Fall Luncheon offers variety of fresh faces, food, fun, facts

Newest retirees attend their first WCRT luncheon. From left, Donna Takacs, Linda Sprance, Jennifer Slater, Kathy Snowder, Taryn Iorlano, and Susan O’Sullivan. (Read their comments on page 7.)

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY--The WCRT’s fall luncheon featured seven new members at Christos Restaurant on September 16.

There is stress, pressure, and tension on today’s teachers. They seem almost afraid. It’s a tragic situation. There is much less laughter.

“A lack of 121,000 teachers in California has caused their advertising in foreign countries for teachers here.”

Leslie acknowledged the late Albert Shanker and his many educational accomplishments.

Leslie referred to the Fredrick case coming before the Supreme Court: if judges are in favor, teachers aren’t obligated to pay dues or be members, but the union is still obligated to offer the same benefits. Even NYSUT is pessimistic.

“We’ve had a great year.

President Susan Roger led the business meeting agenda comprising 14 items.

Second Vice President Leslie Leventhal’s comments were the most noteworthy of all reports given. “If we were to go back, we might not recognize the classroom.

Lunch line participants enjoy a variety of delicious buffet food at Christos Restaurant.

see TABLE TALK on page 7

POLITICAL ACTION COLUMN

Devine Intervention

Peyton Meyer: Liver Transplant Superhero

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From The President

SUSAN ROGER WCRT President

Dear WCRT members,

Our great loss is Alice Heusinger’s resignation from the WCRT Executive Board. Alice was there at the beginning of the WCRT in the early 90s and has been active ever since. However, due to health reasons felt she could not continue as a director. If you or someone you know would be interested in this position, please let me know and the executive board will review the candidates and select someone to fill the position.

We are all aware that we are in the time of life when changes occur some bad, but hopefully most are good -- children grow up and we can no longer solve their problems, grandchildren are born, people move, health issues become prominent, and so forth.

We had planned to go to our place in Florida for October where it is still warm and not crowded. However, my sister had emergency surgery, and we find ourselves in Michigan to help her after her surgery. We are pleased to do this, for family comes first.

I guess what I’m trying to say is “take each day with joy as it is” and try to “make lemonade out of lemons”. Enjoy the fall.

Susan Roger

NEW newsletter distribution process, renewals, dues info

If you would like to receive the PostScript or Commentator by email, you MUST register your email address with the website www.wcteachers.org. If your email address is not registered there, you will not receive any publications or notices.

Retirees give the WCRT their email address. The WCT website maintains the email list for publication. Prohibitive U.S. Mail costs may soon force us to cancel postal mailings, so please consider going green to save money.

The Commentator and PostScript may be viewed at www.wcteachers.org once a member registers.

SAVE THESE DATES

(future details coming soon)

Oct. 15 RC13 Conference, Wiltwyck CC, Kingston; 8:30-2:30, $25
Nov. 1 Daylight Saving Time ends, fall back one hour
Dec. 1 WCRT exec board mtg. 10:00-12:00
Deadline for mid-December PostScript
Jan. 12 WCRT exec board mtg. 10:00-12:00

Several retirees have almost had their NYSUT benefits cancelled because they neglected to pay their WCT dues. Calls to the office and checks sent in a panic have mitigated the problem. Make checks payable to WCT and mail to WCRT.

Renewal notices have been sent out. Dues for 2014-2015 are:

$ 20.00 Yearly;
$200.00 Individual Lifetime;
$325.00 Couples Lifetime.
Pay Lifetime and alleviate the yearly task of renewing.

www.wcteachers.org
Back to Albany politics

CLIFF FOLEY
Political Action Chairperson

As we retirees make our autumn plans for rest and adventure, the folks up in Albany continue their politics. Being out of the classroom we may be lucky enough not to feel the pressure of Common Core and the new teacher evaluation plans but it is difficult to completely ignore the jockeying that is going on in Albany.

Our Governor has felt the pressure on Common Core from the predicted parent rebellion. You can’t make large numbers of children suffer under an unfair system and not expect to see families come to their student’s aid. The Governor has begun to shift his position quietly while not admitting anything wrong on his part.

