



PCT PLEDGE

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WHAT A YEAR

By PCT President Morty Rosenfeld

In Elizabethan times, the misdeeds of important people were thought to disrupt what they imagined as a great chain of being, a chain linking God with mankind and nature. Thus, when Macbeth kills Duncan, his king, Scotland experiences an eclipse of the sun, violent storms and other aberrations in the natural order of things. Suddenly, the king's horses begin to bite at each other's flesh.

Were we living in those times, the very unusual weather throughout most of the country, the earthquakes in Japan and Haiti would undoubtedly be attributed to the political storms in our nation and in much of the rest of the world. Here at home, lunatics in the House of Representatives threaten to throw the United States into default, something that would surely vault the industrialized world into a depression. They won't raise the country's debt ceiling unless the administration agrees to draconian cuts in the budget, cuts which would come at a time when the economy appears to be slowing again. It's hard to find a serious economist who thinks a default would not have disastrous consequences, but people like Long Island's Peter King seem to care less.

In New York, the last defender of legislative sanity has gone off the deep end. Speaker Sheldon Silver has advanced a property tax cap bill which may well become law, try to defeat though we are. A chest thumping Governor Cuomo, clearly with an eye on the White House, appears determined to cause whatever human suffering he has to in the process of advancing his personal political agenda. Does anyone seriously think that the angry governor doesn't know that his tax cap would bring havoc to schools and public services across the state? He knows full well, but his star is tied to the banking and real estate interests who finance his unrelenting campaign to befuddle New Yorkers into thinking that they can have quality public services and no tax increases too.

What a year it's been. Locally, while public employees continue to be bashed in the media with teachers taking the major hits,

interestingly, most school budgets passed with significant margins. People may rail against tax increases, but they strongly supported the schools their kids attend. In POB, even if the proposed tax cap legislation passes, I firmly believe residents will support budgets that permit us to educate their children in a manner consistent with our history.

It's hard to believe, but it's time to negotiate another contract. Although the climate for doing so is atrocious, I am confident that we will be able to reach an amicable settlement with the District. *The Pledge* being a very public document, I'll save some other thoughts I have on the subject of negotiations for a letter I will send you in a week or so.

Let me end by thanking you for your continuing support of our union. Whether it was the 50th Anniversary celebration, our VOTE/COPE drive or the many political action activities your officers called upon you to do, you answered the call and then some.

I wish you all a wonderful summer filled with things you enjoy doing.

POLITICAL ACTION SUCCESSES

The PCT had a very successful political action effort around the Board of Education election and budget. Our candidates won by comfortable margins and our budget passed with enough votes to have over-ridden a tax cap had one been in place.

Congratulations to our SRC Reps who organized the dozens of members who made thousands of phone calls. Thanks too to our NYSUT brothers and sisters who live in the community who answered our call for assistance. Special kudos to the K-Center SRC who managed to involve every member in their building in our political action effort.

Thanks too to all of our members who have answered repeated calls from union leadership to call their elected representatives in opposition to Governor Cuomo's property tax cap. **We know that some of your elected representatives have responded to your calls and are pressuring Speaker Silver to at least change the proposed legislation in a way beneficial to us.**

Finally, thanks too to the members of the PCT Executive Board who have given up repeated Friday afternoons to picket the offices of members of the legislature supporting the tax cap measure. **PCT leadership organized this political action, but it has been the members of our Executive Board who have been turning out in greater numbers than**

any other Nassau County local union.
Bravo!

GRIEVANCE HELP NEEDED

The PCT has been working on trying to resolve the arbitrary decision of central office to deny graduate credit for certain courses that members wish to take, courses that have been approved in the past. These courses are largely offered by Chapman College, Teacher Education Institute, Madonna University, Fitchberg University, Indiana Wesleyan University and the University of La Verne.

PCT Grievance Chair Judi Alexanderson is requesting that those who have taken graduate courses from any of these institutions, **please send copies to her at the PCT Office of any course outlines, assignments or other materials that would help us understand the content and requirements of these courses.** This information is extremely important to the protection of our contract. If you have any relevant materials, please send them today.

MENTORS 2011-2012

The PCT Office would like to hear from members interested in being mentors to new teachers. Under our union's agreement with the District, the PCT receives applications for mentorships and forwards those it deems appropriate to the Superintendent of Schools who makes the final determination.

There may be a need for mentors in the following areas: Music, English, Elementary, Library/Media, LOTE, Psychologist, Social Worker and Special Education. The number of mentorships will be ultimately determined by the qualifications of the people hired for the openings available.

19 TEACHERS ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT

19 members of the Teacher Unit of the PCT have announced their retirement to be effective at the end of the school year. They are:

**Susan Burg
Lorraine Cullen Kearney
Marc Gaiman
Helen Goldstein
Santee Goldstein
Paula Jasser
Karen Kern
Marjorie Labowitz
Joanne Levy
John Manzella
Judy Montana**

**Carol Rose
Deborah Rothaug**

**Terry Scheer
Linda Saltzman
Wendy Schwartz
Linda Stack
Leonard Streim
Karen Triola**

We congratulate these PCT members on their retirement and thank them for their years of dedicated service to the children of this community and to our union.

PCT 50th HUGE SUCCESS

The PCT has done many parties over the years, but none has met with the enthusiastic response that our 50th celebration at the Crest Hollow Country Club did. The huge crowd of PCT members both active and retired, NYSUT, central office staff past and present, building administrators all came together to wish us well on the 50th anniversary of our union, the first on Long Island to bargain a contract. From the comments we have received, people really enjoyed the media presentation during the cocktail hour. They were also moved by the copy of the documentary film *50 Years of Progressive Leadership in Education* they received which through interviews with union leaders past and present traces the accomplishments of our organization. The film was the joint effort of POB art teacher Jen Beinlich, her husband David and former PCT Secretary, now professor of communications at Marymount Manhattan College, Dave Linton.

The PCT has some extra copies of *50 Years of Progressive Leadership in Education*. They are available to members on a first come first served basis for a cost of \$5.00. Simply contact the PCT office if you want one.

An album of pictures from our celebration is available on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Plainview-Old-Bethpage-Congress-of-Teachers/149380729769?sk=photos>.

Watch the Facebook page for an album of pictures that were part of the cocktail hour slideshow. They will be available soon. By the way, the PCT has been developing its Facebook presence with postings almost every day that are of interest to people in education. Try it and like it.

SUMMER HOURS

The PCT and Welfare Fund Office will be open during July and August, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.