



Rush-Henrietta
Employees' Association
Teachers Chapter
Volume 13 Issue 1
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RH TEACHER

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Welcome back to all those who are veteran members of RHEA and hello to those who are new to the RHEA family. I hope things are going well for you as we worked through the first day hellos with our students, Open Houses, 5-week reports, and our preparations for the end of the first quarter. Things are moving fast as well for your members in Executive Council, Negotiations Team, and Representative Assembly.

Negotiations continue to move in a positive direction with the District. The Negotiation's Team met with the District over the summer and into the fall in trying to work out a new contract. The new teacher evaluation system (APPR) will eventually be part of the new contract but is being negotiated as a separate entity due to its enormity and uncertainty given the legal challenges. The goal is to have a "steering committee" made up of teachers and administrators to recommend solutions for the new APPR. RHEA will need representatives from all areas to do this important work in the near future. Just a reminder, the old APPR in the current contract remains in place until a new APPR system is negotiated.

The Social Committee (me at the moment) has been working hard to reestablish our RHEA community. We started off the fall with a very successful "Zoolidarity" event on Friday, September 30th. It was well attended by RHEA members, as well as other local teacher unions, in the area. The event will be back again next fall. Other social events coming in the near future:

- Happy Hour at Jeffrey's on Friday October 28th
- New Teacher Social at Rohrbach's, Railroad St. (near public market) on Friday, November 4th
- RHEA Retirement/Milestone Banquet, Pomodoro's Pittsford, Friday May 18, 2012.

Last year's RHEA Retirement/Milestone Banquet was nicely attended and we are hoping for more members to attend this year's event.

I also want to thank everyone for being a professional in these challenging times in education. We are being challenged from all fronts and will need your leadership to be successful. It can be as easy as volunteering for a committee, attending a building meeting, registering and voting in the elections, and being ready to offer solutions when a problem arises.

In closing, you elected a leadership council, I am very proud to work with and look forward to continuing to represent you as President.

**Professionally and in unity,
Brad Crooks
President, RHEA Teacher's Chapter**



Secretary's Report

By: Adam Huck

Last spring I was elected as your Secretary, a position I am excited and humbled to undertake. Now that I have assumed those responsibilities, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support as well as introduce myself to you.

I am in my seventh year of full time teaching in Rush-Henrietta. I currently teach at Winslow in 4th grade, a grade I am very excited about. I received my bachelor's degree from Slippery Rock University and my master's degree from SUNY Brockport. Before working full time in the district, I worked as a substitute teacher. While I spent most of my subbing time at Fyle, I worked in all buildings, except the high school.

One year ago, I began to have the desire to do more for the union. I sought my building reps and others to find ways that I could participate in the association in any way that I could. After being put in contact with Dave Rose, he asked me to help with RHEA's website. Starting in January, I took control of the site and ran with it. I first wanted to update the site we already had. However, I discovered a much cheaper alternative that was also easier to read and update. My goal for this site is to have it be a destination for not only current information, but also useful resources for all members. If you have not visited our site, please go to ny.aft.org/rhea. I want it to be our site so I am always looking for ideas and ways to make it better. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the site, please email me at RHEA's email address: rteachers1@gmail.com.

In March, Brad approached me about running for Secretary. I was very honored and I am thrilled to have this opportunity. In this position, I will use our communications resources to help our members be well informed. I feel strongly that a strong union is an informed union.

Know Your Contract

By: Jon DelVecchio

Article 4 – Building Advisory Committee

“The school principal shall establish a building advisory committee. The building advisory committee shall meet once per month.”

Although the Building Advisory Committee can go by other names, this committee is made up of various staff to discuss pertinent building issues with goals of communication and collaboration. Do you have any questions about the building advisory committee in your building? Contact a building rep.

Contract Scavenger Hunt!

What Article number in the agreement (contract) specifies “*The Association recognizes that professional responsibilities...may require the voluntary expenditure of time, beyond the normal school day, in extracurricular activities.*”?

Email Sue Peltzer (speltzer@rhnet.org) with the answer. One persons name from all of the correct answers will be drawn and will receive a special prize from the RHEA.

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Executive Council

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|----------------------------|-----------------|
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| 2 nd Vice Pres. | Bob Graham |
| Secretary | Adam Huck |
| Treasurer | Mike Fantauzzo |
| Special Events | Brad Crooks |
| Ed. Committee | Maureen Tubridy |
| Political Action | Gordy Britt |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Grievance Com. | Jon DelVecchio |
| Publicity & Communications | Adam Huck |
| New Teacher | |
| Induction & Support | John Prouty |
| Human Rights & Social Responsibility | Lea Theuer |
| | Jessica Burdick-Giordano |
| Admin. Assistant | Sue Peltzer |

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