



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 February 2024

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

PJTA is still looking for someone to Chair the PAC (Political Action Committee). Lindsay Wylie has chaired this for many years and is willing to guide you through the process. Currently, Lindsay serves as the Corresponding Social Secretary which is why we need another PJTA

member to take on a leadership position and chair the PAC committee. The PAC committee interviews BOE candidates and then develops a plan on who to endorse while also supporting the school budget. Please consider chairing this committee! If interested, please reach out to me directly. We have a great group of members who partake in the committee but need someone to step up and chair the committee to continue the process of getting to know our BOE candidates, their philosophies, stance on education, and support of the PJTA. It is always our goal to promote and support the school budget as well as support candidates that are pro-teacher. When all parties can work cooperatively and respectfully, it ensures a smoother process during negotiations.

Moreover, please check emails from the district for next year's school calendar. The highlights are two full weeks off for winter break, one week for February break, and one week off for Spring break while still continuing with traditional snow days unlike others who are shifting to remote snow days. The first day of school for staff will be

August 28 and 29th with the students returning to school on September 3, 2024. As a reminder, PJTA does not have control over the school calendar.

Lastly, I would like to give a big shout out to Lindsay Wyle for organizing our mid-year social at the “Back Road Brewing Company.” It was a ton of fun and we had a solid turnout for the event.

Fix Tier 6: Tell our lawmakers: It's time to Fix Tier 6!

Join the Fight for Fairness!

Fixing Tier 6 is about justice and dignity in retirement. It's about solidarity and fairness. It's about keeping talented educators in the classroom and recruiting new educators into the profession. In 2000, NYSUT helped end career-long contributions and reduced early retirement penalties for Tier 4 members. We know how to get this done. But we can't do it without YOU!

As we move through the legislative session, [we're taking our Fix Tier 6 campaign to lawmakers](#). Over the coming weeks, NYSUT will be stepping up activism efforts to Fix Tier 6, and we need the collective power of every NYSUT member to help get this done. Whether you're a Tier 5 or 6 member, a member in an earlier pension tier, or a retired educator, it's time to speak up: [Send your lawmakers an email telling them it's time to Fix Tier 6!](#)

Link: <https://fixtier6.org/>

Please join in the fight to Fix Tier 6! If you were hired on or after April 1, 2012, you're in Tier 6.

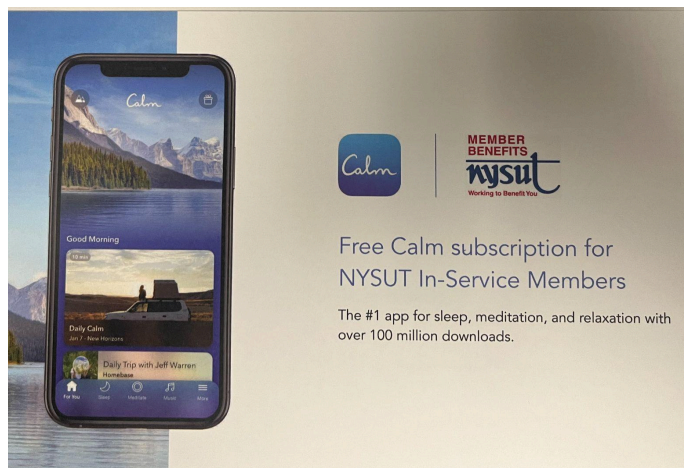
Why fix Tier 6?

- Tier 6 requires public employees to work until age 63, up to 40 years, in order to retire without penalty. Public employees in Tier 6 can no longer retire at age 55

with 30 years of service without suffering from significant penalties that reduce their overall pension.

- Tier 6 members pay into the retirement system their entire careers.
- Tier 6 members must contribute more as their pay increases, starting at 3 percent and growing to 6 percent.

By visiting the [link](#), you can share the campaign information via social media or email. NYSUT is asking educators to email legislators advocating for fixing Tier 6. You can also join the Fix Tier 6 Team by providing your contact information. This will allow you to stay personally informed.



Calm App: The Calm App is a free subscription for NYSUT in-Service & retiree members. Please click on the link for direct access to create your account. You will need your NYSUT ID number and a personal email address to create your free account.

Link: [Calm App](#)

Below, you will also find step-by-step instructions to redeem via mobile app.

How to redeem via mobile app:

- 1 Download and open the Calm app.
- 2 Create an account with a personal email address and go to Profile > Settings (gear symbol) > Link Organization Subscription.
- 3 Click on *Redeem via Organization ID* and enter nysut-member-benefits as your organization. Then enter your NYSUT ID#.
- 4 If you already have an existing Calm account, go to your Settings > Link Organization Subscription and follow step 3.

"Calm has helped me with anxiety and stress and learning to slow down. I find the sleep stories at night amazing as I can switch off and get a great sleep quicker. I'm more productive in the mornings and feel a lot more refreshed."

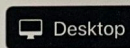
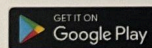
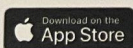
– Calm for Business User



Calm Business for Dependents

You can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older) to receive their own premium Calm subscription!

Once you have activated your subscription, log in to your Calm account via the web platform at www.calm.com. Then click 'Profile' to access the 'Manage Subscription' page and 'Manage Dependents' button. This feature is not available in the mobile app.



Or, scan the QR code to redeem your Calm subscription via website

Need help? Visit calm.com/support

PJTA Scholarship:

Scholarship applications are due this Friday, 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.

PTJA Annual Raffle: The Work Week Raffle tickets will be available starting March 1st. 1 ticket= \$10.00 with 30 chances to win! 3 tickets will be drawn for 10 work days from April 8 through April 19th. Prizes: 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$50, 3rd-\$25. All proceeds benefit the PTJA Scholarship Fund.

Benefit Fund Reminders: Dependent certifications for the Spring 2024 semester are due now.

Summer School: Below you will find the dates for summer school. Per the district, positions will be posted in the upcoming weeks. Please note that this is for internal communication only, and parents will be notified in separate communication.

Elementary School (location at HBE due to capital projects)

Teacher/Staff set up: July 1

School Days: July 8-Aug 15 (Monday through Thursday, except week of July 8 is Monday through Friday)

Extended School Year Program (location at HBE due to capital projects)

Teacher/Staff set up: July 1

School Days: July 8-Aug 16 (Monday through Friday)

MS/HS (location at 209 complex)

Teacher/Staff set up: July 1

School Days: July 8-Aug 15 (Monday through Thursday, except week of July 8 is Monday through Friday)

Regents: Aug 19-20 (M/Tu)

Graduation: Aug 21 (W)

Retirement: Congratulations again to our PJTA retirees this year: Peg Roda, Rick Graham, and Elke O'Connell.

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: **3/18 @ 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: **3/12 @ 7:00 pm** in the HS Cafeteria

Correspondence:

Condolence card sent to:

Elizabeth Witherow- on the passing of her father, James McTiernan



Other Happenings: PJTA End of Year Party- June 21st, 2024 at Erie Tiki Bar & Trackside to follow

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:

- [Student Debt Webinar](#)
- [Travel Assistance Services](#)
- [Calm Service](#)

- [Certification Webinars](#)
- [Educator Tax Deduction](#)

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.

- [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