



# 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**

Welcome back! Hopefully, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 7:30a.m. – 8:15a.m., 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m., and 12:30p.m. – 1:00p.m. The PJTA Office extension is 11615. 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. If you leave a message on the (845) 858-3644 line, the union officer you are trying to contact will get back to you as soon as they can.

### Welcome Back Social

On September 13, 2013 we had our "Welcome Back" social. 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 no later than September 30, 2013.

### Health Plan

Open enrollment for the health plan takes place for the entire month of October. The change would be effective on January 1, 2014. Please contact Barbara Groh for information and enrollment forms.

## **President's Message**

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### **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 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.

In the dental plan under dependent (family) coverage, the maximum dental benefit per person per plan year is \$3,000.00 and for dependent (family) coverage, the maximum dental benefit per family per plan year is \$5,000.00. Under dependent coverage, each member maintaining dependent coverage and each of his/her covered dependents may receive a maximum individual benefit of \$3,000.00 per plan year, but each member maintaining dependent coverage and all of his/her covered dependents together may receive no more than \$5,000.00 in benefits per plan year. For example, if a member maintaining dependent coverage received \$3,000.00 in benefits on July 1 of a plan year, he/she would be ineligible to receive any more benefits for the remainder of that plan year, and there would be a maximum of \$2,000.00 in benefits available for all the remaining covered family members for the remainder of that plan year.

The new two-year vision cycle began on July 1, 2013. The maximum vision care benefit per member for covered charges for the two-year Vision Care Plan cycle (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015) is \$800.00. 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\*\*\***

### **Mid-Hudson Teacher Center**

The Mid-Hudson Teacher Center will be offering courses. Please contact Jenny McElroy at A.S.K. for further information if you are interested.

### **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 pay check! Is your address correct? If not, you should notify Nancy Ladonne at the district office ASAP!

### **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.

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

## Key Policy

The district has contacted P.J.T.A. and placed a plan for any district employee who loses their key(s). In the past, the district wanted to make any employee pay \$100 for every key lost. PJTA would not agree to this proposal. Here is the procedure if you lose your key(s):

The employee must notify their immediate supervisor as soon as they are aware that their key(s) may have been lost.

A two week waiting period (ten working days) will be adhered to in the event the employee is able to locate their keys. During that time, the district will either:

- issue a temporary key(s) to the employee, or
- arrange for that employee's room(s) to be unlocked and locked at the beginning and end of the work day

After ten working days have expired, the B&G Department will schedule to change any necessary core(s) and key(s) at their earliest convenience.

Once new keys(s) have been issued, the building and/or department will be responsible to pay for the new core(s) or key(s) expense out of their operating budget.

In the event that the same employee loses their key(s) more than once, in addition to the same aforementioned process being put into place, that employee will be scheduled to have a conference with their immediate supervisor. At that time, said employee may be subject to some formal discipline up to and including a reprimand in their personnel file.

## Building/Faculty Cabinet Representatives

It's that time again...time to elect building representatives. We will need eight 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:

Nancy Northrup – ASK  
JoEllen Degraw – HBE  
Terry McGuire – MS  
Peggy Millich – 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 take place in October as well.

PJTA is looking for members from each building to join a committee that will set up guidelines for the smooth and consistent running 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 October 1st and February 1st.

### **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.

### **New Member Social**

The PJTA officers and Representative Assembly members look forward to welcoming our newest members at the annual member social. On October 2, 2013, we will gather at the Best Western Inn at Hunt's Landing in the Garden Room from 3:45p.m. until 5:00 p.m. for an informational meeting and some social time together. Building Representatives please R.S.V.P. to your Head Building Representative or Claire Dillon at H.B.E. Hope to see all the new members and Representative Assembly there!

### **Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR)**

Richard Iannuzzi, NYSUT President, has sent out a letter assuring that NYSUT is continuing to fight for our voice as a professional and as an advocate for all of us. Every one of us received our APPR score opening day and some were dismayed about their results. These assessments are not the only way or the best way to evaluate ourselves and students. As practitioners, we are the experts, and NYSUT is continuing to guard against any attempt to misuse these new assessments. Remember, these tests that we have to give should not diminish our confidence in knowing that what we do every day improves the lives of the students we see.

Teachers, please make sure you review the Danielson Revised Rubric 2011 version. Remember, Domains I & IV are based on what you do throughout the year. Domains II & III are based only on the observation your administrator will observe you on that day.

We will be re-negotiating a new APPR for next year. The committee met over the summer and reviewed all of the E-mails everyone submitted. I want to thank all of you who responded for your input!

**In Solidarity,**

**Regis Foster**