



IMPACT

BRENTWOOD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT, AFL-CIO

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Political Action Reaps Rewards

Over the last several years, our union has become increasingly active at all levels of Political Action. This activity has reaped many rewards for Brentwood as exemplified by Assemblyman Harenberg's work on behalf of Brentwood in Albany. These efforts have also created some questions among our members.

Don't Blame Us

A number of complaints were registered with the Election Committee about our recent NYSUT election. Apparently, some people were offended over the fact that they were asked to vote in an uncontested election.

You should be aware that we have no choice in the matter. Even when the nominees are unchallenged, we are compelled by the Landrum Griffin Act to hold an election. If we did not, the nominees would not be entitled to credentials as delegates to NYSUT.

The formality of running an uncontested election is as much a "pain" to us as it is to each of you. We are forced to expend time, energy, and money in running off flyers and ballots.

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Over the next several months, I hope to answer these questions and alert you to problems that will confront us in the future. Only through your understanding can we hope for 100 percent support from you.

The endorsement of a candidate is the first step in any political campaign. This endorsement must be made solely on educational issues for two reasons. First, with thousands of members from diversified backgrounds, the improvement of the educational system is the single common goal of all our members. The second is our ability to influence a candidate after the election. These elected officials must perceive us as a strong factor in their

election and as experts in the field of education. With an elected representative voting on as many as 2,000 bills, no one can expect a correct vote on all issues. What we must demand from those we support is consultation on all matters concerning education and total support on those bills we consider vital to our survival (e.g. Tuition Tax Credits). What we ask from our members is an understanding of our goals and your total support in these endeavors.

Next:

- 1) The growing power of PAC's.
- 2) Business competition with Public Education.

- Joe Hogan -

Congratulations John And Maslow-Toffler

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I can report to you about a distinct honor bestowed on John Sherin and the Maslow-Toffler School. John, as a cofounder of the school, was asked to attend and participate in a nation-wide project on alternative education.

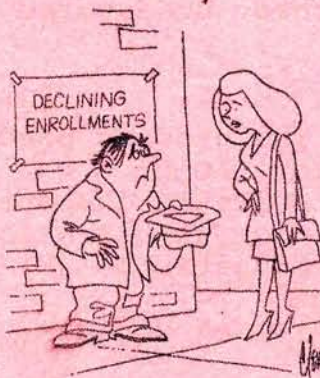
The Project on Alternatives in Education was initiated by the John Dewey Society. Sponsors of the Project included The National Foundation for the Improvement of Education and the National Institute of Education. The Project is a long-term undertaking designed to respond to serious problems and weaknesses facing secondary education in the United States.

Research leaders and the Project's executive committee met at the Johnson Foundation's site of Wingspread in Racine, Wisconsin. Their purpose was to set a direction for the research project to undertake. Only ten people connected with alternative education programs in the United States were invited to participate. Based upon his experience and expertise, John was so honored. Needless to say, this speaks extremely well for not only John, but the program at M.T. as well.

Since this is designed as a long-term, comprehensive project, it will no doubt take a number of years to be completed. We will have a special interest in keeping abreast of the reports and conclusions that will follow.

Far too often we hear and report on negative things that are happening. It is really great when we can point with pride to a person and a program from our District.

Once again, congratulations!



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No Blame...

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The Chief Delegates must pick up and deliver ballot boxes and run the election in the building. In addition, the Election Committee must tabulate the results.

We have inquired as to whether or not there is a legal way to circumvent this requirement in the law. Unfortunately, we have been told that this is not possible.

We certainly agree with the feelings that uncontested elections are a waste of time. Sadly, at the present time, we have no alternative.

Mileage Rate Changed

The contractual rate paid for mileage has been changed. The previous payment of twelve cents per mile has been increased to eighteen cents. Presumably, those of you who are compensated for your traveling have been made aware of this individually. If not, please be sure that your current rate of compensation is paid at \$.18 per mile. Considering the phenomenal rise in gasoline costs, every little bit helps.