

THE **Yonkers** Teacher

November 2025

Vol. L No. 3

Official Publication of the Yonkers Federation of Teachers

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: Standing Together to Say “We Deserve Better”

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

EDITOR:

Christine Morrone

**PRODUCTION/
DISTRIBUTION
EDITORS:**

Jayme Downes
Alyssa Murray
Christine Heidelberger

**PRODUCTION/
DISTRIBUTION TEAM:**

Karen Almodovar
Miriam Rodriguez

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Christine Heidelberger

PRESIDENT:

Samantha Rosado-Ciriello



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A Union of Professionals



Dear YFT Members,

This school year has tested our patience and our professionalism in ways that go beyond reason. The level of frustration across our schools is palpable — and rightfully so. You are being asked to do more with less time, less input, and less respect for your expertise as educators.

Let's name what's happening:

- **Technology Turmoil:** Teachers were overwhelmed with multiple new digital programs rolled out all at once — without the advanced training needed to use them effectively. Chromebooks were taken away from the elementary schools and redirected to the secondary level, while iPads were purchased for elementary students — iPads that arrived three weeks after the school year began, without headphone jacks. When the district finally ordered adapters so headphones could be used, those didn't arrive until last week.
- **Schedule Chaos:** The abrupt shift from a daily schedule to a six-day A-through-F cycle has up-ended classroom routines. Literacy blocks were extended from 90 minutes to 120, math mandated at one hour, and teachers were told to alternate science and social studies weekly — science one week, social studies the next. This disjointed model undermines both student learning and teacher autonomy.
- **Service Disruptions:** Related service providers were told they could only pull students during narrow time frames, ignoring the complex schedules of students who receive multiple services. Bilingual speech therapists have been pulled from their caseloads to complete translations and evaluations, creating a backlog of compensatory services owed to our students — with no time provided to make them up.
- **Top-Down Directives:** Instead of collaboration, teachers are now directed to write their own professional goals without the constructive dialogue with administration that once defined the process. Educators are being urged to download monitoring apps that invite “Big Brother” oversight of our every move. Principals are walking into classrooms, checking their watches, and telling teachers they're “one minute past” the dictated time to switch subjects — as though teaching were an assembly line, not a profession built on human connection and flexibility.

No Voice, No Collaboration: The district has applied for, received, and attempted to implement multiple state-awarded grants without consulting the Federation — despite being told, repeatedly, that the Federation never “closes” for the summer. One directive after another is issued before anyone has had the chance to process, plan, or properly implement the last.

Let's be clear: We see you. We hear you. We feel the same frustration.

Our strength has always come from standing together — and it's time to remind the district of that power.

***Join us at the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, November 19, at 5:30pm at Saunders High School.**

If you wish to speak about what you're experiencing, you must sign up in advance on the Yonkers Public Schools website — sign-up will not be available at the meeting.

But whether or not you speak, your presence matters. We need them to see the faces of frustration — the faces of dedicated educators who have had enough of chaos, disrespect, and decisions made without collaboration.

Together, we can — and will — make our voices heard.

In solidarity,

Samantha Rosado-Ciriello, President



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

YFT sends information to members via email and social media. Since we do not have email addresses for all of our retirees, many of you have not been receiving emails from YFT.

****If you are not receiving our emails PLEASE email your name, email address, home address, and cell phone number to us at yft@yft860.org att: Miriam Rodriguez**

Also, if you have changed (or will change) your address or updated your phone number, please email that to us.

REMINDER for those on Medicare:

Do NOT sign up for ANY other medical/Medicare insurance that is advertised by mail or on TV!!

These are solicitations from companies who would benefit from you changing your medical insurance coverage. If you switch, you would not continue to have Empire Plan (NYSHIP) or Medicare/Empire plan (NYSHIP) and could lose your entitlement to reimbursements of Medicare premiums. The retiree benefits you now have must not be changed. Just ignore these ads.

Swirling Leaves and Changing (Tax) Laws

By David Bonington
Financial Consultant
Stacey Braun Associates, Inc.

It's fall once again, and those colorful leaves that look so wonderful on trees will soon be swirling and twirling in strong mid-to-late Autumn winds. It will be a reminder that another year – and for purposes of this article, let's refer to it as another *tax* year – is drawing to a close. But it's more than just “another” year from a tax standpoint: 2025 brought with it some major changes to the Tax Code for individual taxpayers.

