



SPEAK OUT

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2007



We Have a Tentative Contract Agreement!

Please make every effort to attend the general membership meeting Tuesday, June 19, in the CRMS Auditorium (3:45pm) to learn more about our tentative agreement.



Important Deadline for Flexible Spending Account Claims
Claims for services provided during the 2006-2007 school year must be received by Benefit Resource no later than **Thursday, September 28, 2007.**

Meet Your New Representative Assembly Member



Paul on a recent trip to Kenya

Paul LeVan, Membership Chair, received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in history from the University of Buffalo and was a substitute teacher for Ken-Ton Schools in Buffalo before coming to Pittsford. He has worked in the District for four years as a Social Studies teacher at Sutherland High School.

He is a member of the Technology Committee and has coached Boys Varsity Volley-

ball, Girls Varsity Volleyball, Boys JV Lacrosse, and is currently the Ski and Snowboard Club advisor. Prior to teaching he was a pharmacy technician and used that experience to travel as a pharmacist with a medical team to Kenya.

Paul lives in Irondequoit with his wife Katie who is a school psychologist for Bright Start Pediatrics in Fairport, daughter Rileigh and dog Nietzsche.

He enjoys skiing, most outdoor sports, and working on cars/auto detailing and is an American Red Cross certified lifeguard.

About our members:



Congratulations to Abigail Epstein (PR) on her marriage.



Congratulations to Kerry Thompson (MHS) and Erin Khuns (MHS) on the births of their babies.



We wish a speedy recovery to Marcia Brown (PR) as she recuperates at home.

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PDTA has moved!! BRMS East, Room 302, Phone 267-1035

PDTA Committee



Membership:

PDTA had a very successful membership drive. Our membership total is now 753. Thank you to our dedicated committee: Margy Taylor, Annemarie Inzana, Debbie

Bellisario, Sandy Sahler, Patti MacMullin, Toni Stevens-Oliver, Dana Brown, Margie Hart, Laura Shemancik, and Brian Kohrt.

Please help keep our records up-to-date. Notify the PDTA office of any name changes over the summer.

Erin Ciccone, Membership Chair

Public Relations:

PDTA has just completed our sixth year as Pittsford Food Cupboard Adopt-A-Shelf Partners. This year we tried something different and each school was assigned a specific month for their collection. Your response was overwhelming! Thanks to your generosity the Pittsford Food Cupboard has been able to support as many as 92 families per week! Our 10 buildings were able to collect a total of 1,856 items this school year! I'm confident that we will break 2,000 next year! I am so very proud to be part of an association that not only nurtures the children of our community but their families as well.

A special thank you to all the members who purchased our 2006-2007 Entertainment books this year. Through your generosity we were able to once again donate to three community service organizations in Pittsford: the fire department, ambulance, and Pittsford Youth Services. With the balance of the money we were able to also add to the PDTA Student Benefit Fund that we started three years ago.

Last but not least, it was this committee's pleasant duty to award one \$750 scholarship from PDTA to a graduating senior at both Mendon and Sutherland high schools who will be pursuing a career in teaching. Giving away money to the future teachers of tomorrow is a great way to end the school year! A special thank you to all my committee members and you, for a job well done!

Jill L. Drake, Public Relations Chairperson



Communications:

Thanks to our writers and distributors we were able to get six issues of *Speak Out* into the hands of our members. If you have any ideas that would make *Speak Out* better please email them to me.

Bret Burrows, Communications Chair



Health and Safety:

PDTA Health and Safety Members met eight times this school year. Total volunteer hours exceeded 165 hours for this committee. I would like to thank the building members below for their time and commitment to keeping your students, staff, and visitors healthier! More information concerning the initiatives below is available through your building PDTA Representatives: Kathleen Roser (AC), Cindy Chambers (JR), Linda Khalil (MCE), Jill Richards (PR), Kim Hill (TR), Beth Kecskemety (BRMS), Holly Hubregsen (CRMS), Debbie Galloway (MHS), and Kathy Harriff (SHS).

Accomplishments included:

- Creation of Charter/Evaluation for the Building Level PDTA Health and Safety Committee.
- Review of Health and Safety Concern Forms.
- Evaluation and Review of Health and Safety Committees—Roles and function at the building level.
- District Wellness Policy—Copy of PCSD Policy was distributed and reviewed. PDTA members participated as part of the Wellness sub-committee which wrote draft guidelines for implementation of the policy.
- Emergency Preparedness/District Emergency Response Plan Update. PDTA participated as part of the Emergency Preparedness Update Sub-committee which met at the beginning of the school year. All buildings received updated emergency plans, Staff Emergency Procedures Guides, and new pink Bomb Threat Phone Cards.
- Security—Building security was heightened in the wake of national shooting incidents. Items of concern which were addressed include: sign in/out procedures, building access, location of proxy readers, and use of name tags by staff. PDTA participated as part of the sub-committee on security concerning sign in and sign out procedures in each building.
- Green Cleaning Legislation—PDTA members participated as part of the District Green Cleaning Sub-committee in reviewing new mandated policies.
- Eat Well Live Well Staff Wellness Program sponsored by the Rochester Business Alliance and Wegmans was chaired by PDTA Health and Safety Chair, Linda Khalil, with participation of PDTA Health and Safety Building Chairs, School Nurses and administrative and teaching staff volunteering as team Leaders. 328 staff participated.

Reports 2007

- Review of Science Lab Safety Assessment results shared.
- Two PDTA members attended the State NYSUT State Health and Safety Conference conference in March.

