

NRTA

North Rockland Teachers' Association
Affil. w. RCTA, NYSUT & AFT AFL-CIO

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Dear Colleague:

You've probably asked yourself the following questions.....

- What is VOTE/COPE?
- Why should I contribute to VOTE/COPE?

VOTE/COPE is NYSUT's (New York State United Teachers') non-partisan political action committee. It is this committee which lobbies for you in Albany and Washington. Your contributions fund NYSUT's legislative and political action efforts.

When you contribute to VOTE/COPE, you are protecting your professional rights as well as public education in general. The theme of this year's VOTE/COPE campaign is "When Everything Seems Stacked Against Us, VOTE/COPE Tips the Scales."

Why contribute? Consider the following.....

- Looming state aid cuts which reduce resources for implementing new standards and mandates while increasing class size.
- Legislative attempts to weaken and possibly eliminate tenure.
- Anti-public school programs such as charter schools, private school vouchers and privatized educational services.
- Legislative attempts to repeal the Triborough Law, the statute that prohibits public employers from cutting benefits and salaries when contracts expire.

You don't have to look far to make the connection between politics and the terms and conditions of our career and our schools.

The suggested contribution to VOTE/COPE for the 2005/2006 school year is \$50 per teacher. Teaching Assistants are asked to contribute \$15. It is strongly recommended that this contribution be made via payroll deduction. A brochure explaining the importance VOTE/COPE as well as a payroll deduction form accompanies this letter.

Nothing is more important than the protection of your professional rights. VOTE/COPE is your contribution to this vital effort. Together, we have the ability to exercise political influence locally, as well as statewide and nationally. Make an investment in your professional future.

In solidarity,



Peter Nastasi
VOTE/COPE Chairperson

Robin Brennan, President

Kevin Metcalf, Vice President
Brenda Koch, Treasurer

Peter Nastasi, Vice President

Herbert Roff, Vice President
Lahna Kaufman, Secretary