

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

October 2019
Volume 30, Issue 6
Jordan Dirago, Editor

IMP@CT

President's Message, Rich Shands

Dear WTA Members,

I hope everyone's year is off to a good start. It's hard to believe we are practically 10 weeks in already! It will be another busy year! As a union we are at 100% enrollment. Thank you all for your support. As a Representative Assembly, we don't take this lightly. It is a choice for WTA members to remain in the union and keep our voice strong. We will continue to represent you to the best of our ability.

Our contract is up in June of 2021. We will be gearing up later this school year to begin negotiations. As that process begins, we will be reaching out to you all with updates. We also will be negotiating a new APPR to reflect changes decided at the state level.

"The only thing that remains the same is change." This quote continues to reflect what public education is all about. Whether we are talking about technology in the classroom, new challenges with students and different programs in the classroom, new requirements for collecting and recording data and an increasing litigious school environment to name a few. Some of these changes are positive, while others are not. We must continue to adapt to keep up with all the changes.

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President's Message Continued

One thing I want to remind everyone about in this increasingly litigious environment is the use of school email. Over the years we have been told for FERPA reasons to not put a student's name in the email heading. We have been told to put "student" or student initials. What everyone must be extremely conscience of is FOIL (Freedom of Information Law). Parents can and are using FOIL to obtain all district emails that reference their child. They can FOIL every email that has their student's name, initials or student id number. That is why it is extremely important that our emails are professional and do not contain any negative personal judgements that could be used against us in any type of disciplinary situation. When a foil request goes in for any initials, for example, "JT", all emails with those initials will be pulled out of the server and read through by administration. The emails that reference "JT" are then provided to the person who made the FOIL request. Please use caution and good judgement when using school email.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who came out for the "Adopt a Highway" cleanup. We had a great turnout. It was also nice to see some faces from different buildings at the welcome back Happy Hour. We need to do that more often! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out!

25 Year Members

Submitted by: [Melissa Servant](#)

WTA would like to congratulate the following individuals for being a special part of our district for the past 25 years:

Christine Barritt

Barbara Curiale

Bill Earl

Amy Gallagher

Craig Ramsey

Leo Sladewski

Joe Zupan



The Suzie Gaetano Award

Submitted by: Melissa Servant

The Suzie Gaetano Award was presented this past September at the first Superintendent's meeting of the school year. The recipient was decided upon by us, Suzie's colleagues. Through a simple nomination process, faculty members identified Colleen Keesler, to be the person selected as the one who carries on the legacy that Sue embodied while she worked as our colleague here at Wallkill.



Welcome New Faculty

High School -

Valerie Andryshak, Mathematics Teacher
Karen Regino, Special Education Teacher

Ostrander-

Lori Sommer, Special Education Teacher

Leptondale-

Nicole Crowther, Special Education Teacher
Ellen Landivar, Special Education Teacher



Get to Know: Our Newest Members

Lori Sommer (Ostrander Elementary)

My name is Lori Sommer and I have been in the education field for the past 8 years. This will be my second year teaching full-time. I have had the experience working in several different schools and concentrating in special education for the past few years. I am looking forward to this school year at Ostrander and am thrilled to be joining the Wallkill community. Everyone has welcomed me with open arms and I am excited to be working with my team this year!



Karen Regino (High School)

I am a double alumni of Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY (B.A & M.S Ed.). I am very excited and humbled to have been chose to be a new member of the Wallkill team. I previously taught in the Warwick Valley Central School District for the last few years. In addition to being a teacher, I am also a very proud wife and mother! My husband is a previous Wallkill graduate himself! My son, Dominic, is just over a year and is our absolute pride and joy.

Valerie Andryshak (High School)

I received my Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Fredonia, where I majored in both Adolescent Education and Mathematics. I spent 1 year teaching Pre-calculus at SUNY Fredonia while also receiving my Master's degree there in Math Education. This is my first year teaching and I am very pleased to be instructing Algebra 1 and Algebra 1B at Wallkill Senior High School.