What do you do when you are feeling the heat? That’s easy, you set up a task force! You could call it a committee or any other name you like. One of the things you are sure you do is include those opposed to your ideas. For that reason we see Catalina Fortini, Vice-President of NYSUT and Randi Weingarten, President of AFT, on the governor’s task force.

Ironically, the head of the task force is from the business world; a former head of Citigroup Inc. Richard Parsons was the leader of an other of the Governor’s education panels in 2014. One wonders what qualifies him to head an education group and why didn’t the one in 2014 solve the problems.

Governor Cuomo was quoted in the September 29, 2015 Poughkeepsie Journal. He said, “New York must complete a transition into the modern education era.” What exactly that means is an unknown. He continues, “and the transition must happen in a way that instills confidence and not anxiety in our students and parents and makes teachers feel supported and rewarded, not criticized.” That sounds like what educators have been saying all along.

This new task force should start by looking at an unfair evaluation system based on student test scores attained from unfair exams. To his credit the governor stated in Albany on September 28 that the number of tests should be reduced. He also commented on the length of the exams saying, “Some are absurdly long.”

Another alteration was mentioned in a September 21, 2015 Poughkeepsie Journal issue which stated, in part, “And after some changes, maybe a name change, too.” Yes, give it a new label that should make it better.

The bottom line in all of this action in Albany by Cuomo and the legislature is with an eye to elections. Politicians have to compromise to some degree so they can look like the good guys and get re-elected.

With the Supreme Court’s recent decision allowing unlimited Super Political Action Committees, who will control the education decisions and the future of public schools? Of course the teachers have power through their lobbying efforts under VOTECOPE. Together educators can stand up against the well-financed sources that want to mold education their own way.

In other news, Arne Duncan is stepping down as Secretary of Education. He was one of the key people pushing Common Core, Race to the Top, and charter schools. President Obama’s choice for a replacement is John King Jr., former New York state education commissioner. King was not particularly a friend of teachers. Now we will have to see what “reforms” he will want to push from Washington.

Notify these groups of an address change or death of a member:
- WCRT office, 280 New Hackensack Rd. Wappingers Falls, N.Y. 12590 (845) 227-5065 wct@frontiernet.net
- WCT, same as above
- NYSUT, 800-342-9810 800 Troy-Schenectady Rd. Latham, NY 12110-2455 www.nysut.org
- NYSTRS, 800-348-7298 x 6250 10 Corporate Woods Drive Albany, NY 12211-2395
- WCSD, Human Resources 25 Corporate Park Dr. P.O. Box 396 Hopewell Jct., NY 12533 845-298-5000 x 115

NYSUT Retiree Council 13 website: http://ny.aft.org/rc13/

Directions to new WCT office
280 New Hackensack Rd. across from the Dutchess County Airport

From Vassar Rd: Jackson Rd. (County Rt. 110), left onto New Hack Rd. toward Rt. 376.

From Rt. 9 Wapp. Falls: take County Rt. 104 at Dunkin Donuts and Perkins on New Hack Rd.

From All Angels Hill Rd.: (CR 94) north to NHRd, west to 280 NHRd.

From Red Oaks Mill: Rt. 376 south past DC Airport, right onto NHRd. 280 on left.

NOTE:
If you are aware of a member’s illness, or the need to send a condolence card, please contact Ruth Ehlers at 831-6390.
Peyton Meyer: Liver Transplant Superhero

Editor’s note: Peyton Meyer is the grandson of recently retired Donna Meyer (JJ, OV).

by Meredith Meyer, Peyton’s mommy
Meet our little superhero, Peyton Jesse Meyer.

Peyton was born with an extremely rare liver disease called Alagille’s Syndrome, which affects different parts of the body such as the heart, liver, skeletal system, kidneys, and even eyes. For the liver specifically, with Alagille’s causes only half the number of bile ducts in an average person’s liver. The available bile ducts do not secrete, causing Jaundice, high cholesterol, and lack of fat absorption.

Peyton has had a rough 18 months. He has had several hospital stays, endless blood draws, and doctor visits. He relies on a nasogastric feeding tube to give him the extra nutrients he needs to grow. Peyton drinks a specialty formula called Pediasure Peptide 1.5 to help him gain weight, but due to his liver condition it just helps him maintain his weight.