Ongoing Issues

- Automatic Notification System—No system in place at this time. Tabled until 07/08 school year. May be available as part of student management system.
- Anonymous Reporting System for use by students, staff and community members was tabled until 07/08 school year due to lack of funding.
- Construction Project Barker Road—Building Health and Safety Committee should be involved in planning and oversight.
- Pandemic Flu Planning—PDTA member participated on the sub-committee in setting procedures for District response in the event of flu pandemic.
- Safety Issue for Before and After School Activities—PDTA member participated in sub-committee. Proposed guidelines forwarded to District committee for review.

Linda Khalil, Health and Safety Chair



Special Events:

The Special Events Committee had a very successful year. It began with the Benefits Fair at the Burgundy Basin Inn where district employees were given an opportunity to meet with various organizations that serve the Pittsford School District. This year's United Way Campaign raised more money than last year's campaign, **\$57,602.97**. Our Committee thanks all the people that contributed to a successful event. Lastly, the District retirement dinner was held at Monroe Country Club this year. We honored eight 25-year honorees and 13 retirees, with 208 people attending. The cocktail hour was relaxing as many people were able to either enjoy food and drinks on the porch or inside the main dining room. People enjoyed the new dinner menu and enjoyed the new program set up in their main dining room.

Thank you to all the building level chairs who served on the Special Events Committee this year.

Caren Glassman, Special Events Chair



Political Action:

This year our Political Action committee was involved in many important events. Since this was an election year, we ran two phone banks in addition to our usual annual VOTE/COPE campaign and Board of Education election.

Thank you to everyone who contributed this year to VOTE/COPE! This very important drive allows us to work with our representatives in Albany and Washington. This directly affects our working conditions here in Pittsford.

I would like to congratulate the following building winners of the VOTE/COPE raffle: AC-Kathy Griswold, JR-Adrienne Ehrlich, MCE-Heather Kwit, TR-Jane Miroff, BRMS-Kristen Dolan, CRMS-John Beel, MHS-Sarah O'Connor, SHS-Dan Sanfratello

I would also like to congratulate the following winners of the district level raffles: \$50.00-Sue Lochner, \$75.00-Karen Smith

This past fall we ran a phone bank for the election. We also ran a phone bank this spring for our budget vote and Board of Education election as well as mailed out our annual reminder cards. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who made phone calls to all our NYSUT members living in the district!

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Political Action Committee this year for all their hard work. Thank you for all you do!! AC-Kelly Coiro; PR-Emma Ricci; JR-Maryanne Maland; TR-Sarah Shepard; MCE-Patricia Castle, CRMS-Jeanne McElhinney, Todd Paas; BRMS-Suzanne Ange, Gail Shears; MHS-MaryEllen Blanchard; SHS-Lynn Smith

Pamina Abkowitz, Political Action Chair



Professional Growth:

As Professional Growth Chair I represented PDTA on many District committees including ILC, Mentor Steering, and the Teacher Center Policy Board. My job was to give PDTA a voice and provide feedback to the PDTA RA members. The Professional Growth Committee also reviewed and provided feedback to the District on this year's study grant applications. Thank you to all of the Professional Growth Building Chairs for their support.

Donna Nichols, Professional Growth Chair

Pittsford District Teachers Association

2007-2008 Representative Assembly Directory

Officers	
President	<i>Barbara Shapiro, SHS*</i>
Vice President for Administration	<i>Len Chaput, SHS*</i>
Vice President for Negotiations	<i>Pam VanGraafeiland, PR*</i>
Secretary	<i>Andy Balch, MHS*</i>
Treasurer	<i>Joel Menchel, SHS*</i>
Building Representatives	
Allen Creek	<i>Barb O'Brien*</i>
Jefferson Road	<i>Lisa Riley*</i>
Mendon Center	<i>Sue Ann McGrath*</i>
Park Road	<i>Marcia Brown*</i>
Thornell Road	<i>Bernadette Canfield*</i>
Barker Road Middle School	<i>Jolene DiBrango*</i>
Calkins Road Middle School	<i>Erin McRae*</i>
Mendon High School	<i>Mike Donner*</i>
Sutherland High School	<i>Dwayne Cerbone*</i>
SRP Representative	
<i>Karen Shield, SHS*</i>	
Standing Committee Chairpersons	
Professional Advancement	Pam VanGraafeiland, PR
Professional Growth	Donna Nichols, MC
Communications	Bret Burrows, JR
Public Relations	Jill Drake, MC
Special Events	Caren Glassman, MC
Political Action	Pamina Abkowitz, TR
Membership	Paul LeVan, SHS
Health and Safety	Linda Khalil, MC
Assistant Building Representatives	
Jefferson Road	Kristin Jewett
Mendon Center	Chris Burton & Mary Humphreys
Park Road	Katherine Matychak
Thornell Road	Tracy Dickerson
Barker Road Middle School	Geri Drooz & Janice Larson
Calkins Road Middle School	Michelle O'Connor & Ann Shelp
Mendon High School	Erin Khuns, Laura Shemancik & Steve Smith
Sutherland High School	Chris Gunter, Marie LoRe-Geigel & Sandy Stein
SRP Assistant Representatives	
Constance Bader, BRMS	Maryanne Maland, JR
Sue Burdett, AC	Gail Mulkeen, SHS, MHS
Mary Hamblin, CRMS	Sherry Tontarski, MC
Suzanne Kaier-Tuttle, MC	
Delegates	
#1 Barbara Shapiro, SHS	#4 Sue Gager, AC
#2 Andy Balch	#5 Dan Sanfratello, SHS
#3 Len Chaput, SHS	#6 Karen Shield, SHS
Retiree Representative (non-voting) Nanette Sorrentino	