

# CTA SNIPPETS

SPECIAL EDITION 2015

<http://corningta.ny.aft.org/>

Volume 13 Issue 1



## New Teacher Edition

### Leslie Varga, Mentor Program Coordinator

*I believe that there is no profession as important and noble than teaching.* Every one of us is the product of teaching, and can think of a time when a teacher has inspired us through grace, skill, humor and abundant care. It is the teacher who molds a child into what he or she will be in the future. Each and every day we have the power and influence to change the future by sharing out talents and skills through planting seeds of knowledge in our students. Teachers have the ability to inspire lifelong learning, a passion for knowledge, understanding, and innovation.

Our profession requires the best and the brightest, wisest, and most motivated people. It is with great pride that I welcome all of the new teachers into our district. I look forward to celebrating many successes with you throughout your career as a teacher.



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**Teaching: A kick-in-the-pants**, joyous, noble, **gut-wrenching** odyssey that only those who have done it understand. After all, those who can...teach!

As you begin your career in the CPPSD, here is some wit and wisdom: advice from your CTA brothers and sisters!

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## **Start a 403 B NOW!**

Stock up on Airborne

**When it comes to social media.....if you can't say anything nice; say nothing at all**

Pick up stray pencils in the hall. Collect them in a basket and loan them to unprepared students in your class. Prioritize the endless list of "to do" things". What will make me feel less frantic? Doing my plans for the week ahead or putting up a bulletin board? The answer might vary from week to week but asking the question helps!

It's important to remember how much we can learn from our students, colleagues, parents, etc. "We all have something to teach, and we all have something to learn."

## **Get involved with your union**

Maximize your instructional power by putting your students to work—use classroom helpers or "employees" to run the room so you are free to focus on what you do best—teach!

You are going to change these kids' lives forever—FOR THE BETTER. It's a magical profession, so.....go out there and give it your best. You GOT THIS!

WELCOME ABOARD, NEW TEACHERS. WE ARE PROUD TO CALL YOU COLLEAGUES.

--Corning Teachers' Association

**Welcome to Corning-Painted Post School District**

**Don Allen**  
**David Blouin**  
**Stephanie Bond**  
**Melissa Brenzo**  
**Diane Brown**  
**Sarah Chiffy**  
**Margaret Clark**  
**Julie Collier**  
**Sherri Freestone**  
**Katie Gray**  
**Kristie Haberstroh**  
**Erich Hansen**  
**Charles Havens**  
**Tammi Hoffman**  
**Linda Jankowski**  
**Allison Kitner**  
**Heather Lee**  
**Amanda Mase**  
**Adam McCawley**  
**Michelle Mendez**  
**Yvonee Moses**  
**Lexi Scialdone**  
**Lauren Shafer**  
**Heather Shupp**  
**Sagrario Simon-Rueda**  
**Anne Walters**  
**Jessica Wenck**  
**Christopher Winch**  
**David Woodard**  
**Chelsea Xidis**



### **Stephanie Bond**, Middle School

Stephanie Bond is our New Physical Education Teacher at Corning Painted Post Middle School. She is a graduate of SUNY Brockport and attended Watkins Glen School District. Stephanie is a great addition to our PE Staff; she is kind, caring and hardworking. Students really enjoy having her for a teacher, they respond well to her energy and enthusiasm. Stephanie has also decided to become an Intramural Coach for the After School Intramurals Program, she will soon start leading students to a healthier lifestyle with her Fitness Room activities. I am very excited to see what the future holds for Stephanie as a Physical Educator.

*By Jenn Santobianco-Burrell*

### **Melissa Brenzo**, Middle School

Melissa Brenzo comes to the Corning-Painted Post Middle School from the GST BOCES Bush Campus where she taught in a special education classroom for students with emotional disturbances. Melissa is teaching in the 8:1:2 Autism classroom at the Middle School. She is a native of Horseheads and graduated in 2005. She attended Mansfield and Elmira college to receive degrees in Education and Literacy. As a Raider, Melissa was a member of the swimming and diving team throughout her school years. For the last three years Melissa has coached the modified girls and boys swimming and diving teams for the district. She has also been a coach for the River Rats. Outside of school Melissa enjoys yoga, going to the gym, shopping, and spending time with family at their lake cottage. She has a dog (puggle) and a cat. Melissa is the oldest of three girls. If you see Melissa, welcome her to the district.