Neil Landivar (Leptondale)

My name is Neil Landivar and I have been teaching for 9 years. Before coming to Walkill, I taught Pre-K in NYC and then taught in special education settings. I have a husband named Cesar and will be married 2 years this fall. In my spare time I like to run, spend time with family, and watch football. I am very excited to be at Walkill and have found everyone to be extremely welcoming!

WTA Phone Banking

Submitted by: Melissa Servant

Special Thanks for all your support!



WTA & Randi Weingarten

Submitted by: Melissa Servant

Dutchess Democratic Luncheon



Your Union-Endorsed Benefits: Debt Consolidation & Mortgage Savings

NYSUT Member Benefits understands the challenges that the hardworking women and men of this labor union face when it comes to financial issues such as student loan re-payment options, credit card consolidation or debt management, or saving on purchasing or refinancing a home.

Student Loan & Debt Counseling Program

Your union membership allows you to receive a no-obligation debt and/or student loan consultation at no cost with a certified counselor through the Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **Cambridge Credit Counseling** program. Cambridge provides individualized student loan counseling along with a unique web portal available at a reduced rate to help explain the various options when paying student debt; debt relief services are also offered.

UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program

The Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program presented by Mid-Island Mortgage Corp.** offers union members and their families savings of up to \$2,700 on lender fees and closing costs. Your union membership also entitles you to no application or processing fees; no commitment fees; no underwriting fees; no lender or broker fees; and reduced attorney and title fees.

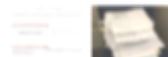
The Power of the Union

Regardless of whether you are participating in either of the programs mentioned above; one of our endorsed insurance, financial or legal programs; or our many shopping, entertainment or travel offerings, NYSUT members receive a quality product and enjoy the **"Power of the Union"** behind them. Unlike when purchasing products available to the general public, Member Benefits is here as your advocate if you ever have any issues or concerns with our endorsed programs.

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs,
visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.



Sept./Oct. 19

Adopt-a-Highway Pictures—Submitted by Adam Selig





WTA Supports Chicago Teachers Union

Submitted by: Melissa Servant

Teachers and school staff in the Chicago Teachers Union and SEIU Local 73 are fighting for the needs of students, because educators want what students need. For years now, they've been promised more classroom resources, smaller class sizes, more investment in staffing, and educational justice for students of color. Mayor Lori Lightfoot ran a campaign built on these promises, and the state of Illinois gave \$1 billion to support Chicago's students' needs. The money exists to invest in neighborhood public schools that communities want, but the mayor isn't working as a partner to make this happen. Now that teachers are asking her to fulfill her campaign promises, she hasn't been willing to follow through. That's why the CTU is on strike—and that's why we're asking you to show your solidarity and support. -Quoted from Randi Weingarten (AFT president)

JGBMS Wearing Red!



Early Voting Information

Submitted by: Melissa Servant

For the first time **EVER** in New York State history you will be able to **VOTE EARLY** in this November's General Election. The next election will be the General Election to be held on **Tuesday, November 5th, 2019. Polls will be open from 6 AM to 9 PM** everywhere.

Early Voting starts THIS Saturday, October 26th through Sunday, November 3rd. You will only be able to vote early in the location listed below based on where you reside.

Times vary based on location so please check your local Board of Elections for full information.

Shared by Mike Grubiak

NYSUT Regional Political Organizer

VOTE EARLY

YOUR TIME | YOUR VOICE | YOUR VOTE

The next election will be the General Election to be held **on Tuesday, November 5th, 2019**. Polls will be open from **6 AM to 9 PM everywhere**. There will also be 9 days of **Early Voting between Saturday October 26 and Sunday November 3**. You will only be able to vote early in the location listed below based on where you reside. Times vary based on location so please check your local Board of Elections for full information.

