

THE Yonkers Teacher

September 2025

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Official Publication of the Yonkers Federation of Teachers

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Dear YFT Members,

As we prepare for another school year, I want to celebrate the many transitions, achievements, and advocacy efforts that shape our union.

First, please join me in congratulating the newly elected members of our leadership team. **Mike Garbowski** has been elected as our new Executive Vice President. **Jen Lorio** and **Mitch Polay** will both serve as Elementary Vice Presidents, and we are excited to benefit from their experience and dedication. We also welcome new Executive Board members **Elizabeth DeLuca**, **Jayme Downes**, and **Christine Heidelberger**—each brings a fresh perspective and commitment to our collective work.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and well wishes to our retirees: **Kara Popiel**, **Dan Florin**, and **Tom Muniz**. Thank you for your decades of service in union leadership roles, mentorship to new recruits, and unwavering commitment to our students and colleagues.

Over the summer, YFT members continued engaging in professional development and union leadership training across the country. Nearly forty YFT members from various parts of the district attended union-supported Science of Reading training, while others participated in ELA training to improve their skills and better serve students. A diverse group, including Executive Board members, rank-and-file members, a first-year member, and retirees, joined me at the NYSUT Tarrytown Regional Summer Conference in Ossining for workshops on health and safety, leadership, and union fundamentals. In July, I attended the Women's Summer Institute at Cornell University, which aimed to empower union women to lead change. **Elizabeth DeLuca and Florence McCue** represented us at AFT's TEACH Conference. **Christine Rozier** focused on educator wellness by completing training for RISE Kripalu — she is now an official RISE facilitator — and **Ken Texler** presented at NYSUT's Social Justice Academy in Albany. We are proud to see such strong union voices participating in national, state, and local trainings and discussions.

Finally, in an important legal victory for public education, President Trump attempted to withhold federal funds that had already been allocated to schools, due for release on July 1. Thanks to swift legal action by our state and national union and others, a federal judge ordered the funds to be released—protecting essential school resources and services and upholding the law.

As always, your strength, activism, and professionalism are the backbone of our union. Here's to a powerful year ahead.

In solidarity,

Samantha Rosado-Ciriello, President



DANIEL H. COOK
ASSOCIATES INC

1040 Avenue of the Americas 24th Floor
New York, NY 10018

August 20, 2025

Dear Members of the Yonkers Federation of Teachers Welfare Fund,

RE: Third-Party Administrator Effective July 1, 2025

We are pleased to inform you that, effective **July 1, 2025**, Daniel H. Cook Associates, Inc. extended its role to include additional services as the **Third-Party Administrator** for the **Yonkers Federation of Teachers Welfare Fund**.

Your Dental Provider has the option to submit claims electronically to our Payer ID# DHCDN

From this point forward, all claims not submitted electronically by your dentist will be sent directly to our office for processing at: **Daniel H. Cook Associates, Inc**
1040 Avenue of the Americas, 24th Floor, New York, NY 10018

Claims can also be emailed to: intake@dhcook.com

If you wish to check the status of your claims online, you can do so by creating an account via the following website: <https://dhclaims.com>. Please note that individual accounts must be created for each dependent. Updated claim forms can be found at: <https://dhcook.com/groups/yonkers-federation-of-teachers> by scrolling down for resources.

Should you have any questions or require assistance with the transition, please feel free to contact our office at **914-250-0700**. We look forward to working with you!

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Best Regards,

Daniel H. Cook Associates, Inc.
Third Party Administrator



YFT in the Community!

The YFT was well represented at the **Yonkers Juneteenth Festival** held on Saturday June 21st. There was entertainment, food, merchandise sold from Black owned businesses, church services, games, and lots of fun! At our YFT tent, we gave out free books, snacks, water, and played games, which we later raffled off. Thank you to **Lia Council**, **Jayne Downes**, and **Ken Texler** for organizing it and thank you to all of the YFT members who joined us!



WEPA! What a wonderful day celebrating Hispanic culture at the **Yonkers Puerto Rican and Hispanic Day Parade** through our **YFT Human and Civil Rights Committee**. Thank you to the Yonkers Hispanic Cultural Foundation for putting on such a wonderful event and to the Yonkers community for showing so much love and support!

