



THE UNION SOUND

THE VOICE OF A SOUND UNION



September 2023

Rondout Valley Federation of Teachers and School-Related Professionals

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Here's to 50 Years Graphic by Tara Thibault-Edmonds	1
RVF Leadership Info Graphic by Tara Thibault-Edmonds	2
Get Connected by Robyn McDonough and Jennifer Slauson	3
Delegate Update by Robyn McDonough	4
RVF Events by Robyn McDonough	5
Walk with NYSUT Graphic by NYSUT	6

The Union Sound

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It's the [50-year Anniversary of the RVF!](#)
Here's to 50 Years of [Solidarity with NYSUT!](#)

WATCH THE FILM



Here is your [2023-2024 Executive Committee](#) and who you can contact in each building.

Officers

President	Rob McDonough (HS)
1st Vice President	Dorothy Mayone (KES)
2nd Vice President	Felice Digennaro (MES)
3rd Vice President	Tara Thibault-Edmonds (HS)
Treasurer	Kim McEvoy (DO)
Secretary	Deb Gottstine (HS)

Building/Unit Representatives

DO Building Representative	Ann Connors
KES Building Representative	Michele Pauley
MES Building Representative	Melissa Feinberg
Intermediate Building Representative	Jennifer Hannis
Junior High Building Representative	Peter Colomer
HS Building Representatives	Renee Balestra Joann Redmond
Clerical Unit Representative	Diana Bracklow (MES)
Paraprofessional Unit Representatives	Elementary - Melissa Frumenti (KES) Main Campus - Cyndi Murphy (HS)
Teacher Unit Representatives	Jill Grasso (IS) Jennifer Slauson (HS) Kim Strauss (KES) Colleen Vitti (JH) Jocelin McNally (MES)

Presidential Appointments

COSH Chair	Krista Kelly
Grievance Chair	Jake Maloney
Political Action Coordinator	Kim McEvoy
Retiree Board Member	Joyce Hengstenberg
<i>The Union Sound</i> Staff	Robyn McDonough (Editor-in-Chief) Jennifer Slauson (Assistant Editor) Tara Thibault-Edmonds (Formatting Editor)

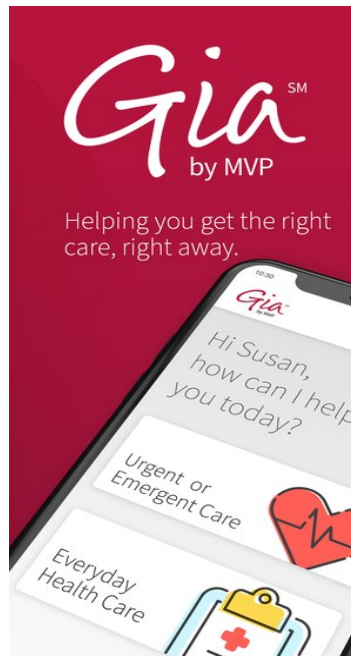
Elected Representatives to State Organizations

NYSUT RA Delegate	Kim McEvoy (2023-2026)
NYSUT RA Alternate	Robyn McDonough (2023-2024)
TRS Delegate and Alternate	Stephanie Peacock and Tara Thibault-Edmonds (2023-2025)

Get Connected through your Union

GIA FOR YOUR HEALTH

Download the [Gia by MVP Mobile Health App](#) for 24/7 virtual care services at your fingertips! Virtual care is a great option when you need to speak with a health care professional quickly or are unable to see a doctor in-person. Try Gia when you have a health question, are unable to get an appointment with your doctor, are out of town, or do not have transportation, can't take time off of work, or don't have child care.



HOW ABOUT THAT NYSUT MAC APP

Take action! Download the [NYSUT Member Action Center App](#) to quickly and easily send letters to your legislators on important issues and upcoming governmental actions. You'll always be ready to respond when NYSUT needs you to do your part.

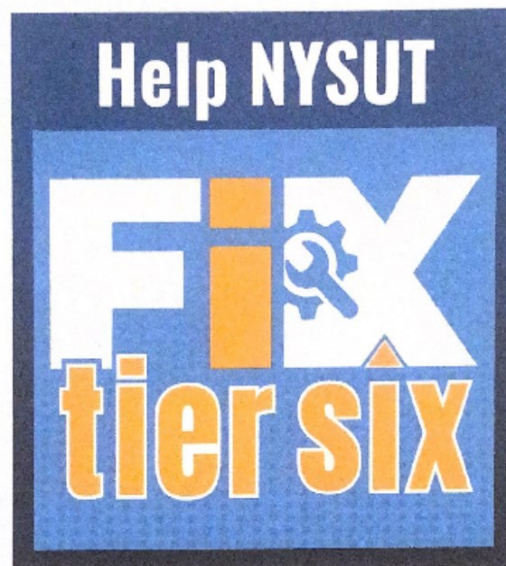


FIX TIER 6 CAMPAIGN

We have much work to do to make public service retirement fair for everyone. Whether you are a retiree or are currently in Tiers 4, 5 or 6, we need you [to get involved](#).

