



**PENFIELD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**  
*United in Excellence*

# The Broadside

## REMINDERS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Thurs, June 5th: PEA General Meeting at Bay Trail, 4:00 PM**

**Fri, June 20th: PEA Family BBQ, Ellison Park, 4:30 PM**

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Colleagues,

As I write this we have a planned full day of negotiations with the district and another partial day. We still have much to discuss. We are close on some issues yet remain farther apart on others. I will reiterate our goal to you; we are seeking fair compensation and language which respects us as professionals in our daily working conditions. There is no way to predict when we will come to a tentative agreement. Regardless of when that time is, the membership which will ultimately decide whether the agreement is satisfactory via the ratification process.

While negotiations may be at the forefront of peoples minds in regards to the PEA, there are many other ongoing PEA activities and projects. Some have recently concluded and I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank those people who stepped up and supported me and you the last few weeks.

First, I would like to thank Mike Pray for organizing the special election under the auspices of the Executive Committee for our new V.P. Please join me in welcoming Eric Wallen from PHS to this new role. Prior to the official election, I met and talked with Eric. He is now officially the VP and has been integrating into his new role. I look forward to working with him.

Another thank you to Tony Kerr for helping with the 2014 Vote-Cope drive. During my transition, this was a VP duty that he willingly accepted. With that, a huge thank

you to all the members who have and continue to contribute to Vote-Cope. As a side note, it is not too late to send in your form to contribute to our political action fund. A portion of your donation was used to support the school budget campaign which passed with almost 75% yes! Thank you John Giotto for helping with the lawn signs.

As we enter June, we still have our second annual PEA BBQ (which includes the Chili-cook-off finals). This is one of the initiatives funded by the NYSUT Local Action Project (LAP) grant. Thank you for joining us to celebrate our newest retirees, and tenured members in a fun relaxing social environment.

The LAP team is preparing for the summer workshops to continue with the NYSUT grant. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year of the grant. A huge thank you to the members who have served on this team. The time commitment was/is extensive and required substantial time away from families. We owe them much gratitude. Thank you Liz Brown, Sue Mietus, Mike Pray, Kevin Quinn, Mary Salai and Meghan Simmons, and a special thank you to Sue Mietus who served as our LAP Coordinator. Her organizational and planning skills were invaluable.

Lastly I would like to thank all the members of the Executive, PARC, Scholarship, Nominations, and New Member committees and their respective chairper-

## President's Message

As Ben Franklin said,  
"We must, indeed, all  
hang together or, most  
assuredly, we shall all  
hang separately."

## PEA Executive Board

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### PEA Website

<http://penfieldea.ny.aft.org/>

## President's Message (Continued)

sons, Renee Yandow, Leslie Rowe and Deb Miller-Collins. So many of our members do so much for all of us who are not on a specific committee, I thank you all as well.

One final word. In the past years having moved into the Executive Committee as VP and now President I have grown in my understanding of the differences and similarities between our members, their respective buildings and also among the various neighboring districts and those across the State and Nation. There are specific differences for sure, but one thing I have learned is that when it comes to public education, we are all in this together.

It is not a question of the PEA vs

the rest. Instead it is a recognition that each of us as individuals are part of a building, part of the local PEA, part of the County Federation, part of NY-SUT, and part of AFT and NEA. While at times we may focus on individual issues, we also address issues in the specific buildings, amongst the entire PEA, across the county, the state and country. As Ben Franklin said, "We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately."

Thus, I lastly want to thank all our union sisters and brothers both within the PEA and in our affiliate organizations. Together we are strong. Together we are United in Excellence.

-Russ



## Know Your Contract

### Section 4—13

### Notification of Teaching Assignments

Teachers will be notified, to the extent possible, of their teaching assignments, including schedule of classes and applicable teaming partners, for the next school year prior to the school year in progress. Any changes due to altered conditions during the summer months will be transmitted to the teachers affected as soon as possible prior to the beginning of classes to allow them to plan for the fall term. Student rosters will be available the first day of the school year.

