

THE Yonkers Teacher

April 2026

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Dear YFT Members,

On Sunday, March 8, members of the Yonkers Federation of Teachers joined more than 15,000 union members from across New York State inside the MVP Arena in Albany for the statewide NYSUT *Fix Tier 6* Rally. The message was clear, powerful, and unified: **New York must Fix Tier 6.**

YFT showed up strong. Three full buses departed from Yonkers, and as always, our members brought with them energy, camaraderie, and deep union pride. The trip to Albany was about more than transportation—it was an opportunity to connect, strengthen relationships, and build the solidarity that makes our union so powerful.

Along the way, members organized friendly games, trivia contests, and fun bus competitions. Laughter and spirited conversations filled the ride as members bonded and built momentum. By the time we arrived in Albany, our members were energized, united, and ready to make their voices heard.

Walking into the MVP Arena and seeing it filled with 15,000 union members was a powerful reminder of the strength of collective action. Educators and public employees from every corner of New York State came together to demand fairness and respect. When we show up in numbers like this, Albany listens.

Progress Has Already Been Made

Our advocacy is working. Last year, educators secured important victories:

- Vesting was reduced from 10 years to 5 years
- Final Average Salary was restored from 5 years to 3 years

While these reforms were significant, important inequities remain. The rally was part of a sustained, statewide effort to continue addressing the unfairness created by Tiers 5 and 6.

Momentum Is Building This Year

This year's advocacy is already producing results. Both the New York State Assembly and Senate included commitments to Tier 6 improvements in their one-house budget bills, an important step in the state budget process. In addition, Governor Kathy Hochul has publicly acknowledged that New York must address issues within Tiers 5 and 6.

This progress did not happen by chance. It happened because educators across the state organized, spoke up, and showed up.

Why Fixing Tier 6 Matters

Tier 6, enacted in 2012, dramatically changed retirement benefits for educators and public employees. As a result, employees doing the same work now face vastly different retirement outcomes based solely on when they were hired.

These disparities have real consequences. School districts across New York State are facing a growing teacher shortage, and diminished retirement benefits under Tiers 5 and 6 have made it harder to recruit and retain educators.

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Did You Know?

- **Tier 4** members contribute 3% of their salary to the pension system for 10 years and can retire at age 55 with 30 years of service.
- **Tier 6** members contribute 3%–6% of their salary for their entire career, with contributions increasing as salaries rise, and must work until age 63 and up to 40 years of service, or face significant penalties.

Educators across New York, including YFT members, continue to advocate for additional reforms, including:

- Lowering the retirement age
- Ending lifetime pension contributions
- Addressing remaining inequities between tiers

These changes are essential if New York wants to attract and retain the next generation of educators.



Thank You to Our Members

I want to personally thank every YFT member who traveled to Albany, helped organize the buses, and stood shoulder to shoulder representing our union with pride. Seeing three buses of educators leave Yonkers to join 15,000 union members in Albany was a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish together. Your presence truly made a difference.

Advocacy works because members show up, and YFT members did exactly that. Together, we will continue pushing until Tiers 5 and 6 are fully and fairly fixed.

In solidarity,

Samantha Rosado-Ciriello, President, Yonkers Federation of Teachers



Welcome APRIL

7th	3:45pm	Executive Board	YFT
8th	3:45pm	Women's Committee	YFT
13th	3:45pm	YFT TA Meeting	YFT
13th	3:45pm	YFT COR Committee	YFT
22nd	3:45pm	Executive Board	YFT
22nd	5:30pm	Board of Ed Meeting	Saunders
23rd	3:45pm	Building Assembly	Roosevelt HS
28th	3:45pm	Human & Civil Rights	YFT



YFT HAPPY HOUR

FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS

BRING A FRIEND

LIGHT HORS D'OEUVRES WILL BE SERVED

**FRIDAY APRIL 17
3PM - 6PM**

JOIN US AT
GIANNA'S
1034 N BROADWAY, YONKERS

SOLIDARITY FOREVER!

Retiree Happy Hour



It's been a long, cold, snowy winter! Spring is in the air. Please come out and join fellow retirees for a breath of fresh air and refreshments!

When: April 13, 2026

Time: 3:00 PM

Where: Applebee's Restaurant

2 Executive Blvd.

Yonkers, NY 10701





YONKERS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
Committed to Excellence in Education

IMPORTANT

YFT-YFT Welfare Fund-YPS Retirement Meeting

*** Only for those Retiring this School Year***

SAVE THE DATE

Date: Tuesday, May 5th
Time: 4:00PM
Location: Roosevelt HS Library

This meeting will provide valuable information and you will be completing forms for retirement benefits. Important topics will be discussed such as:

Retiree Health Insurance

Welfare Fund Benefits

Union Dues and other important Union information

Please RSVP & send the following information to YFT@YFT860.org no later than April 24th:

- Your full name
- Personal email address
- Phone number
- School
- Position
- Date you are retiring

Register Today

**Don't miss out on important updates!
Please make sure that we have your personal email on our list.**

This meeting is ONLY for those retiring the 2025-2026 school year



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President

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Election Schedule for AFT Representative Assembly Delegates (Washington D.C. July 16th-19th, 2026)

April 2026

Election flyer to members (in YFT newsletter mailing)

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Petitions due to YFT office by 4:15 p.m.

May 2026

Flyer to all YFT members (in YFT newsletter mailing)

Flyer to include open positions or results if no-contest election

Thursday, May 28, 2026

Elections held if a contest develops

THE ELECTION OF FIFTEEN AFT REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATES AND EIGHT AFT ALTERNATE DELEGATES

On Thursday, May 28, 2026, an election will be held to determine who will serve as one of the fifteen delegates and eight alternates to the AFT Representative Assembly (July 16-19 in Washington D.C.). Each elected delegate will be compensated for necessary travel, hotel accommodation and food expenses.

Nominating procedures for AFT Representative Assembly, under the constitution, are as follows:

Such nominees must have been active members in good standing at the time of the nomination and must be nominated by at least ten (10) members in good standing for the NYSUT RA and/or AFT RA.

Nominations must be submitted in writing to the administrative assistant at the union office ([35 E. Grassy Sprain Road](#)) by 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2026.

The Election Committee will need help in the counting of the ballots, should a contest develop for this election. Please contact the union office at [914-793-0200](tel:914-793-0200) or any member of the committee. All help will be greatly appreciated.

Fraternally,

The Election Committee