



August 17, 2010

Dear WTU Member:

As you may know, the WTU constitution requires the election of officers every three years, with the term of office for those elected starting on July 1 of the election year (July 1, 2010). Unfortunately, through a series of errors—starting with the failure to elect by secret ballot an election committee—the process has been unduly delayed and, with it, the members’ right to elect their officers and other representatives has been denied.

Earlier this month, the executive council of the American Federation of Teachers became involved, for the second time, and issued an order directing the Washington Teachers’ Union to restart the process to give members an opportunity to elect officers to lead your local. The order was issued based upon an investigation into matters related to the WTU internal elections. The investigation included a hearing that provided an opportunity for members and officers of the WTU to be heard. The order resolved the many concerns that had surfaced—including procedural violations to the WTU constitution, an internal dispute over whether the WTU executive board or the elections committee had the authority to schedule the election, and election scheduling delays that had threatened members’ rights to elect leaders.

I have received written notice that the leadership and executive board of the WTU have refused to comply with the order issued by the AFT executive council. This noncompliance constitutes a denial of the democratic right of WTU members to participate in a timely, fair and transparent election process. None of us has the right to overrule or subjugate the democratic rights of any member of your union or any other union. For this reason, the AFT executive council has voted to place the WTU into an administratorship for the purpose of conducting the internal election.

In accordance with the directions of the AFT executive council, the election process started earlier this month, beginning with an Aug. 3 mailing to members that provided notice of nominations for all open positions. Because this essentially “restarted” the clock, the April 30 petition deadline is no longer operative; therefore, any candidate may submit nominating petitions for any open office, **until Sept. 3 when the nominations period closes**. Again, the AFT will take charge of overseeing the local’s internal election. We will engage the services of the American Arbitration Association, a neutral third party, which will conduct the balloting process for the internal election.

American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Healthcare

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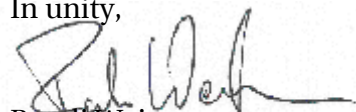


Anyone who was an active WTU member in good standing as of June 30, 2010, is eligible to participate in the election. This election will include a vote for officers, executive board members, trustees, delegates to the Metropolitan Washington Council, and delegates to the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO. Challenge procedures with respect to rights to vote will be considered and implemented as appropriate.

Please direct any questions related to the WTU elections to Al Squire, director of the AFT's Southern Region, at 202/393-5673. Every candidate will have the right to observers and to make challenges as they see fit.

Our priority is upholding and protecting the rights of all members to have their voices heard.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randi Weingarten", written over a light gray grid background.

Randi Weingarten  
AFT President

cc: George Parker, WTU President  
WTU executive board