

SGTA Executive Board

March Newsletter

March 30, 2016

George Shaw: Class of '63

A lovely thing happened recently. Through our website, a wonderful man named George Shaw, class of 1963 from Scotia-Glenville, got in touch with us and I had the privilege of meeting him. He received the Leslie Kenny award in 1963, the third recipient of this award ever. This is the scholarship that our union continues to support each year to a graduating senior for \$1,500. He has offered to double this scholarship for this June and will leave us the money to continue doing this for as long as he is able, in honor of Miss Picard and to pay forward her generosity. George Shaw has asked for no recognition, but I feel compelled to tell you about him.

George Shaw graduated from Scotia-Glenville High School in 1963. George grew up in Scotia and attended Lincoln Elementary School before attending the high school. He wanted to attend the University of Rochester to study science. Miss Picard, unbeknownst to George, set up an anonymous account at a local bank to make this happen for him. She loaned him the money, interest free for as long as he needed it so that he could attend this college. George now wants to pay this generosity forward by supporting a senior high school student in Miss Picard's honor. George graduated from the University of Rochester and went on to get his master's degree and his doctorate. He was a professor at Union College until his retirement five years ago and is a published author in the field of geology. He is currently writing another geology book and continues to support Union College in their desire to begin a geology program.

George says "I can't emphasize enough that teachers often have an influence far greater than they ever learn about."

This June and future years as seniors walk onto that stage to receive the Leslie Kenny/Miss Picard award, we will quietly remember this remarkable man who will have made this moment happen. We will remember George's words about the influence his teachers had on him. We will remember that what we do every day matters.

Sarah Hoffmann
SGTA Director of Communications

Below is a picture from the 1936 Gazette of Miss Picard with school boys working to guide traffic. One of the young boys, Billy McClennan, became a high school Earth Science teacher at Scotia High School.



MILDRED I. PICARD

A memorial service was held for Mildred I. Picard, 67, a Scotia educator and former principal of Lincoln Elementary School at Scotia United Methodist Church with Rev. G. B. Jay, pastor, officiating.

Miss Picard died Dec. 18 in Sun City, Arizona after a long illness.

Born in Groton, she graduated from Groton High School, Cortland Normal, and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Buffalo State University College and a master's degree from Columbia University. She did additional work at Syracuse University and Oneonta State University College.

Miss Picard began her teaching at Mohawk Elementary School in 1932 and taught 5th and 6th grades until 1946, when she was promoted to Elementary Principal of Lincoln School, a position she held until her retirement in 1969.

Miss Picard was widely known for her interest in children, and was sought by many organizations as a consultant on elementary education.

Upon her retirement Miss Picard moved to Sun City where she became active in volunteer work. She was a supporter of Girls' Ranch Auxiliary, Inc. (an organization for girls with problems which offers house parents and guidance facilities). And in 1978 was president of the State Auxiliary of Girls' Ranch.

Mildred Picard's obituary above, George Shaw below



SGTA Executive Board

April Newsletter

April 1, 2016

From the President: Ric DeCarlo, High School

Labor Unions Dodge A Bullet At The Supreme Court

[Dave Jamieson](#) Labor Reporter, The Huffington Post

A split 4-4 decision means public-sector unions can keep their system of collecting fees from workers. Labor unions can breathe a sigh of relief.

On Tuesday, an equally divided Supreme Court affirmed a lower court's ruling in a case that posed an existential threat to public-sector unionism. As a result of the split decision, the system unions use to collect fees from workers will remain intact.

It's unlikely that unions would have survived the case unscathed had Justice Antonin Scalia not died earlier this year, leaving behind an ideologically split court.

In the case, [Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association](#), a group of California school teachers were challenging the legality of what are known as "fair share" fees. Unions must represent all workers in a bargaining unit — even those who don't want representation — so where state law allows it, workers can be required to pay fair share fees to help cover the cost of collective bargaining and fund the union.

The teachers argued that the fees violated their First Amendment rights, since, in their eyes, public-sector unionism is inherently political. Had the court taken the opportunity to strike down fair share fees, [the entire U.S. public sector would have become akin to a right-to-work zone](#). Hundreds of thousands of public-sector workers would have then been able to opt out of funding the unions that represent them.

That, in turn, would have dealt a crushing blow to the labor movement in general, which has been increasingly propped up by public-sector unions in recent years, and the Democratic Party it helps fund.

Scalia, in particular, appeared intent on overturning the decades-old precedent upholding the legality of fair share fees. When the justice died in February, it became clear that the Supreme Court could very well deadlock on the Friedrichs case.

In its [one-page decision](#), the court simply said, "The judgment is affirmed by an equally divided Court."

SGTA NEWS and REMINDERS

1. **Spring Fling** is May 26th at the Turf Tavern . The flyer and RSVP are available on www.sgteachersassociation.com Please consider coming to this wonderful event and honoring our retiring members as well as those receiving tenure this year. It is a totally FREE event!
2. **Aides/Monitors** are now in the negotiations process. They have met with the district and are working through the proposals.
3. **Open Enrollment** will be in May. More information coming soon. Please be on the lookout for this information as this will be your only opportunity to make changes to health care information, flex accounts and dental plans.