



# THE UNION SOUND

THE VOICE OF A SOUND UNION



Nov./Dec. 2022

**Rondout Valley Federation of Teachers and School-Related Professionals**

Volume 47, Issue 2



## HER FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT

by Beth Corl

September 25, 2022, was a gray day—a Sunday, nothing spectacular as far as weather goes—but a beautiful day for friends and family converging in Rockland County to walk for their loved ones. A bunch of us drove down to Rockland Lake State Park for the Walk for PKD. It wasn't a political agenda. It was a walk to support one of our RVF members who has polycystic kidney disease. I had never heard of it until my long time friend, Debbie Morris, shared her story with me. At Rockland Lake State Park, there were children and adults alike supporting those who either have this disease or someone they love who has it. At the event,

*Continued on Page 3*



*Beth Corl (far right) and Wendy Rooney (second from right) joined our Union family member Debbie Morris (center, in tie-dye) at the Walk for PKD.*



### IN THIS ISSUE:

Her Fight is Our Fight by Beth Corl	<b>1, 3</b>
President's Message by Robert McDonough	<b>2</b>
Union-Made Gifts Graphic by AFL-CIO	<b>3</b>
NYSUT Peer Support Line Graphic by NYSUT	<b>4</b>

### The Union Sound

**Editor-in-Chief:**  
Robyn McDonough

**Assistant Editors:**  
Jennifer Slauson,  
Tara Thibault-Edmonds

**President:**  
Robert McDonough

**Contributors:**  
Beth Corl,  
Robert McDonough

## President's Message

by Robert McDonough

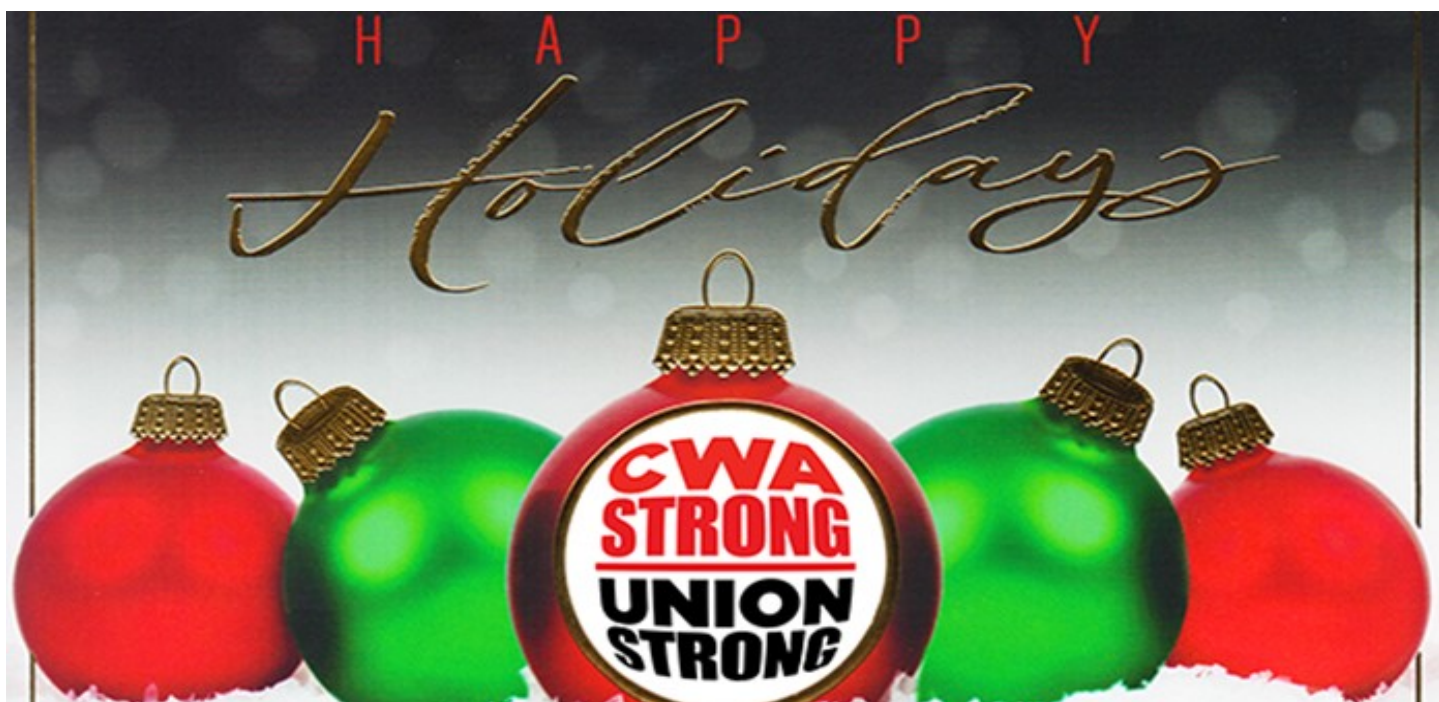
Another calendar year is in the books. I can't believe it is almost 2023. I don't know if you feel the way I do, but at this stage of my life, it feels like the days are long and the years are short. I remember two years ago in the heart of the pandemic, it felt like that moment would never end. And yet here we all are, two years later, still doing what we do ... educating children. The RVF has also been very busy during this time.

