

Membership
Update



February 15, 2013

From the President...

Randi Weingarten — Guest Speaker at UP! Launch Breakfast

“Reforms work only if there is genuine labor-management collaboration and a sharing of responsibility.....”
~ Randi Weingarten, AFT president

On Tuesday, February 12, 2013, AFT President, Randi Weingarten spoke at the United Providence (UP!) Launch Breakfast at the RI Convention Center. Joined by local political and educational leaders, union leadership, district administrators and several national educational leaders, the sentiment of all was that school reform can only be achieved through true labor-management collaboration.

Ms. Weingarten stressed that when it comes to improving our schools it is essential that the adults work together. She noted that labor management collaboration does not mean the parties will always agree with each other but rather creating a trust among each other and having a real respect among each other. Being the first of its kind in the nation, United Providence will undoubtedly have its challenges along the course. Ms. Weingarten stated “things will get tough, things will get difficult, but let this work happen. Trust this work.”

The AFT has been supportive of the work that is being done in Providence. Last year, the PTU was a recipient of an AFT Innovation Fund grant.



Jo Anderson Addresses PTU Building Delegates

Jo Anderson, the senior advisor to the US Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, attended the PTU Building Delegate meeting on February 12, 2013. Mr. Anderson previously served as the Executive Director of the Illinois Education Association-NEA and has an extensive labor background. During his tenure with the Illinois Education Association, Mr. Anderson worked closely with Patrick Dolan in implementing systematic changes in order to support labor-management collaboration throughout the locals in Illinois.

Mr. Anderson expressed to the delegates that around the country there is a deep frustration and anger within the teaching profession. He also noted that the teacher unions that have remained true to the adversarial role have suffered a tremendous loss of influence and voice over their profession. He noted that a systematic approach was taken in districts that have successfully transformed the teaching profession and significantly improved student performance. He applauded Providence for taking the bull by the horns in creating the first Labor-Management EMO in the country to drive the changes necessary for significant student achievement in Providence. He also recognized that this hard work takes time and doesn't happen overnight.



From the President...

Reminders....

- ◆ **Next Membership Meeting:**
March 13, 2013, 4:00 p.m. at the PTU Office.
- ◆ **Certification Renewals:**
Anyone who has a certificate that is scheduled to expire August 31, 2013, should begin the renewal process. Teachers may access the certification renewal application on RIDE's website, www.ride.ri.gov.
- ◆ **February Recess PTU Office Hours**
The PTU office will be open Tuesday thru Friday during the February recess — 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Learning Walks

Many teachers have expressed that the scheduled district learning walks have become increasingly more disruptive to teaching and learning.

At some schools, teachers have reported that as many as 12-18 individuals at a given time have visited their classroom for various lengths of time.

If you have experienced a similar event, please contact your field representative at the Union office.