*By Emily Morse*



**Diane Brown,**  
High School

Please welcome Diane Brown! She has been hired as a 12:1:1 Academic Delay teacher in the High School. She comes to us with 22 years of experience. Prior to getting hired with the C-PP School District, she experienced many different roles in the field of Special Education while living in Charlotte, North Carolina. Although she spent the last 20+ years down South, she is an East High graduate. She just recently moved back to the Corning area.

Outside of school, Diane enjoys spending time with her daughter, who is a sophomore at the C-PP High School. When she is not spending quality time with daughter, she is creating lessons for her students. She has already proven herself as being "ALL IN".

☺ *By Candelyn Tong*



**Julie Collier,**  
Erwin Valley

Erwin Valley Elementary School would like to welcome our newest first grade teacher to the EV Pride. Julie Collier was a former first grade teacher in the Jasper-Troupsburg School District before starting her family with husband, Michael.

Once her children were elementary age, Julie was ready to come back to the classroom. She worked as a Teaching Assistant in Kirsten Shepard Reeve's room at Calvin Smith.

When Julie isn't hard at work planning engaging lessons for her first grade class, she can be found hiking in the Adirondacks with her two children – Madelyn and Carson and husband Michael. *By Suzan Reynolds*



**Sarah Chiffy,**  
Middle School

C-PP Middle School would like to welcome Sarah Chiffy our new 6th grade French teacher. Sarah originally from Watertown, has come to us from Syracuse University where she not only received her degree to become a teacher, but also earned a degree in archaeology that she is very proud of.

Sarah enjoys DIY projects when she allows herself time to relax, but admits she is a bit of a workaholic.

*By Audrey Tuttle*



**Margie Clark**, Winfield

Winfield Elementary School is proud to welcome, Margie Clark to their teaching staff. Margie is an experienced Special Education Teacher who will be co-teaching with Lauren Panzarino in fifth grade. Margie has played a wide variety of roles as a special education teacher in our region over the last 12 years. She has been a consultant teacher (Campbell-Savona), but her most favorite role is student advocate and cheerleader. She believes all students can learn!

Lauren and Margie have been putting their heads together and making plans for a great year! We are lucky to have her at Winfield and I am proud to call her my friend.

*By Wendy Amin*



**Sheri Freestone**,  
High School

Sheri Freestone is a new French teacher in the High School. Sheri was born in England but grew up in California. She has traveled to many places and has studied at the University of New Mexico, the Université de Savoie in France, and the University of Binghamton.

She has spent quite a bit of time living in France as she enjoyed a summer in La Rochelle, and even taught English for a year in Angoulême.

Sherri enjoys singing, playing the piano and reading. Sheri has proven herself to be hard working and creative as a new addition to the Language Acquisition department.

*By Leslie Dudek*



## **Katie Gray, High School**

Katie Gray comes from the Painted Post area. She graduated from West High School. She attended Elmira College, University of Buffalo, and Corning Community College receiving her degree in Chemistry. Prior to working for the Corning-Painted Post School District, Katie student taught at West High School and taught for 3 years in the Virginia public school system. She also worked at Corning Community College teaching a biochemistry/organic lab course. Katie is currently teaching honors and regents

chemistry at the CPP high school.

Katie lives and breathes the CPP school district. She has always wanted to return to this district because she has a fine appreciation for the Corning School District. Katie enjoys her students, what they bring to the classroom, appreciates the resources that the community has to offer and is excited to share her passion for her discipline with her students.

*By Sue Seip*



## **Michelle Mendez, Middle School**

I would like to welcome Michelle Mendez to the Corning Painted Post Middle School as the new 8:1:1 Social Worker. Michelle came to us from Schuyler County Mental Health where she worked within the school district for seven years. Michelle attended Keuka College and Graduate School at Marywood University. Michelle resides in Horseheads with her husband, her two children ages 1 and 3 and her dog Bella. Michelle enjoys running, traveling and spending time on

Keuka Lake. Please say hi to Michelle and welcome her to the Corning Painted Post School District!!  
*By Darci Davis*



## **Kristie Haberstroh, Gregg**

Kristie Haberstroh is the new School Social Worker at Gregg Elementary. Kristie joins our district with many years of experience primarily at GST BOCES and Elmira City Schools. She also worked in Michigan helping children at a psychiatric hospital.

