

Officers

President: Joseph Becker

1st Vice President: Jenny McElroy

2nd Vice President: Carol Brown

Recording Secretary: Maura Brady-Wilson

Corresponding Social Secretary: Shannon Johnson

Treasurer: Lindsay Wylie

Grievance Chairperson: Jacqueline Behnke

Happenings September 2026

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone is having a great start to the school year. Recently, PJTA hosted our annual Welcome Back Social, and it was a great time. Thanks to our Social Chair, Shannon Johnson, for planning a wonderful event. Later this week, we will be hosting our New Teacher Orientation on Thursday, October 1st, at 3:30 pm in the Middle School Library. This is an extremely important meeting for our new teachers, covering information about our contract and beyond. The event is mandatory for new teachers, mentors, building reps, and PJTA executives. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Salary agreements will be coming out any day now. Please be sure to REVIEW them. Check your steps, grad credits, masters pay, longevity, etc. If you are unsure of something, please seek out a building rep or executive. Better to be sure than lose thousands of dollars with a potential mistake. As a reminder, please continue to review your pay stubs and your salary agreement carefully.

Moreover, we had over 70 members earn money through the sick day incentive. The district is pleased with how this has been working, and we are going to roll it out again this year.

This year, we are also continuing to encourage members to attend one board meeting. Please consider signing up. We will also keep our tradition to wear PJTA swag on the Fridays following our monthly reps meeting. If you are looking to add new swag to your collection, there are some great options available on the PJTA scholarship fundraiser website.

Lastly, I know there have been many inquiries from members about the Preferred Group (flex plan). At my Orange County Teachers' Association meeting, I heard about some solutions districts are implementing to help members out. I will confirm if we are also doing what others are and send something out as soon as possible.

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

In Solidarity,
Joe Becker
PJTA President

Reminders:

- If anyone has had a change in name or address, please notify Carol Brown (Dental/Vision) and Lindsay Wylie (Treasurer) as soon as possible.
- Be sure to complete your GCN training as the deadline is quickly approaching. In solidarity,
- We are in the middle of our 2-year vision cycle. If you have questions, email Carol Brown or Meredith Burns.
- The Vision/Dental Trustee Meeting will be held on October 8th
- College Dependent Student Certifications are due for the fall semester
- 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 to receive compensation!

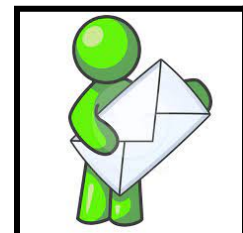
Upcoming Meetings:

- **New Teacher Orientation: 10/1 @ 3:30 pm in the MS Media Center**
- **Board of Education: 10/13 @ 7:00 pm**
- **PTJA: 10/26 @ 3:45 pm in the HS library or attend virtually. President Joe Becker will send out a link before each meeting.**

Correspondence:

Cards sent to:

- Card sent to Jacquie Jenkins on the loss of her father, William O'Donnell
- Card sent to Carla Shannon on the loss of her father, James Lee McDaniel
- Card sent to Jen Fogarty on the loss of her mother-in-law
- Card sent to Megan Porta on the birth of her daughter, Cecelia

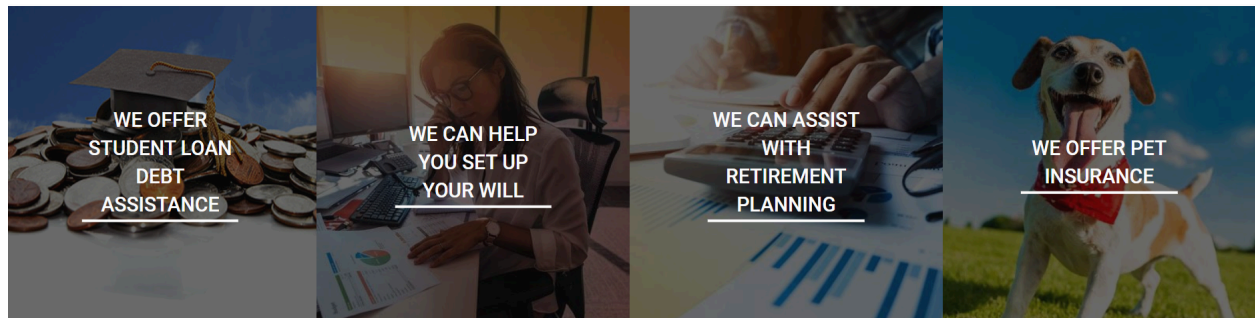


Thank you cards received from:

- Liz Maloney, thanking the PJTA for the retirement party
- PJTA Scholarship Recipients:
 - Robert Cullen Jr.
 - Dylan Fox

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