

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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Tough ALJ smoke ban to discipline students, staff

by Pat DiMaggio

Smoking will be prohibited at Arthur L. Johnson High School beginning January 1 for students and staff members alike with the implementation of a new policy approved by the Regional Board of Education.

A policy prohibiting smoking in the Regional District was approved for final reading by a vote of 8-0 at the board's December 6 meeting. One board member was absent.

The new policy prohibits any staff member from smoking on school grounds or any Board of Education property including school sites, on athletic fields, in buildings owned by the board or on contracted vehicles.

The ban pertains to teachers, teacher aides, administrators, supervisors, interpreters, secretaries,

clerks, custodians, maintenance staff, cafeteria employees, bus drivers and all other employees of the district as well as vendors or consultants who may be employed by the board.

The board explained its reasons for the ban in a statement preceding provisions and penalties of the policy. "Smoking is considered a medically unacceptable practice," read the statement. "It has been linked to the acquisition of a number of serious health problems which may be life threatening. In order to discourage students from acquiring or continuing the habit of smoking, to provide an improved health environment in the schools and promote general well-being of staff in the workplace, all smoking is being banned within the Regional District High Schools. "If staff members are per-

mitted to smoke at the same time that students are restricted from this practice," the statement continues, "the district would be encouraging a double standard. If smoking is harmful, as the Surgeon General of the United States so indicates, it is harmful to all, regardless of age.

Therefore, the Regional District determines to enforce a similar policy for all — students and staff alike as well as citizens using district facilities. Smoking, as well as the use of all tobacco products and smokeless tobacco, will not be permitted by anyone; i.e., citizens, students or staff members in Regional District facilities, on its property or in its vehicles. A smoke-free school district is the desired goal of this policy."

During the 1988-89 school year, the district will

provide free smoking-cessation programs for any staff member or student who wishes to participate.

Students who smoke will continue to be disciplined for violations by the school administration including six days out-of-school suspension for the first offense or two days of Saturday/Sun-

day Sunday school which may include work service at the school plus loss of privilege of bus transportation for 10 school days and encouragement to voluntarily participate in a student smoke cessation program.

A second offense will draw nine days of out-of-school suspension or three

days of Saturday/Sunday school work plus loss of bus transportation for one semester and voluntary participation in a smoking cessation program.

A third offense will draw superintendent's probation which may include work service at the school and

total restriction from bus transportation as well as mandatory participation in a student smoking cessation program.

Violation of the policy by staff members will draw a penalty for the first violation of a verbal reprimand by the staff member's immediate superior with notifi-

ication of the violation to the building principal. A second offense will lead to a written reprimand from the principal with a copy filed in the personnel folder. More than two violations will be considered as a violation of Board of Education policy. A half-day's salary will be deducted, on each occasion, from the pay of the employee.

School districts in Summit and Bridgewater are considering implementation of similar policies beginning in 1989 and the Lenape Valley Regional High School district in Sussex County currently has a ban-on-smoking policy in effect, according to Thomas Long, assistant to the superintendent for public relations.

County regional eyes 3G prize for top teacher

by Pat DiMaggio

The Union County Regional Board of Education, at its December 6 meeting, once again voted to participate in the Governor's Teaching Recognition Program in which staff members are honored for excellence.

The program, now in its 4th year, has awarded grants of \$1,000 to outstanding teachers. This year, the grant has been raised to \$3,000 to be used to benefit the school in which the teacher is employed.

Each year, four exemplary teachers are selected, one teacher from each school in the Regional District. Teachers are nominated by a panel of nine selected from the staff. The Board of Education selects three members for this panel and the American Federation of Teachers, Local 3417, also selects three members. The remaining three members would be selected by these six members.

Nominations of outstanding teachers may be made by the teaching staff, administration staff, parents, students and community members. The panel would then review the names of the nominees, and the personnel records of the candidates would be examined in confidence by the superintendent.

The panel would then recommend to the Board of Education one outstanding teacher from each of the four Regional High Schools. Selection would be based upon significant contributions through teaching

during the 1987-88 school year.

Teachers from Arthur L. Johnson High School honored in the past include John Aragona, selected in 1982, Stephen Signa, selected in 1987 and Douglas Felter, honored in 1986.

Selected to the panel were Charles Bauman, assistant superintendent and Dr. Martin Siegel, director of curriculum, who will represent the administration; Margaret Hough, who will represent the Board of Education; John Aragona, Dennis Dougherty and Karen Rusin, who will represent the teachers.

The Regional District has also received a grant for alcohol education from the Department of Human Services, County of Union. In accordance with this grant, the board approved employment consultants who will serve as speakers and trainers at workshops to

be conducted at each of the four Regional High Schools.

