



PCT PLEDGE

Plainview-Old Bethpage
Congress of Teachers
303 Sunnyside Boulevard - Suite 90
Plainview, New York 11803
(516) 349-1310
On the Web at:
[http:// pobct.org](http://pobct.org)

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ELECTION DAY

By PCT President Morty Rosenfeld

The media report that progressive people like us aren't energized about this election cycle. While we surely have much to turn us off with a political year in which it is difficult to find a politician willing to stand up for public employees much less teachers, we know that staying home is not an option. We are savvy enough to know that we have a few friends who have stood up for public education and that our frustration with others can't be allowed to keep us from the polls to support those who have supported us.

This year's NYSUT Political Endorsement Conference was the most unusual of the one I have participated in since the merger. Union leaders from across the state assembled in August and surveyed the candidates for public office more carefully than ever before. In the end, many candidates whom we have been accustomed to supporting, both Democrats and Republicans, did not get our nod. Many failed to do so this year because of their support for property tax caps, wage freezes, pension reductions and so on. For the first time in my memory, we are not supporting a candidate for governor, Mr. Cuomo having declared war on public employees seconds after his nomination and the Republicans nominating an out-and-out nut.

Statewide, we are supporting **Tom DiNapoli** for comptroller. When Judi Alexanderson and I were on the political action committee of NEA-New York, it was part of our assignment to lobby Tom DiNapoli, then an assemblyman from the Great Neck area. He was always sincerely interested in what we had to say and an enthusiastic supporter of public education. **Eric Schneiderman** is our candidate for Attorney General. Throughout his legal and political career, he has stood up to power and authority for progressive causes and has earned broad support from the labor movement in New York.

Those in our area who did make the cut have been pro-education and have been willing to work with NYSUT, the NEA and AFT on our agenda for public education. Outstanding among these are **Tim Bishop (D)** (1st Congressional District) and **Steve Israel (D)** (2nd Congressional District). These two outstanding representatives are huge supporters of public education. They were active supporters of the federal jobs bills that have pumped millions of federal dollars into America's public schools and kept thousands of teachers and

school related professionals employed. We cannot afford to lose either of these fine people. Nor can we afford to lose **Carolyn McCarthy (D)** (4th CD) or **Gary Ackerman (D)** (5th CD).

Only two of Long Island's state senators have our endorsement - **Kenneth La Valle** (1st SD) and **Carl Marcellino** (5th SD).

Our Assembly endorsements are as follows:

- 1st AD **Marc Alessi (D)**
- 2nd AD **Fred Thiele (R)**
- 3rd AD **Rob Calarco (R)**
- 4th AD **Steven Englebright (D)**
- 5th AD **Ken Mangan (D)**
- 6th AD **Philip Ramos (D)**
- 8th AD **Philip Boyle (R)**
- 9th AD **Andrew Raia (R)**
- 11th AD **Robert Sweeney (D)**
- 12th AD **Joseph Saladino (D)**
- 13th AD **Charles Lavine (D)**
- 16th AD **Michelle Schimel (D)**
- 17th AD **Tom McKeivitt (D)**
- 18th AD **Earlene Hooper (D)**
- 19th AD **David McDonough (R)**
- 20th AD **Harvey Weisenberg (D)**

People who wish to privatize Social Security, reduce your pension benefits, allow millions of Americans to go without health insurance, privatize our public schools are running for election this November 2nd. If the right wing tide that the pundits are predicting is to be stopped, you and I and everyone else who supports the rights and needs of working people are going to have to vote.

TEACHERS ANGERED BY PULL-OUTS

On their recent visits to all but one of our elementary schools, PCT President Morty Rosenfeld and Elementary Vice-President Nina Melzer repeatedly met one central concern of the staff, the absurd number of student pull-outs. In the District's attempt to comply with the various laws and regulations, a system has developed for dealing with children who are falling behind where they are pulled from their regular class to work with specialists of one kind or another with the goal of getting them to catch up but ironically falling further behind their regular class by being pulled out. At their meetings, our officers met teachers who have their entire class a pitifully few periods out of the six day cycle. As a teacher at the Old Bethpage School put it, "How is it fair to evaluate me on what the kids assigned to my class learn in a year when I have those kids for maybe five periods during the cycle?"