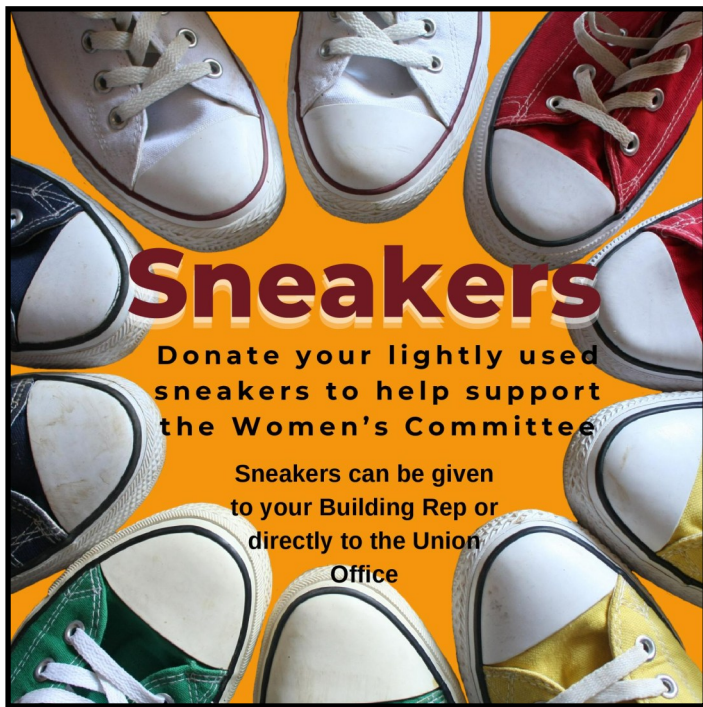




to the Class of 2025 Retirees!

Lydia Altinay	Maryann Hoblock	Brian O'Brien
Oscar Apronti	Raymond Hoblock Jr	Catherine O'Connor
German Arregui	Elizabeth Hunt	Meghan O'Meara
Monica Avila	Bryan Janszen	Eva Palombo
Michelle Bedlington	Carl Jenkins	Patrizia Raimo-Lacerra
Loida Cabassa	Lourdes Jiminez	Alexandra Rodriguez
Denise Cachoian	M. Penny Kelly	Marc Roennau
Claudia Caione	Gina Kemp	Theresa Ruth
Susan Calix	Jeanette Kolkowski	Carindina Sanchez
Vivienne Christie-Clarke	Erichsen Kollmar	Elly Schleifer
Gavin Curtis	Leidiana Kumar	Steven Simon
Patricia Dadario	Marleni Llenin	David Smith
Dena Delucia-Pryzgoda	Diane Maffei	Gregg Sussman
Harris Dollinger	Brendan Mannion	Anna Tomanelli
Paul Dossantos	Scott Marinich	Eileen Torres
Rhonda Ehrlich	Diedre McGovern-Sokol	Jacqueline Torres
Joseph Giannantonio	Kimberly Miano	Mary M. Touhey
Yoland Glenn	Barbara Muscatella	Cherie Uberman
Diane Hart	Angeline Nelson	Angela Valente-Muscolino
Peter Hatem	Rita Nolan	Christina Vetrano
		Barbara Vines





ATTENTION NEW TEACHERS & TEACHING ASSISTANTS!

YOU ARE INVITED To The YFT New Teacher Reception

	MONDAY	
<u>MEET EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS</u>	9/29 <u>3:45 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.</u>	<u>FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED</u>
<u>CERTIFICATION SUPPORT AND FAQ'S</u>	<u>WELFARE FUND BENEFITS EXPLAINED</u>	<u>ANSWERS TO YOUR APPR QUESTIONS</u>
R.S.V.P. BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH EMAIL THE YFT OFFICE AT YFT@YFT860.ORG HOMESTYLE RESTAURANT @ THE SPRAIN GOLF COURSE 290 E. GRASSY SPRAIN ROAD YONKERS, NY 10710		

YFT RETIREE APPRECIATION

HAPPY HOUR

Monday October 20th at 3pm

RANCHO GRANDE

1789 CENTRAL PARK AVE, YONKERS
FIRST DRINK AND APPETIZERS ON US!

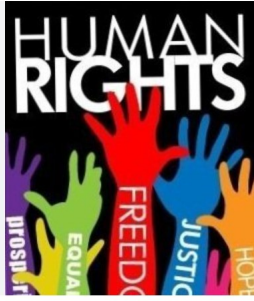


CALLING ALL YFT BROTHERS AND SISTERS!
HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF \$10K!



