

THE Yonkers Teacher

December 2025

Vol. L No. 4

Official Publication of the Yonkers Federation of Teachers

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:**

Karen Almodovar
Miriam Rodriguez

DISTRIBUTION TEAM:

Beth Korotkin	Mary Ann Carile
Bea Chimera	Sandra Hauss
Marilyn Lemchak	Sally Turkin
Karen Rubin	Arlene Clark
Bob Frey	Martha McKernan
Dolores Amodeo	Carol Craft

PROOFREADER:

Christine Heidelberger

PRESIDENT:

Samantha Rosado-Ciriello



Dear YFT Members,

As 2025 draws to an end, I want to thank each of our members for your perseverance, professionalism, and dedication to our students. This year has challenged all of us in ways that go far beyond the classroom. Yet once again, you have shown what it means to teach, support, and lead under challenging circumstances.

Despite mounting frustrations, from ongoing technology problems to constant shifts in instructional mandates, YFT members have continued to center on students' well-being and learning. You are adapting to new platforms, adjusting to changing schedules, and finding creative ways to reach every learner. That dedication does not go unnoticed.

That brings me to something that truly defines YFT members:
When things fall apart, we know how to Formulate solutions.
When directives make no sense, we seek Understanding together, and
We lean on Collegial support and solidarity.
We share our Knowledge generously, lifting one another along the way.

This is how we survive challenging moments. This is how we grow stronger as a union. This is how we ensure our students continue to receive the education they deserve, even when the system makes it difficult.

Our challenges are not over. Together, YFT raises our voices loudly and persistently. We must continue to push for immediate action on unresolved technology issues, for fairness and transparency in program implementation, and for respect for educators' time and expertise. Simultaneously, we are preparing for the next phase of advocacy as we enter budget season — ensuring that Yonkers schools receive the full funding, staffing, and resources our students and educators deserve.

The power of our union lies not only in our advocacy but in our unity. When members fill Board of Education meetings, share their experiences, and stand together, we make it impossible for decision-makers to ignore the realities inside our classrooms. Your participation and presence are what move us forward.

As we head into the holiday season, please take time to rest, reflect, and recharge. You have given so much to others this year — to your students, your colleagues, and your community. You've earned time to give back to yourself and your loved ones.

On behalf of the entire YFT Executive Board, I wish you peace, health, and joy this holiday season, and renewed strength as we continue our work together in the new year.

In solidarity,
Samantha Rosado-Ciriello, President

Election Schedule for:
NYSUT Representative Assembly Delegates (Albany, NY May 1st-2nd, 2026)
AFT Representative Assembly Delegates (Washington D.C. July 16th-19th, 2026)

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

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

Friday, December 12, 2025

Flyer to all YFT members (in newsletter mailing if possible)

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

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Elections held if contest(s) develop(s)

**THE ELECTION OF NINETEEN NYSUT REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATES AND SEVEN ALTERNATE DELEGATES, AND
FIFTEEN AFT REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATES AND EIGHT AFT ALTERNATE DELEGATES**

On **Thursday, January 8, 2026**, an election will be held to determine who will serve as one of the nineteen YFT delegates and seven alternates to the NYSUT RA (May 1st-2nd 2026 in Albany, NY) and who will serve as one of the fifteen delegates and eight alternates to the AFT RA (July 16th-19th 2026 in Washington D.C.). Each elected delegate will be compensated for necessary travel, hotel accommodation and food expenses.

Nominating procedures for NYSUT Representative Assembly Delegate and 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. Members in good standing are those members who have signed a membership form and have no outstanding dues pending. *All petitions must state the member's name and convention or position to be nominated for. Please be sure the petitions contain legible names printed and with signatures.

Nominations must be submitted in writing to the secretary at the union office (35 E. Grassy Sprain Road) **by 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025.**

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 or any member of the committee. All help will be greatly appreciated.



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

The Steve Frey Memorial Scholarship evening was truly heartwarming. We honored Steve with photos, speeches and of course the wonderful donations made to the scholarship. The Retiree Committee would like to thank all those who donated and supported The Steve Frey Memorial Scholarship event! If you haven't donated yet, and would like to, we will be accepting donations until December 31, 2025. We would like to give as many scholarships as possible to honor Steve's commitment to our students, the YFT and the community. **You can make your check payable to the "Yonkers Federation of Teachers", memo section: "Steve Frey Scholarship"**. Please be reminded that it will not be tax deductible.



The YFT Executive Board wishes our members and their families a happy and healthy holiday season filled with love and joy!



Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk

A great big thank you to all of our members and their families who joined on this wonderful day and a great big thank you to all who supported this cause by your generous donations.

A special shoutout to Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York State Senate Majority Leader for joining in supporting this cause.

Samantha Rosado-Ciriello
Florence McCue
Ethel Stuart
Lisa Foto
Vito Foto
Marc Foto
Kristin Foto

Sandra Chittenden
Robert Chittenden
Christine Cupaiuolo
Christine Iturriaga
Joyce Iturriaga
Maria Rodriguez
Elizabeth Bass

Jennifer Tiplady
Erin Gorman
Shai Stevenson
Alicia Hall
Cassandra McLean
Heather Carswell
Patricia Carswell

Erica DeMatteo
Kim Cardillo
Allison Moscol
Maximiliano Madrid
Madison Madrid
Victor Alcalde
Sharon Schaeffer

Katrina Loftin
Jeannine Kocher
Amanda Nugent



STORYBOOK BONANZA 2025

Honoring our NYS Senators, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins and Education Chair Shelley Mayer, for their unwavering commitment to education and Yonkers students! From universal school meals and Pre-K to amendments to Foundation Aid and mandatory recess, their leadership keeps our schools strong and our students supported.

This year's Storybook Bonanza book giveaway was one small way for teachers to show how much we care — and to stand for the freedom to read, opposing banned books, and preserving our history. Thank you as well to our YFT Public Relations Committee and teacher and student volunteers for a very successful Storybook Bonanza.



PACK YOUR BAGS AND SAVE!



With Member Benefits

Do the colder temperatures have you longing for a little getaway?

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses several programs that can help with all your travel plans, including MB Discounts & Deals, Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel, and Purchasing Power.

MB Discounts & Deals offers NYSUT members exclusive access to savings at over 850,000 popular hotels and resorts worldwide along with flights, vehicle rentals, theme parks and attractions, Broadway shows and museums, sporting events and concerts, movie tickets, ski tickets, restaurant dine-in or take-out, and so much more. If you have not already done so, you can create an account at mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com with a preferred email address, a password, and your seven-digit NYSUT ID number (which can be found at nysut.org/memberid).

Does your bucket list include taking an unforgettable excursion to Asia, the South Pacific, Mediterranean, Africa, Europe, or numerous other destinations? NYSUT members save at least \$150 per person on published

Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel tours along with the opportunity to save thousands per trip with additional discounts and savings. GCT & OAT provide the chance to become fully immersed in the culture of the region you are visiting, including lesser-known locations that most Americans never get to experience. Discovery opportunities, activities, and educational discussions are included with each trip.

With **Purchasing Power**, eligible NYSUT members can package their entire vacation together – including hotels, flights, attractions, vacation rentals, and cruises – while paying over 12 months through payroll deduction or Automated Clearing House (ACH) withdrawals. Purchasing Power is not a discount program, but offers no credit check and no down payments; it serves as an option over traditional financing options like high-interest credit cards.

SCAN ME



Explore all that is available to you from Member Benefits by scanning the QR code, visiting mb-nysut.org/travelmb, or calling 800-626-8101.