



Happenings

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

Editor: Terence McGuire
tmcguire@pjschools.org

Message from the President

Officers

President:

Regis Foster

1st Vice President:

Jenny McElroy

2nd Vice President:

Barbara Cathy

Recording Secretary:

Debra Cassara

**Corresponding/
Social Secretary:**

Claire Dillon

Treasurer:

Todd Hill

**Grievance Chair-
man:**

Robert Avdoyan

PJTA has been busy as we all prepare for our Winter Recess!

Website

Our website is up and running! You can log onto www.pjta.us and view everything that would be useful for you. Please see your Head Building Representative for the password. If you think of any-thing else that you would like to add and would be beneficial to our members, please contact one of your Building Representatives and they will bring it to the next meeting.

Grievance

The grievance that was filed by a member regarding PLC time at the secondary level was denied at both the Superintendent's stage and Board's stage.

The grievance that was filed by PJTA in regards to a member being denied sick days after going through workmen's compensation was approved. The member was given back their sick days.

Audit Committee

The audit committee met, reviewed the books and found no mistakes. Thanks goes to Todd Hill for doing a fantastic job as our Treasurer.

VOTE-COPE

Many of our members do not realize how VOTE-COPE is important to our union. VOTE-COPE stands for Voice of Teachers for Education – Committee on Political Education.

VOTE-COPE support comes in the form of phone banks, mailers, commercials, print ads, and direct contributions to campaign committees. VOTE-COPE does not take positions regarding wars, gun control, abortion, death penalty, etc... NYSUT respects everyone's views on all of these issues. The money supports both the Democrats and Republicans. Often NYSUT will give a contribution to incumbents as they hold the most powerful positions. Every year at times NYSUT has to put up a battle in a hostile environment. Powerful Congressional leaders want to reduce our salaries and benefits, remove tenure rights, reduce/change our defined benefit pensions, utilize vouchers, and eliminate Triborough protections.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

A huge portion of our VOTE-COPE contribution is returned directly to our local. Twenty percent is rebated automatically, and another twenty percent may be requested for local educational issue campaigns.

Some VOTE-COPE accomplishments:

- Legislative accomplishments like Triborough (This makes sure that when our contract sun-sets, the language in the contract is kept until a new contract is in place)
- A permanent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for our pensions
- Safe-guarding tenure rights
- Annual education budgetary increases from Albany virtually every year.

Without NYSUT's ability to effectively lobby in Albany, our union would be ineffective. Our dues, by law, are not allowed to be used for lobbying, VOTE-COPE depends on the contributions of every member to stay strong. Please give generously to this year's VOTE-COPE campaign!

APPR

Our APPR appeals process was rejected by SED. SED did not like the idea of the last section of the document stating there would be an appeals panel with peer review. After consulting with our LRS, a member who received a composite score of "Ineffective" for two consecutive years and is not satisfied after the superintendent's stage may appeal to go to arbitration.

Toy Drive

The annual toy drive is wrapping up. The toys will be distributed by the Port Jervis Elks Lodge #645 and if the increased number of people at food banks is any indication, the need this year will be greater than ever. Many families will benefit from your generous donations. I want to personally thank you for your generosity.

Food Drive

PJTA will join with NYSUT to participate in the annual food drive to help our local food pantries in the community. Generally, the food supply at these local centers is low after the holidays. There will be a designated drop off site in each building for either food items or money donations. The drive will run from January 8, 2013 – February 1, 2013. Jenny McElroy, 1st Vice-President, will be in charge of coordinating this activity. You will receive more information about this after the New Year!

President's Message

Continued from page 2

Thank You!

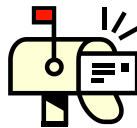
I thanked the members of the Representatives' Council at the close of our December meeting, reminding them that PJTA could not run without them.

At this time of year, I feel especially grateful to our Building Representatives and Executive Board, as Faculty Cabinet, Building Education Planning Team (BEPT), District Leadership Team (DLT), Professional Development Planning (PDP) committee, Academic Intervention Services (AIS) committee, Mentor Committee, and members of the following committees within our local: scholarship, sick bank, and audit. It's an alphabet soup of non-glamorous jobs, and most do not have a stipend attached. On behalf of all PJTA members, I thank you dedicated folks for the time you volunteer to keep our union strong and fully represented.

On behalf of the Port Jervis Teachers' Association, I wish all of our members a peaceful holiday and prosperous New Year! You all deserve it!

Regis Foster

Correspondence



Cards Sent

Sympathy

Linda Falconieri—loss of her father, Martin Aksman
Jennifer Kowal—loss of her aunt, Margaret Jenks

Get Well

Charlie Greenhouse

Congratulations

Julie & Todd Campbell—birth of their son

Cards Received

Thank you from Bon Secours Community Hospital Foundation for the donation in memory of Harry Lynch

Thank you from Carol Decker for the generous gift to Ross' scholarship fund.



