



The Message

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

SPRING/SUMMER 2013

Officers

Christopher Hodnicki
President

Jason Schreiner
Vice President, Negotiations

James Terry
Vice President, Grievances

Rhea Young
Treasurer

Wendy McCall
Recording Secretary

Melissa Fitzgerald
Corresponding Secretary

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A Message from President Christopher Hodnicki



President Frost-Brooks joins in honoring NWOEA's Teachers' Association of Washington Local Schools (TAWLS) on its 50th anniversary.

Our 50th Anniversary Year!

The 2012-2013 school year has been amazing for TAWLS! Not only have we accomplished many wonderful programs, initiatives, and a contract together, but we have also been able to celebrate 50 years of TAWLS by continuing to build unity as we "move forward together."

The 2012-2013 school year has been an amazing year for TAWLS. Beginning in fall 2012, we began with a vision of FORWARD TOGETHER, striving to embrace UNITY for TAWLS. Beside teachers, UNITY was achieved by working together with the community and district staff. This year we have accomplished:

- 1) **CONTRACT** - Negotiated a 2 year contract that includes a 3% increase to the base for next year
- 2) **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:** Participation in the Labor Day Parade, which will continue again in 2013-2014 with a new TAWLS banner
- 3) **BUILDING VISITS:** Building visits by TAWLS president and negotiating team members to address concerns and connect you to the process.
- 4) **COMMUNICATION:** Began use of a new

Fifty years marks an important milestone in our associations' history. In 1963 it was declared that the WTTA (Washington Township Teachers' Association) was being dissolved because "it's function was to have a banquet in the spring and to thank the Superintendent if some kind of a raise was given." The members at the time decided if we were to change our attitude and become necessarily militant, we should have a new name so that all ties to our old image would be gone and thus TAWLS was born. In 1984, the teachers' united through a strike and fought for the respect, integrity, and professionalism they deserved. By 2013, memories of TAWLS origins and the 1984 strike have become part of our legacy. It is that legacy that we draw strength from in order to maintain the unity that is critical to our success. Plus, that legacy has helped us move forward to establish

and maintain a strong collaborative relationship with the administration in order to achieve collective good for our teachers, students, and the district.

Reflecting on an amazing school year and fifty years of TAWLS, it is the lessons of coming together and enduring fifty years is all about. So, as we embrace fifty years and the years to come, let us never forget about what we can learn or achieve as an association. Remember to always stand together as teachers because we are an association and a family.

HAVE A SAFE AND RESTFUL SUMMER!

Christopher Hodnicki

TAWLS Accomplishments 2012-2013



- website with access to a TAWLS wear store, text alerts, and TAWLS electronic newsletter
- 5) **BUILDING COMMUNITY AWARENESS:** TAWLS 50th anniversary billboards, bi-monthly UNISERV and OEA meetings, attendance at meetings on Right to Work and receptions given by candidates.
- 6) **ACTIVITIES:** TAWLS social activities included: The Candy Budd-Crowley Amazing Race, Mud Hens Night, Calami-

ty Day drawings, Carmels & OB' socials, New Teacher Luncheon and Gifts, and the Christmas/Holiday Gift Exchange at Sidelines.

7) **CELEBRATING 50 years of TAWLS:** Proclamations, Anniversary Billboards, TAWLS store items, and celebrations with past presidents at the Spring Banquet, special festivities at the Spring Banquet, a special TAWLS anniversary logo, and 50th anniversary travel mugs.

Looking ahead we will continue with our vision of FORWARD TOGETHER to achieve UNITY by maintaining and strengthening the association through: community participation & awareness, building visits, communications, and activities.

TAWLS "In the Buildings"



Hiawatha

Supporting our membership while also strengthening unity has helped TAWLS move Forward Together. Enjoy the group pictures from around the district as members celebrate unity.

Shoreland



"The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth."

John F. Kennedy

TAWLS "In the Buildings"

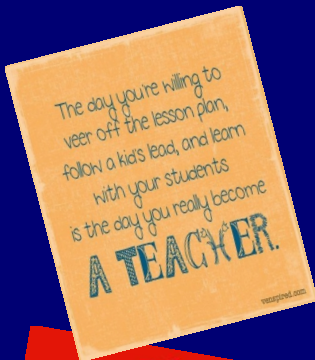


Wernert

Meadowvale



Whitmer English



Faculty Profiles

Matt Durham

What degrees do you hold?
 B.S. from Bowling Green State University (1996) in Secondary Education
 M.A. from University of Toledo (2003) in Ed Administration & Supervision

Any special awards, titles, positions that you are proud of?
 OEA and NWOEA Board of Director for the past year, Social Studies Department Facilitator - Washington Junior High, BLT Member - Washington Junior High, A 1992 Whitmer graduate, lettered 3 years for Baseball (Team Captain, All League and All District Honors) and 2 years Football (All Academic League Honors).

How long have you been teaching in WLS?
 14 yrs at Washington Jr High

Are you Married? Children?
 Married to wife (Rachel) and have 2 children - Sydney (12 years old) and Brady (1 year old)

Melissa Fitzgerald

What degrees do you hold?
 Bachelors in Education and a Bachelors in English and Women's and Gender Studies

Any special awards, titles, positions that you are proud of?

Secretary for TAWLS, the new treasurer for Meadowvale Parent Organization, and most importantly, proud to be wife and mother.

How long have you been teaching in WLS?
 Since 2002

Are you Married? Children? (yrs, ages, names)

Happily married to my husband Chris and blessed with three children, Maya (6), Grace (5), and Cedric (2).

