

Happenings

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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Message from the President

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Jenny McElroy

2nd Vice President:

Carol Brown

Recording Secretary:

Debra Cassara

**Corresponding/
Social Secretary:**

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**Grievance
Chairperson:**

Dawn Higgins

Welcome back! I hope that your summer was relaxing, safe, and productive. This year will be, as are most, filled with challenges. However, we will strive to change them into achievements and accomplishments.

The month of September is an informational month!

Communication

The P.J.T.A. office is located at the high school next to the first floor elevator. If you have a question or a concern about a personal union business matter, you can e-mail me at presidentpjta11@gmail.com. I check this account on a daily basis. It is wise to limit use of the district's e-mail service to school district business. Make sure you send your personal e-mail messages through your personal e-mail account if you are going to contact me using presidentpjta11@gmail.com. If you would like to speak to me or call me, I will be in the PJTA office and near a phone from 7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m., 9:15 a.m. – 9:50 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The PJTA Office extension is 11615 or 11940. If you need to fax or leave a personal message to the PJTA office, you can do so at (845) 858-3644. The (845) 858-3644 number is not connected to the district server. PJTA pays for this personal line.

Welcome Back Social

On September 22, 2017, we had our "Welcome Back" social at the Tiki Bar. It was nice to see everybody, and everyone had a great time.

Flex

Enrollment forms for the upcoming Flex Plan year are due back to the payroll office by the end of September.

Health Plan

Open enrollment for the health plan takes place for the entire month of October. The change would be effective on January 1, 2018. Please contact Karen Howard for information and enrollment forms at extension 15539.

Benefit Fund

Each member should have a PJTA Benefit Fund information booklet. Please take the time to educate yourself regarding reimbursement for dental procedures. This will save you delays in processing your claims, as well as teach you the steps to take to avoid denial claims.

Please be sure to update the district payroll office and PJTA Benefit Fund administrator should you divorce. Ex-spouses are not entitled to your benefits, and nondisclosure of a divorce could be considered an intent to defraud the plan.

Dependents entering college must have a dependent student certification form completed each semester. These are available in the schools' offices or the PJTA website. Dependents are not covered until the age of 26 like the health insurance. De-

pendents over the age of 19 must be full time students in an accredited college and under age 25. The new two-year vision cycle began on July 1, 2017. The maximum vision care benefit per member for covered charges for the two-year vision care plan cycle (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2019) is \$1,300.00. No benefit payment will be made in excess of the actual charges.

*****PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU VISIT THE PJTA WEBSITE UNDER *BENEFIT FUND INFORMATION* FOR MORE INFORMATION*****

Marital Status Change/Address Change

If there has been a change in your marital status, it may be necessary to change your life insurance beneficiary, NYSTRS beneficiary, and health insurance coverage.

Check your paycheck! Is your address correct? If not, you should notify Nancy Ladonne at the district office and Joe Becker, our Treasurer ASAP!

Committees

I would like to thank all of you who stepped up and volunteered this year to serve on a committee. I truly appreciate all the hard work and dedication that everyone does.

Social Network of Internet

Postings to Facebook pages and other social networks are not as private as one might believe. In fact, you should not consider them private at all. Nothing should be put on them that you would not want your current or future employer to see. Be careful what you post to social media because it could be used against you in being disciplined.

Text messages and e-mails can be saved, shared, and potentially used against you! Be careful what you type!

Building/Faculty Cabinet Representatives

It is that time again...time to elect building representatives. We will need seven from the high school, five from the middle school, seven from A.S.K., and five from H.B.E. Please review the duties and responsibilities of a building representative in your PJTA Constitution, and give your name to your head-building representative if you are interested.

Head Building Representatives:

Linda Falconieri – ASK

Jennifer Kowal – HBE

Walter Kaufmann – MS

Tim Leonard – HS

The head building representative will conduct an election in each building if there are more volunteers than positions in any building. New representatives take office in October.

Head building representative positions will become effective in October as well.

