

# IMPACT

The Official Publication of the Wallkill Teachers' Association

*NYSUT Local # 13-265 AFT Local #3082  
affiliated with NEA \* AFL-CIO*

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Lisa Bender, Editor*

## **NYSUT statement on SED regulations**

Source: NYSUT Media Relations

ALBANY, N.Y. June 15, 2015 — New York State United Teachers issued the following statement on State Education Department regulations adopted by the Board of Regents:

“In concert with parents, we will not rest until New York state education policy supports tests and evaluations that are good for students and fair to teachers. We will continue to press the Regents and the Legislature to remedy the ‘test-and-punish’ agenda pushed by Gov. Cuomo to the detriment of students. While today’s Regents discussion created a small amount of necessary breathing room for districts, New York nonetheless is still moving to make tests count before making them work. The Regents who voted for the State Education Department’s narrow interpretation of the governor’s plan did not go far enough to heed the voices of hundreds of thousands of parents who are fed up with high-stakes testing, and educators who support fair, research-based evaluations that strengthen teaching and learning.

“We applaud those courageous Regents who listened carefully to parents and educators, worked tirelessly to carefully develop regulations that conform to the law while advancing learning, and who are strongly advocating for a system that is fair and meaningful, uses multiple measures and fosters the professional dialogue and collaboration that is essential to helping New York’s already strong teaching force become stronger.

“Continued over-reliance on standardized testing can only make it harder for school districts to attract and retain the excellent teachers that students need and deserve.”

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**See you in September!**

# WTA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY 2015-2016

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Richard Shands
VICE-PRESIDENT – LABOR RELATIONS	Melissa Servant
VICE-PRESIDENT – MEMBER SERVICES	Teresa Mueller
RECORDING SECRETARY	Joseph Zupan
TREASURER	Stephanie Barnes

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HIGH SCHOOL	Edson Stewart Julie Michella Nicholas Malgieri
LEPTONDALE	Patty Kartis Melissa Beacher
MIDDLE SCHOOL	Leanne Pazoga Kyle Bird
OSTRANDER	Lisa Bender Sue McGowan
PLATTEKILL	Barbara Bouck Annie Saunders
SPECIAL EDUCATION	Tanya Yuro-Clark

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RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE	William Rule
POLITICAL ACTION	Barbara Bouck
HEALTH AND SAFETY	Monica Hanke
NEW MEMBER COORDINATOR	Laura Candy-Pcolar
NEWSLETTER/ COMMUNITY RELATIONS	Lisa Bender
BENEFIT TRUST	Richard Shands Teresa Mueller Stephanie Barnes Kathleen Winter (co-chair) Margaret Pelosa (co-chair) Sharon Moran Kris Boyle
<b>BENEFIT TRUST RETIREE REPRESENTATIVE</b>	Richard Leopold

## **A Fond Farewell to our 2014-2015 Retirees**

The Wallkill Teachers' Association held our annual district wide retirement reception on Friday, June 5, at Nouvellas Banquet Hall in New Paltz. The laid back, low key celebration included appetizers and beverages and time to reminisce with friends and colleagues. Richard Shands, WTA president, presented each retiree with a \$100 gift card in recognition of their contributions to the WTA and the Wallkill Central School District.

Congratulations to our 2014-2016 retirees:

***Nick Mancuso, Linda Wuest,  
Janet Sluszka, and Dean Witham***



Nick Mancuso, Joe Zupan, Rich Shands, Linda Wuest,  
Teresa Mueller, Stephanie Barnes and Dean Witham

**"Retirement, a time to do what you want to do,  
when you want to do it, where you want to do it,  
and, how you want to do it."**

Catherine Pulsifer

## Honoring Excellence and Best Practices...

Congratulations to MaryBeth Giammarco, Leptondale Elementary School Intervention Specialist, for being recognized for her outstanding work with the Leptondale PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports ) program. PBIS is an approach for assisting school personnel in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral interventions into an integrated continuum that enhances academic and social behavior outcomes for all students. Giammarco received the first ever PBIS leadership award for all of Ulster County at the first annual Mid-Hudson PBIS Showcase Conference held at the FDR presidential library. It was an opportunity for administrator, coaches and staff to hear about programs and systems in our local school districts that are implementing PBIS. Giammarco was asked to sit on a panel and answer questions about PBIS and the systems and how Wallkill uses them to support student success. At the end of the program one individual from each county, Dutchess, Orange, Ulster and Sullivan received the PBIS leadership award. Giammarco was surprised-but thrilled and delighted that her work and Wallkill's PBIS program was selected for recognition.



