



The
North Attleborough Federation of Teachers
Local 4292, MFT-AFT-AFL/CIO

Newsletter

September 2009 - Volume 12 - Number 3

Lee Anne Todd, *President*
Anne Oberti, *VicePresident*
Michael Stetkiewicz, *Treasurer*
Patty Coogan, *Secretary*

Newsletter prepared by Lori-Jeanne Veit

From the Desk of the President

Over the summer months, the NAFT leadership continued to monitor class size as student enrollment in some elementary schools exceeded 30 students per class. The district responded to the NAFT concerns by sending letters to parents looking for volunteers to attend a neighboring school where class size numbers are below 25 students.

In June the district cut elementary health, which resulted in the loss of a preparation period for elementary classroom teachers. Additional money became available in the school department's budget in early July. The NAFT responded with a letter to Superintendent James Rice expressing the union's position on the elimination of elementary health. Quoting the letter of 14 July 2009 to Dr. Rice, "With money restored to the school department's budget, the Federation encourages the district to reinstitute elementary health. The District exhibited its commitment to elementary health by eliminating it in the final round of budget cuts, therefore it should be the first restored. Elementary health not only presents students with important instruction, but also provides teachers adequate time for student assessment."

The NAFT remains committed to representing and protecting our members' wages, hours and working conditions. We need your solidarity during the upcoming year. It is extremely important to bring any questions you have to your building representative, chapter chairperson or a constitutional officer. Everyone was issued a contract at the beginning of the year. The contract contains the terms and conditions you are working under. I encourage you to read it.

COURSE REIMBURSEMENT

If you plan to submit for reimbursement for a college course, you must first get pre-approval from the Professional Development Committee. White course cards are available in each school's main office. This card needs to be completed and the amount of the course needs to be written on the back of the card. Send the card to Anne Oberti, NAFT Vice President and Professional Development Chair, at Community School. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Anne Oberti through NA Schools e-mail.

General Membership & Retirement Seminar

There will be a general membership meeting on Tuesday, 22 September beginning at 3:30 in the North Attleboro Middle School. The brief meeting will be followed by a retirement seminar conducted by Marie Ardito. Marie is an expert in teacher retirement and was instrumental in the passage of Retirement Plus. The seminar should last approximately two hours. If retirement is in your future, please plan to attend all or part of this informative session. Light refreshments will be served.

The following topics will be addressed:

Understanding MA Retirement Systems, Eligibility for Retirement, Forms Needed for Retiring, Creditable Service, Age Factor (Benefit Factor), FAS (ROC), Retirement Plus, Factoring Pension Options from Which to Select, Health Insurance, Medicare and Social Security.

This seminar is open to spouses as well as educators from other districts. If you plan to attend, please inform NAFT Secretary Patti Coogan either by e-mail at pcoogan@naschools.net or by calling Falls School by Tuesday, 15 September.

Remember: Preregistration is necessary!

Check Your Pay Stub

It is critically important that you check your first few paychecks to ensure you are being paid the correct amount and deductions are accurate. NAFT dues deductions are based on annual salary as follows:

For members earning:	
\$35,386 or more	\$15.29 weekly
at least \$12,000 but less than \$35,386	\$7.76 weekly
less than \$12,000	\$3.99 weekly

Dues are deducted for 41 weeks on a declining balance. Deduction amounts for health insurance are located on the Human Resource page on the NA Schools Website. Dues are deducted for 41 weeks on a declining balance.

Deduction amounts for health insurance are located on the Human Resource page on the NA Schools Website.