

November 5, 2009
To all NYSCEA members,

Hope your fall is going well and that you and your family are in good health.

Some things have occurred since our last meeting.

1. Working with SED

Howard Goldsmith called and is looking forward to our working together on the CTE Report before the final report is presented to the Board of Regents.

The last Technology Forum took place on November 2, 2009. I attended one and was impressed on how the table discussion groups were made up of such diverse people and all dedicated to improving technological opportunities – there were some great suggestions. I also enjoyed meeting Lawrence Paska and David Walsh. Both gentlemen are also interested in our input.

So if you are flexible...(don't know if they want a meeting, a phone call, an internet chat or whatever nor do I know when)...but are interested in working on either CTE or Technology please give me your name, e-mail address, your association name, and your contact number, and your interested topic. I will forward your information to either Howard or Lawrence.

I know that some of you had also signed up for 2 SED work groups - if you have met, I would appreciate hearing what you have done so far and what you will be doing in the future. Please e mail me at grace.wilkie@gmail.com Thanks.

2. Organizational Chart

I have had a conversation with the Commissioner on November 3, 2009 and will be having another. I thought it was a good introduction to who we are and we will have a follow up call to discuss our website, the 175 hours and our future working together. He told me that the organizational charts are complete and found at:
<http://www.oms.nysed.gov/orgchart/emsc.html>.

3. Survey regarding associates attending your annual conference

I had asked the presidents of the associations to fill out a survey and then return their response to me. From all the members I have received only 9 responses from NYSMSA, NYSRA, AMTNYS, STANYS, LICSS, NYSCAME, NYSTAS, NYACCE, and NYSSELA. If you are not on the list of responders, the deadline has been extended. Please get your survey in so we can work from an understanding of what is happening with all associations no later than November 19th.

4. Sad News

I have been notified by Sue Webber, President of NYSSMA, and Joel Ratner, President of NYSCAME, of the passing away on November 1, 2009 of a former dedicated delegate, Joe Sugar. I remember John Bailey introducing me to Joe at my first NYSCEA meeting. He was always kind to me. Here is the information that Sue and Joel shared:

Joe Sugar passed away at 2:40 am this morning. He was in the hospital at the time. Clara was with him until about 9:30 pm the previous evening and his son Tom was with him until about 1:30 am. He went peacefully and just as Joe would, joking with the nurses

It is with profound sorrow that we share news of the passing of Joseph Sugar. As you know, our colleague and friend was Past President of both NYSSMA and NYSCAME and served as a NYSCEA delegate for decades. Joe was the retired Director of Music of the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools and currently served as Professor of Music at LIU-CW Post College. Joe was a giant in the Music Education field and he will be tremendously missed by all. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Clara and the entire Sugar family.

The Wake will take place Thursday(11/5/09) and Friday(11/6/09) from 2-5 and 7-9 at O'Shea's Funeral Home, 603 Wantagh Ave, Wantagh NY 11793 phone # 516-731-5550

The Funeral will be on Saturday(11/7/09) at 11:00am at the First Presbyterian Church, 474 Wantagh Ave., Levittown, NY 11756 phone#516-731-3808

Clara would not like flowers or any other gifts. Donations can be made to the NYSSMA Scholarship Fund check payable to: NYSSMA Scholarship Fund and sent to NYSSMA 718 The Plain Road, Westbury, NY 11590-5931 Any thoughts or notes can be sent to Clara at her home:1594 Milburn Ct, Wantagh, NY 11793

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace A. Wilkie". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of a faint circular stamp.

Grace A. Wilkie
President of NYSCEA, 2009-2011