



THE UNION SOUND

THE VOICE OF A SOUND UNION



Nov./Dec. 2025

Rondout Valley Federation of Teachers and School-Related Professionals

Volume 50, Issue 2

Holiday Gathering Brings Joy



The RVF Holiday Party at Creekside Bar and Bistro was a well-attended evening of laughter and camaraderie. Members gathered after work on Tuesday, December 9 to share food, conversation, and a little bit of holiday spirit and joy in the midst of a very busy time of year.

(Photos by Robert McDonough)



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The Union Sound

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History Corner

by Jennifer Slauson

YEAR IN REVIEW

Chicago Teachers Seal a Deal, No Strike Needed:

A four-year contract brought raises, class-size limits, and staffing gains. They're proof that steady pressure delivers.

Utah Teachers Get Their Voice Back:

After strong pushback, lawmakers repealed a 2025 ban on collective bargaining, restoring union rights for educators and other public workers.

Starbucks Workers Take the Fight Nationwide:

Baristas continue to stir the pot and expand a month-long strike to dozens of cities, keeping the pressure on for fair pay, staffing, and a first contract.

Museum Workers Win Holiday-Season Gains:

Chicago museum staff ratified their first contract just in time for winter break, securing raises, better holiday pay, and workplace protections.

Keep the Momentum - Fix Tier 6:

Here at home, the fight to Fix Tier 6 continues across New York. Last spring, RVF members proudly joined the Fix Tier 6 rally on the Walkway Over the Hudson, standing alongside educators and labor allies from across the region. Whether you're a classroom veteran or newer to our profession, this issue affects all of us. Visit FixTier6.org to find upcoming actions, connect with the campaign, and use your voice in 2026 - because together, we can!

2025 WRAPPED



LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 RA



RALLIES TO FIX TIER 6



CONTRACT WINS



WINS AT THE BALLOT BOX



**IMPROVEMENTS TO WORKING
AND LEARNING CONDITIONS**



Thank you to those who came out on November 7th for our Highway Cleanup to help keep our community clean! (Photo by Ziheem Edmonds)

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celebrates

HANUKKAH

We hope your holiday is filled with warmth and surrounded by loved ones!

This

HOLIDAY SEASON

BUY UNION-MADE

Apparel and Accessories

- American Roots
- Macy's
- Ray-Ban Sunglasses

Beauty Products

- Avon
- ChapStick
- Dove
- L'Oréal
- Old Spice

Games and Toys

- Candy Land
- Hasbro products
- Scrabble
- Cards Against Humanity

Kitchen and Homeware

- Fiesta
- Cutco
- All Clad

Stocking Stuffers

- BIC lighters
- Colectivo Coffee
- Ghirardelli Chocolate
- Hershey's chocolates
- Jelly Belly candies

Sporting

- American Athletic (Russell Brands)
- Sporting events by professional athletes (like MLBPA, MLSA, NHLPA, NFLPA and WNBA)

Did you know? We have a new program to offer members exclusive discounts on sports, theater and entertainment across New York!

NYSUT

Together

The union that plays together...



PACK YOUR BAGS AND SAVE!



With Member Benefits

Do the colder temperatures have you longing for a little getaway?

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses several programs that can help with all your travel plans, including MB Discounts & Deals, Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel, and Purchasing Power.

MB Discounts & Deals offers NYSUT members exclusive access to savings at over 850,000 popular hotels and resorts worldwide along with flights, vehicle rentals, theme parks and attractions, Broadway shows and museums, sporting events and concerts, movie tickets, ski tickets, restaurant dine-in or take-out, and so much more. If you have not already done so, you can create an account at mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com with a preferred email address, a password, and your seven-digit NYSUT ID number (which can be found at nysut.org/memberid).

Does your bucket list include taking an unforgettable excursion to Asia, the South Pacific, Mediterranean, Africa, Europe, or numerous other destinations? NYSUT members save at least \$150 per person on published

Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel tours along with the opportunity to save thousands per trip with additional discounts and savings. GCT & OAT provide the chance to become fully immersed in the culture of the region you are visiting, including lesser-known locations that most Americans never get to experience. Discovery opportunities, activities, and educational discussions are included with each trip.

With **Purchasing Power**, eligible NYSUT members can package their entire vacation together – including hotels, flights, attractions, vacation rentals, and cruises – while paying over 12 months through payroll deduction or Automated Clearing House (ACH) withdrawals. Purchasing Power is not a discount program, but offers no credit check and no down payments; it serves as an option over traditional financing options like high-interest credit cards.



Explore all that is available to you from Member Benefits by scanning the QR code, visiting mb-nysut.org/travelmb, or calling 800-626-8101.