

# 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 reacts to confirmation of DeVos as education secretary**

*Source: NYSUT Media Relations February 7, 2017*

ALBANY, N.Y. Feb. 7, 2017 – New York State United Teachers today released the following statement upon the U.S. Senate’s narrow confirmation amid bi-partisan opposition of billionaire donor Betsy DeVos as U.S. education secretary.

“The irony is inescapable: While educators are required to prove they are qualified in order to work in the classroom, the U.S. Senate has confirmed a dangerous ideologue with absolutely no experience or qualifications to lead the U.S. Department of Education.

“Betsy DeVos’ gave puzzling answers to basic questions about federal education policy. Her opposition to accountability for charter schools; unresolved conflicts of interest; and decades-long record of using her family’s fortune to undermine public education led hundreds of groups – and millions of Americans here in New York and across the country – to vigorously oppose her confirmation in phone calls, letters, e-mails and faxes. We are proud to have stood shoulder to shoulder with them in defense of our public schools.

“We thank NYSUT members and all of those who fiercely advocated for students and public education during this fight. And, we again thank Sen. Charles Schumer and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand for their leadership on behalf of public education. NYSUT and its members will be redoubling our fierce advocacy on behalf of public education and students. Public education is the foundation of our democracy. Now, more than ever, we must protect it.”

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## *President's Message*    *By, Rich Shands*

### **WHY ST CAUCUS?**

In one month (April 7-8) delegates from across New York State will congregate in New York City to vote on the direction of our union. We will vote for our leadership that will determine our position on many issues that affect all rank and file members. Our students, schools and profession have taken many hits under Andy Pallota's eight year tenure in NYSUT leadership. We have surrendered territory on continued 3-8 testing, teacher evaluation, common core, fair funding for our schools, property tax cap, Tier V and VI to name a few. Despite all these failures, Andy Pallata and his Unity Caucus (controlled by UFT, Mike Mulgrew- president of NYC Union), have run Karen McGee out as president so they can take complete control of our state union. It is not a coincidence that elections for state officers are always held in NYC. This assures that Unity Caucus will have a considerable edge in voting power. Many upstate unions do not send delegates to New York City as it is expensive and inconvenient. Unlike any other election that we participate in as citizens where you vote locally to insure the greatest possible participation, NYSUT continues to hamper a greater democratic

process by requiring voting this year only in NYC at 8:00 AM on April 8th.



Wallkill Delegates (myself, Melissa Servant and Marie Lysandrou) will be casting our votes for STCaucus (Stronger Together). ST Caucus is a grassroots organization of educators from across the state that are concerned with the direction of education in New York State. Running on this slate are some proven leaders who have the best interests of our students, schools and profession as the only things on their agenda.

Here is the slate of ST Caucus officers:  
Mike Lillis - NYSUT President Physics Teacher - Lakeland School District  
Bianca Tanis - Executive Vice-President Special Education Teacher - Ramapo School District  
Megan De La Rosa - First Vice President Elementary Teacher Shenendehowa School District  
Nate Hathaway - Secretary Treasurer Social Studies Teacher Malone School District

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***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.

(Continued from page 2)

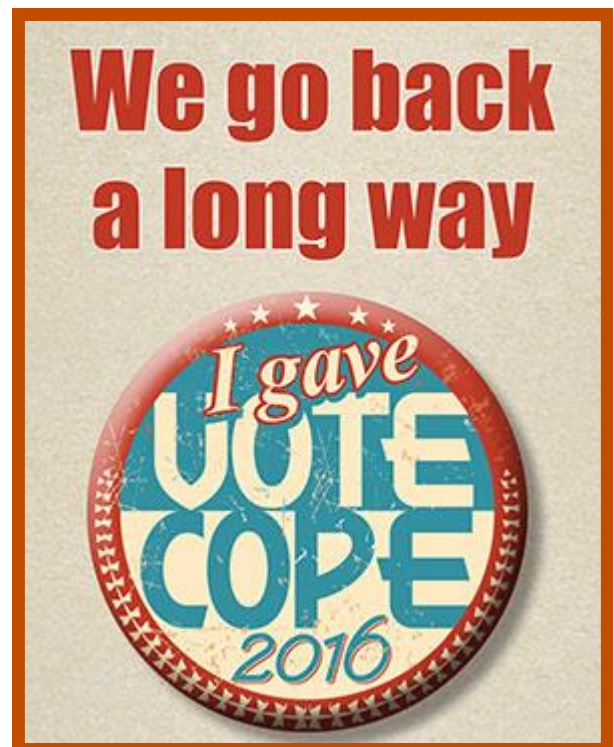
Here are some of the highlights of the ST Caucus platform that we support.

