

THE Yonkers Teacher

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Dear YFT Family,

As we close another school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we have accomplished together.

This year asked a great deal of all of us. We faced significant challenges, from technology issues and limited resources to shifting expectations, new PreK–8 schedules, and continued advocacy around retirement reform for Tier 5 and Tier 6 members. Through every challenge, our union stood together. We raised our voices, supported one another, and remained united in our commitment to our students, our schools, and each other.

I continue to be inspired by the dedication, professionalism, and heart that Yonkers Federation of Teachers members bring to this work every single day. Your advocacy, resilience, and unwavering commitment have made a lasting impact across our union and our school community. Because of you, we have made meaningful progress. We will continue to build on that progress together.

As you look back on the many accomplishments of this year, I hope you do so with pride. Please take time this summer to rest, recharge, and enjoy the well-earned break you deserve.

Thank you for all you do for our students, our schools, and our union.

Wishing you and your loved ones a restful, joyful, and wonderful summer.

In Solidarity,

Samantha Rosado-Ciriello, President

POLITICAL ACTION	VOICE
- Made progress towards Fixing Tiers 5 & 6: For members in the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) and New York City Teachers' Retirement System (NYCTRS), the Tier 6 retirement age will be reduced from 63 to 58 for members with 30 years of service, and 57 for Tier 5, without penalty - Blocked two new charter school groups - Successfully advocated to hire more speech therapists to assist with caseloads - YFT opposing changes to in-service and retiree medical benefits pertaining to dual family coverage - YFT opposing 3% raise deferral - YFT advocating for a districtwide mechanism to address admin bullying/harassment towards staff - YFT spoke out against changes to district Policy 1230 – changes to public comments at BOE meetings	- Rally to Fix Tiers 5 & 6 - School visits - Virtual Academy – Reached a one-year agreement and a posting Agreement - CSI Grant – Reached an agreement, and it is signed – district resubmitted to NYSED - Members spoke out at Board of Ed meetings - Petitions sent to BOE and City Hall re: various issues - Reading teachers: successfully advocated and returned the job of goal setting and chart completion back to the principals - Speech Therapist meetings - Special Education Liaison meetings - Special Education Facilitator meetings - Successfully advocated for each PreK-2nd grade teacher to receive \$450 to purchase needed materials/supplies; 2026-27 school year, grades 3-6 teacher will receive it

POLITICAL ACTION	VOICE
• City Hall Budget Rally and public hearings • Through our lobbying efforts, we were able to: • Make changes to the Foundation Aid formula to be more reflective of the population we serve • Revise the Regional Cost Index to be more in line with our cost of living in Westchester County • Increase funding for Teacher Centers • Black & Puerto Rican, Asian Legislative Caucus • AFL-CIO COPE Convention • Attended and spoke at rallies throughout the state to “Stop the Cuts” to social security, Medicaid, the U.S. Department of Education and others • Power of Play press conference at Family School 32 with NY-SUT • Mailings, phone banking, texting, robo-calls: All YFT endorsed candidates for City Council won	• Successfully Advocated for and convened Districtwide Committees: *PreK/K *Common Assessments *PreK-12 Report Cards *PreK-12 Curriculum & pacing guides *Technology *AI *Teaching Assistants • Enforced the CBA re: vote needed to implement Early Start at Kahlil Gibran, Patricia DiChiaro, Family School 32, and Montessori School 31 • AFT President Randi Weingarten visit to YMHS & Halmi; YPS to attend and be highlighted at the AFT Convention July 2026 • Negotiating for TA Student Teaching release timeContract request for proposals from YFT members • Defended posting and transfer procedures and ICT program at School 5 • Voiced concerns re: lack of triennials being held for students • Found YFT members willing to work Home and Hospital

VOICE (CONTINUED)	
• YFT Women’s Committee • YFT Human and Civil Rights Committee • AFT Program and Policy Council • NYSUT Board of Directors • NYS Education Dept. Commissioner’s Advisory Council • Monthly meetings with Teaching Assistants • NYSUT Tarrytown Regional Office Summer Leadership Conference	• YFT Leadership Conference • AFT LITF (Latino Issues Task Force) • Interviewed with Latina TV • SOMOS Conference • Members of Color Affinity Action Conference • YPS Shared Decision Making and Professional Development Planning Committees • Restructured the YFT Welfare Fund to better meet our increasing demands and growing constituency

COMMUNICATION							
Instagram	X (Twitter)	Facebook	Website	Newsletter	Rafrtr	Email	Scans/Faxes
Text messaging	Phone calls	School visits	1:1 Conversations		YFT Sponsored Social Events		
Monthly Building Representative Meetings (districtwide & school-based)						Monthly TIC Meetings	

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Relay For Life
- Maria Ferreira Children's Hospital Toiletry Drive
- Toy Drive
- Take A Look At Teaching initiative
- City and State Publication/YFT Honored
- Backpack give-away to YPS students in homeless and women's shelter
- Make A Witch Foundation donation
- My Sister's Place
- Breast Cancer Walk
- PAL
- Westchester Power 100/YFT honored
- New York State Labor Power 100/YFT honored
- Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers
- Peer Support Help Line
- AFL-CIO Labor Picnic
- Helped to expand YSEPTA: Yonkers Special Education Parent/Teacher Association
- YFT/NYSUT Bowling Team: "Bowling Spectacular"
- Food Drive
- PTA Scholarship
- Enrico Fermi Scholarship Breakfast
- Operation Santa Claus
- Over \$20,000 in YFT scholarships awarded
- Kiwanis Club/Teachers of the Year
- Sister to Sister
- NYSUT Awards YFT \$5,000 Grant to continue TALAT/GYO educator/ substitute shortages & diversify the workforce
- Yonkers Police Department donation
- Storybook Bonanza: Donated 1,200 books
- NYSUT Community Service Award
- Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Yonkers Puerto Rican/Hispanic Day parade
- Sneaker Drive
- MPAC Award
- Worker's Memorial
- AFT Latino Caucus NYS Chapter Executive Board
- NAACP
- Westchester LCLAA: Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
- CBTU: Coalition of Black Trade Unionists



YFT MEMBERS IN ACTION!



The **3rd Annual YSEPTA event** was a resounding success, thanks to the invaluable contributions of the YFT teachers and CSEA volunteers. The evening was well-attended by our City's families and community stakeholders. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to YECA's YFT teacher **Alexandria Caraballo** and the PEARLS Hawthorne teachers, **Katie Gallo**, **Celia Maldonado**, and **Corinne Dalbon**, for their unwavering dedication and efforts in making this event a resounding success.



On May 12th, members of the Yonkers Federation of Teachers took part in a "Paint and Sip" at Rory Dolans. YFT member and Art teacher **Kelly Finlaw** facilitated this YFT **Human & Civil Rights Committee fundraiser**, which raised \$800 for the Yonkers Police Athletic League.

The American Federation of Teachers Latino Caucus presented the Maria Portalatin Legacy Award to **YFT President Samantha Rosado-Ciriello**. This award honors trailblazers, fierce advocates, and leaders for their contributions to working people, labor, and the Latino community.



YFT members make their voices heard by electing local delegates who represent them at NYSUT's annual convention, the Representative Assembly. On May 1-2, 2026, 19 delegates from the YFT participated in the **2026 NYSUT Representative Assembly in Albany, NY**. Delegates acted on resolutions aimed at steering NYSUT's advocacy agenda in the coming year. These timely resolutions took on immigration, recess and play-based learning, artificial intelligence, certification, student teaching, CTE, UPK, civics and other issues critical to educators.

