



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 January 2024

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

Editor: Caitlyn Gunderman | cgunderman@pjschools.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

On January 9th, we put together a zoom meeting with Steven Kramer, a Partner of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C.. The recorded meeting is below as well as the password to access the video. This Legal Service Plan is a great opportunity for the Port Jervis Teachers' Association.

What we need from everyone is the approval of a dues increase to help cover the yearly cost per member in order to enroll into this program. The cost per member is approximately \$35 a year. The PJTA executives are proposing a \$50 increase to cover this cost as well as rising costs over the years due to inflation.

We have not increased local dues in several years and feel this is the right time to do so. We will set up an online vote for approval of the dues increase similar to how we conducted the ratification vote of the new CBA. We will send out notification prior to the vote. If you have any questions, please watch the video below and feel free to follow up with one of our executive members.

Zoom Meeting Access:

Link: [Passcode Required - Zoom](#)

Password: E##Fs7UD

Payroll Memo:

The district updated the Teacher Claim for Extra Pay form. The fillable PDF is attached in the email sent by Bonnie Whitney. In the fillable PDF, the *Total Pay Column* auto fills based on what you enter in the *Total hours Column* and the *Pay Rate Column*. The sheet will also auto total all rows for you. Feel free to contact Bonnie if you have any questions.

Per this memo, PJTA asked the district to look into a more user-friendly option since the PDF doesn't download on a Chromebook. The IT department is working with payroll to look for better solutions.

Summer School:

We met with the district and have some preliminary dates for summer school. Once they are finalized, we will send out dates to the membership.

Scholarship:

Scholarship applications are due March 1st. Applications can be found in the HS guidance office and on the PJTA website. Be sure to read the guidelines and provide all required documents. In past years, many applicants didn't attach a copy of their current report card and their application was invalidated.

Retirement:

Remember that if you intend to retire, you must submit your letter to the district by February 1st.

New CBA:

The entire CBA agreement is posted on the PJTA website. Please check it out and ask questions if you have any. We are not planning on printing out hard copies. We will, of course, be printing them for our new teachers in September.

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: **2/26 @ 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: **2/13 @ 7:00 pm** in the A.S.K Cafeteria

Correspondence:

Condolence cards sent to:

Donna Schutz- on the passing of her husband, Bill.

Cory & Lou Puopolo- on the passing of their stepfather, Bill.

Nancilee Sorenson- on the passing of her stepfather, Bill.

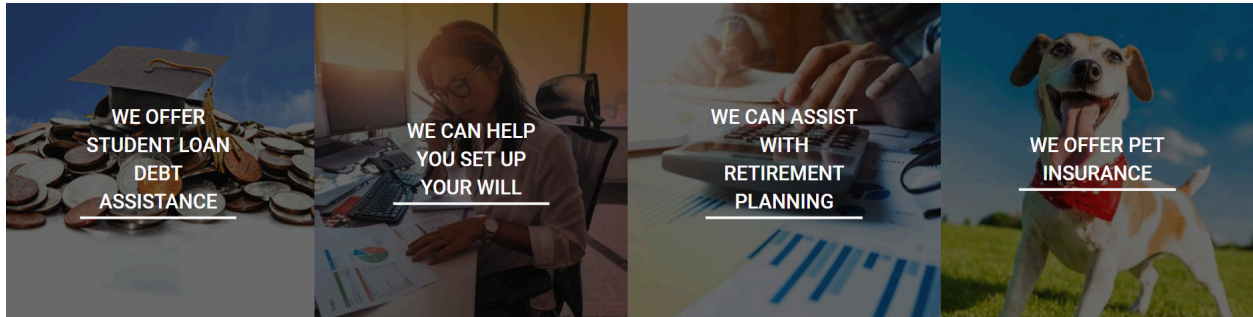
Deana Perez- on the birth of her daughter, Isabella

Randi Liberati- on the loss of her father in law, Raymond Liberati



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](#) -- For more information or to speak with someone at the Peer Support Line, call toll-free 844-444-0152.
- [Travel Assistance Services](#)
- [Calm Service](#)
- [Legal Assistance](#)
- [Death Benefits](#)
- [Credit Counseling](#)
- [Certification](#)
- [Professional Development and CTLE](#)
- [MB Discount & Deals: Shopping, Travel, & Personal](#)
- [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.

- [Pension Education Toolkit](#)
- [Retirement Planning](#)
- [Countdown to Retirement](#)
- [Retirement Countdown Video Series](#)
- [Retirement Planning FAQs](#)
- [NYSTRS Retirement Checklist](#)
- [Benefits Consultation](#)

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