

### 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 September 2023

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone is having a great start to the school year. It is hard to believe that September has come and gone.

**Fall Foliage:** The original date was postponed due to weather. The new date of the event is October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Previously, some buildings were poorly represented for the original date so please consider helping out. There are (2) hour time slots for each building and if you can only make part of it, please consider attending. Feel free to bring your children, spouse, or a friend as this is a family friendly community event. Please wear some of your PJTA swag and represent our group. Additionally, we are giving out free items to families and raffling off a free basket of school supplies.

**Board of Education Meetings:** We have sent out multiple emails encouraging members to sign up to attend one meeting this school year. This is a non-controversial movement. We just want to have representation at the board meetings to be aware and show we care. You do not need to wear PJTA gear to the meeting.

**APPR:** We finally received a final draft of the latest APPR agreement. Our committee met several times last year and we feel confident in the changes. No changes have been made to the format of the actual observations. We cleaned up

some language about independent evaluators coming for the informal observation (untenued) or for either the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> informal walkthrough (tenured). The independent evaluators are the director of PPS, Assistant Director of PPS, Director of Communications, and Athletic Director. Please note the independent evaluator is only responsible for 10% of your observation score. Furthermore, since the 4<sup>th</sup> grade science test is no longer given, the committee decided to have all members use the Algebra 2 Regents, ELA Regents, and Global History Regents to calculate the student performance measure. You should have received a copy of the MOA in your school email. If you have questions, please ask.

**Home Instruction:** PJTA is working with the district on a procedure and once it is finalized, it will be shared out.

**Salary Agreements:** Please be sure to check everything before signing and returning your salary agreement. If you are not sure of something, please be sure to ask a building representative or an executive member to assist you.

**Fix Tier Six Campaign:** After sitting in on many meetings, lectures, and reading many articles, fixing Tier Six is going to be a process. It could take a few years to fix but NYSUT is making it their priority. We have started a committee and are asking for others to join. You can be of any tier to be a part of this committee and everyone should be knowledgeable regarding the differences between Tier 4, 5, and 6. Please remember Tier 4 was not what it is today without members from Tier 1, 2, and 3 fighting to improve it. It is going to take a unified effort but I am confident over time we will see improvements made to both Tier 5 and 6.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who joined committees and who are willing to put their time and effort into keeping our union strong. Being an active member of the union is the best way to stay up-to-date and receive accurate information. There are often mixed messages being put out there and I encourage you to seek out a building representative or an executive member if you want accurate information.

If you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out.

In solidarity,  
Joe Becker  
PJTA President

## Upcoming Meetings:

- **PTJA: 10/16 @ 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: 10/17 @ 7:00 pm**

## Correspondence:

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

Noell Bushey- loss of her mother, Beverly Carey

Stephanie Vandemark- loss of her father, Jerome Vandemark

Demetra Palaj (Ourania)- on her marriage to Danny Palaj

Noell Bushey- loss of her brother, Michael Carey

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



### **Thank you cards received from:**

Good Counsel (Homes-Hope for Babies- Mothers)- Thank you for the donation in memory of Christine Faggione

Lori Sexton- Thank you for the donation to St. Jude in the memory of her father, Frank Kukella

Penny Jones- Thank you for the PJTA scholarship

Rachel Duryea- Thank you for the PJTA scholarship

The Vandemark Family- Thank you for the donation to the Jerome Vandemark Memorial Scholarship Fund (in memory of Jerome Vandemark)

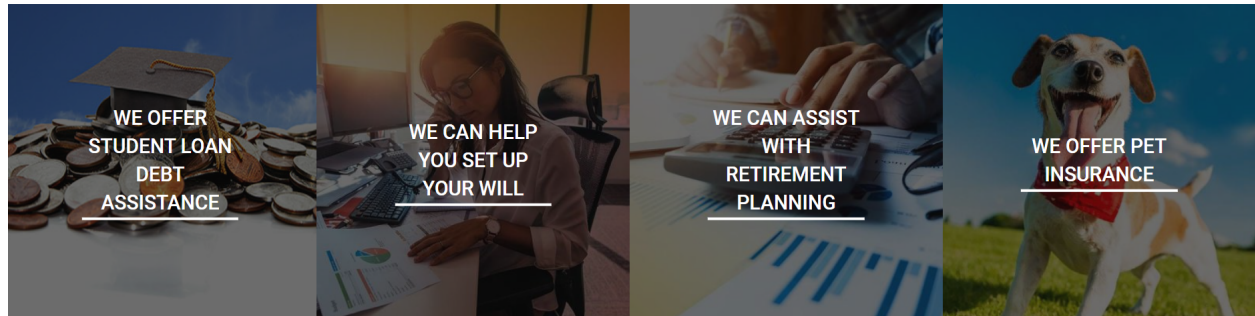
Jenna Waligroski- Thank you for the PJTA scholarship

Paris Khan- Thank you for the PJTA scholarship

Connor Brace- Thank you for the PJTA scholarship

## 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.
  - [Premium Calm Subscription](#)
  - [Travel Assistance Services](#)
  - [Legal Service Plan](#)
  - [Financial Counseling Program](#)
  - [Pet Insurance](#)

## **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.

- [The Retirement Process Video Part 1](#)
- [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