



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 October 2024

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

We have experienced several tragic events recently that have impacted our community. Please know that PJTA is here to support anyone in need. We also have access to a program through NYSUT that we can utilize for anyone needing additional support,

counseling, or guidance. The support line contact number is (844)-444-0152 during the hours of 12:00 - 8:00 p.m. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Religious Observance and Sick day incentive: If a member takes a sick day for a religious observance, please be sure to select “sick leave >Religious” on the AESOP program. Also, be sure to email Jessica Ellsworth if you would like to have it not count against you for the Sick Day Incentive. If you have any questions, please be sure to reach out to PJTA.

Will Day make up: For anyone who missed their appointment from the October 8th or October 10th “Will Days”, please fill out the questionnaire and then call the following number to set up an appointment with a lawyer to review. The phone number is 1-631-231-1450. Click [here](#) for access to the questionnaire.

APPR: At the September reps meeting, I shared the news about the district receiving a waiver for independent evaluators. To clear up any confusion, this

simply means the State has become more flexible and if the district ran into a bind, they could have all observations done by the building administrator vs. having one of our directors/assistant directors serve as independent evaluators. The district is planning on utilizing the independent evaluators but if your observations end up being your building administrator, it is okay.

MOA: PJTA signed an MOA to increase the rates of the Credit Recovery program. The new rates can be found on the PJTA website.

Welcome Back Social: The Welcome Back Social was held last Friday and was a great time as always. It was great seeing everyone gathering and having a good time kicking off the school year. Thank you to Lindsey Wylie for all her efforts in organizing this event.

In solidarity,

Joe Becker
PJTA President

Conference Day Transportation Reminders:

- No prior approvals for transportation needed on MLP
- Some FAQs regarding submitting mileage:
 - Submit mileage claim forms to your building principal only if you are going to BOCES/another district workshop and your mileage is further than what you'd drive to work at PJCS D. Mileage is the difference between what you'd drive to the conference and what you'd drive to PJCS D (e.g., your mileage to conference=15 and your mileage to PJ=10, you'd submit for 5 miles each way). Mileage should be submitted to and from the location you are driving to (eg., you'd submit $5 \times 2 = 10$ as you are going to/from).
 - If you are driving to a location that is closer to your home than it would be than driving to PJCS D, do not submit a mileage form.
 - If you are carpooling with someone else, only the driver should submit for mileage reimbursement if the distance is further than what they would drive to work at PJCS D. If you are meeting at the district, the driver should submit mileage to/from the building to the conference location.

- If there are any questions or concerns regarding mileage and how to submit, please contact Dr. Natasha Walkowicz/Ms. Jerianne Baumgardner so we can guide you through the process.

2024-2025 Building Representatives:

East Main Elementary

1. **Shannon Johnson – *Head Building Representative***
2. **Dawn Jones**
3. **Stephanie Vandermark**
4. **Tori Becker**
5. **Kelly Tigue**
6. **Christine Fini**
7. **Tom Dubatowka**

Hamilton Bicentennial Elementary

1. **Jen Kowal – *Head Building Representative***
2. **Carrie Sarbello**
3. **Meredith Burns**
4. **Shannon Vicchiariello**
5. **Heather Gass**

Middle School

1. **Kyle Ross– *Head Building Representative***
2. **Karen Gessner**
3. **Anthony Caporale**
4. **Nick Miller**
5. **Ashley Sparke**
6. **Jennifer Curreri**

High School

1. **Austin Carroll– *Head Building Representative***
2. **Elizabeth Maloney**

3. **Kathryn Helms**
4. **Amy Hoverstock**
5. **Jack Higgins**
6. **Susan Bransfield**
7. **Colleen Koenig**

Building Liaisons regarding Building and Grounds concerns for PJTA:

- **EME Eric Hartman (Chair)**
- **HBE- Matt Carlozzi**
- **PJMS- Craig Fisher**
- **PJHS- Cory Ferguson**

Upcoming Meetings:

- **PTJA: 11/18 @ 3:45 pm in the MS library or attend virtually.**
President Joe Becker will send out a link prior to each meeting.
- **Board of Education: 11/12 @ 7:00 pm**

Correspondence:

Condolence cards sent to:

Heidi Nyland- on the loss of her nephew, Jack Braun

Jordan Spina- on her marriage to husband, Joe Fitzgerald

Ann Retallick- on the loss of her husband, former PJTA member, Roy Retallick

Pam Larsen- on the loss of her mother-in-law, Judy Larsen

Sarah Grosso- on the birth of her son, Easton Grey Grosso

Jessica Davis- on the birth of her daughter, Charlotte Amelia Davis

Kasey Stankunas- on the loss of her husband, Evan.

Donna Mitchell- on the loss of her mother & former PJTA member, Ethel Dewey Gill



Cards Received:

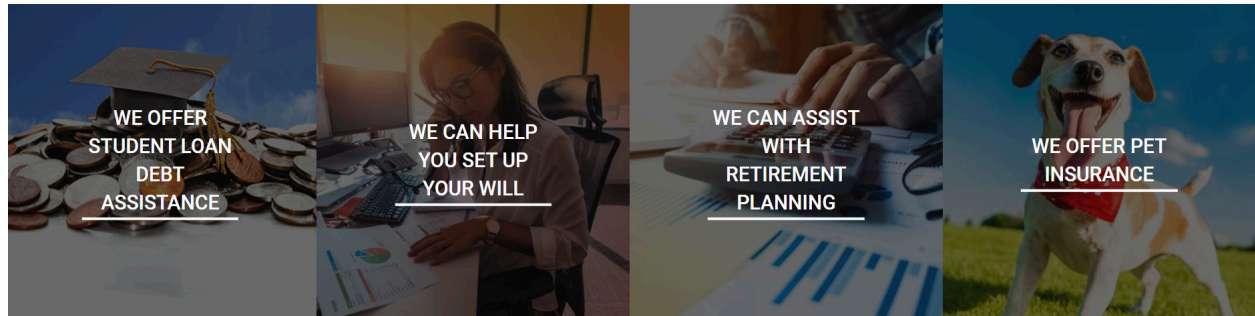
Taylor Mieszkuc- Thank you card for PJTA scholarship
Crysti Ramos- Thank you card for PJTA scholarship
Jaren Rodriguez- Thank you card for PJTA scholarship

Dear Red Ribbon Sponsor,

THANK YOU! We have received your generous donation and wanted to extend our appreciation! Your personalized sponsorship ribbon will proudly be displayed on one of the 154 trees at the Orange County Government Center the week of October 23 through November 1st. We are excited to invite you to the Red Ribbon Tying Ceremony to tie your own ribbons onto the trees!

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.

- [NYSUT fights to protect children from online dangers](#)
- [PPSTA contract victory](#)
- [Certification](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Member Benefits](#)

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. 2: Service Credit](#)
- [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