

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 2025

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

I am hoping everyone had a nice relaxing Winter Break. Having the full two weeks off was extremely nice and I am glad we were able to work that out with the district versus coming back the Thursday and

Friday of that final week on the break. Although the official calendar is not board approved yet, it appears we will have two full weeks again next year, with a February break, and we will not start school until after Labor Day.

On another note, the district reached out to the union Presidents earlier this month to inform us that PowerSchool was hacked. They explained it was a nationwide issue impacting thousands of school districts. The district assured us no pertinent information was taken so there is no need to be concerned about the hack at this time.

Moreover, during the Reps meeting I shared that we finally have two dates locked down for our Will Day Signing. The dates will be March 3rd and March 5th from 2:30-6:00 in the Middle School Library. Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet that I will share soon via email. If you had your zoom meeting and did not receive your

documents, please call the firm immediately and let them know we have dates for signing so they can prioritize your paperwork. The same thing goes for any errors and changes on your documents. Furthermore, you must bring your spouse if they are included with your documents as well as your own copy of documents with you. The contact information can be found on our PJTA Website if you need to get a hold of the firm. If you missed your zoom completely for whatever reason, you can still contact them and complete your documents.

As always please reach out if you have any questions.

In solidarity,

Joe Becker
PJTA President

Retiree Letters: For anyone wishing to submit a retirement letter, please be sure to submit it by February 1st.

Retirement Seminar: This seminar is hosted by NYSUT on April 9, 2025. A memo was sent out about this from your head building reps. If you are considering retirement in the next few years, it is very important to get educated on your retirement. There is a lot to know!

February 7th: PJTA Social at Back Road Brewery

Scholarship Drive: Please consider purchasing superbowl boxes. Contact Carol Brown if you need assistance or have any questions.

Board Meeting Sign-ups: Please contact Maura Brady-Wilson if you have not signed up to attend a board meeting this year. We are asking everyone to attend one meeting. Please consider participating in this simple request from PJTA.

403B: By no means am I trying to sell anyone to a particular company but if you have not already set up a 403B, please consider contacting one of the approved companies and getting started. You can start as low as you want but it is something you will need to set

up at some point anyway as when you retire, the sick day buyout, contractually, must be placed into a 403B account. If you need some assistance, ask your colleagues regarding companies or any questions you may have.

Upcoming Meetings:

- PTJA: **2/24 @ 3:45** pm in the MS Media Center. President Joe Becker will send out a link prior to each meeting.
- Board of Education: **2/11 @ 7:00 pm** in the HS Cafeteria

Correspondence:

Condolence cards sent to:

Eric Hartmann & Nikki Hartmann- on the loss of Eric's grandmother, Betty. Betty was a former Port Jervis School District employee. She served as director of food services.

Mike Siegel- on the loss of his mother, Marilyn Siegel

Andrea Rearer- on the loss of her husband, Christopher Rearer

Dana Long- on the passing of her grandfather, Allen Lasch.

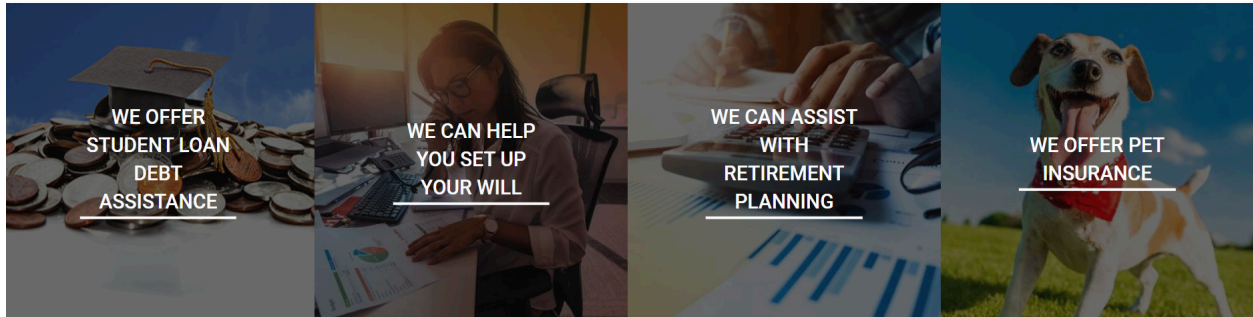


Other Happenings:

Mid Year Party- BOOKED for Feb 7th at BackRoad Brewery from 2:30-5:30 pm. RSVP by January 31st!

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.
- [Travel Assistance Services](#)
- [Calm Service](#)
- [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.

- [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