



Webster Teachers Association Political Action Spectrum

Objectives:

- to improve teacher image in our community,
- to show what “we” aka “WTA” ‘stand for,’
- to advance public education, and
- to protect the rights of members to practice their profession.

Why? Because politics impacts every school district and public higher education institution, and the working conditions of every school employee, because laws and regulations affecting every member's terms and conditions of employment are passed by lawmakers and implemented by government agencies in Albany and Washington, D.C. [http://www.nysut.org/cps/rde/xchg/nysut/hs.xsl/members_3717.htm]

Do you have 1 hour or afternoon?

Help out in these areas:

- Write letters to politicians -thanking them and asking for support from your legislators
- Use the NYSUT Legislative Portal to fax/email/write to your legislators about issues to garner their support. <http://www.nysut.org/cps/rde/xchg/nysut/hs.xsl/legislation.htm>
- Send summaries of what you are doing in your classroom to our WTA Board of Education liaison (Sue Hooper) so she may represent us fully at each BOE meeting.
- Contribute to our Vote/Cope campaign: Contribute \$3-\$5 per pay period to Vote/Cope. VOTE-COPE is NYSUT's non-partisan action fund that coordinates the voluntary contributions of members and supports NYSUT-endorsed candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public-education and pro-labor. No NYSUT dues dollars are used to support candidates or campaign committees. WTA receives some of these contributions to use on its local campaigns (supporting the school budget, getting out the vote, purchasing public relations materials...)
- Register to vote <http://www.elections.state.ny.us/>
- Vote- in May WTA & school budget elections as well as November local, state, & national elections.
- Portray your profession with pride and enthusiasm. Engage community members in positive conversation about Webster schools and what you do in your classroom!
- Assist teachers new to our district navigate the political terrain and daily ‘ins and outs’ of teaching.
- Keep informed: check out the wta1972.com website; scan *The WTA Voice*; read emails from the WTA President and other officers updating you on recent activity.
- Wear your WTA T-shirts (or simply ‘royal blue’) on specified days to show unity.
- Work the WTA table at the annual WCSD Community Arts Day (Saturday at the end of March/beginning of April).
- Support the elected WTA officers. Keep informed (printed material, your building reps, ask questions).

Can you allocate *more time* on occasion?

These are some ways you can involve yourself:

- Write an editorial or article for the *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*, *Webster Post* or *Webster Herald* describing a phenomenal education experience you provided your students and identify yourself as a *Webster Teachers' Association* member.
- Attend WTA Representative Council meetings and/or General Assembly meetings to remain fully informed on the issues affecting our profession.
- Attend a Board of Education meeting with WTA Liaison Sue Hooper and share, in detail, a special lesson or event with your students.
- Read the *WTA Voice*, *NYSUT United* and *AFT Teacher* publications regularly.
- Attend the brief meetings your building representatives hold to inform you of what is transpiring.
- Participate in rallies (make a personalized sign, lend your voice, simply be another body to show support...). Recent rallies WTA members showed up to support: To show solidarity with the striking Mott's workers on June 16, 2010; *One Nation* on October 2, 2010 in Washington DC; the *We are One* to show support to Wisconsin Public employees on March 2, 2011, and *Educate NYS: A Rally to Support Public Education* March 17, 2011.
- Walk in the Downtown Rochester Labor Day Parade (September 6, 2010 and September 5, 2011) to represent Webster Teachers (hand out pencils, encourage children to complete their homework and do well in school...).
- Volunteer to work the NYSUT phone banks before school budget elections or November elections (you would call only local union members...there's a script, and you encourage members to get out and vote...and support the candidates with a strong education platform).
- Attend the Webster Central School District budget meeting forums (the 2/17/11 forum collected excellent ideas - <http://www.websterschools.org/files/news/community%20forum%20feedback%20summary2.pdf> and express your opinion (particularly as a tax-paying Webster resident) **Thursday, March 31, 6:30pm in the Spry Auditorium – Staffing Budget; Thursday, April 7, 7pm in the Spry Auditorium – Budget Adoption, Tuesday, May 10, 7pm in the Spry Auditorium – Budget Hearing; May 17, 6am-9pm – Budget Vote @Schroeder HS, 6am-9pm**
- Serve on NYSUT's *Committee of 100* with Political Action Chairperson, Jim McEntee (2 days in March and/or May each year- lobby our local legislators in the Legislative Office Building in Albany)
- Run for and serve as a building representative in your school – WTA will only grow and thrive if it has new members to participate fully and represent the faculty of each building.
- Run for and serve as a WTA Delegate (1 of 7) to the NYSUT Representative Assembly (Spring each year; The RA is your opportunity to directly affect the policies of NYSUT.)

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**How many hours can you contribute to WTA action? Please send your information to**

**[WebsterTeachers@gmail.com](mailto:WebsterTeachers@gmail.com) to be included in the bank of volunteers for future action plans.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Days/Hours available: \_\_\_\_\_

In which areas are you interested in serving? \_\_\_\_\_