VOTE-COPE ACTION

VOTE-COPE is the political action arm of NYSUT. Most recently, these monies were used to help enact legislation which requires public schools in New York to develop and execute programs to prevent workplace violence. VOTE-COPE contributions can be used to tackle the "Fix Tier 6" campaign and have helped pass the one-time 55/25 retirement incentive about a decade ago. In addition, up to 40% of our VOTE-COPE contributions can be funneled directly back to the RVF for our own local political action items, such as school board elections and budget votes. Please consider giving just \$1-2 per paycheck. If you already donate to VOTE-COPE,



Join the Fix Tier 6 Team

Fixing Tier 6 is about solidarity, equity and dignity. Our work is important. Our pensions should reflect that.



please consider increasing your donation by \$1. [Here is a secure link that will allow you to donate directly to VOTE-COPE through payroll deduction.](#)

NEXT GEN NYSUT

NYSUT now has a dedicated page for our newest members called [Next Generation NYSUT](#). This site was designed to help those new to the field navigate the benefits of being a part of a union and to find helpful information as they start their careers.

If you know someone who is pursuing a career in education, tell them they can sign up to become a Student Member of NYSUT! Student membership requirements are simple: be a full- or part-time student in an education-focused program in New York State and be interested in pursuing a career in the education field. That's it! Learn more by visiting the [NYSUT website](#).

Delegate Update

Your R/VF-Elected Delegates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly recently attended an ED-13 meeting at the NYSUT Office in Kingston. Updates of what was discussed are featured throughout this issue of The Union Sound. Pictured from left to right: Kim McEvoy, NYSUT Executive Vice President Jaime Ciffone, Tara Thibault-Edmonds and Robyn McDonough.



HAPPY UNION-MADE HALLOWEEN!

UNION-MADE CANDY:

List Compiled by the AFL-CIO

Annabelle Candy Company Abba-Zaba peanut Big Hunk Rocky Road S'mores	Hershey Products* Hershey's Kisses Hershey's Nuggets Hugs
American Licorice Red Vines Black Licorice Red Vines Red Vines Ropes, all flavors	Pearson's Candy Mint Patties Nut Goodie Salted Nut Roll
Bachman Jax Cheese Curls Keystone Party Mix Pretzels	Sconza Chocolates Boston Baked Beans Jaw Breakers Jordan Almonds
Ferrero Butterfinger Laffy Taffy Nestlé Crunch	See's Candies Brittles and toffees Candy bars Lollypops

*Union-made only if produced in the West Hershey plant in Hershey, Pennsylvania.





American
Cancer
Society

MAKING
STRIDES
AGAINST BREAST CANCER

nysut
A Union of Professionals

WALK WITH NYSUT

**JOIN YOUR HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY IN THE MOVEMENT TO
SAVE LIVES AND END BREAST CANCER THIS OCTOBER.**



To sign up or donate, scan or visit
MakingStridesWalk.org/NYSUT

OCT
15

Sunday, October 15, 2023
7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
**Woodbury Common
Premium Outlets**
498 Red Apple Ct.
Central Valley, NY 10917

QUESTIONS? I'M HERE TO HELP!



Kristi Greco

Senior Development Manager
Kristi.Greco@cancer.org

WE ARE THE MOVEMENT.

Over the past two decades, our 3- to 5-mile walks have collectively grown into the nation's largest and most impactful breast cancer movement.

WE ARE THE HOPE.

Since 1993, American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer® events have celebrated survivors and thrivers, bringing people together to help end cancer as we know it, for everyone.

WE ARE THE FUTURE.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer funds lifesaving breast cancer research and is committed to advancing health equity. It is our belief that all people have a fair and just opportunity to live a longer, healthier life free from breast cancer.

MAKINGSTRIDESWALK.ORG/NYSUT



24/7 Support: 1.800.227.2345



Kristi.Greco@cancer.org



Local Number: 845.781.6131

Back to school can mean a lot of different things:

- *Starting a new career*
- *Planning for the future*
- *Balancing work and home life*
- *Making difficult decisions*
- *Enjoying your final year before retirement*
- *Recalling memories of a proud career*

Regardless of what you might be doing this fall, **NYSUT Member Benefits** offers a variety of endorsed programs and services that could help make you as prepared as possible for whatever the new school year may throw at you.

Whether you are looking to save money, protect your family, or plan for the future, **NYSUT Member Benefits** is a great place to start. With dozens of endorsed insurance, legal, financial, shopping, travel, and discount programs, you are certain to find something of interest that could benefit you or your loved ones.

And speaking of savings, the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to offer all NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) exclusive access to savings of up to 50% at 850,000 locations -- including more than 21,200 New York State deals. If you have not already done so, head over to mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com to create your account with your NYSUT ID number, preferred email address, and password.

You'll then be eligible to save on restaurant dine-in or take-out, flowers and gift baskets, Bose electronics, clothing and shoes, oil changes and vehicle maintenance, sporting events, hotels and flights, car rentals, theme parks, movie tickets, and much more. Members are encouraged to download the MB Discounts & Deals mobile app for the best user experience with this program.

Check out all your union membership has to offer!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