TAWLS Community Billboards



As mentioned in the last edition of "The Message," TAWLS was working to increase our presence in the community to celebrate 50 years as an association and to build unity and partnership within the community and associ-

ation.

At the end of December 2012, TAWLS Treasurer Rhea Young, secured a deal through LAMAR Outdoor to display our 50th anniversary logo, and image developed by Brent Temple & Michael Punsalan, on three billboards around the community.

The three billboards were displayed for nearly two months near the intersections of Monroe & Sylvania, Alexis & Thetherwood, and Alexis near Clover.

In addition, the cost of the billboards were offset by securing a public relations grant through NWOEA.

In the year to come, TAWLS looks forward to building its relationship and partnership with the district by sponsoring a banner on the Whitmer Baseball Field which will continue for 5 years. Proceeds from the sponsorship will help the Whitmer Baseball program.



Strongsville Teachers Return After 8-Week Strike

STRONGSVILLE, Ohio -- Teachers returned to classrooms to exuberant hugs and smiles from their students after an eight-week strike. The teachers wasted no time getting back to teaching, which was interrupted March 4 when a strike began over benefits, raises and other issues.

There was a brief meeting in the Strongsville High School auditorium, before classes resumed at 7:20 a.m. Principal William Steffen read a statement that he said was being read district-wide. The statement began, "We need to take an active role to heal our district." Tracy Linscott, president of the 385-member Strongsville Education Association said Monday that the grueling strike was worth the effort, particularly in the non-monetary are-

as. "I really feel like as a group we gained" in the contract approved by teachers and the school board over the weekend, she said. "We were willing to give up our salary and benefits for eight weeks to fight for what we believe in.

"Superintendent John Krupinski says the district got what it needed -- a contract through mid-2015 that it can afford. The district gave some ground on "step" raises, which are based on years of experience and advanced degrees. "But that was balanced by extreme concessions by the bargaining unit in health care," Krupinski said. Strongsville teachers haven't gotten across-the-board raises since 2007-08, and didn't get step raises last school year.

Just before the strike began March 4, the

district proposed that the step freeze continue into 2015. The union wanted the freeze to end and one-time \$2,000 payments to be given to teachers whose experience and degrees put them beyond the steps. The final contract resumes the step increases, with payments of \$1,200 to teachers who aren't eligible for an increase. The final agreement has teachers paying 20 percent of the premiums with no maximums. However, the contribution drops to 15 percent, with monthly maximums, if teachers undergo required screenings and complete a health assessment.

"We were willing to give up our salary and benefits for eight weeks to fight for what we believe in..."



*Donna J. Miller,
The Plain Dealer*

50th Anniversary Sale in the TAWLS Store

Since February the TAWLS Store has been offering special limited edition 50th anniversary apparel for men and women. In addition to casu-

al wear there is also professional dress shirts for both men and women. Hurry, these items won't be around much longer. Proceeds from the sales benefit the Employee Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Online Store is provided

through Monster Graphics and Sports Gear at: www.monstergraphicsandsportsgear.com or through TAWLS at tawls.oea.us

For Information Contact:
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Building Reps 2012-2013

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"Working Together For Our Kids"



SCOTT	NANCY	GREENWOOD
TATE	MARI	GREENWOOD
PARQUETTE	HEATHER	HIAWATHA
DIXON	JOANN	HIAWATHA
STACK	KAREN	JACKMAN
KASPER	GINA	JACKMAN
ADDUCI	TAMMIE	JEFFERSON
SCHIFKO	EMILY	JEFFERSON
SHERMBECK	FRITZ	JEFFERSON
STORER	TRACY	MCGREGOR
WARD	TINA	MCGREGOR
WAGNER	SUE	MEADOWVALE
SNODGRASS	MARIA	MEADOWVALE
DOTSON	NICOLE	MONAC
SCHMITT	LIBBY	MONAC
RACZKOWSKI	LISA	MONAC
MEGAN	TUTTLE	SHORELAND
WICZYNSKI	SAMANTHA	SHORELAND
WHITE	KELLY	SHORELAND
DURHAM	MATT	WASHINGTON
GENT	JENNIFER	WASHINGTON
BAUMGARTNER	JENNIFER	WASHINGTON
AUGUSTIN	ANN	WERNERT
CARMEAN	PAT	WERNERT
WETZEL	MARIE	WHITMER#1
FINLEY	MICHELLE	WHITMER#2
SINGLETON	FELICIA	WHITMER#3
HOWE	JULIE	WHITMER#4
HIERONIMUS	MELISSA	WHITMER#5
HARTMAN	HEIDI	WHITMER#6
HOVEST	TRACY	WHITMER#7
GIOVANOLI	PAULA	WHITMER-CTC
O'SULLIVAN	KAREN	WHITMER-CTC
GOOD	LINDA	WHITMER-CTC

TAWLS SPRING BANQUET 2013: The 50th Anniversary



TAWLS 2012-2013 Award Winners

Congratulations to
Our 2012-2013
Award Winners!

SALUTING OUR RETIREES

Pat Carmean
James Devine
Mary Beth Deck
Nancy Hattner
Julie Howe
Diane Langhals
Jeri Madsen
Sharon Sheline
Bruce Smith
Rebecca Strand
Patty Weaver
Sister Antonia Rede
Sharon Jacobs

OUTSTANDING TEACHER

Joyce Calms
Stacey Kessler
Sara Ledzianowski
Jeri Modine

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR

Sean Flemmings
Jeri Madsen
Becky Swisher
Werstell

DISTINGUISHED

SERVICE AWARD

Rhea Young

TAWLS "The Message"

Written by C. Hodnicki

Edited by M. Fitzgerald

