

### Officers

**President:** Joseph Becker

**1st Vice President:** Jenny McElroy

**2nd Vice President:** Carol Brown

**Recording Secretary:** Maura Brady-Wilson

**Corresponding Social Secretary:** Lindsay Wylie

**Treasurer:** Walter Kaufmann

**Grievance Chairperson:** Jacqueline Behnke

# Happenings October 2023

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank each member for contributing their time to the Fall Foliage Festival on the rescheduled date of October 15th.

**Fall Foliage:** It was a great day and we had a ton of people stop at our tent to fill out the information slips for the free raffle. We pulled the name of a student from A.S.K and the basket of school supplies was delivered. We had a multitude of people say positive comments about us that day and it was great to hear such nice compliments. Again, I really appreciate those who volunteered their time at the festival. Moving forward, I am hoping more members are willing to help out at future events.



**Board of Education Meetings:** Unfortunately, we still only have 91 people out of 260 signed up to attend 1 BOE meeting. As a union, we want everyone from all buildings to please consider attending at least one meeting. While we are aware people are busy, everyone is busy. As always, PJTA is a strong union due to the participation and willingness of its members. Please schedule some time to make this commitment a priority.

**GLC's and Coordinators:** PJTA met with the district and I am meeting with the Assistant Superintendent of Business to correct some of the mistakes. I will notify the group once it is all complete. Thank you for your patience.

**November Conference Day:** We asked the district to put out an email to remind everyone that has to travel that day to put in for mileage reimbursement. Details will be placed in the memo but if you have any questions please ask us. Also, there is no need to put in for prior approval for the conference on that day.

**GCN Training:** Please be sure to have all GNC training completed by the deadlines posted.

**Website:** The website is up and running. It has been updated and a continual work in progress. Thank you to Caitlyn Gunderman for taking on the job. There is a lot of useful information on the website, so please check it out: <https://pjta.us/>

If anyone has any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

In solidarity,  
Joe Becker  
PJTA President

### **Conference Day Transportation Reminders:**

- No prior approvals for transportation needed on MLP
- Some FAQs regarding submitting mileage:
  - Submit mileage claim forms to your building principal only if you are going to BOCES/another district workshop and your mileage is further than what you'd drive to work at PJCS D. Mileage is the difference between what you'd drive to the conference and what you'd drive to PJCS D (e.g., your mileage to conference=15 and your mileage to PJ=10, you'd submit

for 5 miles each way). Mileage should be submitted to and from the location you are driving to (eg., you'd submit  $5 \times 2 = 10$  as you are going to/from).

- If you are driving to a location that is closer to your home than it would be than driving to PJCS D, do not submit a mileage form.
- If you are carpooling with someone else, only the driver should submit for mileage reimbursement if the distance is further than what they would drive to work at PJCS D. If you are meeting at the district, the driver should submit mileage to/from the building to the conference location.
- If there are any questions or concerns regarding mileage and how to submit, please contact Dr. Natasha Walkowicz/Ms. Jerianne Baumgardner so we can guide you through the process.

### **PJ Benefit Fund Reminders:**

- Submit dependent student certifications for fall, 2023
- Pre-authorizations with an x-ray must be submitted for individual procedures over \$800 (excluding root canals which must have post x-rays)
- Update any address or name changes

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- PTJA: 11/13 @ 3:45 pm in the HS library or attend virtually.  
President Joe Becker will send out a link prior to each meeting.
- Board of Education: 11/14 @ 7:00 pm
- Benefit Fund Informational Meeting- directly following the 11/13 PJTA meeting

### **PJTA Negotiations Team:**

- JOE BECKER- PRESIDENT
- JACKIE BEHNKE – HS REP
- JACK HIGGINS- HS REP
- CHRISTINE PISCITELLI- HS REP
- SHANNON VICCHIARIELLO- HBE REP
- CARRIE SARBELLO- HBE REP
- JENNY MCELROY- ASK REP
- MAURA BRADY-WILSON- ASK REP

- LINDSAY WYLIE- ASK REP
- ANTHONY CAPORALE- MS REP
- WALTER KAUFMANN- MS rep

## **Correspondence:**

### **Condolence cards sent to:**

Randi Short- on the loss of her mother, former PJTA member, Kathleen Gross

Jenine Mercado- on the loss of her mother

Susan Elston-Mills- on the loss of her mother, Carol Elston

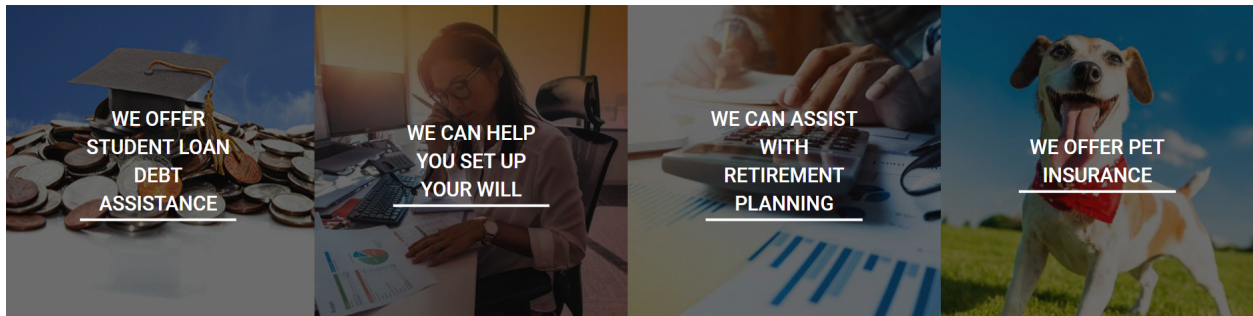
Susan Elston-Mills- on the loss of her uncle

The Walsh Family- on the loss of former PJTA member, Robin Walsh



## **NYSUT News:**

NYSUT's strength as well as its pride is in the diversity of its membership. That is why the union is proud to offer a wide array of programs, services and information that address its members' unique interests and issues.



## **Member Programs, Services, and Information:**

- Created in partnership with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care, this confidential helpline can provide answers, referrals, and empathetic support when you need it.
  - Check it out online: [Peer Support Line](#)

- [PEER SUPPORT LINE](#) -- For more information or to speak with someone at the Peer Support Line, call toll-free 844-444-0152.
- [NYSUT fights to protect children from online dangers](#)
- [PPSTA contract victory](#)
- [Certification](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Member Benefits](#)

## **NYSTRS Retirement Information:**

### **Thinking About Retirement?**

Retirement is a significant life event. Be sure to do the homework necessary to make informed decisions by reviewing publications, web pages, and videos early in the process.

- [NYSTRS Benefits Pt. 2: Service Credit](#)
- [Pension Education Toolkit](#)
- [Retirement Planning](#)
- [Countdown to Retirement](#)
- [Retirement Countdown Video Series](#)
- [Retirement Planning FAQs](#)
- [NYSTRS Retirement Checklist](#)

If you are planning to retire at the end of this school year, you should schedule a benefits consultation now via [MyNYSTRS](#) or by calling (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6100. See the [Benefits Consultations](#) page at NYSTRS.org for more details.

You may also calculate your pension estimates with the MyNYSTRS Pension Estimator in your My Retirement tab in your MyNYSTRS account.

**NYS office of Mental Health**

Youth Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business

Call or text 988 (Suicide & Crisis Lifeline)

Or

Text “GOT5” to 741-741