- Future NYSUT elections to be held locally throughout the state
- Teacher developed state tests based on developmentally appropriate standards and benchmarks.
- Exposing and educating lawmakers on the economic inequalities in New York State school funding.
- Defending public education against flawed statistics that are used against public school teachers and schools to promote a charter school agenda.

Please visit [stcaucus.org](http://stcaucus.org) for more information on their platform and please consider becoming a member of ST Caucus. I hope this explains why Wallkill Delegates will be voting for STCaucus. We take this job very seriously. Our goal is to have a more democratic union that represents and stands up for all of us so that we can better stand up for our students and schools.

Thank you all for letting us serve in this capacity for all of you. We are very proud to be the representatives for such a great group of educators.

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





## MORTGAGE

The Union Plus mortgage program makes buying or refinancing a home easy for you and your children.

## CAR RENTAL

Up to 25% discount on car rental deals with Avis, Budget, Hertz, Dollar, Thrifty & Payless.

# Four Ways to Save

## AT&T WIRELESS

The only national unionized wireless provider. 15% savings for union members on the monthly service charge of qualified plans.\*

## CREDIT CARD

Several credit card choices,\*\* all with competitive rates and U.S.-based customer service, designed to meet the needs of union members.

\*Available only to current members of qualified AP-CO member unions, other authorized individuals associated with eligible unions and other sponsoring organizations with a qualifying agreement. Must provide acceptable proof of union membership such as a membership card from your local union, a pay stub showing dues deduction or the Union Plus Member Discount Card and subscribe to service under an individual account for which the member is personally liable. Offer contingent upon in-store verification of union member status. Discount subject to agreement between Union Privilege and AT&T and may be interrupted, changed or discontinued without notice. Discount applies only to recurring monthly service charge of qualified voice and data plans, not overages. Not available with unlimited voice plans. For Family Talk, applies only to primary line. For all Mobile Share plans, applies only to monthly plan charge of plans with 1GB or more, not to additional monthly device access charges. Additional restrictions apply. May take up to 2 bill cycles after eligibility confirmed and will not apply to prior charges. Applied after application of any available credit. May not be combined with other service discounts. Visit UnionPlus.org/ATT or contact ATT at 866-459-8008 for details.

\*\*Certain restrictions, limitations, and qualifications apply to these grants. Additional information and eligibility criteria can be obtained at UnionPlus.org/Assistance. Credit approval required. Terms and conditions apply. The Union Plus Credit Cards are issued by Capital One, N.A., pursuant to a license from MasterCard International Incorporated. Capital One N.A. is not responsible for the contents of this message and/or any other third party products/services mentioned. The MasterCard Brand Mark is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated.



[UnionPlus.org/aftbenefits](http://UnionPlus.org/aftbenefits)

# KEEP YOUR SMILE CONNECTED



SCAN TO FIND A DENTIST

[DELTA DENTAL INS.COM](http://DELTA DENTAL INS.COM)  
SPANISH: [ES.DELTA DENTAL INS.COM](http://ES.DELTA DENTAL INS.COM)

7th ANNUAL  
“CLEAN SWEEP”  
WALLKILL

**Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Rain Date: April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Meet at Walkkill Library  
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



**Volunteers needed**

to clean up Walkkill's river and roads.

Come get orange bags and clean the streets near your home!

Kayakers and boaters needed- please call in advance.

Light refreshments available.

Lunch at the pavilion at noon.

Contact us at: [cleansweepwalkill@yahoo.com](mailto:cleansweepwalkill@yahoo.com) or 256.0446

Visit us at: [cleansweepwalkill.weebly.com](http://cleansweepwalkill.weebly.com)

\*\*\*This is a community activity and is not a Walkkill Central School District function. Students can however gain community service hours for volunteering if they have a permission slip completed by a parent or guardian.



