

Membership  
Update



March 20, 2014

From the President...

## General Assembly Testimony

On Wednesday, February 26, 2014, PTU President, Maribeth Calabro and Treasurer, Alex Lucini testified in support of several pro-education bills at the General Assembly Health, Education and Welfare committee.

Maribeth spoke in support of H7096 a bill that would create a cyclical teacher evaluation cycle for tenured teachers. Maribeth stated “teachers want to be evaluated but not at the cost of interfering with the important work of guiding instruction for our learners.”

Alex testified in support of H7095, a bill that would delay PARCC testing and the banning of high stakes tests as a graduation requirement. Alex stated “the goals of classroom teachers in RI are essentially the same, to raise the rigor of teaching and learning in classrooms and to prepare students for college or career.” Alex also stated that “H7095 supports these goals and will put us on the path to achieve them. Our students should not be subjected to the consequence of our past mistakes but rather a beneficiary of our future successes.”

There will be a Senate Education Committee hearing on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. to hear additional testimony on these bills. Teachers are encouraged to attend and testify. The Bills may be previewed at: <http://status.rilin.state.ri.us/documents/agenda-10151.pdf>

## School Visits

Union President, Maribeth Calabro, will visit the following schools during lunchtime:

### March

- 24 Stuart Middle School
- 25 Mt. Pleasant High School
- 27 DelSesto Middle School
- 28 PCTA
- 31 JSEC

### April

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Alvarez High School          | 17 Bailey Elementary     |
| 3 Central High School          | 28 Hopkins Middle School |
| 4 Broad Street Elementary      | 29 George J. West Elem.  |
| 7 Roger Williams Middle School | 30 Fogarty Elementary    |
| 8 Bishop Middle School         |                          |
| 9 Reservoir Ave Elementary     |                          |
| 14 Vartan Gregorian Elementary |                          |
| 15 Kizirian Elementary         |                          |
| 16 Carl Lauro Elementary       |                          |

## Golden Apple Recipient



Congratulations to Amy Leclaire for her recent Golden Apple award!

Amy is a kindergarten teacher at William D'Abate Elementary School.

In addition to the Golden Apple Award, Amy also received a \$250 grant for her classroom from Hasbro.

## From the President...

### National Attendance Challenge

Congratulations to Gilbert Stuart Middle School for coming in 2nd place in the Get Schooled Foundation National Attendance Challenge. Get Schooled is a non-profit organization that works with schools around the country to help improve attendance rates among middle and high school students.

Students, along with their teachers, were treated to a “Get Schooled” dance party last week to celebrate their achievement.

Keep up the great work Team Stuart!



### AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program

Do you have a child who is a senior in high school with plans to attend college? We can help! As part of the Robert G. Porter Scholars Program, the AFT offers \$8,000 scholarships to four high-achieving high school seniors who are the dependents of AFT members. And 10 grants of \$1,000 each are available to AFT members from all divisions who seek to implement ideas for their union about the role union members can play in collectively reclaiming the promise. [Applications are now available online.](#)

Robert G. Porter was a dedicated union activist from the time he joined his first AFT local in East St. Louis, Ill., until his death in 1991. For nearly four decades, the late AFT secretary-treasurer gave his all to championing the rights of working people, promoting civil rights, and ensuring that the union was a vehicle for helping members achieve justice. Since its inception in 1993, the Robert G. Porter Scholars Program has awarded more than \$500,000 to AFT members and their dependents to further their education and to help grow our union’s capacity to achieve our goals.

This year’s winners will be announced by June 30 and will be recognized at the AFT convention, July 11-14, in Los Angeles.

The deadline for submitting the 2014 application to the AFT is **March 31.**

## From the President...

### Reminders...

◆ **Membership Meetings**

Membership meetings will be held on the following dates.

April 9, 2014	PTU Office	4:00 p.m.
May 14, 2014	Hopkins Middle School	TBD

◆ **Open Office Hours with Maribeth**

If you have any concerns or suggestions and would like to meet with Maribeth, call the Union office to schedule an appointment. Open office hours are between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. on April 7 and May 1.

◆ **Town Meetings**

In addition to our regularly scheduled membership meetings, members are encouraged to stop by to have an informal conversation regarding the issues that concern our profession. Town Meetings will be held on April 3 & May 8 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

### 50 Shades of Style—Inspiring Minds (formerly VIPS) Fundraiser

***50 Shades of Style***

Fun Fashion Show!

Brunch, Fabulous Silent Auction

This is not your regular fashion show! You'll get 'swag,' have your picture taken walking our red carpet and get to re-live past vintage fashions while seeing what's new in stores today! Check out the latest styles and vintage clothes from the 60's, 70's, 80's & 90's.

**Sunday, March 23, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**Omni Providence Hotel (formerly the Westin)**  
**Free parking at Providence Place Mall**  
**\$75 per person.**

The show will be emceed by Michelle Kwan, the most decorated U.S. figure skater. Models include: Dr. Pablo Rodriguez, Dr. Susan Lusi (Superintendent of Providence Schools), Jason Case & Amy Diaz (winners of TV's Amazing Race), and Jessica Marfeo (Miss. Rhode Island America 2013).

Make your reservation now for the most fun and exciting event of the year! To purchase tickets, visit [www.inspiringmindsRI.com](http://www.inspiringmindsRI.com) or call (401) 274-3240.