In addition to working at Gregg, Kristie is also employed part-time at Clinical Associates where she provides counseling to adults. Kristie lives in Horseheads with her husband and her two children. Jimmy is 11 and Olivia is 8. She enjoys traveling and spending time with her family. Kristie is compassionate and knowledgeable and has jumped right in to her position at Gregg.

*By Karin Benjamin*



## **Charlie Havens, Middle School**

Charlie Havens is a 2011 graduate of Elmira College. There he received a BA in Social Studies Education grade 7-12. Before joining the staff at the Corning-Painted Post Middle School this fall, Charlie spent the last 4 years as the Parks and Recreation Director for the Village of Waverly, New York. His main accomplishment was managing the summer youth program that grew from 75 kids to 160 last summer.

Charlie is also an experienced coach. He has spent the last 15 years as the JV baseball coach at Waverly. Right now he is finishing up his 4<sup>th</sup> and final season as the modified football coach and he also coached cross country for 1 season both at Waverly. He is now looking forward to any opportunity he may have to join the Hawks coaching staff. In his leisure time Charlie enjoys running, golfing, and travel.

*By Geoff Waksmunski*



**Eric Hansen**, Middle School

Eric Hansen joined the CPPMS team this fall 2015. He is a graduate of Ithaca College with a Chemistry Degree and a Masters Degree in Education from SUNY Cortland. Prior to joining the district he taught High School Chemistry and Middle School General Science at West Canada Valley for 6 years. This year he is teaching 7th and 8th grade science at CPPMS. Outside of the work day, he enjoys training and competing in triathlons.

*By Jason Tahirak*



**Tammi Hoffman**, Smith

Calvin U. Smith is very proud to welcome Ms. Tammi Hoffman, our newest member to our amazing staff. Ms. Hoffman is a native of our area, graduating from Campbell-Savona High School and Keuka College. She has had educational experience teaching in Baltimore, Maryland for the past four years in both Head Start and intensive needs classrooms.

CUS is extremely happy to welcome Tammi on as a kindergarten teacher. In her leisure time, Ms. Hoffman enjoys skiing, driving her motorcycle, and spending time with her beloved dog. Welcome, Tammi! We are so happy to have you!

*By Tricia Rosno*



## Linda Jankowski, High School

Linda Jankowski joined the CPPHS guidance department this summer replacing the retiring Patrick Dwyer. Linda began her career as a guidance counselor in Elmira and most recently worked at Corning West. After taking time away from her career to raise a family we are excited to have Linda back as part of our guidance staff here at the CPP high school.

Linda enjoys running and family ski trips when time allows and the weather cooperates. She is a SUNY Brockport graduate and earned her master's degree from Alfred University. She brings experience to our department and has already proven to be a valuable part of the guidance team. Linda has been making the transition back into her career flawlessly. Adding a counselor that has experience working not only with high school students but also within our own department has been invaluable. We all appreciate her ability to step into the "Skates" left behind by Mr. D without missing a beat. No small task for even a veteran counselor.

*By Brian Ross*



## Allison Kittner, Winfield

Allison "Alli" Kittner is our new third grade teacher at Winfield Street Elementary School, and she has started the school year off with spectacular energy and enthusiasm. Alli grew up in Painted Post and attended school through the Corning-Painted Post School District. She graduated from West High and then attended Corning Community College. From there, she received her degree from Mansfield University, and then Alli earned her Master's from Walden University. Professionally,

Alli has worked as a teacher substitute, a one-on-one assistant, and a teaching assistant for AIS. Alli is highly motivated and makes time for some hobbies. One example is photography! Alli is married and has one adorable daughter (and a pretty awesome dog). Winfield is super excited to have Alli join our team.

