



#### 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 2024

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

This year we have seen many changes occur across the district. We have had many facility improvements. The new East Main Elementary school looks wonderful. The new fields are top-notch! While there are still projects underway, let's hope they will be completed sooner rather than later. Your patience and adaptability is always commended and respected.

In this ever changing time, many of us are feeling overwhelmed and frustrated. But true to our nature as educators, we adapt and overcome the obstacles placed in front of us. Keep doing your best! I wanted to give a shout out to all PJTA members for your diligence in preparing your learning spaces! Our students are very fortunate to have such dedicated teachers, counselors, psychologists, and nurses.

**Fall Foliage:** PJTA appreciates everyone who participated in this event including those who donated to the raffle baskets and those who came out and worked the booth to promote positive community relationships. Check out [pjta.us](http://pjta.us) for photographs from the event and of the raffle basket winners. The PJTA Raffle Basket Winners were Kevin Zaragoza (EME), Avery Dickerson (EME), and Ben Ebbeke (MS).



**Board of Education Meetings:** We had a great turnout for the September board meeting. Our presence was and is noticed. Please consider attending at least 1 board meeting this school year. Maura Brady-Wilson is running the sign-ups. If you haven't done so, click [here](#) to sign-up using the Google Form or check your email to access the form.

**COVID protocols (subject to change any day):** If an employee uses an at home test, they will need to use regular sick time and can return to work after being fever free for 24 hours without medication. If he/she goes to the doctor and has a PCR done, he/she can still submit time as NYS Covid Sick Leave (pending they are still eligible: *haven't used the leave two times already or exhausted all 14 days, whichever comes first*) and the doctor will provide a return date.

**Vision/Dental Coverage:** For college students, dependent certification for the fall is due now! The next Benefit Fund meeting is on 10/3.

**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. Salary Agreements will be emailed by October 1st.

**PJTA Swag:** Please wear your PTJA apparel on Friday 9/27. If you need more swag, please visit the website that Carol Brown has created. She sent the email through Kristen Lopez. All orders are due by 9/27! Additionally, please wear PTJA apparel the Friday after the PTJA reps meeting. Our next meeting is on 10/16 so please wear your apparel on 10/18.

**Welcome Back Social:** October 11th from 2:00 p.m-5:00 p.m. at the Tiki Bar. This is an early-release day for the district.

**Reminders:**

- GCN trainings must be completed as soon as possible.
- The Mandated Reporter Training must be completed by April, 2025. After completion, review your TEACH account to confirm your certificate has been uploaded.
- Salary Adjustment Claim Form- for graduate courses is done twice a year 10/1 and 2/1. Be sure to submit your paperwork and official transcript prior to these dates to receive compensation!

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for your hard work and dedication. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out.

In solidarity,

Joe Becker  
PJTA President

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- **New Teacher Orientation: 9/26 @ 3:30 pm in the MS Media Center**
- **Board of Education: 10/15 @ 7:00 pm**
- **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.**

### **Other Happenings:**

Welcome Back Social is booked: Oct 11th from 2-5 at Tiki

New Teacher Social: Thursday, Sept 26th @ 3:30 in MS Media Center

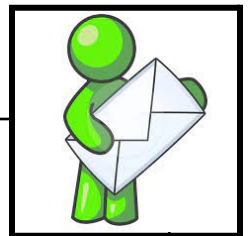
Mid Year Party: NOT Booked (tentative date is 2/7/25)

End of Year Party is booked: Friday, June 20th from 5- 9 pm (Tiki 2:30- 5:00  
Cash Bar/No Food)

### **Correspondence:**

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

- Jennifer Sommers- on the loss of her father, William Yirce.
- Kari Venetis- on the loss of her mother, Sharon Benjamin
- Lynn Felix- on the loss of her mother-in-law, Carlotta "Carol" Felix
- Meredith Burns- on the loss of her father in law, John Burns.
- Lynn Felix- on the loss of her father, Mario Bono
- The Hubbard Family- on the loss of former PJTA member, Leanne Hubbard.



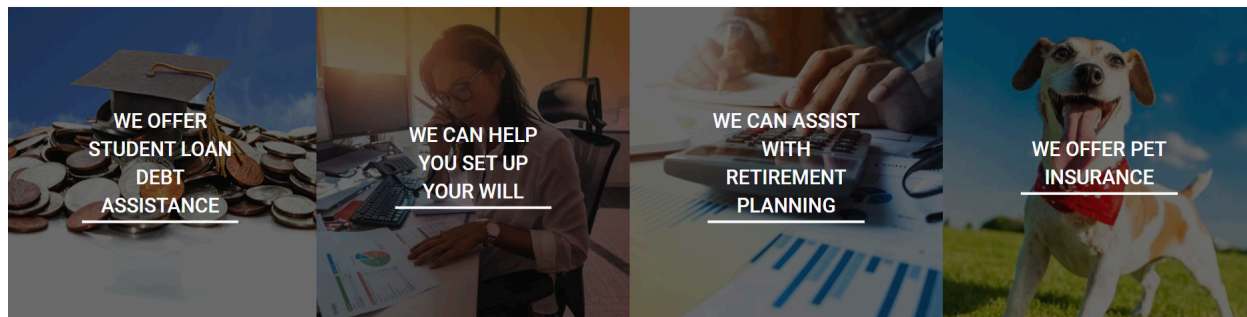
- Lori Sexton- on the loss of her mother-in-law, Irene Sexton.
- Kelly Decker- on the loss of his mother-in-law, Sharon Aeberli.

### Thank you cards received from:

- Meredith Burns thanked PJTA for the condolence card sent after the passing of her father-in-law.
- Kari Venetis thanked PJTA for the condolence card sent after the passing of her mother.
- Rick Graham thanked PJTA officers & members for the retirement gift. In addition, he thanked PJTA overall for all of the hard work and dedication that has been put in throughout his career to improve contracts, salaries, workplace, and student success.

### 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.

- [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