

THE Yonkers Teacher

February 2026

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35 East Grassy Sprain Rd.
Yonkers, NY 10710
(914) 793-0200
Fax (914) 793-7365

EDITOR:

Christine Morrone

**PRODUCTION/
DISTRIBUTION
EDITORS:**

Jayne Downes
Alyssa Murray
Christine Heidelberger

**PRODUCTION/
DISTRIBUTION TEAM:**

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Miriam Rodriguez

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Samantha Rosado-Ciriello



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Dear YFT Members,

ICT Arbitrator Determination

As many of you are aware, the ICT overage arbitration and enforcement process has been ongoing for eight years. The original award was issued by Arbitrator Campagna in May 2017. The District subsequently appealed the award in court. Although the District did not prevail, it paid only a portion of the individuals whom YFT believed were covered by the award.

Due to this dispute, YFT requested that the original arbitrator become involved to resolve the enforcement issues. Unfortunately, Arbitrator Campagna passed away unexpectedly. The matter was then reassigned to a new arbitrator to interpret the original intent of the award and determine who was entitled to compensation.

After numerous hearings, meetings, and the submission of multiple legal briefs, the new arbitrator issued several decisions that negatively impacted many claims:

1. Teaching Assistants, substitutes, and non-classroom teachers were found **not** to be covered by the award.
2. Secondary subject-area teachers were found not to be covered unless they taught **ELA or Math**. However, the arbitrator did determine that the following groups **are** covered by the award:

- All Special Education teachers assigned to ICT programs
- Regular education elementary teachers in ICT programs
- Secondary ELA and Math teachers in ICT programs

YFT vigorously challenged the negative determinations and involved NYSUT General Counsel at multiple stages. At this time, however, all available legal avenues to contest the arbitrator's interpretation have been exhausted.

We understand that this is difficult and disappointing news for some of our members. For your reference, the written decisions of the new arbitrator, Martin Scheinman, are below.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need clarification.

In solidarity,

Samantha Rosado-Ciriello, President

AWARD

1. The issue of whether the stipend was paid to those general and special education teachers in the District's ICT program who were entitled to receive it, and in the correct amounts, is arbitrable and within my jurisdiction to hear and determine.
2. The issue of whether other bargaining unit members not serving as general or special education teachers in the District's ICT program were entitled to be paid the stipend under the terms of the award as issued, is not within my jurisdiction to hear and determine.
3. The hearing scheduled for June 12, 2024, shall be conducted in accordance with this ruling.

May 14, 2024.

Martin F. Scheinman, Esq.
Arbitrator

AWARD

1. As determined by Arbitrator Dennis J. Campagna in his Award dated May 30, 2017, general education teachers of ELA and math in grades 7 and 8 ICT classes with more than twelve (12) students with IEPs are entitled to receive the stipend remedy, without prorating. My finding is limited to teachers of ELA and math because those are the only subjects made part of the middle school ICT program under the ICT program description for grades 7 and 8.
2. The case shall remain scheduled for a further hearing on January 27, 2025. At that time, the parties shall be prepared to proceed with evidence as to teachers in any ICT classes who the Federation claims have yet to be paid the stipend in whole or in part, and to present their proofs as to why the stipend is, or is not owed, to those teachers.

January 14, 2025.

Martin F. Scheinman, Esq.
Arbitrator



Retiree Member Corner by Florence McCue (fmccue@yft860.org)

The Steve Frey Scholarship Fundraising has been a great success thanks to the generosity of those who contributed to honor our former president who had done so much to raise the political and professional reputation of our union and to help form the strong foundation on which we have continued to build.

Not only did we raise \$15,000 for Steve Frey Memorial Scholarships for our students but we also received a \$10,000 donation for scholarships in honor of both Steve and Arline Frey. The Steve Frey scholarships will be presented to students in career and technical programs as a tribute to the decades Steve worked to prepare students for skilled careers and also to the years he helped to steer the AFL CIO Central Labor Body which includes all of labor; public sector, private sector and building trades. The Steve and Arline scholarships will be presented to Lincoln HS Academy of Finance graduates. All who worked with Arline know how much time, energy and love she gave to students in the Academy of Finance.

Thank you to all who have contributed to make these scholarships possible.



YONKERS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS *Committed to Excellence in Education*

Samantha Rosado-Ciriello
President

35 East Grassy Sprain Road
Yonkers, New York 10710
Telephone: 914-793-0200
Fax: 914-793-7365

Since there is no contest for the YFT Welfare Fund Trustee position, Nancy Ciraldo will continue in this capacity for another three-year term.

Fraternally,

The Election Committee

Sneakers

Donate your lightly used sneakers to help support the Women's Committee

Sneakers can be given to your Building Rep or directly to the Union Office

JOIN THE YFT BOWLING TEAM!

Tournament

2026 MARCH 12TH 2026

We are hoping to form two teams of 3-5 bowlers!