*By Bernadette Gordon*



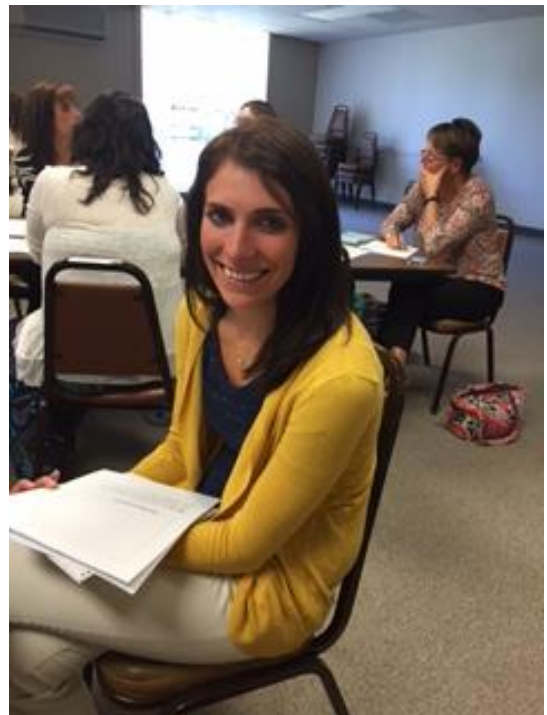
## Heather Lee, Carder

Heather Lee is the new 15:1 teacher at Carder Elementary School. She is unique in that her classroom actually covers three grade levels (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>)!! She is a graduate of Summit University in Pennsylvania and Western Governor's University. Heather is a newlywed. On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, she married Mike Lee who is an IT Director for a company out of Tennessee and a partner in a small business – *Employment Solutions*. They reside in Horseheads, NY with their two cats.

Heather is a local girl. She graduated from Twin Tiers Christian Academy. Her parents both work for the District. Her mom, Becky Scouten, is a secretary at the high school, and her dad, Mark Scouten, is the caretaker of our stadium.

Heather is excited about this school year and ready for the challenge! We are glad to have her with us!

*by Aileen Stratford and Laurie Robinson*



## Amanda Mase, Severn

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Mrs. Amanda Mase to the Severn Elementary Family. As a Corning native, Amanda comes to Severn after multiple long term substitute positions, including her last position as an ELL/ ESOL teacher at both Erwin Valley and Severn. Amanda will be teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade this year and her experiences within the classroom and working on curriculum will surely help her be a successful teacher.

Amanda and her husband, Mark, reside in the Corning Area. She is a mother of two beautiful girls, Cameron and Emma, both students within the Corning-Painted Post School District. When not spending long hours at school, Amanda can be seen and heard at her daughter's soccer games and gymnastic meets. In her free time, Amanda loves to cook and bake amazing foods.

*By Ken Watson*



## Yvonne Moses, High School

Yvonne Moses has joined the Special Education department at the Corning Painted Post High School! She is certified in both secondary math and Special Education. Yvonne comes to us from the Watkins Glen School District, where she was most recently – a long term sub in their math department.

Yvonne began her education at Wells College, then transferred to Mansfield University where she received both her bachelors and master's degrees.

Currently, Yvonne is co-teaching in Environmental Science, North American Wildlife and Algebra B. She is providing academic support to our students throughout the day as well.

In her spare time, Yvonne enjoys crafting, sewing and fostering the growth of her green plants! Yvonne loves spending time with her family – and especially – her two nieces, who keep her busy! She enjoys reading and singing – and – freely admits, she loves to “sing like a fool”!!!!

We are excited to have her in our department and are looking forward to channeling her expertise!

*By Jamie Smith*



## **Lexi Scialdone, High School**

As a new French teacher in the High School, Lexi enjoys working with students and helping them feel capable of learning French. Lexi grew up in Poland, NY and studied at SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Cortland. She even lived in France on two different occasions to study at the Institute Catholique de Paris and Université de Nice. She enjoys staying fit and has taken up running this summer – she recently completed her first color run 5K.

*by Leslie Dudek*



## **Lauren Shafer, Middle School**

Lauren Shafer brings an array of experiences to our district. After graduating from Corning East High she attended SUNY Geneseo then spent one year in Ireland working with adults with developmental disabilities. She continued her learning experiences in Germany where she spent 2 ½ years teaching English to preschoolers. Lauren just recently ran the ½ at the Wine Glass Marathon her training included chasing her puppy around the house!