Become a **MAC e-activist** and take action:  
<http://mac.nysut.org/>

*Impact* is your newsletter, highlighting our members' activities and contributions to the WCSD and school community: as well as informing the membership of important union and labor issues that impact our members and their lives.

## WTA Wins 2014-15 NYSUT Communication Awards

The Wallkill Teachers' Association newsletter Impact and website wallkillteachers.org received two first place awards and two awards of distinction for our union communications activities from NYSUT.

**FIRST PLACE** - *Best Article about Local or Chapter Issues*  
*IMPACT*

Title: Building School Community Spirit and Healthy Living the Wallkill Way!

**FIRST PLACE** - *Most User-Friendly Website*  
Wallkill Teachers' Association Website- *wallkillteachers.org*  
Title: Wallkill Teachers' Association Website

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION** - *Best Article about a Social Justice Issue*  
*IMPACT*

Title: Sharing And Giving From The Heart In Wallkill

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION** - *Best Photo or Illustration*  
*IMPACT*

Title: Sharing And Giving From The Heart In Wallkill



Information about  
WTA members  
benefits and the  
WTABT are just a  
few mouse clicks  
away at our website.

<http://wallkillteachers.org/>

**WTA Impact**  
**Wallkill Teachers' Association**

Richard Shands, President  
Melissa Servant, Vice President Labor Relations  
Teresa Mueller, Vice President Member Relations  
Stephanie Barnes, Treasurer

**WTA Impact**, the official newsletter of the  
Wallkill Teachers' Association,  
is scheduled for bi-monthly distribution  
during the school year.

Address questions, comments or article suggestions to:  
Lisa Bender, Editor,  
email - lbender@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us

## Coming Events... Save the date!

### WCSD High School Graduation

Wallkill Senior High School 6pm  
June 26, 2015

### DeSol /Veltrie Golf Tournament

Rondout Golf Club, Accord  
June 29, 2015

### WTA Welcome Back Picnic

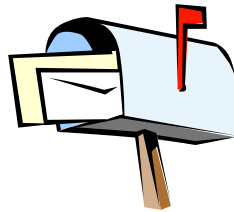
Thomas Felton Park, Modena  
September 18, 2015



**Wallkill Senior High  
School Graduation will be  
held on Friday June 26,  
2015 at 6 pm.**

**WTA members and WRTA  
members will honor the Class  
of 2015 by participating in  
the ceremonies. Join us!**

## WTA Benefit Trust



### WTA Benefit Trust

Attn: Dental Claims  
P. O. Box 305  
Gardiner, NY 12525

**Due to HIPAA regulations, for prompt  
payment of Dental Benefits claim forms  
must be submitted to the WTABT at the  
mailing address noted here.**

The Wallkill Teachers' Association Benefit Trust office follows the school calendar and is open from 2:30 to 5:00 PM every Thursday afternoon (except during designated school vacations). A Trust employee is available to personally answer your benefits questions and to provide notary services to the membership. Please call ahead if you would like to schedule an appointment. Contact Lori Tunkel at 256-1234 (x104).

**Save the Date!  
Welcome Back Picnic  
Thomas Felton Park**

**Friday  
September 18**



## WTA Announces Scholarship Awards to Class of 2015 Graduates

The Wallkill Teachers' Association awarded four \$800 scholarships to graduating WCSD High School Seniors at the Seniors Awards Ceremony on Friday, June 12, 2015. The class of 2015 seniors who received WTA scholarships were: Julia Albanese, Peter Gehres, Chelsea Murphy, and Samantha Valiando. The WTA's Scholarship Committee (Eileen Feldt, chair) received many outstanding applications. Scholarships are awarded based on academic merit, personal initiative and attitude, extracurricular activities (including community service) and interest in the field of education. Feldt noted that the decisions were not easy because so many of the senior applicants were worthy of the award.



Dear Wallkill Teachers' Association,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for selecting me as the recipient for the Wallkill Teachers' Association Scholarship. Your generosity will help alleviate the financial burden that is often associated with pursuing a higher education. Thank you for contributing to my education and believing in my aspirations.

Kind Regards,  
Samantha Valiando