

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

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DID YOU KNOW?

As a NYSUT Member, you are provided with several free services.

CALM App—The premium Calm subscription provides in-service members with unlimited access to full library of content at calm.com and in the Calm App.



Peer Support Line—Created in partnership with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, this confidential helpline can provide answers, referrals, and empathetic support when you need it.

Inside this issue

- 1—Free
- 2—Upcoming Events
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- 4—NYSUT Member Benefits

Student Loan Center—This helpful resource allows NYSUT members to speak with a Cambridge Credit Counseling loan counselor, attend a NYSUT Student Loan Workshop, or visit the Cambridge Student Loan Portal.

New Member Life Insurance Policy—New NYSUT members are eligible to receive a free term life insurance policy providing coverage for up to \$25,000 for one year, guaranteed renewable at the end of the year.

Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance—All NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) are automatically provided with a \$5,000 accidental death and dismemberment insurance benefit.

For more, visit: memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101

Upcoming Events:

Come out and support the WTA!
Contact Melissa Velazquez if interested.



Walkill St. Patrick's Day Parade
Sunday 3/23/25—2pm

Clean Sweep
Saturday 4/26
***Rain Date: Sunday 4/27**



Fix Tier 6 Update

Melissa Velazquez

Good day members, The WTA just wanted to update you on some of the latest victories in our fight to Fix Tier Six.



The Latest 2025 UPDATE

Thanks to your activism we won the biggest win for pension reform in 20 years— lowering the Final Average Salary calculation from five to three years for Tiers 5 & 6 members! Now, an average of Tier 6 members' last three salary years, instead of their last five salary years, will determine their lifetime pension payments.

The new calculation means Tier 6 members will receive a bigger pension check, every month, for life. Individual situations will vary, but this works out to around \$100,000 more in lifetime retirement earnings!

What's Next

While we got these big victories, we are not done yet.

We are systematically tackling the next issues that will make a difference. Our goal is to get our Tier 5 and 6 members to parity with Tier 4 members, in both contributions and retirement age.

The most important thing right now is that our lawmakers remember this is a top issue. As this year's legislative session progresses, we'll be keeping you updated on specific actions.

Upcoming Events

Fix Tier 6 on the 6th! (of the month)

NYSUT is hosting a series of rallies across the state this winter and spring, the 6th of every month. Join NYSUT, other union members and elected officials as we stand in solidarity to Fix Tier 6! Click on this link to join a Rally near you.

Enjoy these benefits

NYSUT Member Benefits strongly believes in the importance of making quality benefits easily accessible to the NYSUT membership. You may be interested in the following options:

FOR FREE!

1. Premium Calm Subscription:

All in-service and retiree members receive unlimited free access to the popular Calm app's full library of sleep, meditation, and relaxation content. Members can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older) to receive their own premium Calm subscription.

2. Peer Support Line:

Whether you're facing a specific stressful situation or would just like to speak with a supportive voice, this confidential helpline is free to all NYSUT members and their families. Call toll-free 844-444-0152 to connect with a peer.

3. AD&D Insurance Benefit/ Travel Assistance Services:

All in-service and retiree members are automatically provided with a \$5,000 accidental death & dismemberment insurance benefit, along with free travel assistance services from AXA Assistance.

4. New Member Life Insurance:

All new members are eligible to receive a free term life insurance policy providing coverage for up to \$25,000 for one year, guaranteed renewable at the end of the year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Member Appreciation Event is back!

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce that Member Appreciation Event will be held this March! This celebration will feature prizes donated by Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers. To be eligible to win, you must be a participant in our MAP Alert email service.

If you're not already a MAP Alert participant, simply scan the QR code, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, or call 800-626-8101 to sign up. You'll then receive weekly updates about endorsed benefits, information about new programs, and be able to take part in special prize drawings such as Member Appreciation Event.

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Working to Benefit You

January/February 2025