He also currently takes nine different medications and vitamin supplements daily. Throughout this whole ordeal, Peyton remains a happy child. He is hitting all his milestones just as any other 18 month old.

This past July, Peyton was placed on the National Organ Transplant list because he was not growing, has uncontrollable itching (Pruritus), Jaundice, and Xanthomas (cholesterol deposits) all over his body. Since his listing, I (his mommy) was tested and approved to be his living liver donor.

Our surgeries are scheduled for September 29, 2015, in NYC. Although we are excited to give Peyton this special gift, it also subjects us to many expenses such as travel, lodging, and additional medical expenses for both Peyton and Mommy. Peyton’s liver transplant surgery means he will also need immunosuppressant medications to protect his new liver from rejection.

We know with the continued love and support we keep receiving, we will get through this! (late August, 2015)

Grandma’s update a week after surgery

By Donna Meyer
Peyton’s grandma
Almost a week after surgery, Peyton is doing well at Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital, part of New York Presbyterian Hospital. Peyton’s recovery is heading in the right direction, medications are getting straightened out, and everything is positive.

Mom and dad Meredith and Ricky are staying at Ronald McDonald House, located within the hospital. They have been overwhelmed by the kindness of people praying and contributing to Peyton’s fund.

Meredith donated 15% of her liver based on Peyton’s size, and she will be released on Tuesday, a week to the day after surgery.

The family is appreciative of the help, best wishes, and prayers. (10/5/15)

https://www.youcaring.com/peyton-meyer-413481

‘Invite You To
After Hours At The Library
Fri., Oct. 30, 2015 7:00-9:30 p.m.
East Fishkill Library
An Evening of Wine, Music, Conversation, Hors D’oeuvres
Food Catered by “Parties by Tomáš”

Suggested Donation:
$25/person advance purchase at the Library
$30/person purchased at the Door

Are You a Crafty Person?
If So, We Look Forward To See Your Beautiful Work!

The Friends of the East Fishkill Library is hosting its third annual Artisans Craft Fair. We’re searching for people who make jewelry, sew, do woodworking, knit, work with pottery or metal, make candy or cookies, paint, crochet, make cards, work with stained glass, you name it. We then ask if you would like to donate one or more items to the fair. We offer them for sale and the proceeds benefit the library. Our fair will take place on Saturday, November 14, 2015. If this is something that interests you, there is a simple form to fill out.

Any questions, please feel free to phone me, Carol Wall, at 226-7240 for more information.

Grandma’s presstime update

Both mom and baby are doing great. They came home Thurs. Oct. 8 and went back today, Oct. 12 for a check up. Peyton takes 13 different medications and the results of today’s lab tests will fine tune his dosages. It’s just a miracle!

Peyton is now up to 17 lbs, at 21 months old. He’s happy, the Jaundice is fading away, and the itchiness is subsiding only two weeks after surgery.

Regular weekly visits continue, then two-week intervals.

The family thanks all the kind supporters. Co-pays are a shock—even with our health insurance. Parents Rick and Meredith both work full time and extra jobs, and the outpouring of contributions helps defray the large medical costs. (10/12/15)
FIRST RA FOR THE 2015/16 SCHOOL YEAR
Sept. 29, 2015

Though there are many issues facing the WCT this year, I got a really positive feeling about the new RAs and their encouraged attitude. This summer a team of WCT members participated in a training in Saratoga called Learning Assistance Program (LAP). It is a NYSUT Program that focuses on communication among union members and the community. Our team brought back practical ideas to get members more involved in the WCT, the community, and political action. They are really working toward unity.

Some activities planned are an Open House at our new office on October 22, from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. where refreshments will be served. October 26 will be a recognition night to thank the BOE. Everyone is asked to attend. On November 3, there will be a happy hour at Double-O with cocktails and food.

Lastly, we will be part of First Books because we have a Title I school. If we all register for the program, we can receive thousands of free books for our students. This includes us, the retirees. Hopefully we can mail the registration form to all of you. The starred sections need to be filled out, the back signed and the form returned to the WCT office.