*By Tammie Edinger*



## **Sagrario Simon-Rueda, Middle School**

I am delighted to introduce you to our newest Language Acquisition (Spanish) teacher, Ms. Sagrario Simon Rueda. Sagrario is from Mexico, City. She attended Ithaca College where she earned her degree in Spanish Literature and her Master of Arts in Teaching. Sagrario is a wonderful addition to the foreign language department as she brings with her native Spanish and Mexican culture. She has many exciting ideas which she is eager to share with the students in our district. Her hobbies include running, dancing, cooking, reading, watching movies, and going out to dinner. When I asked Sagrario why she became a teacher she said, "I believe that all kids can achieve great things with great teachers, and I want to be one of those teachers." *by Patty Becerril-Drapikowski*



## **Heather Shupp, Middle School**

Our new 8:1:1 teacher at the Corning Painted Post Middle School, Heather Shupp, comes to us with many years of Education experience. She began her teaching career in Andover Central School District teaching Middle School. She then taught in Bolivar-Richburg School District before going to the Elmira City School District. She spent the last seven years teaching Special Education and Math in Elmira.

In addition to teaching, Ms. Shupp has a Real Estate License and enjoys showing and selling houses in the area. She and her husband are also in the process of building a new home. Her hobby is photography and also spends time with her two dogs.

We are very excited to welcome her to our 8:1:1 program here at the Middle School.

*by Amy Ferreira*

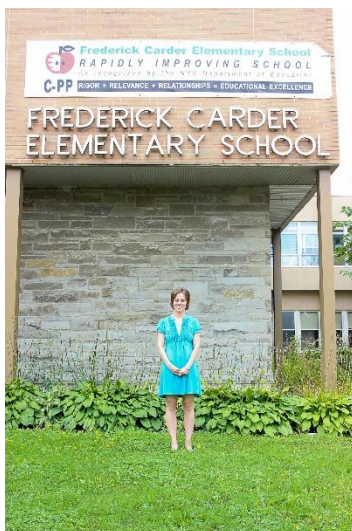
## Anne Walters, Carder

The third grade team at Carder is so excited to welcome Anne Walters as our newest third grade teacher! Anne grew up in Corning, attending Carder (yes, she is a Carder alum!), CFA, and East High. She then went to Catholic University where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in education. Her graduate work was done at George Washington University. Anne also has a CELTA – Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Anne had the unique experience of living and working in the Republic of Georgia for 4 years. While there she taught English to 7-12 grade students and also taught first grade. She more recently taught third grade at St. Mary our Mother in Horseheads.

When she's not in the classroom, Anne enjoys dance, travel, and time with her husband and daughter. Anne's enthusiasm and drive make her a valuable member of Carder's third grade team!

*By Jennifer Powers*



## Jessica Wenck, Middle School

I am happy to introduce Jessica Wenck, newly hired Speech-Language Pathologist assigned to the middle school. Jessica comes to us after working for Elmira City Schools for 5 years. She should be a familiar face to many as she has worked at Corning's Special Education summer school program for 5 years.

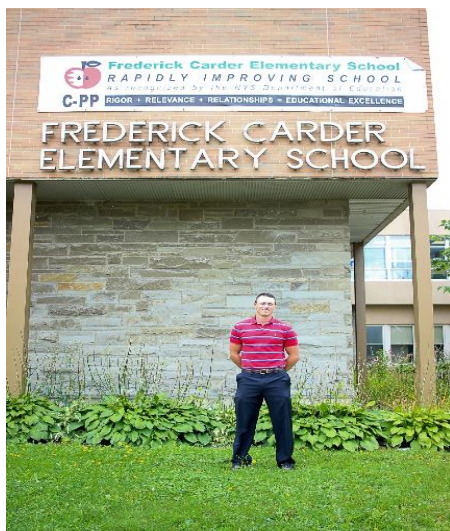
Jessica grew up in a suburb of Poughkeepsie, NY and earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at SUNY Geneseo. She resides in Elmira with her husband, Timothy, and their newborn baby, Peter. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, cooking, baking, and reading. Jessica really enjoyed working summers for C-PP and is excited to be on board permanently. Welcome, Jessica!

