



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 March 2025

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

The weather has finally started to shift and I hope you have been able to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. We still have a few more weeks until Spring Break but we are getting there!

In regards to the Will signing days, overall they were a success and I hope it was a convenient process for those who took advantage of the offerings. As a reminder for those who did not have completed documents for whatever reason, please call the law firm as soon as possible. We will look to repeat the entire process each year for those who missed out. If you do not want to wait for a mass Will sign-up day, feel free to call and set up an appointment with the legal firm.

Additionally, please remember to complete the Mandated Reporter Training as it is due in April! Check your TEACH account to ensure your certificate has been uploaded.

Moreover, I would like to give a huge shout-out to Kyle Ross. Kyle was trying to get someone to take on the Elections/Nominations Chair position but due to no one stepping up, he has decided to continue to help out PJTA with this task. Also, along those lines, please consider helping out with PAC, the Political Action Committee. We need all hands on deck for phone banking. It can be anonymous and is an easy ask from PJTA. Please reach out to Nick Miller if you are willing to help in any way. As a reminder, there are four board seats up this year.

Furthermore, please review the email sent out by Maura Brady-Wilson regarding the National Night Out. PTJA is asking that each grade level, or department, from each school consider donating one gift to this cause. It is a great cause and an event that directly impacts the students of the Port Jervis School District.

Lastly, Dr. Bell spoke at the board meeting in regards to the give-back day and it is looking like May 23rd, the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend, will be the first give-back date. We also discussed the possibility of using the second give-back day but more information will come out soon once we finalize the date. Right now, it is looking like either Easter Monday or an additional day on Memorial Day weekend. When I get more information, I will share it. Currently, no give-back dates have been approved by the board.

As always, if anyone has any questions, please feel free to reach out.

In Solidarity,

Joe Becker
PJTA President

Letter sent to principals: I am writing to inform you that PJTA members (K-12 including counselors, nurses, school psychologists, social workers, and those who provide special services) are not in a position to present at school board meetings at this time. Please do not ask, direct, or schedule any members to present.

2025 PJTA Elections: We are in our new two-year term cycle. If you want to run for a PJTA position or nominate someone for a PJTA position, please send Kyle Ross an email by the end of the school day on April 21st. He will send you a confirmation email in return. You may also nominate someone at the Representative meeting on April 21st. PJTA has opened up the following positions for Officers and Delegates' Nominations:

- President
- 1st Vice-President
- 2nd Vice-President
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Corresponding/Social Secretary
- Grievance Officer
- NYSUT's ED 14/Representative Assembly Delegates

- NYSUT's ED 14/Representative Assembly Alternate Delegate
- NYSUT's Political Action Committee Representative
- New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) Delegate
- New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) Alternate Delegate

Dental/Vision: The next Trustees' meeting will be held on May 20th to review the play booklet.

Reminder PTJA Annual Raffle: Work Week Raffle tickets are available for purchase until March 30th. 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. Please consider buying or selling tickets to benefit the PTJA Scholarship Fund.

Retirement Party: June 20th at the Erie Trackside from 5-9. People can attend the Tiki right after school (2:30-5:00) but there will be no food and a cash bar. Retirees being honored this year: Janine Chase, Diane Bloodgood, Diana Gabel, Heather Robinson, Mark Trotta, and Maria Smith.

Correspondence:

Condolence cards sent to:

Lisa Whiteman- on the loss of her sister, Amanda Whiteman Reynolds
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Congratulations cards sent to:

Nicole McCann- on the birth of her son, Harrison Frank McCann Gina Carbone- on the birth of her daughter, Johnnie Rae Carbone
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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