Pasquale spoke about APPR again. The WCT has been having discussions with the District about the evaluation procedure. The new APPR is an attack on the teachers. The District is looking to get an extension to follow the old APPR until the WCT and the District can come to an agreement. Pasquale says the climate is friendly and cooperative. Hopefully it will stay this way because contract negotiations will begin soon. All teachers will receive a survey to express their concerns and what they want negotiated. Many surrounding districts have taken zero increases and opted for a salary freeze. That certainly doesn’t help our teachers. Hopefully health insurance will not be an issue.

After the meeting, the first Educational Forum was held. Andy Pallotta, the NYSUT Executive Vice President, was the speaker. He attended the RA while he waited for the Forum to begin.

He heard all the questions about APPR and said some would be answered. He could direct teachers to the correct avenues to get answers to questions that did not get answered at the Forum.

Pallotta said that Governor Cuomo just made a very encouraging video. He admitted Common Core was a disaster and is putting together a Task Force to correct it. NYSUT made it clear to him that Common Core and APPR could not be separated. A website will be created for questions about Common Core and evaluations.

I felt strength in this RA. Teachers are working to increase morale and to collaborate successfully to make our union strong and unified. We can just wait and see.
## Bits ‘n’ pieces

### Membership

I am just a volunteer doing the best I can. You can help me out by giving me a hand. Please consider Lifetime dues ($200) and send dues in on time. Please complete the membership form, every single line. Make your check out to WCT. Please write neatly and legibly, or I am forced to initial and cross out R. It makes it easier for me. I really do enjoy working on your behalf. But these little helpful hints could cut my time in half. Thanks!

Barbara Stuck

### Protect your WCRT, NYSUT membership

WCRT membership by the numbers:

- WCRT membership as of June 9, 2015: 609 WCRT members
  - 186 yearly members
  - 367 Lifetime members
  - 44 Complimentary Lifetime members
  - 12 Complimentary members
  - 79 retirees don’t belong to WCRT & not entitled to NYSUT benefits
  - 370 members email subscribers
  - 232 members postal subscribers

Please consider email subscription. It saves us considerable spending on postage. Membership checks MUST be made out to WCT not WCRT. We cannot accept checks made out to WCRT. Our chapter charter is with the WCT. You MUST belong to the WCT to be eligible for NYSUT benefits.

Lifetime is the best deal. Pay once and forget about it!

### NEW PROCEDURE:

Even if we already have email addresses in our WCRT database, members MUST register their email address through the [www.wcteachers.org](http://www.wcteachers.org) website NOW or they will not receive email publications and notices.

### In Memoriam

**Anita P. Drake**

POUGHKEEPSIE - Anita P. Drake 77 of Poughkeepsie died Sunday August 9, 2015 at the Mid Hudson Regional Hospital Poughkeepsie, New York.

Born in Briarcliff Manor on April 27, 1938. Anita was a local Teacher in the Poughkeepsie area. (John Jay High School English Department, retired in 1998.)

Funeral Services were held Saturday August 22, 2015 11am at St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church Staatsburg, NY. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Timothy P. Doyle Funeral Home 371 Hooker Ave. Poughkeepsie, New York 12603.

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### WCRT director resigns

**September 2015**

Dear Sue,

It is with regret I must resign my position as director on the WCRT Board. My health is slowly improving, but it will be months before I am able to walk safely with a cane and navigate stairs without assistance. I have enjoyed my time as a board member, and hopefully in the future I will be able to participate in WCRT activities.

Sincerely,

Alice Heusinger

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### Here’s how to register your email with the website:

1. Go to [www.wcteachers.org](http://www.wcteachers.org)
2. On the right-hand side, go to the “Member Login” module
3. Click on the “Click Here to sign-up” link (It is yellow)
4. Enter all of your information on the form. This is the information that we will use to maintain our records and to send email and/or text notifications. Make sure that you choose a username and password that you will remember.
5. Click submit
6. Review all of your information
7. Click Submit again
8. Wait 24-48 hours for us to verify your membership. You will receive an email advising you that you are good to go. At this point, you can come back to the website and login.

Hope this helps. Thanks, Nancy

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### Financial Report available

As a service to any interested WCRT member, our union’s financial report is always available upon request. Address your questions or concerns to tderito@optonline.net and we’ll make arrangements to satisfy your numerical curiosity.

