COVENTRY TEACHERS ALLIANCE

NEWSLETTER

A Union of Professionals

Meet Our Executive Board:

Kelly Erinakes - President
Debra Lathrop - VP Elementary
Joe Fargnoli - VP Secondary
Michaela Keenan - Secretary
Greg Wightman - Treasurer
Sue Toohey-Kaye - Professional Development
Ted Mitchell - Public Relations

Donna Beaudoin - CHS Rep.
John Kelly - CHS Rep.
Matt Paiva - CHS Rep.
Christine Conklin - ASFMS Rep.
Derek Larguinho - ASFMS Rep.
Jennifer Limoges - Western Rep.
Kyla Tibets - Western Rep.
Tara D'Aleno - Tiogue Rep.
Julie Marran - Hopkins Hill Rep.
Kristin Hill - Washington Oak Rep.
Michelle Gallagher - Washington Oak Rep.
Helen Tiernan - Blackrock Rep.

Membership Meeting Dates:

March 14th
May 9th

My Favorite Teacher
Matthew McConaughey

My Favorite Teacher
Celebrities Sharing How Teachers Made a Difference!

The AFT sponsored a project started by a fellow union member and social studies teacher, Nicholas Ferroni. He has been featured in People Magazine and on the Today Show.
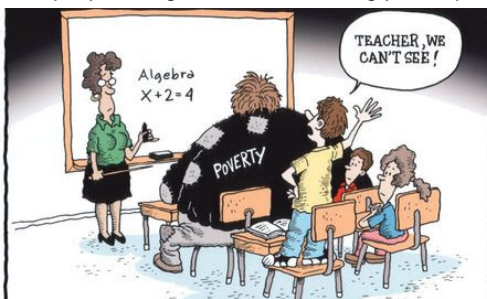
"It's humbling to do these "My Favorite Teacher" interviews with influential public figures around the country because it reminds us that our impact will stay with these kids throughout their lifetimes."

Check out some of these videos as a reminder of how you all make a difference in so many lives!

Click here for Nicholas's YouTube page

Poverty & Student Performance

Test scores, test scores, test scores! While we truly want our students to perform better on RICAS each year, it is frustrating to see how many of our kids don't perform at standard. The NEA recently posted an interesting article about our poor Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) performance against other OECD countries. At first look, the US doesn't do well comparatively. But when poverty rates are factored in, our schools perform better or equal to the other nations. Meaning, our more affluent students outperform or meet the performance of kids internationally. Consider that RIDE controls both Providence and Central Falls. Their students "not meeting" and "partially meeting" on the RICAS ELA test were at 84.9% and 92.9% respectively, compared Coventry's 60.8%. Not surprisingly, the students in the affluent town of Barrington comparatively performed at 31%. (See article on these scores)
If politicians really wanted to boost scores, they'd pass legislation combating poverty.

INTRODUCING
THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY ACT

Black History Month is a chance, as a country, to recognize and celebrate the achievements of Black Americans, to examine and reckon with our past, and to reaffirm our commitment to teaching honest history for our future. But this hasn't been easy. Extremists across the country have been working to ban books and rewrite history, gut social studies curriculums, prosecute educators for teaching the truth, threaten students' freedom to learn, and take away our voice on the job by attacking our unions.

It is our duty as educators to stand up to this extremism. And it is vital to our future that we understand our past.

That's why it's so important that Congress passes the African American History Act (S. 233 and H.R. 765), to invest in the educational resources to teach honest history in our schools.

Please fill out this **FORM** to write your representative.

AFTaction

CTA Newsletter

For the Record: Martin Luther King Advocated for Unions

"The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress. Out of its bold struggles, economic and social reform gave birth to unemployment insurance, old age pensions, government relief for the destitute, and, above all, new wage levels that meant not mere survival but a tolerable life."
- Martin Luther King, Jr. speaking to the AFL-CIO

The civil rights leader we celebrate this month was inducted into Local 10 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

King campaigned against "right to work" laws saying that they would destroy the freedom to collective bargaining. "Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer, and there are no civil rights..." (1961)

(Continued)

Martin Luther King, Jr. understood the value of unions in raising wages for all workers to afford a comfortable life. In a 1968 speech, he said, "What does it profit a man to be able to eat at an integrated lunch counter if he doesn't earn enough money to buy a hamburger and a cup of coffee?"

In his campaign for civil rights, Martin Luther King, Jr. saw the value and how essential unions were to the same end goal of providing dignity to all workers, both black and white. He continued in his speech to the AFL-CIO, saying that "[o]ur needs are identical with labor's needs: decent wages, fair working conditions, livable housing, old-age security, health and welfare measures, conditions in which families can grow, have education for their children, and respect in the community. That is why Negroes support labor's demands and fight laws which curb labor."

The night before King was assassinated he spoke to a group of striking sanitation workers arguing for financial justice and fairer wages.

RIFT 2024 | 10 Trauma Informed Strategies to Help Students Heal

Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals 2024 Virtual PD Series

10 Trauma Informed Instruction Strategies to Help Students Heal February 6th - March 7th, 2024

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how adversity can impact children's developing brains, bodies and behaviors, and explore strategies that promote healing from various traumatic events and circumstances.

This course can be taken as separate modules or as an entire course. It is highly recommended that if you do not intend to take the entire course, you should, at a minimum, complete both sessions of the module/s that you choose.

The February – March offering of the Trauma Informed Instruction course is being offered free of charge as we continue to pilot the most effective method for delivering it. To take advantage of this opportunity, please register no later than January 30th .

[Register Here](#)

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