If you read and remember it, my article in the Spring issue (“*Hold On To Your Hat*”) pointed out that in addition to one's hat it is even more critical to hold on to one's wealth – and that important-to-be-aware-of changes in the way income is Federally taxed (or not taxed) would likely be in place this Fall.

It turns out this is correct. The so-called Big Beautiful Bill Act dealt with items which affect many individual taxpayers. Among other things, it created or changed -

- the deductibility of some of the “premium portion” of Overtime Income;
- the deductibility of a certain amount of Tip Income;
- the amount of a Standard Deduction;
- the deductibility of “SALT” (state and local income and property taxes);
- the amount of the Child Tax Credit; and
- the deductibility of charitable gifts - even for taxpayers who don't itemize deductions.

Importantly, the new law *did not* change the K-12 Educator Deduction for up to \$300 of unreimbursed spending on classroom materials – so keep those receipts!

A lot to digest? Of course – the changes mentioned have immediate, 2025 effect. And to make all of this a little more complicated (BTW, when has the Tax Code ever been simple?) there are rules and limitations which can affect a taxpayer's eligibility for a portion of (or even all) of the benefit some of the favorable changes appear to offer. In short, a lot to be aware of.

If you are about to stop reading because thinking about the Tax Code makes you feel like you just got caught in a whirlwind of - pick a number higher than 1000, then pick several colors – swirling leaves, why not let a Stacey Braun counselor “stop the wind” for an hour and help you calmly identify those tax features applicable to your circumstances? Planners are not CPAs, and they don't provide formal tax advice, but their familiarity with the new changes, guidelines, and opportunities can help you organize your thinking when making a tax plan. (And PS - if you have parents 65 or older, there's even something you can call their attention to, as well!)

I think you will agree that a dollar of avoided tax – legally, of course – is an especially handsome dollar to have in one's account. Why not make an appointment today?

**A free, confidential session with a Stacey Braun planner can be arranged by calling 1-888-949-1925.
No financial products are sold and there is no sales pressure.**



THE STEVE FREY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The **Steve Frey Memorial Scholarship** event took place on Tuesday, October 14. Guests and contributors were happy to see many historic YFT leaders as well as so many others who wanted to join together to honor the legacy of our former YFT President, Steve Frey. We shared stories of the past challenges and successes that helped to lay the groundwork for what has become the YFT of today and we traced many of our practices to the teachings and example of Steve.

There is still time to contribute to the scholarship. Just send a check, in any amount, made out to "YFT" with "Steve Frey Scholarship" in the memo and send it to the YFT office at 35 East Grassy Sprain Rd, Suite 501, Yonkers, NY 10710.



FOOD & DRINK
SPECIALS

YFT
HAPPY
HOUR

HAVE A DRINK,
GET TO KNOW
FELLOW UNION
MEMBERS AND
BUILD ALLIANCES!

»
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7
»

3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

GIANNA'S
1034 N. BROADWAY,
YONKERS

A GREAT PLACE TO
UNWIND AFTER WORK
AND FORGE NEW
CONNECTIONS.

SOLIDARITY
FOREVER

REMINDER

ATTENTION NON-TENURED TEACHERS:

If your certification is set to expire January 31, 2026, now is the time to make sure you submit everything you need.

NOVEMBER 2025

10th	3:45pm	COR Committee Meeting	YFT
12th	3:45pm	Executive Board	YFT
17th	3:30pm	YFT TA Meeting	*YFT
19th	3:45pm	Executive Board	YFT
19th	5:30pm	Board of Education Meeting	Saunders
20th	3:45pm	Building Assembly	Roosevelt HS

*New location

YFT
RETIREEES

We need
YOU

TO HELP WITH OUR MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER MAILING AT THE YFT
OFFICE ON THESE DATES:

11/19, 12/17, 1/21, 2/25, 3/18, 4/22, 5/20

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19TH AT 5:30PM

SHOW UP AND BE HEARD!

FRUSTRATED WITH TECHNOLOGY?
FEELING OVERWHELMED AND UNSUPPORTED?

TO MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD, WE'RE ASKING MEMBERS TO FILL THE SEATS AT THE NOVEMBER 19TH BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AT 5:30 PM AT SAUNDERS HIGH SCHOOL. LET'S MAKE SURE THE BOARD SEES "THE FACE OF FRUSTRATION."