

On Oct. 11, 2007, Steve Nardozzi led a discussion of benefits available to adjuncts at WCC. His focus was on benefits available to us when we join the union. Included in the benefits he discussed were a vision plan that provides eyeglasses and contact lenses, reduced rates on auto and home insurance, life insurance, a legal plan and discounts on travel and purchases. He encouraged us to visit the state-wide union website at www.nysut.org and click on the Members Benefits Trust link (lower left). If you would like brochures on some of these topics you can also contact him at steve.nardozzi@sunywcc.edu

A benefit through WCC is the right to join a pension plan, STRS (State Teacher's Retirement System). Under state law, all adjuncts are eligible for this pension plan. There was some discussion as to whether adjuncts are given information about this at hire; there was evidence presented that adjuncts are given a letter by HR informing them that they can waive the right to the pension plan participation. Steve and Anne D'Orazio will continue to look into this issue on behalf of all adjuncts. Remember to continue to check the website www.WCCFT.org for updates on this.

Further discussion revolved around how to increase participation by adjuncts in the union. It is only through increasing membership that we can hope to make some headway with the administration during this year's negotiation process as we move toward a new contract.

Finally, the question of how adjuncts can access healthcare at group prices was raised. This is not a benefit available to us at this time. WCCFT will be exploring options and is working with the state level union leadership to determine if a consortium among other area colleges is a viable alternative.