

The Official Publication of the Wallkill Teachers' Association  
NYSUT Local # 13-265  
AFT Local #3082 affiliated with NEA \* AFL-CIO

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*Jordan Dirago, Editor*

# iMP@CT



## President's Message

Dear WTA Members,  
Welcome back! I hope you have settled in and are ready for a great year ahead. NYSUT's has started some new campaigns that we all should get excited about. Common Ground Over Chaos bus tour kicked off at union headquarters with a big yellow bus, encouraging lawmakers to pledge to work across the aisle to find legislative solutions that benefit all Americans. Check out the NYSUT webpage for more information. It is time to come together to support candidates who are Pro-Union, Pro-Worker and Pro- Public Education.

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## President's Message Continued

On Friday, Sept. 20, NYSUT hosted the Disconnected Conference to discuss the negative effects of cellphones, social media and technology on learning and mental health in our schools. More than 500 educators, students, parents, policymakers and even two of our own engaged in a constructive dialogue about this crucial issue. Immediately following the conclusion of Disconnected, NYSUT's Board of Directors passed a resolution calling for restrictions on smartphones and other personal devices like smartwatches and earbuds in schools. Now we need to get lawmakers on board.

On Superintendents Conference Day in November, we will celebrate our newly tenured members and show gratitude to our members reaching their 25-year milestone. Please join us in wearing your union shirts and participate in this year's Vote-Cope Drive. We would also love to increase our presence within the community, please consider participating in one of our many WTA events. Think about donating to the food pantry each paycheck, our Highway Clean up in November or walking in the St. Patrick's Day Parade this year. We look forward to seeing you and so do our students and the community.

In Solidarity,

LeeAnn Pazoga

Wallkill Teachers' Association President



## Scholarship Committee Announcement

*Submitted by Kathy Winter*

Four scholarships were presented to graduating seniors who are pursuing a college path at the June Awards Ceremony. After a committee of 12 teachers reviewed the applications, they chose the following deserving students:

Kendall Albrechtsen, Laura Thorenz, Gabriella Salese, and Catherine O'Brien. Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship thanks to your generous donations!

## Welcome Back Event (Maganini Winery)





## New Member Spotlight

My name is Alexandra Arenas, and I'm currently pursuing my master's degree at SUNY New Paltz after graduating with my bachelor's degree this past May from SUNY Plattsburgh. Growing up in Wallkill and attending Wallkill Senior High School, I feel fortunate to be part of the same community that shaped me. I'm passionate about education and excited to continue my journey in teaching. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends. It's an honor to be part of this supportive environment, and I look forward to contributing to our shared success!

**PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS  
UNITE US**

**NYSUT HUDSON  
VALLEY**

## 2024 Endorsements & Voting Information

**VOTE** TUESDAY  
NOVEMBER  
5TH

Polls are open from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

### STATE & FEDERAL ENDORSEMENTS

- President: Kamala Harris
- Vice President: Tim Walz
- U.S. Senate: Kirsten Gillibrand

### STATE SENATE ENDORSEMENTS

- SD-42: James Skoufis
- SD-41: Michelle Hinchey
- SD-40: Peter Harckham
- SD-39: Yvette Valdés Smith
- SD-38: Elijah Reichlin-Melnick
- SD-37: Shelley B. Mayer
- SD-36: Jamaal Bailey
- SD-35: Andrea Stewart-Cousins
- SD-34: Nathalia Fernandez

### CONGRESSIONAL ENDORSEMENTS

- CD-19: Josh Riley
- CD-18: Pat Ryan
- CD-17: Mondaire Jones
- CD-16: George Latimer

### STATE ASSEMBLY ENDORSEMENTS

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • AD-106: Didi Barrett            | • AD-96: Patrick Carroll  |
| • AD-105: <i>*no endorsement*</i> | • AD-95: Dana Levenberg   |
| • AD-104: Jonathan Jacobson       | • AD-94: Matthew Slater   |
| • AD-103: Sarahana Shrestha       | • AD-93: Chris Burdick    |
| • AD-101: <i>*no endorsement*</i> | • AD-92: MaryJane Shimsky |
| • AD-100: Paula Kay               | • AD-91: Steven Otis      |
| • AD-99: Chris Eachus             | • AD-90: Nader Sayegh     |
| • AD-98: Karl Brabenec            | • AD-89: J. Gary Pretlow  |
| • AD-97: John McGowan             | • AD-88: Amy Paulin       |

Remember to flip over your ballot and vote YES on the Equal Rights Amendment.

**nysut**  
A Union of Professionals

To look up your polling place information, districts, and see which candidates are on your ballot, visit [voterlookup.elections.ny.gov](https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov) or use the QR code:



# LIFE INSURANCE: *Crucial for protecting your loved ones*



Life insurance is a topic many people find confusing, complicated, and uncomfortable to think about. It is undoubtedly one of the most vital types of insurance products you can purchase, though. Whether you're looking into your first policy or to upgrade existing coverage, it's important to determine how much life insurance you need and which type is right for you.

One key fact about life insurance you may not be aware of is premiums are likely to be less expensive if you purchase it earlier in life. For those of you who currently have policies, what you purchased 10 years ago, five years ago, or even last year may not be enough to replace your income and all you provide for your family. And if you are part of the 30% of Americans who don't have any life insurance at all,\* you could be putting your family at great financial risk.

There are a variety of options to consider when it comes to life insurance, including:

- 1. Term Life** – this product pays a benefit in the event of the death of the insured during a specific timeframe but offers no cash value.
- 2. Level Term Life** – this insurance is similar to term life but is normally for a set period of time such as 10, 15, or 20 years; it also offers no cash value.
- 3. Universal Life** – this option offers a way to protect your family while building tax-deferred cash value; policyholders can usually access a portion of the balance without impacting the guaranteed death benefit.

\* Source: USA Today - <https://www.usatoday.com/money/blueprint/life-insurance/life-insurance-statistics>

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses a number of competitive life insurance programs (those listed to the left and others) available to NYSUT members and their spouse/certified domestic partner. Many of these plans offer reduced rates not available to the general public along with additional convenience and savings opportunities through payroll or pension deduction.

**Learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed life insurance programs by scanning the QR code, visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org), or calling 800-626-8101.**



**MEMBER  
BENEFITS**  
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Working to Benefit You  
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