

BEDFORD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
POLITICAL ACTION REPORT – 1/16/14
Submitted by: Mimi Warren

Westchester Putnam Central Labor Body:

Trans Pacific Partnership – we've been reporting on the TPP since early Fall. This trade deal has been described as the worst trade deal since NAFTA and the US stands to lose 400,000 jobs if this trade deal is ratified. It has the potential to impact environmental laws, our food supply, health and safety laws and our ability to access affordable medicines.

Foreign corporations would actually be able to sue the US for any protections perceived to be trade barriers.

PLEASE: call Nita Lowey, Eliot Engle and Sean Patrick Maloney tell them not to allow the TPP to be "Fast-Tracked." Please call 888-966-9836 and say, "As a constituent (concerned citizen), I expect you to stand up for American workers and vote NO on Fast Track for TPP."

Please visit : <http://www.cwa-union.org/issues/entry/c/trans-pacific-free-trade-agreement>

Fast Track allows Congress to give up their right to negotiate treaties. It blocks any amendments or changes to the trade deal and only allows for an "up or down" vote by Congress.

Community Service – the Labor Council Sponsored drives for shoes, clothing, food, toys and monetary donations throughout the holiday season with great success. Toys were donated to Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center in Yonkers. The Center caters to medically fragile children and provides a range of therapeutic activities. Members of the Labor Council took the time to shop for toys and equipment directly related to the needs and therapy goals of the Center's patients. The therapists at the Center were extremely grateful. This is just one example of the type of work that the Community Service Committee does throughout the year.

Huge Victory for Labor: As previously reported, County Executive Rick Astorino wrote Karen Pecora's job out of the budget causing her to become unemployed. Karen was the President of the Westchester County CSEA workers. A grievance was filed within the county and last week, Mrs. Pecora won the grievance. She is entitled to her old job or similar position, back pay and any time lost.

NYSUT Legislative Update: Last week, a letter was sent to Governor Cuomo, signed by over 70 Assemblymen and women and Senators, asking the Governor to increase funding for education in the upcoming budget. The letter speaks to the devastating impact of previous budget cuts on education and references class size, student support services, the arts, AP classes and diminished curriculum, just to name a few. Please take

the time to read at <http://www.aqeny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Cuomo-CFE-Funding-Support-Letter-Final-1.pdf>

Hopefully the Governor will be available to engage in this critical conversation.

Please continue to visit NYSUT.org and send Faxes! Your help does matter!!!