This section is listed on Page 6 of your contract



## United Auto Workers 2014 Union Built Vehicles

Use the link below to find a union-made vehicle:

[http://www.uaw.org/sites/default/files/2014%20UAW%20UNION-BUILT%20VEHICLE%20GUIDE\\_1.pdf](http://www.uaw.org/sites/default/files/2014%20UAW%20UNION-BUILT%20VEHICLE%20GUIDE_1.pdf)

## Getting to Know Our New Vice President, Eric Wallen

What led you to decide to run for the Vice President position?

The opening. As I've gotten older and have been teaching longer I've gotten more interested. With Sonia's resignation, I saw an opportunity to get more involved.

What roles have you held with the PEA in years past?

I've never held an official role with the PEA in the past other than being an active member.

What do you think Broadside readers would want to know about you?

I started teaching Social Studies at PHS in 1998. I left for 2 years, taught in New Jersey, and came back. I live in the Penfield Central School District and my daughter is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Indian Landing. My son is not of school age yet. I am very invested in the community.

What are you hoping to accomplish as Vice President?

I want to be sure that the big concerns of healthcare and salary are protected in our contract. I want everyone's voice to be heard. We should also take care of our "backyard" a little more and focus on local issues.

What is the biggest issue you feel the PEA is facing at this time?

We need to come together and realize that no matter what role someone plays we have to abide by the same contract. We have to offer more opportunities for open formats for discussion.

What do you think is the biggest strength of the PEA?

The teachers are our biggest strength. We have the power, the numbers, and the voice. We are in the trenches doing it all; we really are the PEA.



What does the VP do for the PEA?

In my new role as VP, I will handle grievances, manage political action, and support our President.

## Message from PEA Treasurer, Michael Pray

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out--  
Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out--  
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out--  
Because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me--and there was no one left to speak for me.*



Martin Niemöller,  
German Anti-  
Nazi Theologian

While touring the Holocaust Museum with the 8th grade Washington trip, I came across this quote which resonated with me both for the historical events of the time and my Union participation.

In particular was the sentiment that when you don't speak up for those around you, those around you won't be there to speak up for you. This struck home for me because, as a Union member and Union officer, I truly believe that a Union is only as strong as the voices of the members within it.

These past few years, I think I am most proud of the turn the Union has taken in reaching out to the membership for input, for involvement, and for support. We all need to continue to make efforts to understand the particular working environment of our colleagues in other buildings, to continue to address issues and work out solutions that are for the good of the whole, and to find common ground in our teaching profession that will help us to see each individual of our membership as important and necessary to the overall goal of a united organization.

In finishing out my first year and planning for the next, I look forward to hearing your voices- at the end of the year barbecue, at the PEA meetings, at the General Membership meeting, in email, on the phone, in the halls, at the Chili Cook Offs. . . . in solidarity.

Thank you,

Mike



## Message from PEA Secretary, Liz Brown

The PEA would like to congratulate the following **retirees** on their many years of wonderful service to the students and families of the Penfield School District:

**Veda Aroesty**

**Cheryl Dunbar**

**Enith Brandt**

**Pat McDonald**

**Mary Salai**

**Lisa McGinn**

**Karen Masi**



These retirees will be honored at the PEA's annual General Meeting on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at Bay Trail. They will also be celebrated at our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual PEA BBQ event on June 20<sup>th</sup>! Please join me in wishing them the absolute best in their retirement years and future endeavors! They will all surely be missed. Congratulations!

## The Music Department Strikes a Chord



The Penfield Music Department is considered among the strongest in the country, having been recognized not only for the success of its students, but for national level collaborations with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Smithsonian Institution, Harvard Project Zero, the Eastman School of Music, and many others. Penfield prides itself on one of the first and most successful Suzuki string programs in the nation, having string graduates as members of many of the major orchestras in the country. The Penfield Music Program has been designated as one of the top communities for music education by NAMM several times, and also has been selected as a Grammy Signature School District for Music. Consisting of 26 music teachers K-12 and a large, diverse curriculum, Penfield students have the opportunity to study many areas of music throughout their years in school, from traditional band, chorus, orchestra and general music, to cutting edge technology in our music labs at Bay Trail and Penfield High School.