Please join us in the **Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk** on **Sunday, October 19th** at Manhattanville University in Purchase. Please meet by 8:30am under the NYSUT/YFT tent to get your YFT t-shirt and for a group picture.

Please scan the QR code to make a donation. Donations can also be sent by check (made payable to the American Cancer Society) to **Dr. Lisa Foto** at the YFT Office.



YFT Human & Civil Rights Committee

Chairpeople: Mitch Polay & Lynn O'Donnell

✦ Don't Throw Away Your Old Luggage! ✦ Donate it instead — and make a difference!

This **September**, the YFT Civil and Human Rights Committee will be **collecting new or gently used luggage** to distribute to **foster kids** in need. Many foster children move from place to place with their belongings in trash bags. Your new or gently used suitcases, duffels, or backpacks can help give them a sense of dignity and care.

Give your old luggage a new purpose.

Help a child carry their future.

📍 *More details about drop-off locations coming in late September!*

DENTAL, OPTICAL, APPLIANCE, HEARING AID CLAIMS, PRESCRIPTION REIMBURSEMENTS, ETC

Daniel H. Cook Associates, Inc

1040 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10018

General # (914) 250-0700

More specific info: (212) 505-5050 Ask for Lindsay

Email: yftwf@dhcook.com

Website: <http://www.dhclaims.com>

LEGAL COVERAGE AND ASSISTANCE

Mirkin and Gordon, PC

phone: (914) 997-1576

Email: info@mirkingordon.com

FINANCIAL ADVISORS

Stacy Braun Associates

Phone: (888) 949-1925

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

When traveling more than 100 miles from home

UNUM

Within US: 1-800-872-1414

Outside US: +1-609-986-1234

Email: medservices@assistamerica.com

STEVE FREY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

to benefit the students of Yonkers Public Schools



FAIRWAYS @DUNWOODIE
1 WASYLENKO LN, YONKERS, NY 10701
\$80 a person-Table of 10 \$750



ADS

- \$1500 Platinum
- \$1000 Gold
- \$750 Silver
- \$500 Bronze

**Please send photo of ad to Lynn O'Donnell at
lleoni0264@yahoo.com**

DONATIONS IN STEVE'S MEMORY ARE ALSO ACCEPTED

Please send check payable to the YFT to the
Yonkers Federation of Teachers
35 East Grassy Sprain Road, Yonkers, NY 10710

Send your check along with the completed form

Note: Donations are not tax deductible

The Steve Frey Memorial Scholarship Dinner

The Fairways at Dunwoodie

1 Wasylenko Lane

Yonkers, NY 10701

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

ADS

PLATINUM-designated full page - \$1500

GOLD- full page- \$1000

SILVER -half page- \$750

BRONZE- quarter page- \$500

Tickets: \$80.00 or a table of 10 for \$750

Please send all ads as an email to Lynn O'Donnell at lleonio264@yahoo.com

All checks for tickets and ads please make out to the YFT and send to Yonkers Federation of Teachers,
35 East Grassy Sprain Road, Yonkers, NY 10710 Attention: Scholarship

I would like to place an ad for the Steve Frey Memorial Scholarship, and I have enclosed a check for
\$_____ as payment for _____ ad and/or _____ number of tickets.

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Email _____

_____ I would like to make a donation in memory of Steve Frey. Enclosed is \$_____

NAME _____

SEPTEMBER 2025

8th	3:30pm	YFT TA Meeting	Roosevelt HS
9th	3:45pm	Executive Board	YFT
11th	3:45pm	YFT Human/Civil Rights Comm.	YFT
15th	3:45pm	COR Committee	YFT
17th	3:45pm	Executive Board	YFT
17th	5:30pm	Board of Education Meeting	Saunders
25th	3:45pm	Building Assembly	Roosevelt HS
29th	3:45pm	New Teacher Reception	Homestyle @ Sprain Golf
October 2nd	3:45pm	YFT Women's Committee	YFT



YFT Annual Storybook Bonanza

Yonkers Teachers will distribute FREE books to Pre-K through 6th Grade YPS Students. Students get their picture taken with

Clifford, the Big Red Dog!

Saturday, October 18th

Riverfront Library

11:00am to 1:30pm