



THE UNION SOUND

THE VOICE OF A SOUND UNION



Mar./Apr. 2025

Rondout Valley Federation of Teachers and School-Related Professionals

Volume 49, Issue 4

Our Students, Our School, Our Community **NEEDS YOUR SCHOOL BUDGET YES VOTE**

Rondout Valley schools are a place where childhood happens and where our futures are formed. Please support our public schools so they can remain the center of our beautiful community.



The 25-26 budget maintains all programs and extracurriculars

VOTE YES ☒

Tuesday, May 20th



RONDOUT VALLEY FEDERATION
OF TEACHERS & SCHOOL-RELATED PROFESSIONALS



IN THIS ISSUE:

RV Budget Vote by Jacob Maloney & Robert McDonough	1
NYSUT RA by Robyn McDonough	2
RSVP for Union Events Graphics by Tara Thibault-Edmonds & NYSUT	3
Highway Clean-up Photos by Renee Balestra & Kim McEvoy	4

The Union Sound

Editor-in-Chief:
Robyn McDonough

Assistant Editors:
Jennifer Slauson,
Tara Thibault-Edmonds

President:
Robert McDonough

Contributors:
Renee Balestra,
Jacob Maloney,
Robert McDonough,
Robyn McDonough,
Kim McEvoy,
Tara Thibault-Edmonds

RVF Reps at the NYSUT RA



Celebrating Excellence
Among Our Members



Pictured are your elected delegates in attendance at the 2025 NYSUT Representative Assembly in Rochester, NY: Robyn McDonough, Tara Thibault-Edmonds, Robert McDonough, and Kim McEvoy

RSVP for Upcoming Union Events

YANKEES NYSUT DAY

SEPT. 7, 2025 | 1:35 PM EDT

Join Your Union Colleagues at Yankee Stadium!

Exclusive for Members & Families

40%
Off Tickets



FREE
Commemorative Hat

**SATURDAY
MAY 31, 2025
3 PM - 6 PM**

RVF RETIREMENT GATHERING

**BUFFET DINNER ON THE HILL WITH CASH BAR,
RECOGNITION AND GIFTS FOR OUR 2025 RETIREES,
AND TIME TO RELAX WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!**

**STONE HOUSE TAVERN
4802 ROUTE 209
ACCORD, NY**

SAVE THE DATE



MID-HUDSON

NYSUT

LET'S
RALLY
TO

FIX tier six

WHAT:

March & Rally to Fix Tier 6

WHEN:

Friday, June 6, 2025 ~ 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

WHERE:

Walkway Over the Hudson
87 Haviland Road
Highland, NY 12528

All attendees are directed to join us on the WEST side of the Walkway Over the Hudson. We will march to the middle of the bridge to rally.



WHY:

BRIDGING THE GAP TO FIX TIER 6!

This year, we will be continuing to advocate for changes to the state pension system. We're making incremental changes to Tiers 5 and 6 so they reach parity with the benefits Tier 4 members enjoy.

Join NYSUT, other union members, and elected officials as we stand in solidarity because **WE WON'T QUIT UNTIL WE FIX TIER 6!**

RSVP:

bit.ly/2025MHROFixTier6



**SCAN
ME!**



RVF Spring Highway Clean-up



Our spring 2025 Highway Cleanup on Route 209 was a success! Twenty-three people showed up to help, which is the most we have had to date. Afterwards, sixteen members went to the High Falls Cafe for appetizers, drinks, and conversation. Thank you to all the RVF members [and their family members] who showed up to make this event a huge success!



NYSUT members have access to programs and services from NYSUT Member Benefits that can help them save money, protect their family, and assist with planning for the future.

With our **Legal Service Plan**, you will receive crucial estate planning documents (Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Power of Attorney); free attorney consultations; and guaranteed maximum fees for personal legal matters. Plan participants receive guaranteed hourly rates along with discounted prices for referral attorneys.

Our **Financial Counseling Program** offers access to certified financial planners that provide fee-based financial counseling services. Participants can get help with retirement planning, 403(b) & 457(b) plan advice, debt management, savings, budgeting, and more.

Check out **Synchrony Bank** for some of today's most competitive interest rates on certificates of deposit, money market, and savings accounts. An optional automated savings program (which makes transfers from your checking account at another bank to your money market or savings account at Synchrony Bank) is an easy way to build your balances in higher-earning accounts.

Our online **Financial Learning Center - powered by Kiplinger's Personal Finance** - offers numerous articles designed to assist NYSUT members with achieving their personal financial goals and better understand the nuances of insurance, savings, investing, and more. This free resource is updated on a monthly basis.

Do you have student loan or general debt concerns? Our **Cambridge Credit Counseling program** is available at no cost to assist NYSUT members with better understanding general debt consolidation and student loan repayment options. Members can take part in a free consultation with a certified Cambridge counselor or sign up for a no-cost student loan debt webinar provided by Cambridge.

Take back your financial independence and protect your family for whatever the future may bring.

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