A typical day in the life of a music teacher is unique and busy but always rewarding. Our days consist of ensemble rehearsals, group lessons and general music classes that cover everything from Bach to African drumming to composing and arranging to the filming of music videos. For a music teacher, before and after school can often be just as busy with co-curricular ensembles such as jazz band, jazz choir and show choir. Many of us are also involved in special activities including musical theatre productions, the variety show, Arts in Education and Bay Trail Idol, just to name a few.

Penfield music students often have the opportunity to work with world-renowned artists during our Jazz Fund-raiser concerts and through the Penfield Music Commission Project. The PMCP not only brings in guest artists from around the country but also supports the creation of new pieces of music for our concerts, now numbering over 320! Past guest artists have included Clark Terry, Tia Fuller, Jake Shimabukuro, Darmon Meader (founder of the New York Voices), and Max Roach to name just a few!

We are extremely fortunate to have such strong community support of music in Penfield and to have a dynamic and talented music faculty to share it with our students!

- Submitted by John Roland and Jim Doser

*Don't Miss It!*



**PEA**

## **Family Barbeque**

**& Chili Cook-Off**

**Friday, June 20th**

**4:30—8:00 PM**

**Old Meadow Shelter, Ellison Park**

**B.Y.O.B.**

**Hots, Hamburgers, Veggie Burgers, Rolls, and Lemonade will be Provided**

***Please Bring a Dish to Pass***

**We will celebrate our retirees and newly tenured teachers at this event too!**

**\* This isn't really Scratch 'n Sniff, but wouldn't that be cool?!**

**[Click Here to Register](#)**



**You're Invited:**  
**LGBT Educator Appreciation Reception**



**Thursday July 17 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

**The "Char Room" in the Strathallan Hotel  
550 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14607**

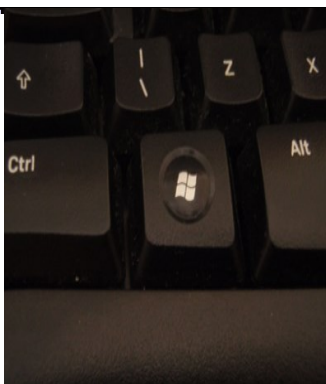
**— hors d'oeuvres provided free, cash bar —**

An opportunity for LGBT educators to network and be appreciated for all they do. The repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" represented a major civil rights victory for LGBT members of the Armed Forces. For thousands of gay teachers serving on the frontlines of America's classrooms, the concepts of prejudice and fear behind "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" remain a painful fact of life. LGBT teachers have long understood that openly expressing their identity in school can make them an easy target for discrimination. The event will provide an informal and open forum for LGBT educators to discuss issues both related and unrelated to being LGBT in educational communities. Allies are welcome to join in the festivities. Sponsored by NYSUT.

**For more information, contact Rich Ognibene, 2008 New York State Teacher of the Year  
[rognibene@hotmail.com](mailto:rognibene@hotmail.com) • (585) 281-6240**



## Tech Tip



### Simple Way to Screen Capture for a Step-by-Step Computer Project

Screencast-O-Matic is a very cool website that allows you to perform screen captures with audio recording for up to 15 minutes for free. The best part is that you don't have to download the program so it can be used easily at school!

<http://www.screencast-o-matic.com/>

Thanks to Chris Mason at Bay Trail for this tip!

