

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 November 2023

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

First and foremost, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy the well-deserved time off.



Fix Tier 6 Campaign:

Last month, the Orange County Teachers Association (OCTA) and NYSUT hosted a Tier 6 mixer at the Newburgh Brewery. Every PJTA member received an invite and even though it was a Monday night and all the way in Newburgh, we had about 10 people make the trip and show support. There was ample information and excitement about the movement. A huge shout out to those who came to the event! During one of the slide shows presented, there were some shocked faces when a

presenter from Cornwall stated, “If Tier 4 still existed, the lifetime contribution for a starting teacher at Cornwall this year would have been \$25,269. For Tier 6, the lifetime contribution will be \$336,001!” Please read the press release below about this event:

[New York's hottest club is a Tier 6 mixer \(nysut.org\)](http://nysut.org)



Sick Day Incentive:

I have been asked questions about the sick day incentive many times, specifically about whether or not personal days go against the agreement. The answer is no. Personal days do not go against you in regards to the sick day incentive.

Superintendent Conference Day:

I have heard many opinions about the PD opportunities that were provided on the last conference day. Many had some strong opinions and are concerned about attaching their names or emails to the google form surveys. I asked the district to take off the options of attaching emails to help make it anonymous. However, some are still concerned so I let them know they can email me and I can pass along their feedback and attach my name if they want. Please take the time to respond to the surveys, consider joining the PD committee, and use your voice to express your opinions.

I gave the district a heads up about some of the issues and expressed that many members need time to work on curriculum and collaborate with members from their departments and grade levels. I was told the February conference day will be spent on curriculum and collaboration with departments and grade levels.

PJTA Opportunity:

On January 9th (time to be determined), PJTA Executives will be hosting a zoom meeting with all members for a presentation with Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. Law Firm.

During the NYSUT Summer Leadership Conference, we were able to connect with Steven Kramer, Senior Associate of the Law firm, who works with many locals of NYSUT about many opportunities this firm could provide us with a very small yearly fee.

I will send more information out as it gets closer but I have heard his pitch several times now and had him speak to our PJTA executives and we all agreed this is a great opportunity. However, I would like everyone to have the opportunity to hear from him directly. Some of the many things they offer are estates, wills, trusts, legal advice, simple divorce, and many more.

End Of Year Party:

June 21st is the date for this event and more details will be provided as we get closer.

In closing, as always, if anyone has any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out.

In solidarity,

Joe Becker
PJTA President

Upcoming Meetings:

- PTJA: **12/18 @ 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: **12/12 @ 7:00 pm** in the A.S.K Cafeteria

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:

Jennifer Grismer- on the loss of her father, George Jackson.

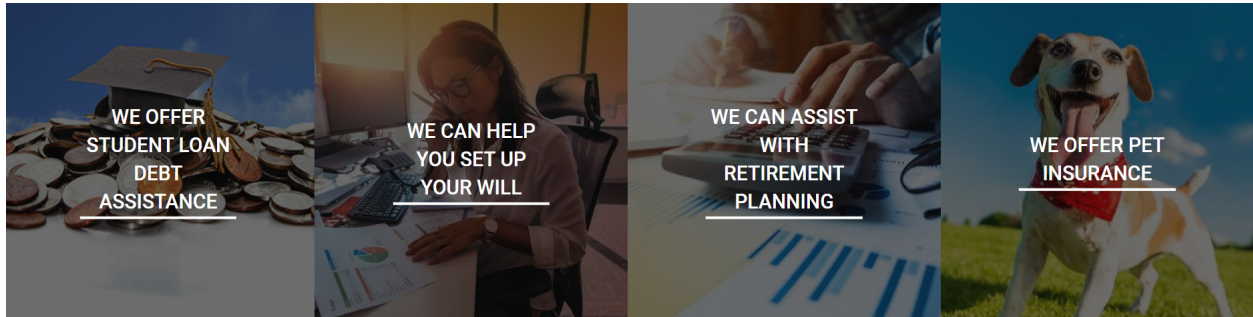
John Bell- on the loss of his father in law

Natasha Walkowicz- on the loss of her father



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.
 - [Legal Assistance](#)
 - [Student Loan Counseling](#)
 - [Certification](#)
 - [MB Discount & Deals](#)
 - [New Member Life 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.

- [NYSTRS Benefits Pt. 3: Calculation of a NYSTRS Benefit](#)
- [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