



# Happenings

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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## 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**

### Superintendent

PJTA would like to congratulate Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction and former PJTA member Tom Bongiovi as our new superintendent next year.

### Notice of Claim

The Port Jervis Teachers' Association filed a Notice of Claim (an improper labor practice) against the Port Jervis City School District for violation of the Public Employees' Fair Employment Act.

The nature of the claim is based upon the District's actions of interfering with, restraining or coercing PJTA members in the exercise of their rights and attempting to dominate and interfere with the upcoming election of its officers. A District Administrator speaking to known PJTA union members referenced that the upcoming union elections had a challenger against the current PJTA President. The District Administrator stated: "I got good news, \_\_\_\_ is running for your union president, isn't that great. There is going to be change and change is good." The District Administrator also made it clear to the PJTA members that they should support the challenger's candidacy. Relief has been requested and a District response is pending.

Please contact your building representative if you feel someone is trying to interfere with the upcoming PJTA Union Elections.

### PJTA Elections

Speaking of PJTA elections, PJTA elections will be held on May 15th, 16th, and 17th. Ballots will be distributed in each building by the building representatives. Any member who has not received a ballot by May 17th must contact their Head Building Representative (HBR) immediately. The Head Building Representatives will bring the unopened ballots to the Representative Assembly Meeting on May 20th. Ballots will be counted under the supervision of Kristin Wadeson, the Election Committee Chairperson, and the results will be announced at the May 20th Representative Assembly Meeting.

## **President's Message**

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Voting will be held for all contested offices. The secretary was directed to cast one ballot for all uncontested offices. The contested offices are as follows:

President:	Regis Foster & Tanya Duryea
Grievance Chairman:	Robert Avdoyan & Jody Case-Kennedy
Recording Secretary:	Debra Cassara, Jody Hanlon, Heather Tufano, Lynda Valentine
Alternative NYSUT Delegates:	Barbara Cathy & Michelle Kennedy

### Uncontested Offices:

1st Vice-President	Jenny McElroy
2nd Vice-President	Barbara Cathy
Corresponding/Social Secretary	Claire Dillon
Treasurer	Joseph Becker
NYSUT Delegates:	Craig Fisher & Eric Hartmann

There will be a special edition of the Happenings that will be coming out to introduce the candidates.

## **Un-used Snow Days**

We have 2 snow days left that we have not used. The Board of Education approved to give us off Friday, May 24th & Tuesday, May 28th.

## **Retirement Dinner**

The PJTA annual End of the Year Dinner will be held on June 14th, at the Eire Trackside. To date the Board of Education has accepted resignations for the purpose of retirement from Merilee Bartlett, Carol Chase, Charles Greenhouse, Todd Hill, John Mason, Bess Moran, Richard Samek, Tangeline Sechrist, and Linda Reyle. I hope to see you all there as we celebrate the careers of our colleagues in our chosen profession – and we all know that teaching is more than “just a job”! Speaking about retirement, PJTA would like to congratulate superintendent John Xanthis on his retirement come August 31st.

## **Retirement**

If you are retiring in June, remember to contact Omni at [www.omni403b.com](http://www.omni403b.com), the New York State Deferred Compensation at [www.nysdcp.com](http://www.nysdcp.com), or their account representative for advice and forms for handling the accumulated sick leave pay-out. Some of you may have a 403b and/or a 457 already. If you need to change any information on your plan, make sure you do that ASAP. If you have any further questions, you can contact Nancy Ladonne.

## **Gazette Article for School Budget Vote**

The PJTA representatives approved to place an advertisement in the *Gazette* for a reminder-to-vote for the school budget. Instead of mailing post cards, it would be better to place an advertisement in our local newspaper reminding the people to vote.

## Tenure

Congratulations on the following PJTA members on their Tenure appointments:

Joseph Becker	Math 7-12	September 1, 2013
Erin Cross	Music K-12	September 1, 2013
Craig Fisher	Elementary 1-6	September 1, 2013
Jason Gunderman	Math 7-12	September 1, 2013
John Higgins	Technology 7-12	September 1, 2013
David Marr	Guidance	September 1, 2013
Bethann Paul	Special Education 7-12	September 1, 2013
Megan Rudden	Special Education 1-6	September 1, 2013
Ryan Schupp	Social Studies 7-12	September 1, 2013
Michael Sosnick	Math 7-12	September 1, 2013
Scott Spears	Special Education 7-12	September 1, 2013
Tracy West-Barnes	Technology	February 1, 2013
Lindsay Wylie	Elementary 1-6	January 3, 2013

## Administrative Professionals Day

April 26th was Administrative Professionals Day! (formerly known as Secretaries' Day) These are one of the most important people because where would we be without our support staff or professional assistants?

PJTA honored our administrative professionals' district wide with gift certificates from Gios in appreciation for the hard work they do.

## Summer School

The district has informed me that summer school was not cut or reduced in any way. Applications will be coming out.

## Budget Vote/School Board Elections

May 21st is the budget vote and school board elections. The BOE adopted a \$62.1M to be voted on for next year. The budget carries an estimated tax levy increase of two percent. The district was able to reduce the projected tax levy by reducing spending applying an additional \$270,350 from its fund balance to the budget. This brings the total fund balance allocation to \$1.2 million.

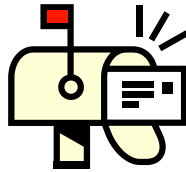
There are three seats that are up on the school board. Current board member Richard McElroy and appointee Robert Witherow are running along with Mike Zappolo, William Onofry, Tammy Myers, and Earl Walker Jr.

I urge each PJTA member who lives in the District to go out and vote on the school budget and school board elections.

In Solidarity,

*Regis Foster*

## **Correspondence**



### **Cards Sent**

### **Sympathy**

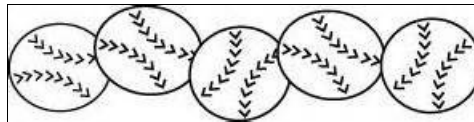
Audrey Wenders—loss of her husband, Gerry (retired PJTA tech teacher)  
Melissa Randolph—loss of her mother, Robin Schmich  
Melissa Mieszkuc—loss of her grandfather, Henry Jenks  
Sharon Krause—loss of her mother, Patricia Kelly  
Joseph Johnson—loss of his father, Ira B. Johnson

### **Get Well**

LouAnn McCarthy

### **Cards Received**

Thank you from Melissa Randolph  
Thank you from Port Jervis Free Library for donation made in memory of Marilyn Ireland  
Thank you from Audrey Wenders for donation to Veterans Park in Gerry's memory  
Thank you for the donation from Veterans Memorial Park and Education Center  
in memory of Gerry Wenders



PJTA has been a great supporter for many years in our local Little League. After a short illness Joseph "Ole Joe" Kraycer passed away on April 27th. Many of you may remember him as a coach, score keeper, or treasurer. He represented our Little League program for nearly four decades. All of the children in our community were a top priority of his. Anyone who would like to give a memorial contribution may do so on his behalf to the Port Jervis Little League. Memorial contributions can be sent to: Port Jervis Little League, P.O. Box 430, Port Jervis, NY 12771. Thank you for your support!