Rockland: 845-638-5172

- Clarkstown Town Hall, 10 Maple Avenue, New City, NY 10956
 - **Clarkstown**
- Haverstraw Town Hall, 1 Rosman Road, Garnerville, NY 10923
 - **Haverstraw, Stony Point**
- Orangetown Town Hall, 26 West Orangeburg Road, Orangeburg, NY 10962
 - **Orangetown**
- Ramapo Town Hall, 237 Route 59, Suffern, NY 10901
 - **Ramapo**

Orange: 845-360-6500

- City of Newburgh Activity Center, 401 Washington Street in the City of Newburgh
 - **City of Newburgh, Town of Newburgh, and New Windsor**
- Cornwall Ambulance Building, 1 Clinton Street in the Town of Cornwall
 - **Cornwall, Highlands, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove**
- Middletown Senior Center, 62-70 West Main Street in the City of Middletown
 - **Middletown, Wawayanda, and Walkill**
- Warwick Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway in Warwick
 - **Warwick, Goshen, Chester, and Tuxedo**
- Village of Montgomery Senior Center, 36 Bridge Street in Montgomery
 - **Montgomery, Crawford, Hamptonburgh**
- Farnum Building, 21 Ulster Place in the City of Port Jervis
 - **Port Jervis, Deerpark, Greenville, Mount Hope and Minisink**
- Monroe Town Hall, 1465 Orange Turnpike in Monroe
 - **Palm Tree and Monroe**

Putnam: 845-808-1300

- Putnam County Board of Elections, 25 Old Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512
 - **ALL of Putnam**



NYSUT Tarrytown Regional Office
520 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591
(914) 592-4411

VOTE EARLY

YOUR TIME | YOUR VOICE | YOUR VOTE

Westchester: 914-995-5700

- MT KISCO TOWN HALL, 104 MAIN STREET, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549
 - **MT KISCO, BEDFORD, NEW CASTLE**
- PEEKSKILL CITY HALL, 810 MAIN STREET, PEEKSKILL, NY 10566
 - **PEEKSKILL, CORTLANDT**
- EASTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY, 11 OAKRIDGE PLACE, EASTCHESTER, NY 10709
 - **EASTCHESTER, SCARSDALE**
- DOBBS FERRY VILLAGE HALL, 112 MAIN STREET DOBBS FERRY, NY 10522
 - **GREENBURGH**
- HARRISON VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING, 210 HALSTEAD AVENUE, HARRISON, NY 10528
 - **HARRISON, MAMARONECK, RYE TOWN, RYE CITY**
- CYRUS RUSSELL COMMUNITY HOUSE, 779 NY-35, CROSS RIVER, NY 10518
 - **LEWISBORO, POUND RIDGE**
- MT PLEASANT COMMUNITY CENTER, 125 LOZZA DRIVE, VALHALLA, NY 10595
 - **MT PLEASANT, NORTH CASTLE**
- SOMERS TOWN HOUSE, 335 ROUTE 202, SOMERS, NY 10589
 - **SOMERS, NORTH SALEM**
- OSSINING RECREATION CENTER, 95 BROADWAY, OSSINING, NY 10562
 - **OSSINING**
- NEW ROCHELLE CITY HALL, 515 NORTH AVENUE, NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10801
 - **NEW ROCHELLE, PELHAM**
- JEFFERSON VILLAGE, 3480 HILL BOULEVARD, YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598
 - **YORKTOWN**
- DOLES RECREATION CENTER, 250 S 6TH AVENUE, MT VERNON, NY 10550
 - **MT VERNON**
- MT VERNON CITY HALL, 1 ROOSEVELT SQUARE, MT VERNON, NY 10550
 - **MT VERNON**
- WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, 25 QUARROPAS STREET, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10601
 - **WHITE PLAINS**
- GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY, 1500 CENTRAL PARK AVENUE, YONKERS, NY 10710
 - **YONKERS**
- RIVERFRONT BRANCH: YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1 LARKIN CENTER, YONKERS, NY 10701
 - **YONKERS**



NYSUT Tarrytown Regional Office
520 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591
(914) 592-4411

VOTE EARLY

YOUR TIME | YOUR VOICE | YOUR VOTE

The next election will be the General Election to be held **on Tuesday, November 5th, 2019**. Polls will be open from **6 AM to 9 PM everywhere**. There will also be 9 days of **Early Voting between Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, November 3**. You will only be able to vote early in the location listed below based on where you reside. Times vary based on location so please call your local Board of Elections for full information.

