



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 2025

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable February break. As we look ahead, we have a long stretch before Spring Break, and the long-term weather outlook appears clear with few weather disruptions on the horizon.

PJTA has been actively working on behalf of our members, taking proposals from members, collaborating with the district, and offering suggestions on how to improve the contract. Please be sure to check the PJTA website regularly, especially when we post new MOAs. We typically upload them within a week of board approval and want to ensure members are applying for positions we have added. One change that specifically comes to mind is that any department that has three or more members is entitled to a department chair. Currently, I believe we have two departments with three or more members, so I encourage those interested to apply.

Regarding Summer school, applications were sent out and I am waiting on numbers from the district to see if we need additional applicants. I have been told they are finalizing the administrators for Summer school first and will get back to me as soon as possible.

We recently held the mid-year social at Back Road Brewery, and it was a wonderful time. A special thank you to Lindsay Wylie for organizing the event. Additionally, I would like to thank Carol Brown and the scholarship committee for a successful Superbowl fundraiser, which raised \$1,505.00. Your contributions make a difference, and we are grateful for everyone's involvement.

Lastly, the Political Action Committee (PAC) will be reaching out soon for assistance with this year's school board candidates and budget vote. Please consider getting involved in this important process. We have seen positive results over the past several years when our members actively participate in shaping our community's decisions.

Thank you for your continued dedication, and I look forward to our continued work together. As always, if anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

In solidarity,

Joe Becker
PJTA President

Retirement: I would like to congratulate the following members on their retirement: Janine Chase, Diane Bloodgood, Diana Gabel, Heather Robinson, Maria Smith, and Mark Trotta. I look forward to honoring them at our EOY Party in June.

PJTA 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.

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 March 31- April 11th. Prizes: 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$50, 3rd-\$25. All proceeds benefit the PTJA Scholarship Fund.

Dental Benefit Fund Reminders:

1. Dependent certifications for the Spring 2025 semester are due now.
2. The next meeting of the Trustees is set for March 6.

Upcoming Meetings:

- PTJA: **3/17 @ 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: **3/11 @ 7:00 pm** in the HS Cafeteria

Correspondence:

Condolences sent to:

Cheri Burns- on the loss of her father, Charles Beamer
Jennifer Conklin- on the loss of her stepfather, Kurt Schneider Jr.

Congratulations sent to:

Molly Manaseri- on the birth of her son, Charlie John.



Other Happenings: PJTA End of Year Party is June 20th, 2025 from 5-9 pm at the Erie Trackside. Option to attend the Tiki Bar from 2:30-5:00 (Cash Bar/No Food).

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