

FOCUS

**ON JERICHO
TEACHERS
AND THEIR ISSUES
March/April 2006**

President's Message for March/April

By Maryann Risi

In late March we finally received the results of a long negotiated change to our Contract. This is one of the really nerve-wracking parts of being a member of the Executive Board of the JTA. You entrust to us the power to protect your Contract and negotiate alterations to make it better or just sounder. This was one of those times.

The Executive Board recog-

nized that the School Board had not offered the Association a replacement for the lost Driver's Education position. We then delivered to Joan Colvin a "Notice of Claim" against the District in effort to encourage them to negotiate with us. We presented our proposal for action on this matter in December. We watched and waited (and waited and watched) as the Board met, discussed, made counter offers and ultimately finalized

a desirable package of benefits.

We hope that our efforts on your behalf justify your confidence in us. We feel the package is fair and gives something to a large majority of our members. With a great weight off of our shoulders now that this negotiation is completed, the Executive Board was truly able to enjoy this vacation and come back well rested to fight another day. We hope all of you enjoyed a well earned rest, too!

"The Drivers' Ed. Thing" for Dummies

By Denise Ryder

When Mr. Grishman made an announcement regarding drivers' ed. at the March Board meeting and I didn't understand a word he said, I knew things had gone our way. I see from reading the President's Message above, we did "win," but for those of us who like things spelled out a little bit more, I give you "the drivers' ed thing" for dummies...

In an effort to [make it look like they were trying to save money], the Board of Education arranged to hire an outside private company to teach Drivers' Education.

Now, according to the rules (see, sometimes the rules are good), the Board can't simply stop paying a teacher to do something then turn around and pay somebody else to do it. But that's exactly what they did. The JTA "reminded them" that the position was under the teacher's contract, and if they want to pay an outside company, they must negotiate a fair exchange.

After "extreme" prompting (read

"lawsuit"), they (really, the lawyers who should know better having made the same mistake on behalf of another district) "realized" *we* were in the right.

On March 30 the District and the JTA, with the permission of the Delegate Assembly, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (which is an amendment to our contract without entering formal negotiations) stating that in exchange for the right to outsource the Drivers' Ed. program, we would receive the following two benefits:

1. a 457 account - so our current and future retirees may shelter some of their retirement funds.
2. As of July 1, 2006, upon receiving your 90 credits, Association members will now only have to take one 15 hour course a year to continue receive their stipend. (These hours are the same 15 hour requirement already in the contract.)

And for those of you still asking the question "who teaches our student drivers?," the answer remains....Ed. Klobus, that is.

Jericho Teachers Association

Maryann Risi
President

Ted Lucher
Middle School VP

Kevin Brodsky
High School VP

Lois Burn
Elementary VP

Fran Rivera
Secretary/Treasurer

Denise Ryder
Focus Editor/WebMistress

www.jerichoteachers.org

FOCUS

is the monthly newsletter of the Jericho Teachers Association. We welcome input, articles, viewpoints, and questions from all members. If there is an issue you would like to see

addressed or you would like to contribute please e-mail

Denise Ryder, at
ryder@jerichoteachers.org

*The Jericho Teachers Association
acknowledges and thanks
Randi Skeats
for her dedicated service
as High School Vice President
and welcomes
Kevin Brodsky as interim HS VP*

NYSUT Phone Banks

The NYSUT office, conveniently located in the Jericho Quadrangle, has set up a phone banks for schools to use to call fellow NYSUT members who live in their districts to encourage them to vote in favor of their schools' budgets'. May 10 is our designated day. We are looking for volunteers to make calls to teacher/residents in Jericho between the hours of 4 pm and 7 pm. Don't worry, there's a script! We are only requesting 30-60 minutes of time. Anyone interested can call Linda in the JTA office x3443 and let her know what time you can be there.

JTA Receives Award "Presidents Award" From NYSUT

The Jericho Teachers Association has recognized by NYSUT with a "President's Award" for our generous contributions to the Katrina Disaster Relief Fund.

Jericho Teachers Association Nominations and Elections

On June 6, 2006, the Jericho Teachers Association will be holding its bi-annual election of officers. Nominations for candidates must be received by 2:00 pm on May 19, 2006. Please forward Nominating Petitions to Martha Sammartano in the middle school so that building ballots may be prepared.

In case of contested building elections, nominees will be invited to submit statements detailing their candidacies for distribution to their building's membership. In the case of contested Executive Board positions the nominees will be invited to submit statements for distribution to the entire membership. These typed statements will be distributed as submitted *without editorial changes*.

Please note that a Nominating Petition must list the candidate's name and the specific office he or she is running for:

President

Vice President, High School

Vice President, Middle School

Vice President, Elementary

Secretary/Treasurer

**Reminder: Our Next District Wide Meeting will be held on
Wednesday, May 31 at 4 pm in the High School Little Theater**

Focus Classified Ads
will begin next
month.