



WORDS FROM WTEA

Washington Township Education Association Newsletter

January 2016

"You can't start a new chapter if you keep re-reading the last one."

-Anonymous

News You Can Use

- WTEA is now online! Check out our website: <http://www.wteainfo.org/>. There, you will find association updates, member benefits and information about the contract.
- In order to claim your membership dues on your tax form, refer to your December 17 paycheck in the Portal. The "Post Tax Deductions" line will display your year-to-date WTEA dues.
- ISTA's annual Good Teaching conference will be held on March 4 and 5. This two-day conference is designed by teachers to support excellent teaching and learning practices. This year's conference is conveniently located at Eastwood Middle School and is free to members! To register go to <https://ista-in.org/gtc>.

Action Items

- Make sure you set up an appointment with your VALIC representative so that you are receiving your 1% match from the district. They are extending this enrollment through January.
- Biometric Health Screens and Online Risk Assessments must be completed by January 31 to avoid an increase in insurance premiums.
- WTEA is looking for members who would like to help with new member recruitment, legislative action, social events and association communication. Contact your AR if you are interested in getting involved.

Stay Connected

WTEA website: wteainfo.org

WTEA President: sabrawtea@gmail.com

Central Discussion Updates

The following topics have recently been shared at Central Discussion. For more detailed information, please consult your school's discussion representative.

- Time/Meetings –WTEA continues to share with administration how district requirements of time interfere with teacher success regarding planning, parent communication, and classroom management. We have offered suggestions, and will continue to work with administration to find solutions.
- Retention of Teachers/Climate-Discussion continues about how to ensure the district can retain quality teachers.
- Strategic Plan-WTEA has provided the township with feedback regarding the strategic plan that went to the school board for a vote. The next phase of the process is to develop action goals based on the plan.
- Administrative Guidelines- When reporting a suspected abuse situation to CPS, teachers have a responsibility to follow up with administrators via email to confirm that the situation was reported.
- 2016-2017 Calendar Changes- The school board has approved November 8 as an at-home learning day. Teachers will report to work for PD time. Additionally, 4 early release days have been set.
- NWEA-Concerns regarding winter testing have been addressed including technology issues, accommodation inconsistencies and lack of sufficient training for teachers.

Member Benefit Spotlight

NEA's *Click and Save* discount program offers savings on brand name merchandise from hundreds of top retailers, online stores, and local merchants. Save on clothing, electronics, restaurants, jewelry, movie tickets and more! Check out neamb.com for information on this and other deals for members.

**WTEA Building
Representatives**

Allisonville: Josh Bolles
Crooked Creek: Bev Huneck & Pam Williams
Fox Hill: Becky Miller
Greenbriar: Heather Pollock
John Strange: Heather Pitcock
Nora: Stacie Hamilton
Spring Mill: Cindy Moore
Eastwood: Laura VanderHaeghen & Chad Wallace
Northview: Angel Picket-Chiton & Jim Perry
Westlane: Stacie Kleeman
JEL: Kandy Smitha, Carrie Jacques & Kristine Kelly
North Central: Bruce Quilling & Martin Kelty

**Central Discussion
Representatives**

Becky Coffey & Josh Bolles (Elem. Chair)
Dawn Richardson
Becky Miller
Kevin Miller
Heather Pitcock
Stacie Hamilton
Elizabeth Streit
Brian Camp & Jean Gentry
Jim Perry
Sabra Gage (Middle School Chair)
Kandy Smitha
Kari Fritz (NC Chair)