PJTA is also looking for members from each building to join a committee that will set up guidelines for the smooth and consistent implementation of each building's faculty cabinet. If interested, please contact your head-building representative.

Salary Adjustment

If you completed an approved graduate course or 45 hours of approved in-service course work, you must submit a salary adjustment claim form, the prior approval form, and an official college transcript to central office by the end of October and February.

Salary Agreement

Please check the salary agreement form carefully before signing. If you see any errors or have any questions, direct your concerns to Nancy Ladonne at the district office.

Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR)

Teachers, please make sure you review the Danielson Revised Rubric (2011 version). Remember, you are only doing domains I – III. Domains II & III are based only on the observations (announced, unannounced, and walk-throughs), conducted by your administrator. Make sure you review our APPR document!

American Red Cross Donation

I have received a letter from NYSUT asking each one of us, if you can, to donate at least \$1 or more to the American Red Cross. NYSUT has selected to sponsor this charity for all that they have done in helping the people in Texas and Florida from the hurricane.

The head building representatives will be collecting money, if you chose to donate, up to October 6. The head building representatives will give the money to Joe Becker to give to NYSUT.

Vote "NO" on Opening the New York State Constitutional Convention

There is a push by some political factions in New York State to hold a new Constitutional Convention. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has expressed his belief in the past that a state constitutional convention is the best route to achieve comprehensive reform in New York.

Not only would a Constitutional Convention needlessly cost the New York State taxpayers an estimated \$100-million, but also it could jeopardize the current level of pension benefits already received by retirees and promised to active members.

Public sector pensions are guaranteed against diminution thanks to powerful language present in the New York State Constitution. In the event of a Constitutional Convention, the language could be altered, thus eliminating that guarantee and paving the way for a reduced pension benefit.

It won't matter if you have been retired 1 year or 20 years. **YOUR BENEFITS WILL BE REDUCED; YOUR PENSIONS WILL BE REDUCED. THE MONEY THAT YOU HAVE SPENT YEARS WORKING FOR, PAYING TAXES ON AND SPENDING COUNTLESS HOURS OF OVER-TIME BUILDING UP FOR RETIREMENT, WILL BE DIMINISHED!**

A convention may open up New York's Constitution to hastily thought out changes and reversal of laws and protections that in some cases took more than 200 years to put into effect; and for police, firefighters, paramedics, corrections, sanitation workers, teachers, MTA, hospitals, etc, benefits that took decades to achieve. **THIS WILL AFFECT ALL NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC RETIREES!**

A referendum whether or not to engage in a Constitutional Convention will be on the ballot for voters in the next election, November 7, 2017.

VOTE "NO" when the **CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION** is placed on the November 7, 2017 ballot.

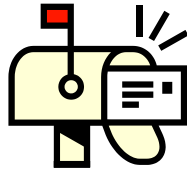
There are much better ways in which \$100-million or so of our tax dollars may be spent.

Make sure you start spreading the message!

I have ordered magnets and pins for everyone. I also ordered 30 lawn signs as well. They should be arriving soon to help spread the message!

In Solidarity,

Regis



Correspondence

Cards Sent

Sympathy

Mike Dunleavy—on the loss of his father-in-law, Thomas Gallondorn

Deana Menchin—on the loss of her grandmother, Maria Menchin

Family of Rich Samek—retired PJTA teacher

Annie Foster—on the loss of her brother-in-law, Mike Caufield

Regis Foster—on the loss of his uncle, Mike Caufield

Congratulations

Chris and Crissy McCaw on the birth of their daughter, Ella Paisleigh

Tina and Andreas Pfaffe on their marriage

Lisa and Sean Cunningham on the birth of their twin daughters, Hailey and Kelly

Meagan and Ben Muller on the birth of their daughter, Nora

Cards Received

Thank you from Emily Tigue for the PJTA scholarship

Thank you from Erin Cornell for the PJTA scholarship

Thank you from Michael Conklin on receiving the PJTA scholarship