*By Jennifer Glosenger*

## Chris Winch, Carder

Carder School is proud to introduce their newest 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Chris Winch. Chris grew up in Spencer and graduated from the Spencer-Van Etten School District. He received his undergraduate degree from Utica College in 2014. Playing throughout high school and college, football has always been an integral part of Chris's life. It continues to be so today, and much of his dedication and drive in life can be attributed to both playing and coaching football. Chris is also currently working on his master's degree in special education at Binghamton University.

Chris currently lives in Horseheads with his fiancé, Courtney, and their 21-month old daughter, Lilly. They are excited to be planning their June 2016 wedding! In his little bit of spare time, Chris enjoys exercise and fitness and is sure to squeeze in an NFL game or two on Sundays. A HUGE welcome to Chris Winch! *By Kristy Cowulich*



## David Woodard, Middle School

David Woodard is a new seventh grade Humanities/Individuals & Societies teacher at Corning-Painted Post School District. He comes to the Corning-Painted Post School district from Oklahoma. Even though he is new to the district, this will be David's 11<sup>th</sup> year as a middle school teacher. He also coaches junior varsity football at Corning-Painted Post High School and baseball at Corning Community College. David enjoys spending time with his family, coaching athletics and outdoors activities. "I feel very fortunate to be able to contribute to the success of the Corning-Painted Post School District," said Woodard.





## **Chelsea Xidis, Middle School**

Corning-Painted Post Middle School is pleased to welcome Chelsea Xidis as an 8th grade art teacher. Chelsea comes to us with a variety of experiences from teaching elementary art at Holy Family Elementary to running her own studio for people with intellectual and physical disabilities with the Steuben County ARC. Originally from Bath, NY, Chelsea attended Walden University and Elmira College where she met her husband Nick Xidis. The students at CPPMS are lucky to have Chelsea as she emphasizes the students' individuality and creatively while bring her expertise in printmaking, ceramics, and drawing into the classroom.

*By Megan Wukovitz*



## **2015-2016 CTA Executive Meetings**

**September 24**

**October 8**

**November 5**

**November 19**

**December 3**

**December 17**

**January 7**

**January 21**

**February 4**

**February 18**

**March 3**

**March 17**

**April 7**

**April 21**

**May 5 (Officers' Election)**

**May 19**

**June 2 (Budget Vote)**

**June 16 (as needed)**

**Location: High School Media Center @ 3:45**

## 2015-2016 CTA Building Representatives

### **CO (1)**

Janette Crawford Helping Teacher 14-16

### **HSLC (1)**

Lauren Frazer Science 15-17

### **CR (3)**

Kay Keeney Grade 2 14-16

Erin Merrill Reading 14-16

Lauri DiGiulio Special Ed. 15-17

### **EV (2)**

Kristen Bennitt K 14-16

### **GR (2)**

Cathy Nagle Grade 2 14-16

Kerry Stone Speech 14-16

### **SV (3)**

Angela Nichiporuk K 14-16

Audrey Voorhees K 14-16

Karen Cleary Grade 2 15-17

### **CUS (2)**

Trish Shafer AIS 14-16

Mitch Peck Grade 3 15-17

### **WN (2)**

Shawn Finan Reading 14-16

Doreen Bonomo Grade 1 15-17

### **MS (8)**

Melissa Morrison Special Ed 14-16

Elisabeth Hanley Special Ed 14-16

Christine Adams Art 14-16

Laurie Murphy Health 14-16

Patty Winningham Science 14-16

Ashley Bowers AIS 15-17

### **HS (10)**

Stacie Martinec Media 14-16

Eric Griffin, Band 14-16

Lori Pruyne English 15-17

Matt Burch English 14-16

Megan Thomas Science 14-16

Keith Fisher Humanities 14-16

**CTAR (non-voting) Cheryl Jordan**

# Identity theft protection available for NYSUT members



## TRUE IDENTITY PROTECTION™

*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
- Monthly Credit Score Tracker
- High Risk Monitoring
- Individual, Individual/Spouse or Family Coverage Available

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](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org).