Ulster

(845-334-5470)

You can vote at ANY SITE that is convenient for you

- Woodstock
 - Woodstock Community Center, 56 Rock City Rd, Woodstock, NY 12498
- Ulster
 - Russell Brott Senior Center 1, Town Hall Drive, Lake Katrine, NY 12449
- Kingston
 - SUNY Ulster Kingston Campus, 94 Marys Ave, Kingston, NY 12401
- Rochester
 - Accord Firehouse 22, Main St, Accord, NY 12404
- Wawarsing/Ellenville
 - Ellenville Public Library Community Room, 40 Center Street, Ellenville, NY 12428
- New Paltz
 - Redeemer Lutheran Church 90 Route 32 South, New Paltz, NY 12561
- Lloyd
 - Highland American Legion Hall, 84 Grand St, Highland, NY 12528

Dutchess

(845-486-2473)

You can vote at ANY SITE that is convenient to you

- Rhinebeck Town Hall, 80 East Market Street, Rhinebeck, NY
- Millbrook Fire House, 20 Front Street, Millbrook, NY
- DC Board of Elections, 47 Cannon Street, Poughkeepsie, NY
- Unionvale Town Hall, 249 Duncan Road, Lagrangeville, NY
- Fishkill Town Hall, 807 Route 52, Fishkill, NY



NYSUT Mid Hudson Regional Office
280 Stockade Drive
Kingston, New York
(845) 339-4450

VOTE EARLY

YOUR TIME | YOUR VOICE | YOUR VOTE

Sullivan

(845-807-0400)

All Residents of Sullivan County

- Sullivan County Board of Elections Office – Ground Floor – 100 North Street – Monticello, NY 12701

Columbia

(518-828-3115)

You can vote at ANY SITE that is convenient to you

- County Building, 401 State Street, Hudson, NY 12534
- Martin H. Glynn Municipal Building, Valatie, NY 12186
- Copake Town Hall, 230 Mountain View Road, Copake, NY 12516

Greene

(518-719-3550)

All Residents of Greene County

- Greene County Office Building, 4th floor, Suite 430, 411 Main St, Catskill, NY 12414



NYSUT Mid Hudson Regional Office
280 Stockade Drive
Kingston, New York
(845) 339-4450



YOU CAN
VOTE BY VOTING
OR
VOTE BY NOT VOTING.

November 5, 2019

Collectively Union

WTA = Political Action Corner

Greetings, WTA Sisters and Brothers!

I'm Marie Lysandrou, your Political Action Coordinator, and I'd like to pass along some important news. Early Voting has come to New York! For the first time, New York State residents may cast their votes up to 10 days in advance of Election Day. I've included the infographic to the left to help you determine convenient polling locations and other helpful information. [This link](#) will take you to a website which will advise you on polling places, available dates and times for all NY counties.

Did you know....

... you are entitled to up to 3 paid hours during your workday to vote on 11/5/19? This must be either at the beginning or end of your day. Have your request into your building principal no later than October 31st specifying whether you are taking an AM or PM release. Nothing is needed in AESOP.



I would love to pass along some photos to NYSUT of our members availing of Early Voting. Please send me your pics at mlysandrou@msn.com! Thank you!

AFL-CIO

HUDSON VALLEY AREA LABOR FEDERATION

ABOUT US

NEWS

EVENTS

UNION MEMBER BENEFITS

TAKE ACTION

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCILS

POLITICAL ACTION

Upper Hudson Central Labor Council/HVALF

I have been attending the Central Labor Council meetings in Kingston at the NYSUT Mid-Hudson Regional Office. Most recently, we have been phone banking for labor endorsed candidates (more on that below!). There are a number of canvassing and phone banking events happening region wide, and we would welcome and very much appreciate your time. Please follow [this link](#) to see events that might fit into your schedule. This is a great way for members to participate! Please let me know if you're interested, and I'll hook you up! mlysandrou@msn.com

ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Early Voting Frequently Asked Questions



What is early voting?

