

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

25 Years of Union Membership



Photo by Lisa Bender

*Rich Shands, Teresa Custy, Mary Malfa,
Karen Psilopoulos, and Melissa Servant*

The Wallkill Teachers' Association has a long standing tradition of honoring our members' accomplishments. We congratulate *Mary Malfa* and *Karen Psilopoulos* for achieving 25 years of union membership in the Wallkill Teachers' Association, and 25 years of service with the Wallkill Central School District.

In recognition of this important milestone, Mary and Karen were honored on opening day during the Superintendent's Conference Day Program on September 8, 2015. Richard Shands, WTA president, along with WTA vice presidents Teresa Custy and Melissa Servant presented to them each a keepsake *25 years of Service Clock* from the Wallkill Teachers' Association.



Vote Nov. 3!

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Getting specific on Common Core: What needs fixing and why?

Dear Colleague:

As you work with the students in your classroom, I am calling on you, colleague to colleague, to partner with me in creating a new set of New York Standards. The commissioner has been charged with reviewing the standards and the governor has formed a commission to overhaul the Common Core. We need to take the lead and seize this opportunity to develop better New York Standards. Every teacher knows the proper sequence is to get the standards right, then develop sound curriculum and produce developmentally appropriate assessments based on the standards and curriculum. The state didn't do that last time — and now the rushed system needs to be fixed.

As practitioners, you have a deep working knowledge of the standards. You are in the best position to make recommendations on what needs to be changed, added or deleted. You work each day to bring the standards to the students in your classroom. I want to bring your expertise into the process.

The voices of teachers in the classroom must be heard, and we have developed a process to make certain that happens. We have designed a feedback form to get your specific recommendations on transforming

the Common Core standards into New York Standards. Tell us what needs to be changed, added, deleted or moved in order to correct the current problems. We will bring your recommendations to both the State Education Department and the governor's Common Core Commission.

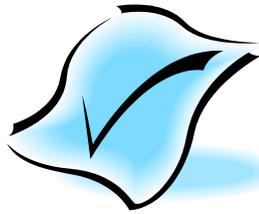
In order for your information to be most useful, **please provide the specific grade level and standard, along with any deletions or additions.** [A listing of the standards by grade is available online.](#) Our work on the standards is just one element of our fierce advocacy to fix the state's broken system of testing and evaluation. Please join me as we work together to advocate to create standards that are truly New York!

In Solidarity,
Catalina Fortino
NYSUT Vice President



Take the Survey!

Check YOUR CHECK



If you have **10 years of service** in the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS), your employer should not be taking a 3% contribution from your pay to help fund your retirement benefits. If it appears these contributions continue to be deducted and you have already received a letter from NYSTRS indicating your contribution requirements have been met, please bring the letter to your employer's business office and request that the appropriate adjustments be made.

If you are unsure about your years of service credit or membership, refer to your personal *Benefit Profile*, a copy of which was mailed to you. You can also access your *Profile* on-line at www.nystrs.org if you have a MyNYSTRS account. Creating an account is fast and easy, and gives you the ability to check your personal benefit information on-line anytime, day or night.

Welcome to our New WTA Members

The Wallkill Teachers' Association welcomes nine union members joining the Wallkill Central School district for the 2015-2016 school year.

Wallkill Senior High School

Alyssa Admirand *Earth Science*

Plattekill Elementary School

Jessica Vallaro *Special Education*

Alyson Haas *Elementary Education*

Joanna Miller *Elementary Education*

Ostrander Elementary School

Lauren Mackey *Elementary Education*

Christina Masopust *Elementary Education*

District Wide

Nicole Rivera - *ESOL Education*

Sandi Hecht-Garcia - *Preventive Services*

Stephen Cabarcas - *Library Media Specialist*

Public Education
The Best Investment
in our Future!

WTA receives June Smith Award

The WTA's award winning VOTE-COPE initiative under the leadership of Marie Lysandrou, VOTE cope chair, received NYSUT's third highest award, the *June Smith Award*, for locals which contribute the equivalent of at least \$50 per member during the 2014 campaign.



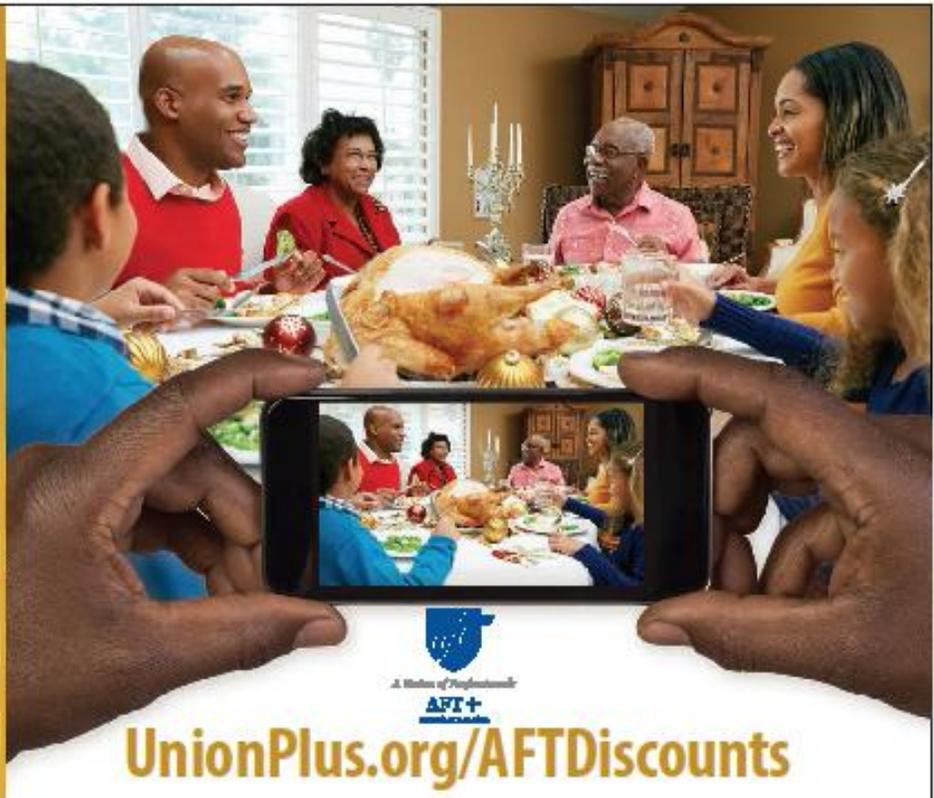
VOTE-COPE is NYSUT's non-partisan political action fund that coordinates the voluntary contributions of members and supports NYSUT-endorsed candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public education and pro-labor. The single largest category of VOTE-COPE expenditures is in the form of rebates to local unions to be used in local activities such as school board races and for passage of school budgets.