Some of you, like myself, have been here long enough to remember the days of the past, where it took two years or more to settle a contract. During those years with no contract, the District used stall tactics in order to get out of giving us a raise. But with the arrival of our current superintendent came a willingness to work together. Dr. Morgan and I decided five years ago that we would try to solve problems as a team, not as adversaries. We agreed to try and find common ground and mutually beneficial solutions to every problem. Many years ago, agreeing on an MOA to fix a problem was unheard of. The District would often balk at signing any MOA, and they would save up all the problems for the end of the contract to deal with in negotiations.

This current relationship is different. It is a relationship built on respect and trust. And this is how we have negotiated contracts for our members in less than a week. Last spring we negotiated contracts for the

paraprofessional and teacher units. And this year, we negotiated a five-year contract for the secretary unit. These are very likely the last contracts we will be negotiating with Dr. Morgan, as he will be retiring from education within the next few years. I realize how good we have it right now, and I know that this may not last, depending on who our next superintendent is. Working with Dr. Morgan and solving problems as they arise has been very satisfying. We are currently in the midst of creating a new evaluation system for our school counselors and related service providers that will be more representative of the work they all do every day. The District has been very fair in these discussions, as well.

Another year is over, and as we approach the holidays and new year, please focus on the good things that we have done. This is a hard profession and it is easy to focus on the negative and frustrating things when we drive home each day. Focusing on the good things is a conscious choice that we all must make. We must not let the frustrating parts of the job define the job itself. We have an employer that respects the work that we do. We have a strong union dedicated to improving all our members' lives. And we all have safe and secure long-term contracts that range in length from four to five years. We have much to be thankful for and proud of. Please keep those thoughts in your mind as we head into 2023. Enjoy your time off with friends and family and I hope you all get to recharge your batteries. Happy holidays and see you all in the new year.

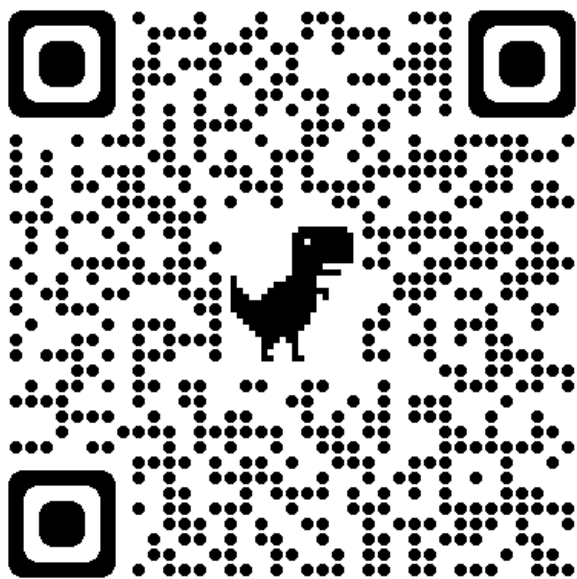




## Her Fight is Our Fight, cont.

there were t-shirts, snacks, and raffle ticket prizes for all that came. People spoke about their personal journeys or about a loved one with PKD. It was an emotional and inspiring day.

Debbie has been in treatment for polycystic kidney disease for several years. As a result of this disease, she has developed cysts on her liver and is now in need of a liver transplant. She has been a valued RVF member and exceptional teacher at the high school for many years. If any member is interested in becoming a donor, they must be a willing adult between the ages of 18 and 59, be in good general mental and physical health, have a compatible blood type, and a BMI less than or equal to 35. To access the online donor form, please visit [Live Liver](#). Additional information about liver transplants can be found at the [Living Donor](#) website. Please consider seeing if you are a match. It may just save a life.



BECOME A  
**LIVER**  
LIVING DONOR!

## UNION-MADE GIFTS

Shipping gifts this year? Make sure to ship using a union carrier like the U.S. Postal Service or UPS.

### APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

- MAJESTIC ATHLETIC
- NATURALIZER SHOES
- TIMEX WATCHES

### BOOK & STATIONERY STORES

- GREENLIGHT BOOKSTORE
- RMCNALLY JACKSON
- YOURS TRULY, BROOKLYN

### BEAUTY PRODUCTS

- AVON
- CARESS SKIN CARE
- DOVE BEAUTY PRODUCTS

### COMIC BOOKS

- IMAGE COMICS
- SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT
- TENDER CLAWS

### GAMES

- BARREL OF MONKEYS
- THE GAME OF LIFE
- MONOPOLY

### SPORTS EQUIPMENT

- AMERICAN ATHLETIC
- LOUISVILLE SLUGGER
- STANDARD GOLF

### STOCKING STUFFERS

- BIC LIGHTERS
- JELLY BELLY CANDIES
- SEE'S CANDIES

### WINE AND BEER

- BUDWEISER
- CK MONDAVI
- MICHELOB




AFL-CIO



Life is complicated. NYSUT Member Benefits can help.

# PEER SUPPORT LINE



The Peer Support Line is a new service available through NYSUT Member Benefits that's offered at no cost to all NYSUT members and their families.



The Peer Support Line can help with:

- Finding mental health services or support groups
- Answering questions about Medicare and Medicaid
- Managing work-related stress
- Providing support to new members
- Sourcing elder care or caregiving services
- Assisting with marital, relationship or child rearing concerns
- Reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness

The Peer Support Line is a partnership between NYSUT Member Benefits and Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care.

For more information or assistance, call toll-free 844-444-0152.

Nov/Dec 2022