

Membership
Update



May 28, 2014

From the President...

Teacher Evaluation Bill

On Tuesday, May 27, 2014 the RI House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed Rep. William O'Brien's Bill H7096A. Rep. O'Brien's Bill creates a cyclical process for tenured teachers in RI. Teachers who are rated "highly effective" would be evaluated every 4 years while teachers who are rated "effective" would be evaluated every 3 years. Rep. O'Brien, a Hope High School math teacher, was crucial in seeing the Bill through the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee and worked hard for all RI teachers to see its passage on the house floor. PTU President, Maribeth Calabro, and executive board members Marianne Davidson and Alex Lucini also were active in testifying and building support for the passage of this Bill. The Senate duplicate of the Bill (S2738) submitted by Majority Whip, Maryellen Goodwin, has been heard in the Senate Education Committee and we await the decision from the Senate floor. It is extremely important that PTU members contact his/her State Senator and voice support for this Bill. The RIFT has also been active on this campaign by providing postcards for members to send to their Senators. If you have not signed a postcard, please see your building delegate.

Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Claudia Jackvony for winning the prestigious award of Teacher of the Year!

Claudia has 26 years of teaching experience and is currently a second grade teacher at Pleasant View Elementary. She was selected from the "best of the best" based on well-deserved testimony and accolades from administrators, peers and families.

She has been lauded as an innovator and risk-taker who will stop at nothing in order to assure student success. Her initiative in participating and promoting blended learning and other forward thinking programs speaks to her amazing sense of professionalism.

Claudia was presented with the award at her school joined by her students, colleagues and family.



(Maribeth Calabro (L), Claudia Jackvony)

Negotiations Update

The PTU Negotiating Committee continues to meet with the Superintendent and her team to achieve a successor Agreement prior to the beginning of next school year. Our next round of formal negotiations is scheduled for June 9, 10, & 11.

Prior to the close of school, several briefing sessions will be held to provide the membership with information about the successor Agreement as well as the opportunity to provide the PTU Negotiating Committee with feedback.

Specific details with respect to dates/time and location will be communicated shortly via building delegates and email.

From the President...

Public Hearings—Providence Charter School Proposals

The RI Department of Education will be holding public hearings on two Providence public charter school proposals in June. The Academy of Global Studies (grades 6-12) will have public hearings in the PCTA auditorium on June 2 and June 5 from 6-8 p.m. The NoVo Academy Public Charter School (grades K-5) will have public hearings in the PCTA auditorium on June 24 and June 25 from 6-8 p.m.

Members are encouraged to attend the forums and listen and give feedback on the proposals. Additional charter schools in Providence will greatly impact our district by having already scarce resources redirected away from our schools and our students.

PTU Scholarships

The PTU will award two \$500 scholarships from the PTU Scholarship Fund. Scholarship winners will be among the sons and daughters of Providence Teachers Union members. The drawing will be in June. Guidelines are as follows:

1. You must be a member in good standing with the PTU.
2. Only one entry is allowed per union family.
3. Application must be completed, in person, at the Union office by **Friday, June 6, 2014.**
4. Students must be accepted into a full-time post-secondary program or must be currently enrolled in a full-time post-secondary program (freshman, sophomore or junior).
5. Proof of matriculation must be provided by October 17, 2014.

Enter your son or daughter today!



From the President...

Reminders....

- ◆ Pink Out Dress Down Day — Building delegates have been asked to coordinate a Pink Out Dress Down day to support the PCTA Girls' Skills USA team who recently advanced to the national competition. Proceeds will assist the team with its travel expenses for the upcoming competition in Kansas City.
- ◆ Last Paycheck—This year's last paycheck will be issued on Friday, June 20, 2014. For those teachers receiving 26 pay-checks, the first summer check will be issued on June 27, 2014.
- ◆ CBH—Round II Hiring Fairs will be held on June 3 & June 4 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Central High School. PTU staff will be present for both days.

PTU Constitution & By-Laws Committee

I have received a number of emails from members who have expressed an interest in serving on the Constitution & By-Laws Committee.

In the near future, I will be reaching out to the committee members so that the committee may begin the process for recommending Constitution and By-Law amendments. Any proposed amendment must be reviewed by the PTU Executive Board and presented at a regularly scheduled membership meeting for ratification.

Thank you to those members who have come forward to serve on this important committee.

Thank You!

Thank you to the teachers who participated in a dress down day in support of one of our colleagues, Jonathan Ryder, and his family.

Over \$1,900 was raised for the Ryder family!

We send our best wishes to Jonathan's son, Michael.