

#### **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 December 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 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Enjoy the well-deserved time off.



### **PJTA CBA Ratification:**

While emails have been sent, I wanted to add the most recent news congratulating everyone on the new PJTA CBA. The MOA was approved by the Board of Education on December 12<sup>th</sup> and was ratified by our membership on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 P.M. We had 99% approval. There were several members who did not cast a vote and I hope moving forward those members will take the brief time needed to cast a vote as we made sure to make it as accessible and easy as possible. This is one of the best contracts PJTA has ever settled and I am very proud of the team

who put in many hours to get a fair deal. Please be sure to thank Jenny McElroy (Head Negotiator), Maura Brady-Wilson, Lindsey Wylie, Anthony Caporale, Walter Kaufman, Carrie Sarbello, Shannon Vicchiariello, Jack Higgins, Jackie Behnke, and Christine Piscitelli. I had the pleasure of working with this team throughout the process and was truly grateful for each of them.

### **Faculty Cabinet Refresher:**

**Please do not send complaints that directly involve a fellow PJTA member(s) through the faculty cabinet.**

If you feel comfortable, please have a conversation with that staff member. If it is a sensitive issue, you can speak to your GLC/Dept. Head or PJTA Building Representative.

Any items that violate the PJTA Contract should immediately go to a Building Representative or a PJTA Officer.

Any items that are appropriate for Faculty Cabinet to discuss may include but are not limited to the following:

- Scheduling of school events
- District/School Procedures
- District/School Policy
- Admin to Staff Communication
- Curriculum/Grading
- Student or Staff Safety
- Condition of classroom or school grounds
- Items dealing with District Technology Use

We know from month to month things happen and need to be brought to the Faculty Cabinet. If we keep to the guidelines, items will be addressed in a timely and appropriate fashion.

### **Elk's Toy Drive:**

Thank you to all who donated gifts. Our children in our community are very fortunate for what our members provide whether it was through this drive or the many other ways members contribute.

**PJTA Opportunity:**

On January 9<sup>th</sup> (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.

**Good of the order:**

I just want to say thank you to everyone for ALL you do for the children of our school district. Please take time off this Winter Break to enjoy your family and friends and be sure to take time to relax.

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: **1/22 @ 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: **1/9 @ 7:00 pm** in the A.S.K Cafeteria
- PJTA Zoom Meeting with Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. Law Firm:  
1/9

## 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

Kayleigh Marron- on the birth of her daughter, Evelyn

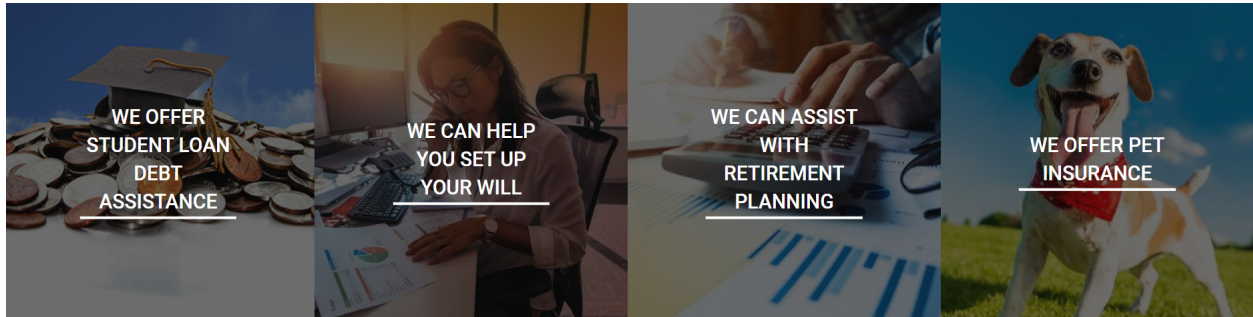
Thomas Dubatowka- on his marriage to wife, Nicole

Amy Relyea- on the loss of her father, Edmund Jones



## 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](#)
- [Death Benefits](#)
- [Credit Counseling](#)
- [Certification](#)
- [Professional Development and CTLE](#)
- [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. 4: The Retirement Process](#)
- [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