### CONSTITUTION and BOARD of DIRECTORS Voted on!

At the Spring Luncheon on May 14, the WCRT voted on the WCRT Amended Constitution. All amendments from the past 10 years were added and the new Constitution was accepted.

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8. Wait 24-48 hours for us to verify your membership. You will receive an email advising you that you are good to go. At this point, you can come back to the website and login.

Hope this helps. Thanks, Nancy

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### Enjoy some of what NYC has to offer.

Sign up to receive the monthly Plum Benefits Guide. Send an e-mail to jtkorz@optonline.net to be added to our list.

Ellen Korz
Here is a famous quote. Can you identify its utterer?

"Why of course, the common people don’t want war. It is the leaders of the country who determine policy, and it’s always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy or a fascist dictatorship or a parliament or a communist dictatorship."

When it was pointed out by a listener that, in a democracy, the people have a say in the matter through their elected representatives, he replied:

“Oh, that is all well and good, but the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to tell them is they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same way in any country.”

Those who guessed Dick Cheney, good try! But no, the speaker was Hermann Goering, chatting with one of his US Army interrogators in his Nuremburg jail cell in 1946. Goering, the Number Two Nazi during WWII, committed suicide shortly thereafter (poisoning) on the eve of his scheduled hanging.

Editor’s note: This new feature will appear periodically in the PostScript. Let us know your reaction.

Heaven forbid that they should look “soft on terror.” You can almost hear Hermann chuckle (if you can chuckle in hell) when he saw his words come to life in places like Viet Nam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

But in truth, there is much out there to cause alarm, and sometimes, great alarm. A short list would have to include Ebola, ISIS, pollution, divisive race issues, global warming (if you have a brain), Chinese hackers, incontinence, Kim Jong-un, unemployment, Fox News (with the exception of Megyn Kelly), Lyme disease, PTSD, oil prices, etc., etc., etc. Some of our leaders would go about “solving” these problems with military options (bomb, bomb, Iran), walls, ignorance (not to be confused with stupidity, but that too), lies, invasion of privacy, denial, and procrastination (“Sorry, I’m too busy raising money to insure I get reelected.”)

It’s a pretty bleak picture. Is there any room for hope? Look at both of our major parties. Can you think of one politician (or one person for that matter) who could inspire a national movement to face up to these challenges? Time’s up. Me neither.

But we have to keep trying. I believed until the day Charles Schulz died that Lucy would eventually keep her finger on the football. Although it never happened, I remain (basically) an optimist. Maybe somebody will rise up and show us the way: Jeb? Hillary? The Donald (only kidding)? Barry? Joe? Chris? Marco?... Hum-m-m...

Wait a minute! I just thought of somebody! And he’s available! Jon Stewart!! He has no official ties to Washington insiders and he really tells it like it is (as opposed to a certain bouffanted bloviated blowhard). But in truth, a Jon Stewart presidency would probably rouse too much rabble. Too bad. A Jon Stewart press conference would be spell binding!
News since last issue

Source: Poughkeepsie Journal
News since last issue

Source: Poughkeepsie Journal

Halloween hee-hees

The Wappingers Congress of Teachers has a new home!

WCT Open House
You are cordially invited to visit the new WCT office.

Stop by between 2:30 and 6:00 to take a tour and have some refreshments.

WCT members have a chance to enter a raffle for an end of the year prize.

When: Thursday, October 22nd
Where: 280 New Hackensack Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 (across from the airport)

RSVP by Monday, October 19th!
Poor Elijah’s almanac: Applying Ourselves

Source: This article appeared in the Eagle Times on July 05, 2015. The Eagle Times is a daily newspaper based in Claremont, NH, serving the twin states of New Hampshire and Vermont.

Bob Ruopp, WCRT Class of 1998 who lives in Sunnappe, NH, submitted this article from their Education columnist.

Long before libraries began discarding books to make room for computers, the Dewey decimal system had two science categories, “pure science” and “applied science,” also known as “technology.” In other words, technology is science serving a purpose.

As a classroom teacher, my response to most education technology has been, “No, thank you.” Techies insinuate that everybody who doesn’t gush over the latest gizmo is “technophobic,” but I’m no more afraid of iPhones than someone who dislikes asparagus is fearful of green, stalkly vegetables. Even people who like asparagus and accept it in their diets can feel they’re being forced to eat too much of it.

