

BEDFORD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
POLITICAL ACTION REPORT – 11/21/13
Submitted by: Mimi Warren

Westchester Putnam Central Labor Body:

Making NY Work: The statewide AFL-CIO is sponsoring a program called Making NY Work. The goal of the program is to underscore the need to shift and take control of the conversation regarding unionism, focusing on the following issues:

- Looking at elected officials through the perspective of working men and women. Who is being served, constituents or donors?
- Creating a roadmap to economic fairness – developing strong, long-term industries with family-sustaining jobs.
- Investing in public services and concentration on domestic policy.
- Lifting low wage workers out of poverty *Tipped workers have not had an increase in wage in 20 years.
- Passing the Farmworkers Labor Practices Act *Farm workers continue to fight for a 6 day, 100 hour work week!
- Empowering men and women through voter access, including early voting and voting registration.

Shoe Donation: We continue to collect shoes for the Central Labor Body shoe drive. Thanks go out to our colleagues who have been collecting and donating, including Janine Slachmulder and Renee Renz from the HS and Jaclyn Prato and Shelly McGuinness from MKES. We have made an initial donation and will continue to collect shoes until Dec. 6th. Contact Mimi Warren if you are able to donate.

Central Labor Body Holiday Donations: The Community Services Committee of the Westchester Putnam Central Labor Body is asking for donations of both food and money this holiday season. Food donations will go to the Westchester Food Bank and monetary donations will be used to support the Food Bank and purchase toys for the Elizabeth Seton Hospital. The Elizabeth Seton Hospital is 100% union built and operated.

Support Walmart Workers: Black Friday November 29, 9:00 to 11:00am. Join with other union members in passing out flyers drawing attention to working conditions of Walmart workers.

WHITE PLAINS WALMART - Meet at the Main Street entrance.

Fair Trade: Saturday, December 7th is the 16th annual Fair Trade Festival at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains. Fair trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions and securing

the rights of marginalized producers and workers. Many of the crafts are made by artists in women-managed cooperatives. Funds raised by the sale of these crafts initiate support for a living wage and better living conditions.

Unionists of Tomorrow: Happy Hour for young unionists, sponsored by the Labor Body, will take place at RORY DOLAN'S RESTAURANT, YONKERS, McLean Avenue on **December 16 5:30-7:30 pm**. They supply the hot appetizers and you get happy hour prices for drinks. Feel free stop by early and stay late.

NYSUT INFORMATION:

Ban Testing for NY's youngest students: NYSUT, along with the Alliance for Quality Education, Citizen Action of New York and its largest local affiliate, the United Federation of Teachers, called on the governor and Legislature, along with the Regents and state Education Department, to ban pre-K to second grade standardized testing. Other education groups are also expected to join the effort and publicize the petition to their members. Please consider signing the petition.

Follow this link to sign the petition:

[SIGN THE PETITION: Visit nysut.org/recessfromtests](http://nysut.org/recessfromtests)

NYSUT Legislative Action Center: Politics impacts every school district and public higher education institution, and the working conditions of every school employee, because laws and regulations affecting every member's terms and conditions of employment are passed by lawmakers and implemented by government agencies in Albany and Washington, D.C.. NYSUT's Legislative Dept. is currently working with Political Action Coordinators (in service and retired teachers) around the state to evaluate interactions with state legislators. Political Action Coordinators will be providing feedback on accessibility of legislators and will also be speaking directly with legislators regarding their votes on legislation related to education, health care and labor.

Please continue to visit the MAC – Member Action Center at www.NYSUT.org for more information and to send FAXES to our Legislators. Your efforts make a HUGE difference! Remember to join NYSUT on Facebook.

*** Please consider buying union products this holiday season. Go to www.unionlabel.org for a list of union companies and their products.