Voting is easier and more convenient than ever before.

For the first time in New York State, you can vote in-person at seven different sites across Ulster County **before** Election Day on November 5th.

From Saturday, October 26, 2019 to Sunday, November 3, 2019 you can vote in person.

Can I vote early?

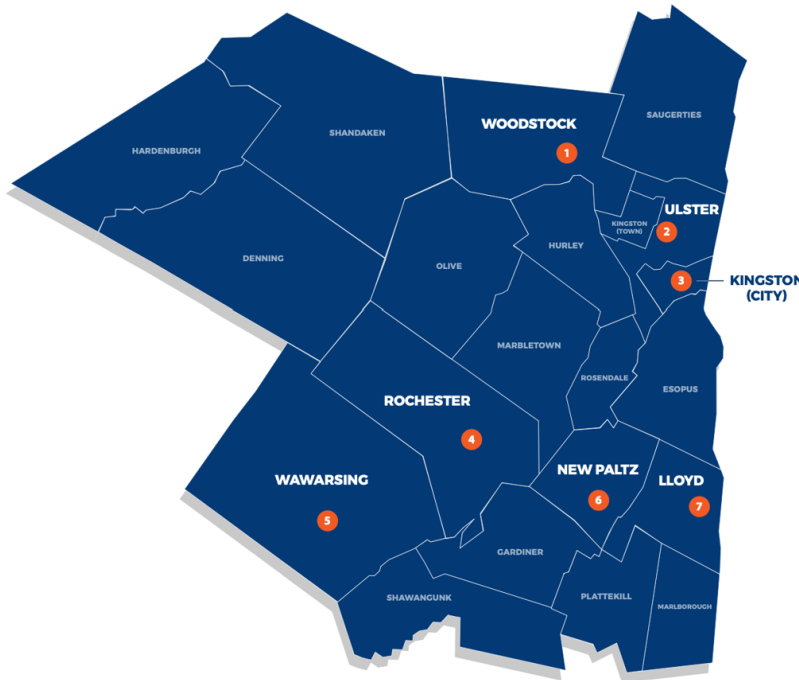
Yes, as long as you are registered to vote. Any registered voter can vote early.

2019 Early Voting Dates

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				OCTOBER		26 10:00AM to 3:00PM
27 11:00AM to 4:00PM	28 12:00PM to 8:00PM	29 9:00AM to 5:00PM	30 12:00PM to 8:00PM	31 9:00AM to 5:00PM	1 9:00AM to 5:00PM	2 10:00AM to 3:00PM
3 11:00AM to 4:00PM	NOVEMBER					

2019 Early Voting Locations

You may vote at any early voting site that is convenient.



- 1 Woodstock**
Woodstock Community Center
56 Rock City Rd, Woodstock, NY 12498
- 2 Ulster**
Russell Brott Senior Center
1 Town Hall Drive, Lake Katrine, NY 12449
- 3 Kingston**
SUNY Ulster Kingston Campus
94 Marys Ave, Kingston, NY 12401
- 4 Rochester**
Accord Firehouse
22 Main St, Accord, NY 12404
- 5 Wawarsing/Ellenville**
Ellenville Public Library Community Room
40 Center Street, Ellenville, NY 12428
- 6 New Paltz**
Redeemer Lutheran Church
90 Route 32 South, New Paltz, NY 12561
- 7 Lloyd**
Highland American Legion Hall
84 Grand St, Highland, NY 12528

How does early voting work?

Voting during early voting is the same as voting on Election Day. When you get to the early voting center, you will check in to vote, receive your ballot and vote as in any other election.