I haven’t met many people whose importance requires them to remain in constant contact with everyone and everything. I also think the monthly debuting of updated iThings makes General Motors’ 1950s annual tailfin alterations look necessary and altruistically motivated.

Let’s apply Mr. Dewey’s “applied science” definition of technology to technology itself. What purpose is technology serving? When we consider fission or cloning, we should ask ourselves, “Is this something we want to do with science?” Similarly, when we talk about education technology, we should ask, “Is this something we want to do to our students?”

According to proponents, technology can turn failing schools and students into successes. They claim “mobile learning” and social media uniquely “enable” and “engage” students by “transforming” education from something that “takes place in bulk form” at school to “an individual and year-round activity.”

In boosters’ online vision students “regularly provide feedback on each other’s work,” and teachers share “with the world” everything from lesson plans to “desk arrangements and even back-to-school outfits.” Promoters foresee teachers “posting” video lessons while students go online to blog, “take quizzes,” and vote “whether they want cupcakes or cookies at the next class party.”

Games are purportedly “rewriting centuries-old rules of learning, motivation, and success.” In our “limited” world where “your teacher may be overwhelmed, your friends wish you’d finish your homework, and your mom just wants to go to bed,” a “well-designed” game “believes in you.”

Drowning teachers and lazy mothers aside, these impatient friends are presumably the same scholars who can’t wait to “provide feedback on each other’s work.” “If it feels good, learn it” isn’t the obvious. I’m alive. My students are alive. Learning is rewarding, but it’s often difficult, tedious, and exhausting.

By all means, let’s turn school into an arcade. Let’s plant the nation’s children for even more daily hours in front of computer monitors. Let’s occupy them “collaborating” with “scripted” people, and then let’s wonder why they can’t get along with real people.

The passion for “individual” learning and the commitment to “year-round” learning require far more than an appetite for amusement. I try to make my classes pleasant, but I don’t want my students to think learning is always enjoyable because it isn’t. If they come to expect that it is, they’ll stop doing it as soon as it stops being fun.

Poor Elijah would be pleased to answer letters addressed to him in care of the editor.
First WCRT executive meeting at new office

>>> WCRT executive board listen to Ruth Ehlers give her Sunshine report during the WCRT’s first meeting at the new WCT office. Clockwise from left are Ellen Korz, Peg Nikola, Alice Baker, Barbara Stuck, Sue Roger, Ruth Ehlers, Flo Mondanaro, Jack Devine, and Cliff Foley.

<<< WCRT executive officers get “the nickel tour” of the new WCT office building at 280 New Hackensack Road from Pasquale Delli Carpini, WCT president, after their September 15 meeting. PDC, in white shirt with his back to the camera, explains to Cliff Foley, Sue Roger, and Jane Stockslager this upper room can seat 55 and will be used for teleconferences, seminars, and workshops. The building also has open space in the basement that has not been designated for a specific use as of this meeting.

<<< The new WCT office building at 280 New Hackensack Road received its first WCRT executive board meeting on September 15. Clockwise from bottom middle are Flo Mondanaro, Jack Devine, Cliff Foley, Tom DeRito, Jane Stockslager, Ellen Korz, Peg Nikola, Alice Baker, and Barbara Stuck.
Identity theft protection available for NYSUT members

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce that its newest endorsed program — ID Watchdog — is now available to all NYSUT members & their families looking for protection against the growing threat of identity and credit theft.

What Do I Get When I Sign Up for ID Watchdog?

- Credit & Cyber Monitoring
- Credit Reports & Scores
- Individual, Individual/Spouse or Family Coverage Available
- Monthly Credit Score Tracker
- High Risk Monitoring

According to Javelin Strategy & Research, an estimated 13.1 million Americans fall victim to identity theft each year. These individuals are hit with approximately $7,000 in fraudulent charges per person and spend about 330 hours each trying to recover from the effects of identity theft.

ID Watchdog (founded in 2005 as a theft protection service) uses proprietary monitoring technology that alerts members as soon as new or updated information associated with their identity is detected — allowing them to catch fraudulent activity immediately.

To learn more about ID Watchdog, call toll-free 866-513-0823 or visit memberbenefits.nysut.org.