It certainly isn't fair - to the teacher or to the child who is pulled out for more time than he is in his assigned class. Commenting at one of the elementary SRC meetings, Morty Rosenfeld observed, "It's amazing that the children who are constantly pulled-out learn anything. We have to get this crazy system changed. The current system is not working for kids. It's simply satisfying

administration's need to feel that they are in compliance with the law. We need a little imagination to be in compliance but teach the kids too."

The PCT officers will be raising this issue with the Board of Education when they meet with them on October 27th. They will also be working in the community to attempt to build support for a program that keeps kids with the classroom teacher for a majority of their day.

POBLA SCHEDULES MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Library Association, a functional unit of the PCT, has scheduled a **general membership meeting for Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 9:00 P.M. in the PCT Office.**

The agenda for this meeting is a discussion of the goals of the unit in its upcoming round of negotiations with the Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library.

While the world of public sector labor negotiations is to say the least unsettled, members of the unit are hoping that the excellent climate that has developed between labor and management at the library can be continued.

VOTE/COPE COLLECTION UNDERWAY

PCT members of all units are reminded that it is time to make their yearly contribution to VOTE/COPE, NYSUT's political action fund. Since we merged with NYSUT and waged yearly VOTE/COPE campaigns, we have increased the amount members have contributed each year. We are hoping that this year will see an even more successful collection, as our political problems certainly haven't subsided but have grown substantially worse.

Remember, all of the political activities of NYSUT and the PCT are financed by the voluntary contributions of our members.

Please give generously. The recommended contribution is still \$40.00. If you can afford to give more, please do so. Under the current circumstances, it would be hard to find a cause more aligned with our self-interest. If \$40.00 is too steep for you, give what you can. Just give. Be a part of your political effort. Don't leave it to others to pick up your load.

SICK LEAVE BANK DEDUCTIONS

Members of the Teacher Unit of the PCT will be hearing from the Personnel Office soon that one or two days have been deducted from their sick leave entitlement to restore the PCT Teacher Sick Leave Bank.

Those **tenured teachers** who have never given a day will be contributing two days, while other tenured teachers will be giving one. No teacher will be left with less than six sick days; they will contribute at a later date when they have accrued more days.

The PCT Sick Leave Bank is part of a carefully designed package of benefits created to make sure that should a member fall seriously ill and run out of sick time, they can first borrow 28 days from the District, then come to the Sick Leave Bank for a grant of up to 50 days and after that collect from our short term and long term disability policies provided through the Welfare Fund. Our union has tried very hard to protect the income of its members. Unfortunately, in recent years, we have had too many occasions when members had to call upon the Sick Leave Bank. The giving of a day from time to time is little enough to pay for this kind of protection

THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP

Thank you to the many PCT members who answered the call and attended a rally called in support of the West Hempstead teachers union which has been without a contract for over two years. West Hempstead President Barbara Hafner sent the following message. "Thank you on behalf of all my members. Your presence tonight really gave us all a boost of hope. Your support is very much appreciated by all of us in West Hempstead. I can only hope this BOE is ready to settle and try to mend the damage that has been created among teachers and the community. The morale is low, the teachers are frustrated, and the community is angry to see us on the picket line. This needs to get done now!"

Again, thank you for all your support."

Thanks too to the over 40 PCT members who volunteered to staff the NYSUT phonebank on Thursday, October 21st. They joined NYSUT members from all over the Island to call NYSUT members on behalf of NYSUT endorsed candidates.

Thank you. You are what makes the PCT special.

CREDITS FOR SALE

NYIT credits for sale. Call Joe Izzo at 347-733-9263.