



Happenings

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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Message from the President

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Regis Foster

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2nd Vice President:

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**Corresponding/
Social Secretary:**

Claire Dillon

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**Grievance
Chairperson:**

Dawn Higgins

I hope everyone enjoyed the plenty of family, friends, and food during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Grievance

PJTA filed a grievance because members were receiving their scores on their observation after the post-observation. The district agreed that the scores will be given to the member either before or during the post-observation.

After School Child Care

The district has notified some of our members in the elementary schools only that elementary teachers cannot have their children in their classroom after the student school day. PJTA believes that the district is singling out our elementary members.

PJTA is in the process of filing a notice of claim. PJTA alleges the district has violated Section 209.a.1 (d) of the Taylor Law when it unilaterally notified our members to cease and desist of having their children in their classrooms from the end of the student school day until the end of the member's workday. The district knew about the long standing past practice and the practice was consistent between the two elementary schools.

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 a 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 NYSUT. Decisions on the use of VOTE-COPE contributions are made by a statewide committee. Voluntary VOTE-COPE contributions can be made through payroll deduction during the current campaign, or by writing a check in the spring. Contributions or gifts to VOTE-COPE are no-tax deductible.

The building representatives will be around asking for your support again this year.

APPR

Just a few reminders when going through the APPR process:

Your first observation will be announced and will be the length of an entire period, or lesson.

You are not required to fill out any pre-observation/post observation forms.

Domain 1 should be filled out before you have your first announced observation.

Your second observation will take place during the second half of the year, and it will only be for 10-15 minutes.

The K-2 teachers will have the state assessment portion of their APPR be based on the average Regents' exams of Common Core English, Geometry, Earth Science, Physics, and United States History & Government. For anyone who does not have a state assessment attached to their class, they will use the Fourth grade science test.

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 any of our members wish to give more than one gift that would be most appreciative.

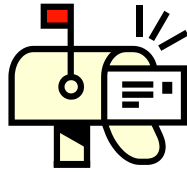
Please check with your head building representative to see where you should place the gift. I will be around to collect the gifts at each of the schools and send them to the Elks Club on Thursday and Friday, December 21 and 22.

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

I would like to wish you and your family a wonderful start to the holiday season!

In Solidarity,

Regis Foster



Correspondence

Sympathy

Janet Prundl, on the loss of her aunt, Robyn Onofry.

Judy Dawson, on the loss of her uncle.

Valerie Ricciardi, on the loss of her father, Michael Soletio.

Julie Campbell, on the loss of her father-in-law, Edward.

Get Well

Ray Holyk

Jessica Eli

Anne Parker

Congratulations

Lauren and Dan Eckerson, on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte.

Kim and Dan Eichele, on the birth of their son, Cooper.

Karen and Nick Gessner, on the birth of their twins, Charlotte and Ronan.

Cards Received

Thank you from Grace Episcopal Church for the donation made in memory of Rich Samek.

Thank you from the City of Port Jervis Recreation Department for our sponsorship of the Summer Concert Series.

Thank you from the NYSUT Fundraising Committee for our American Red Cross donation.