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NYSUT Local # 13-265
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Jordan Dirago, Editor

IMP@CT

President's Message:

Dear WTA Members,

Please note the following about NYSUT's fight to Fix Tier 6. According to the NYSUT, "Fixing Tier 6 is about justice and dignity in retirement. It is about solidarity and fairness. It is about keeping talented educators in the classroom and recruiting new educators into the profession." This concept is so important for all of us to understand and support.

It is not equitable that newer NYSUT members must contribute more, work longer and have less of a pension than previous tiered members. Civil service careers used to promise equal opportunities, benefits, and career paths that would lead to a fair, equitable, and honorable retirement.

Members are now undervaluing our profession and younger colleagues are paying the price in both the short and long term. All members' pensions should reflect our time-honored values. Consequently, the current Tiers 5 and 6 plans also do not adequately incentivize remaining in our profession for any substantial amount of time. One possible result of this is the current trend in a shortage of teachers statewide. The issues of contribution rate and retirement eligibility requirements effect both present and future recruitment and retention objectives.

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NYSUT has previously stated that, “When we stand together in solidarity, we have power. By staying united, we have made big changes before.” For example, in 2000, NYSUT helped end career-long contributions and reduced early retirement pensions for Tier 4 members.

We need everyone's help because fairness can be achieved once more for all members. Here are a few things you can do to help NYSUT fight the good fight:

- Visit the NYSUT MAC to digitally support union actions.
- Join NYSUT’s Tier 6 Fix-It Team to help with direct outreach.
- Share the Fix Tier 6 message with your friends and family.
- Donate to VOTE-COPE, NYSUT’s voluntary, non-partisan political action fund.

Our time, efforts, and donations help to get the message out to lawmakers so that changes can be made.

As a Tier 4 member, I vow to fight for my Tier 5 & 6 colleagues as Tiers 1,2 and 3 members did for me. Please join me in this journey by joining NYSUT’s Fix Tier 6 Team using the link below and increasing your Vote Cope contribution in our next Vote Cope Drive.

<https://fixtier6.org/get-involved>

In Solidarity,

LeeAnn Pazoga



New Member Spotlight

My name is **Gabrielle Mancuso** and I teach 9th grade global history, 11th grade US history and participation in government to seniors at the high school. I was born and raised in New Paltz and ran division 1 track and cross country at the University of New Hampshire. After, I graduated with a BA in history at SUNY New Paltz then later went to Stockton University for education in Atlantic City, New Jersey. During that decade in Atlantic City with my large Italian family, I worked at the Borgata Casino for 5 years and taught for 4 years in 2 different school districts before returning to the Hudson Valley. In my free time I enjoy hiking, roller blading, skiing, and skydiving! I am so excited to be back in the area teaching here at Wallkill where my father formerly taught for over 30 years and cannot wait to coach running and skiing with my brother Nick Mancuso who is currently teaching Physical Education at Plattekill. Overall, I'm just really grateful to be here and be a part of the Wallkill Faculty.



welcome
TO THE
TEAM

Davis Vision Update

Submitted by Kathy Winter

The WTA BT has been hard at work getting new vision benefits for our members and their eligible dependents. We researched the benefits that our members used the most and we improved many of the benefits reimbursed to you. When you visit your eye care professional this year, remind them of the updated benefits.

Attached is the new Benefits Highlight Sheet for your review.
The benefits we improved or added are:

Benefit Increase

- All Anti-Reflective Reduced
- Transition Covered
- Retinal Imaging Covered
- Blue Light Covered
- Glasses and contacts same cycle
- Glasses \$200 and contacts at \$200

Our Davis Vision and Delta Dental benefits run the calendar year, January to December. Go to their websites to find local providers. Also, as a reminder we have an eye care benefit through our district medical plan.

We encourage everyone to use these benefits with your family!



Toys for Tots

NJHS raised \$555 for Toys for Tots selling hot cocoa and Rice Krispies before Winter break. Special thanks to [Colleen Keesler](#) for organizing!



Check out all your union membership has to offer!

Free Premium Calm App for All NYSUT In-Service AND Retiree Members!



- **The #1 app for sleep, meditation, and relaxation**
- **Unlimited access to the full library of content**
- **Add up to five dependents (age 16 or older) to receive their own premium Calm subscription**

The Calm app -- recognized as Apple's Best of 2018 award winner, Apple's App of the Year 2017, and Google Play Editor's Choice 2018 -- is the #1 app for sleep, meditation, and relaxation with over 100 million downloads. Whether members have 30 seconds or 30 minutes of time available, the diverse content library offered by Calm includes numerous resources for their schedule and needs.

Members can explore guided meditations and specialized music playlists to help with stress and focus, mindful movement video and audio, relaxing sleep stories, nature scenes and sounds, specific content tailored for children, masterclasses led by experts, and more.

To learn more about how to create your Calm account and access the premium content for free, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org/free-member-benefits](https://www.nysut.org/memberbenefits) and then click on "Premium Calm Service." From there, you will find detailed instructions on how to create your Calm account along with a helpful Frequently Asked Questions document about the service. You will need your NYSUT ID number to create an account with your email address and password. Your NYSUT ID number can be found on your NYSUT Membership Card or by visiting <https://www.nysut.org/memberid>.

Once you create your free Calm account on your computer, it is recommended that you download the Calm app for your iOS or Android device. After downloading the Calm app for your preferred mobile device, you can then log in with your email address and password to unlock the premium Calm content.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,
visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://www.nysut.org/memberbenefits),
or calling 800-626-8101.