Start times are 4pm, 5pm, or 6pm

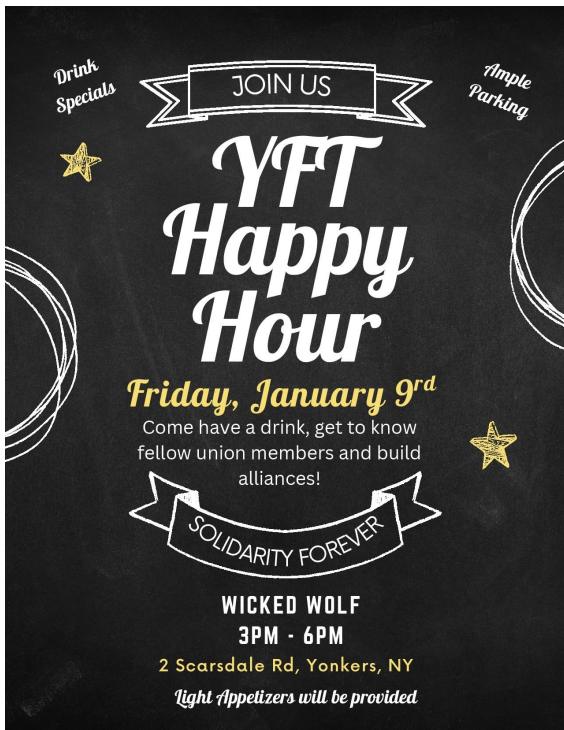
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YFT

Break Point Bowl & Entertainment
Haverstraw, NY

Proceeds to benefit the United Hospice of Rockland County

Not a bowler!? Come over to cheer on the team!



YFT 2026



Scholarships

The YFT Scholarship is available for children (graduating from high school in June 2026) of YFT members in good standing. The application is available on the YFT website, and at all of the YPS high school guidance offices. The application deadline is **April 20, 2026**. For more information contact **Jayne Downes** at jaydownes25@gmail.com

WELCOME

February

4th	3:45pm	Executive Board	YFT
5th	3:45pm	Human & Civil Rights	YFT
9th	3:45pm	YFT TA Meeting	YFT
11th	11:30am	Retiree Committee Meeting	YFT
12th	3:45pm	Building Assembly	Roosevelt HS
24th	3:45pm	Women's Committee	YFT
25th	3:45pm	Executive Board	YFT
25th	5:30pm	Board of Ed Meeting	Saunders

Halmi Film School's music teacher **Avid Williams** was selected as the soloist for the 2026 City of Yonkers Oath Swearing-In Ceremony which was held at the Yonkers Public Library Auditorium on January 1, 2026. Pictured below is Mr. Williams and Mrs. Sheila Greenwald, Yonkers Public Schools Board of Education Trustee. Also noteworthy, in December 2025, Mr. Williams presented at the 89th Annual New York State School Music Association in Rochester, New York. Congratulations, Mr. Williams!





NYSUT Member Benefits appreciates everything that NYSUT members do on a daily basis to benefit those in the education and health care industries.

We are proud to offer the following programs and services to NYSUT members free of charge. Visit <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/free-member-benefits> for more information.

PEER SUPPORT LINE -- Created in partnership with NYSUT Social Services and Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, this confidential helpline can provide answers, resources, and empathetic support when you need it.

PREMIUM CALM SERVICE -- All NYSUT in-service and retiree members are provided with unlimited access to the full library of sleep, meditation, and relaxation content at ***calm.com*** and in the Calm app.

STUDENT LOAN COUNSELING -- NYSUT members can speak with a Cambridge Credit Counseling loan counselor, attend a NYSUT Student Loan Workshop, or visit the Cambridge Student Loan Portal through this helpful resource.

FINANCIAL LEARNING CENTER -- Powered by Kiplinger's Personal Finance, this platform offers numerous articles designed to assist NYSUT members with achieving their personal financial goals and better understand the nuances of insurance, savings, investing, and more.

CREDIT COUNSELING -- All NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) are eligible to receive a free, no obligation debt consultation with a Cambridge Credit Counseling certified counselor.

NEW MEMBER LIFE INSURANCE POLICY -- New NYSUT members are eligible to receive a free term life insurance policy providing coverage for up to \$25,000 for one year, guaranteed renewable at the end of the year.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH & DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE -- All NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) are automatically provided with a \$5,000 accidental death & dismemberment insurance benefit.

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE SERVICES -- All NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) are automatically provided with travel assistance services from AXA Assistance that focus on providing coordination services to travelers.

NATIONAL AFFILIATE RESOURCES -- Your status as a NYSUT member provides you with access to complimentary life insurance from the National Education Association, along with discounted access to therapy and mental health resources from Talkspace, an accidental death & dismemberment insurance benefit, and trauma counseling services from the American Federation of Teachers.