In other business the board:

— Approved John Mattson, Sandra Hasselman and Nancy Dougherty as bedside instructors.

— Approved the participation of Lorraine Olszewski, student assistance counselor, in the annual conference of the Association of Student Assistance Professionals, December 12-14, in Princeton.

— Approved the employment of Nathan Chin and Edward Koch as custodial assistants for a maximum of three hours a day at a rate of \$4.50 per hour.

— Approved a sabbatical leave of absence for Stephen Signa, effective September 1, 1989 until June 30, 1990 at a salary rate of 50 percent of his 1989-89 salary.

Clark's Dr. Wu named Chief Resident

Dr. Chi Mei Wu, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. T. Wu of Lance Drive, Clark, was recently named Chief Resident of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Dr. Wu is a Diplomate of the National Board of Medi-

cal Examiners and received her Doctor of Medicine degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1985. She is a graduate of Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark and received her bachelor's degree in natural science and psychology from Johns Hopkins University.



GERMAN-AMERICANS... Members of the Clark Deutscher Club gather on a lawn in the nation's capital awaiting dedication of the German-American Friendship Garden on the grounds of the Washington Monument, November 15.

Deutscher Club members attend high-level site dedication in nation's capital

Over 100 members of the Deutscher Club of Clark attended last month's German-American Friendship Garden dedication ceremony, held on the Washington Monument grounds, in 1985, President Reagan had first dedicated the site, located on Constitution Ave. between the south lawn of the White House and the Washington Monument.

At last month's ceremony, President Reagan and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl were both on hand to speak on German contributions to American society.

The U.S. Air Force Band played the National Anthems of both countries. The Children's Choir of the German School of Washington, D.C. sang "Oh, du Schoener Rosengarten."

The Honorable Jurgen Ruhfus, Ambassador of West Germany, gave a speech on the great state of German-American relations. Charles Wick gave the welcome. William Handeler also spoke, as did Mrs. Ruth Denk, who co-chairs the Presidential Commission for the German-American Bicentennial.

9 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT TILL CHRISTMAS

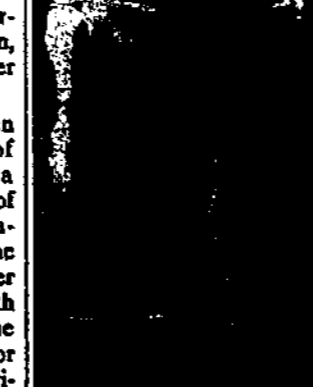
Seventh District Congressman Matthew Rinaldo called the day "A great day for German-American friendship and fellowship."

Mrs. Kohl cut the ribbon to formally open the garden. She handed out pieces of the ribbon colored red, white and blue for America and gold, red and black for West

Germany and gave them to the audience as mementos of the occasion.

"It took five years of determined work to see the day's event come to fruition and a fine time was had by all as drinks and refreshments were served," the spokesman concluded.

DUAL RIBBON... Frau Helmut Kohl (checked suit), wife of West Germany's Chancellor, gets help cutting the ribbon(s) to mark the opening of a German-American Friendship Garden in Washington D.C., November 15. The dual ribbon represented the tricolors of the U.S.A. and West Germany respectively. Over 100 members of the Clark Deutscher Club attended.



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Clark VFW post slates New Year's Party

John L. Ruddy VFW Post 7363 of Clark, has scheduled a New Year's Eve party for Saturday, Dec. 31 at the post home at #6 Broadway. The affair will begin with a cocktail hour from 8 to 9 p.m. which will include hors d'oeuvres.

There will be a hot and cold buffet with five hot dishes and various salads, pastry, beverages, etc., and an open bar. Decoy "Tommy Tonight" will provide "music for all ages."

There will also be entertainment and, of course, the traditional hats and noisemakers.

The donation is \$20 per person. Reservations for eight or 10 per table may be made by contacting Jim Whalen at 388-1810, or at the post bar after 6 p.m. (Call Joe Cheira, 574-8384).

The committee chairman is Gene Kobliaka, who can be reached at 388-2888.

Clark lawyer named to professorship

Betsy G. Liebman of the law firm of Capehart and Scatchard, has been named an assistant professor of law at Rutgers School of Law in Camden.

A native of Clark, Lieb-

man received her undergraduate degree from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and her law degree from the Vanderbilt School in Tennessee.



DWI PREVENTION... Petrolman James Costanza (center) of the Morris Township Police Department is explaining the procedures followed during a Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) arrest, as part of a multi-media program recently presented to the Physical Education and Health classes at the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark. Ptl. Costanza and his colleagues present programs like this to raise student awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving, at high schools throughout the state.