



Happenings

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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Message from the President

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I hope that everyone enjoys plenty of family, friends, and food during the Thanksgiving holiday. Here are a few updates before we begin our Thanksgiving break...

Grievance

An AIS position was needed at HBE. The district placed a certified teacher in an AIS classroom giving that person substitute pay until the teacher was board approved. A grievance was filed and then pulled after the person was board approved.

Maternity Pro-Rated Sick Days Reimbursed

Two years ago, PJTA found out that the district arbitrarily came up with a formula to pro-rate sick days of members, who took maternity leaves from the years 2008-2012.

After extensive discussions between PJTA and the district, this situation has been resolved. The district has agreed to reimburse all sick days to the nine members who were affected between the years 2008-2012.

Health Beat

Make sure you read the flyer pertaining to the update to Young Adult Child Coverage! – See Attached

High School Yearbook Advertisement

The representative assembly voted to have a full page advertisement of \$225 in the 2014 yearbook.

Ban Testing for Pre-K – 2 Petition

Deeply concerned about increased standardized testing of the state's youngest students, NYSUT joined with other education advocates and launched a petition calling for a ban on standardized testing for pre-K-2 students. NYSUT would like all of our members to support this campaign by signing their petition at www.mac.nysut.org or www.nysut.org/recessfromtests.

Regis Foster

President's Message

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VOTE COPE

VOTE-COPE is an acronym representing the **V**oice **O**f Teachers in **E**ducation, the **C**ommittee **O**n **P**olitical **E**ducation. VOTE-COPE is also referred to as PAC (Political Action Committee), the non-partisan political action arm of New York State United Teachers. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions from members, VOTE-COPE is used to help union-backed candidates and campaign committees that support education and labor. VOTE-COPE helps strengthen political action programs on all levels - national, state and local. To help on the local level, VOTE-COPE provides rebates to participating unions for political action. VOTE-COPE funds, by law, are kept separate from those of NY-SUT. Decisions on the use of VOTE-COPE contributions are made by a statewide committee. Voluntary, VOTE-COPE contributions can be made through payroll deduction or by writing a check. Contributions or gifts to VOTE-COPE are not tax deductible.

The Building Representatives will be around asking for your support again this year.

National Day of Action to Reclaim the Promise of Public Education

NYSUT is asking everyone to wear BLUE on December 9TH in solidarity with their call for fair funding, a three-year moratorium on high-stakes consequences of standardized testing, and mid-course corrections to focus on learning, not testing.

Toy Drive

For many years, the Port Jervis Teachers' Association has made Christmas more special for many in the Tri-State area because of their spirit of giving. Our toy drive, in cooperation with the Port Jervis Elk's #645 has been a great success. Once again, this year, PJTA will participate in this most worthwhile event. PJTA is asking all of our members to donate one gift to this cause. The gift should be wrapped and labeled on the outside for either a boy or a girl and the approximate age. If one of our members wish to give more than one gift, that would be most appreciative.

Please check with your Head Building Representative to see where you place the gift. I will be around to collect the gifts at each of the schools and send them to the Elks Club on December 19, 2013.

In advance, PJTA thanks you for all the children of the Tri-State area for whom you have made this Holiday season a bit more special!

Happy Thanksgiving and wishing you and your family a wonderful start to the holiday season!

Regis Foster

Correspondence

Cards Sent

Congratulations

Jessica & Josh Eli on the birth of their daughter, Samantha