Making Memories and Staying Connected

Celebrate the Holidays with union member only Savings from Union Plus.

Stay connected with 15% off AT&T wireless service.

Savings on just about everything from clothing and flowers to gift certificates. Discounted tickets to movies, plays, sporting events and theme parks. Great deals on computers, electronics, travel and more.



UnionPlus.org/AFTDiscounts

One Benefit of union membership... A better pay check!

EARNINGS BY OCCUPATION, 2012 FULL-TIME WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS' MEDIAN WEEKLY EARNINGS	Union Median Weekly Earnings	Nonunion Median Weekly Earn- ings	Nonunion Annualized Loss in Pay
Health care support occupations	\$ 527	\$ 477	-\$ 2,600
Food preparation and serving-related occupations	\$ 509	\$ 405	-\$ 5,408
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	\$ 621	\$ 440	-\$ 9,412
Personal care and service occupations	\$ 524	\$ 462	-\$ 3,224
Office and administrative support occupations	\$ 808	\$ 624	-\$ 9,568
Education, training and library occupations	\$ 1,050	\$ 814	-\$ 12,272
Health care practitioner and technical occupations	\$ 1,151	\$ 1,010	-\$ 7,332

Source U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Union Members – 2012*, January 2013 Median weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by union affiliation, occupation and industry, 2011-2012 annual averages.



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.

Coming Events... Save the date!

WTA General Membership Meetings

Delta Dental Benefits

Wallkill Senior High School Auditorium
2:45 and 4:00 pm
November 9, 2015

WTA New Members Seminars

WTA Offices 4:00 to 5:30 pm
October 20, 2015 *Social Media*
November 3, 2015 *FERPA*
December 8, 2015 *RTI process*
February 9, 2016 *APPR*
April 5, 2016 *Contract, MLP*
May 12, 2016 *Program Review*

Stacey Braun Financial

WTA Offices 2:45 to 5:30 pm
By appointment only
November 5, 2015
December 3, 2015
January 7, 2016
February 4, 2016
March 3, 2016
April 7, 2016
May 5, 2016
June 2, 2016

WCSD High School Graduation

Wallkill Senior High School 6pm
June 24, 2016

DeSol /Veltrie Golf Tournament

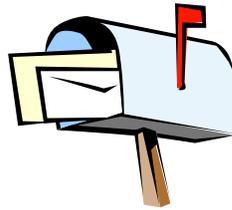
Rondout Golf Club, Accord
June 2016

WTA Impact
Wallkill Teachers' Association
Richard Shands, President
Melissa Servant, Vice President Labor Relations
Teresa Custy, 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

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).



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

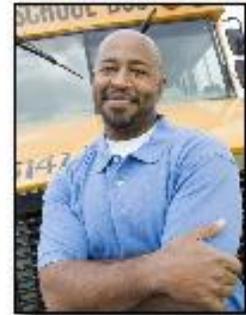
<http://wallkillteachers.org/>

The Value of NYSUT Membership

You may not be aware that your NYSUT membership allows you to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality, competitive insurance plans.

Member Benefits strives to provide the highest-quality programs for NYSUT members and closely scrutinizes all proposals from reputable vendors before any endorsements are given.

While we work continuously to maintain quality benefit programs at competitive prices, you are encouraged to shop and compare before making any purchasing decisions.



Are you ready to answer these questions?

What would happen if you suddenly died? Have you ever considered what would happen to your spouse and/or children? Take a few moments and answer these questions now:

- 1) Would your loved ones be able to afford their current home?*
- 2) Could your loved ones continue to pay regular bills and maintain their medical coverage?*
- 3) Would your loved ones be able to plan for your final funeral expenses?*

If your answer to the above questions is “No” or “I don’t know,” consider enrolling in the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Term Life or Level Term Life Insurance Plans. Both of these plans allow you to select the plan and benefit amount that best meets your specific needs.

Visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** for specific details about these plans.

The issuance of a Certificate of Insurance or payment of benefits will depend upon the answers given in the application and the truthfulness of those answers. Additional underwriting requirements may be needed.

Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement with its endorsed insurance provider of 7.81% of earned premiums for these programs. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. The Insurer pools the premiums of Member Benefits participants who are insured for the purposes of determining premium rates and accounting. Coverage outside of these plans may have rates and terms that are not the same as those obtainable through Member Benefits. The Insurer or Member Benefits may hold premium reserves that may be used to offset rate increases and/or fund such other expenses related to the plan as determined appropriate by Member Benefits. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.