There will be instructions available at the early voting centers to familiarize you with the ballot. There will also be a notice to voter and bill of rights. You may ask an election inspector to explain how to vote, or if you need any assistance.

If you vote during the early voting period, you are not eligible to vote on Election Day (November 5, 2019).

Early voting results will be canvassed and reported after 9:00pm on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

Can I still vote by absentee ballot?

Yes! If you are out of Ulster County, or if you are permanently or temporarily disabled, ill or are the primary caregiver for one or more people who are ill or physically disabled, or a resident of a Veterans Hospital, or detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or incarcerated for an offense other than a felony you may apply for an absentee ballot.

How can I get more information about early voting?


You can contact the Ulster County Board of Elections at 845-334-5470 for more information about Early Voting, request an absentee ballot application, or find out more about the 2019 Elections. Visit us on the web at VOTEULSTER.COM

Labor Endorsed Candidates

Although this is an “off year” election, it has never been more important to be fully engaged in your constitutional right to make your voice heard. As always, NYSUT supports candidates that embody justice and reflect the values and needs of working people, their families and for all those who cannot advocate for themselves, regardless of party affiliation. Please review this handy guide that outlines the Labor Endorsed Candidates in our area. Feel free to contact me if you need one for other NY counties.

Ulster

ULSTER COUNTY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE - PATRICK RYAN
 ULSTER COUNTY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY - DAVE CLEGG
 ULSTER COUNTY, COMPTROLLER - MARCH GALLAGHER
 ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT #1 - AARON LEVINE
 ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT #4 - BRIAN CAHILL
 ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT #5 - ABE UCHITELLE
 ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT #11 - DORIS M. SIMONOFKY
 ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT #12 - BETTY DIORIO
 ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT #14 - ADRIANA MAGAÑA
 ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT #16 - TRACEY BARTELS
 ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT #20 - EVE WALTER
 ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, DISTRICT #22 - KATHY NOLAN
 TOWN OF ELLENVILLE - LEONARD DISTEL
 TOWN OF ROSENDALE - ERNEST S. KLEPEIS
 TOWN OF ULSTER - LAURA HARTMANN & DAN FURMAN
 TOWN OF RODSCHESTER, TOWN JUSTICE - ELAINE M. LAFLAMME
 KINGSTON, MAYOR - STEVEN NOBLE
 KINGSTON, ALDERMAN 3RD WARD - RENNIE SCOTT-CHILDRESS



Walkill Teachers' Association
 Congratulates the 2019 Honorees

Beth Wilson, AFT Local 2190
 Gil Heim, IBEW Local 363
 Jerry Ebert, IBT Local 445
 Billy Riccaldo, CSEA Region 3
 Reverend Richard Witt, RMM

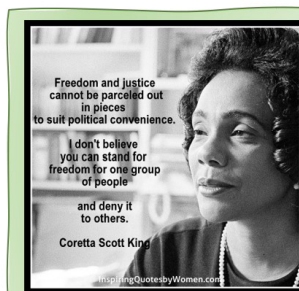
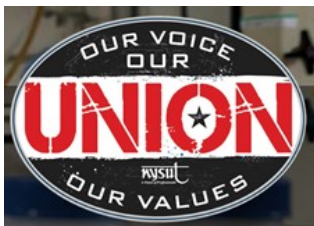
With special congratulations to NYSUT'S own **Melissa Servant** of Walkill Teachers' Association, receiving the "Norma Rae Award"!

P.O. Box 305, Gardiner, NY 12525
walkillteachers.org

In other news, the WTA would like to congratulate all the recipients of the 2019 Labor Heroes Awards, which was held earlier this month. A special shout out to our very own **Melissa Servant** for receiving the *Norma Rae Award* for her tireless efforts in political action.

Stop by the [NYSUT MAC website](#) or download the app to stay current and active on NYSUT's political and social actions!

[Get the iPhone/iPod Touch app](#)
[Get the Android app](#)



In Solidarity,
 Marie Lysandrou
 WTA Political Action Coordinator
mlysandrou@msn.com