# Member DIRECTORY

Greetings,

As a union, we are always looking for ways to better serve our members. A recent revisited idea was to create a directory of services our members provide. So for example, if you or a family member have a business that you would like to promote, this could help do it. If you would like your business added to the directory, please fill out the form below and return it to Adam Seelig in the middle school.

Business Name	
Description	
Address (if applicable)	
Phone #	Cell: _____ Business : _____
Email	
Website	
Best time for correspondence	
Preferred method of correspondence	Email: _____ Call: _____ Text: _____
Member/family member	
Building	OES: ___ LES: ___ PES: ___ MS: ___ HS: ___



## Coming Events... Save the date!

### WTA New Member Meetings

*WTA offices*

March 7, 2017

April 4, 2017

May 9, 2017

### Stacey Braun Financial Planning

*WTA offices by appointment*

March 2, 2017

April 6, 2017

May 4, 2017

June 1, 2017

July 6, 2017

### Shamrock Scramble & Parade

March 19, 2017

### Clean Sweep & Adopt-a-highway

April 22, 2017

### WTABT Will Day Program

March 9, 2017

June 6, 2017

### WCSD High School Graduation

June 23, 2017

### DeSol /Veltrie Golf Tournament

Rondout Golf Club, Accord

*To be determined*



<http://walkillteachers.org/>

## WTA Benefit Trust

The Walkill Teachers' Association and the WTA Benefit Trust Office has moved!

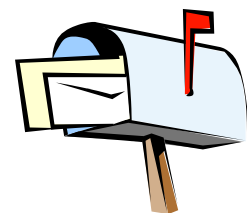
The new address is:

2044 State Route 32, Modena, NY 12548

We will continue to use the same mailing address:

P.O. Box 305

Gardiner, NY 12525



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

#### *WTA Impact*

#### *Walkill 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 Walkill Teachers' Association, is scheduled for bi-monthly distribution during the school year.

Address questions, comments or article suggestions to:

Lisa Bender, Editor,

email - lbender@walkillesd.k12.ny.us

## Simplifying your life insurance options

As an educated consumer, you realize the earlier in life that you purchase life insurance, the cheaper the premiums will likely be. You're also aware that life insurance offers financial protection for your dependents upon your death, helping to cover the costs of funeral and burial expenses; assistance to help with your children's education; and offering financial assistance with paying debts and other expenses.

It can be overwhelming, though, trying to determine the best type of life insurance policy. Let's take a look at some of the different types of life insurance options available.

### #1: Whole Life Insurance

– This type of insurance is usually the most costly since policies are guaranteed to remain in force as long as premiums are paid. Whole life insurance offers permanent protection with premiums that never increase and builds cash

value you can borrow against while you are living (like a loan). **Important:** Understand that you will reduce your death benefit if you don't repay loans with interest and will no longer have coverage if you surrender the policy.

**#2: Term Life Insurance** – This type of insurance pays a benefit in the event of the death of the insured during a specified term, offering a fixed rate of payments during that time period. Once that period ends, coverage at the previous premium rate is not guaranteed and the insured would need to get

further coverage. Term life insurance (and its level term life cousin) is designed only to protect your dependents if you were to die prematurely -- offering NO cash value.

**#3: Level Term Life Insurance** – Like term life insurance, level term life insurance pays a benefit in the event of the death of the insured during a specific time period. Premiums may not be

increased during the time period due to change in your age or health status.

### #4: Universal Life Insurance

– This type of insurance offers a way to protect your dependents while building tax-deferred cash value. While the cost of a universal life plan needs to be covered so the policy remains in force, the policyholder has the option to adjust how much he or she will pay in premiums each year. Policyholders can also access a portion of the balance without affecting the

guaranteed death benefit as the cash value accumulates over time.

Keep in mind that NYSUT members & their spouses/certified domestic partners can help protect their dependents from life's uncertainties with a variety of NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed life insurance plans. Many of these plans offer group rates not available to the general public along with additional convenience and savings opportunities.

“Term life and level term life policies are often popular options for those individuals with young families since there is a greater need for life insurance protection. They also tend to be much less expensive than their whole life counterparts. If you are considering a term or level term life policy, make sure to consider how long you would need the coverage.”

For more information about these plans, visit the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call 800-626-8101.



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.

Mar./Apr. '17