### What You Can Do To Support Negotiations

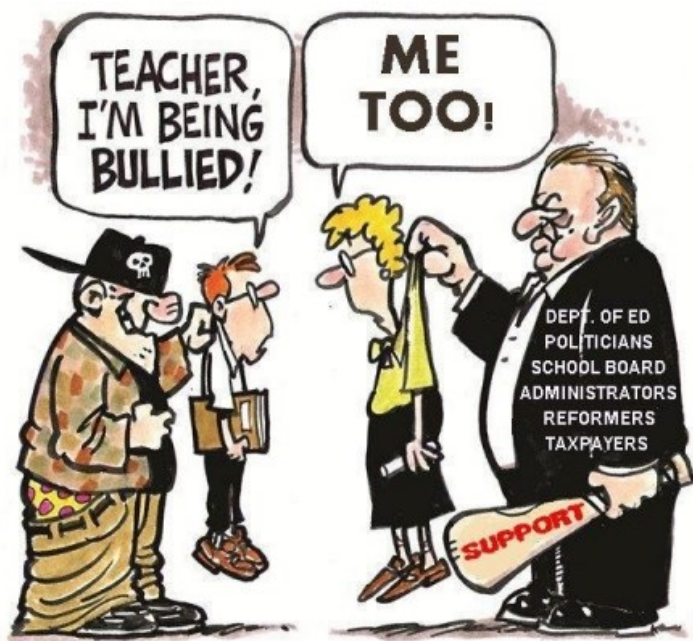
Show solidarity by wearing your black PEA t-shirt on "Solidarity Days". You'll receive an email about the one day a month that we will all show our unity and commitment to a fair contract.



#### Solidarity Day

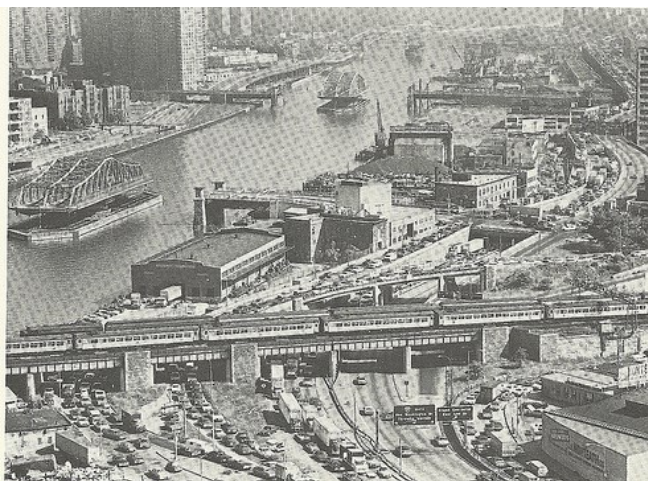
♦ Fri, June 20th  
For Our Family BBQ  
At Ellison Park

### Keep Laughing....



### This Month in Union History

New York City drawbridge tenders, in a dispute with the state over pension issues, leave a dozen bridges open, snarling traffic in what the *Daily News* described as "the biggest traffic snafu in the city's history" - 1971



### Coffee Corner

In each edition, we will pose a question to our membership in this column. The first 2 people to respond to [broadsidepea@gmail.com](mailto:broadsidepea@gmail.com) will each win a \$10 Starbucks Gift Card.

**What advice would you give to a new teacher who might be joining our ranks this fall ?**



April/May Edition Winners

Question:

Is there something funny that happened during State testing that you'd like to share?

*Unfortunately, there were no winners for the last edition's question.*



## Programs designed specifically for NYSUT members

### Get expert legal assistance today!

The NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed Legal Service Plan -- provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters ranging from dealing with a speeding ticket to handling estate planning.

- Low annual cost of just \$85 (\$55 for retirees)
- Unlimited toll-free legal advice
- Free Simple Will
- Two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney

Don't wait to get the legal assistance you need. Learn more about the plan today!

*\*\*Please note that if you belong to a local association that provides a group legal service plan through the local or its benefit fund, remember to take advantage of the plan's benefits.*

**Easy  
Online  
Enrollment!**  
See web address below

### Time for an insurance check-up!

Find out what your insurance policies currently cover.

Keep your policies in a secure, fire-proof location

Determine if you have enough coverage to meet your needs today and in the future.

We encourage you to check out the variety of quality, competitive insurance programs endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including Term & Level Term Life Insurance; Disability Insurance; and MetLife Auto & Home Insurance, among many others.

Learn more about these endorsed programs and many others by calling **800-626-8101** or visiting **memberbenefits.nysut.org**.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

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