

# GTA TODAY

By Don Pallozzi  
May 2006

**Teacher Recognition:** Tuesday was teacher recognition day and it goes without saying that our members deserve that and more. Your dedication and professionalism have never been more evident than this past year – Thank you.

**Golden Apple Award:** It gives me great pleasure to announce our Golden Apple Award winner, Mr. Jerry Hickey of West Ridge School. Though never an easy decision this year was particularly difficult. Jerry has distinguished himself as an outstanding educator who has engendered tremendous respect from students, families and colleagues. Jerry's humor, compassion, and genuine regard for his students and colleagues surfaced frequently in his nominating letters. We are very fortunate to work with a consummate professional. Jerry will be recognized at Rep Assembly on May 31 at 4:00.

**Tuition Reimbursement:** The Association and the District have dealt with many snags in tuition reimbursement. St. John Fisher has agreed to a payment program that obligates our members to sign a release allowing Fisher to send grades to the District and the District will cover incurred expenses. If you do not have a grade posted by the college the District will not reimburse, however this should avoid most of the issues we have had with prompt payment and late fees. Human Resources will be sending a memo with the exact procedures. We will continue to work on problems with the U of R and Nazareth.

**Transfer Process:** We have had numerous phone calls regarding the transfer process. In our meetings with the District we both agree seniority prevails when filling unencumbered positions. With many of our TOSA's and mentors returning to the classroom this process became a bit more challenging but we have been able to correct mistakes when we've been notified. If you have questions about your preference sheet or assignment please contact the office.

**Negotiations Update:** Dr. Josephine Kehoe joined the bargaining teams in two days of training on Interest Based Bargaining. Our scheduled sessions are set for 5/24, 6/4, 6/5 and 6/13. Look for updates on the gold *Negotiations Updates*.

**Golf Tournament:** We currently have foursomes from Pine Brook, Athena Middle, Kirk Road, Arcadia, Olympia, West Ridge and a hole sponsorship by English Village. Our goal is to have every building represented with golfers or sponsorship. Also if you know of a business that would be interested in sponsoring the tournament please let me know. As you know the proceeds go to scholarships and GEF grants. Thanks to those participating so far and we look forward to the rest of our buildings' involvement.

**Happy Hour:** Friday June 2 at Bogey's – Hope to see you there.