgomery, NY 12549
(845) 457-5592/457-5862
FAX: (845) 457-3197
HOURS: 8 AM—5 PM
(M-Thu)
FRIDAY until 5:30 PM



R.J. Smith Realty

Bus. (845) 561-2095 x-2
Cell (914) 213-9393
E-mail: markjtierney@rjsmithrealty.com
730 Broadway, Newburgh, NY 12550

MARK J. TIERNEY
Associate Broker



DMDI
10 South Plank Rd.
Newburgh, NY
(845) 561-5984

6-Hour
Accident
Prevention Course

*Point & Insurance
Reduction Program*

**10% Discount on
Auto Insurance for 3 years
And reduce up to 4 points
On your Driving Record**

Course is \$40
Insurance Clients pay \$35

for
and

Call
Date



Times

VALLEY CENTRAL
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

putting children center
vcta



1175 State Route 17K
Montgomery, NY 12549
Tel./Fax: (845) 457-5899

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!
WWW.VCTA.NET

President, Timothy Brown (HS) VM 7613
Vice President, Richard Steger (Walden) VM 5648
Vice President, Patti Lunden (HS) VM 7664
Secretary, Laurie Hey (MS) VM 6646
Treasurer, John Bonagura (EC) VM 2604

VCTA Executive Council
Building Representatives

Berea: Donna Clark, Erin Davis, Robin Sinclair-Scott, Carol DeMicco (alternate)

East Coldenham: Holly Bacon, Elizabeth Como

Maybrook: Donna Lloyd, Sandy Tarallo

Montgomery: Chris Brand, Gail Nozell, Toni Sperry, Mike Gonzales (alternate)

Walden: Kathy Bordone, Patricia Joy, Mary Ellen Mangiamele, Lori Myerson

Middle School: Mary Bleau, Tammy Coleman, Joe Collins, Joe DeVenuto, Linda English, Sandy Strauss

High School: Glenn Eckert, Bob Jurgens, Mindy Kane, Eileen Purcell, Meghan Rilley, Diane Ruggles, Doug Straebl, Carolyn Zayas, Glenn Taylor (alternate)

Secretarial Representative: Lucy Fox (HS)

Paraprofessional Representative: Kathy Lennon (W)

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

Article contributions or Letters to the Editor for the next issue should be sent to Meghan Rilley, HS, by September 23, 2005.

Any articles submitted to the VC Echoes will also be posted on the VCTA web site.



VCTA hard at work in the summertime, Now where is that Tim Brown...? (Behind the Camera!)

Big Shoes to Fill...

Hello everyone! My name is Meghan Rilley and I have taken over for Mrs. Patti Lunden as editor for the VCTA newsletter. Make no mistake, this has been quite a daunting task! She made the *VC Echoes* an award-winning, first-rate publication and it will be hard to live up to that standard. The VCTA leadership, especially Patti, has provided me with a wonderful support system from the start.

With the first issue complete, I can't wait to start on the second! To do this, I would like to request your input. Are there any issues about which you are curious and would like to see covered in the *VC Echoes*? Do you have an idea for a future article? Would you like to contribute an article? If you have any suggestions, ideas, questions, concerns, or comments, let me know. Please feel free to drop a note in my mailbox, e-mail, or call me at ext. 7647.

Now that we are all hopefully rejuvenated after a fun and relaxing summer, it is time for work again! At the beginning of the year, we are all possessed of great amounts of energy and enthusiasm. This is generally true whether you are entering your first classroom or you have a dozen Septembers to your credit. The challenge is to still have any energy left come June! When the enthusiasm does begin to wane and the energy just isn't there, it is important to remember that we all have a great source of inspiration available to us: each other. Our colleagues are often a forgotten resource of information, expertise, and creativity. Teaching is by nature a very isolated profession, but it doesn't have to be. This is especially true at VC where we really are a family. It's good to be back!

To those of you that are just starting out at Valley Central, know that you are surrounded by a caring, helpful, and experienced group of educators that is willing to assist you in any way possible. Welcome to the VC Family!

—Meghan Rilley
Editor