



USA Newsletter

May 2024

USA Union Officers:

Carey Casillo-Young <i>Hewes Center</i>	President <i>Ext. 3068</i>
Shelly Ackendorf <i>LoGuidice Center</i>	Vice Pres. <i>Ext. 2068</i>
Trey Miller <i>Baker Rd.</i>	Vice Pres. <i>Ext. 6031</i>
Angela Bacon <i>Maple Ave.</i>	Secretary <i>Ext. 2391</i>
Nuala Bieber <i>East Aurora Parkdale</i>	Secretary <i>Ext. 106</i>
Barbara Reinagal <i>Baker Rd.</i>	Treasurer <i>Ext. 6414</i>

Meeting Dates 23-24:

- ~~Sept. 12th Baker~~
- ~~Oct. 10th Hewes~~
- ~~Nov. 7th LoG~~
- ~~Dec. 5th Carrier~~
- ~~Jan. 9th D.L.~~
- ~~Feb. 6th D.L.~~
- ~~March 5th Baker~~
- ~~April 9th LoG~~
- ~~May 7th Hewes~~
- June 13th Carrier

USA Building Reps:

Matt Girard	Baker Rd.	Ext. 6419
Jollene Holliday	Carrier	Ext. 4000
Christopher Auge	Loguidice	Ext. 2196
Stephanie Duenas	Loguidice	Ext. 2083
Ryan Jones	Hewes	Ext. 3003
Denise Waterman	Hewes	Ext. 3060
Heide Karin		

Please click the link below to see which centers each Rep. covers.

[Officer & Rep List '23-'24](#)



We made it to May!! Yay!! Your union board met at Hewes on May 7th at 4pm. Thank you to the visitors who came and shared their concerns! We appreciate your interest and taking time out of you busy lives to come see us! Our next meeting will be at Carrier on June 13th at 4pm. This will be our last meeting for the school year!!! Come join us!

Our last trivia question was more of a public interest survey. The results were that most of you would prefer a mixer at a local restaurant if we were to have a gathering. Also, if we get union shirts, the majority thinks the best way to get info and order is through interoffice mail. Thank you to all who participated! Our winners are: Chrissy Rammelt and Kori Hall! Watch for your prize in the truckmail!



Here's your chance to win a \$10 gift card to Tops! Follow the link below and answer the questions for your chance to win!
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfc2fj_6HEvmVP-h_DC7tbPX15ih_4R3B0RgXXW-YX_tkHRaw/viewform?usp=sf_link



This year, we lost a dear friend and coworker, Dan Bolles. Dan always had a smile and a hug and brought joy to so many students and staff members in his time as an aide at LoGuidice. The union has purchased a tree and plaque to be erected in his memory. The tree planting ceremony will take place at the LoGuidice Center at 10am on June 6th.

Welcome to the Flip Side!



WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS THIS SUMMER?

NYSUT Member Benefits offers a variety of endorsed programs & services that can help you enjoy today, while planning for tomorrow.

As a NYSUT member, you have access to participate in a number of programs and services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits. These products have been carefully cultivated to provide members with quality programs at competitive prices, including insurance programs to help you protect your family; legal and financial plans to help you plan for the future; and shopping, travel & personal services to help save you money.

Member Benefits also offers a number of benefits available free of charge to members such as the premium Calm service, Peer Support Line, Financial Learning Center, and more.

Participation in our endorsed programs features the added protection of having a trusted advocate on your side. Our staff take great pride in stepping in to support members with any questions, concerns, or issues that may arise.

No matter what your plans may be, NYSUT Member Benefits is a great place to start. Explore all that your union membership has to offer!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.



May/June 2024



WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

It's been over a decade since Tier 6 was added to the New York state pension system. Since then, over 100,000 NYSUT members earn a significantly reduced pension as compared to earlier tiers. Consider this:

Tier 6 members pay 3 to 6 percent into the pension system their entire career — their contributions grow with pay raises.	Tier 4 member contributions are capped at 3 percent and end after 10 years.
Tier 6 members must work to age 63, up to 40 years of service, or face heavy penalties.	Tier 4 members can retire at 55 with 30 years of service.

30 YEARS IS A CAREER!

Fixing Tier 6 is about keeping talented educators in the classroom and recruiting new educators into the profession.

Forcing younger members into a lesser pension system undervalues our profession. Our work is important. Our pensions should reflect that.

Fixing Tier 6 is about unity and power.

When we stand together in solidarity, we have power. We've made big changes before. We can do it again.

THANKS TO OUR ADVOCACY, WE'VE ALREADY WON SOME PENSION IMPROVEMENTS.

In 2022, member vesting dropped from ten to five years, guaranteeing a pension benefit for 85,000 Tier 6 members.

HOW BAD IS IT?

Tier 4 member, retiring at 55 with 30 years, would receive 60 percent of her Final Average Salary.

Tier 6 member, retiring at 55 with 30 years, would only receive 26.4 percent of his Final Average Salary — after paying tens of thousands more into the system.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Fixing Tier 6 is about solidarity and fairness.

It's unfair that some NYSUT members must work longer, and contribute more, to earn a significantly reduced pension. This should anger ALL union members.

Fixing Tier 6 is about dignity.

The hallmark of a public-service career is the promise of a dignified retirement. With Tier 6, the state abandons its commitment to that guarantee.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

We know how to fix this... but we can't do it without you. Whether you're a retiree or a Tier 4, 5 or 6 member, you can help NYSUT Fix Tier 6.

- ➔ Join NYSUT's **Fix Tier 6 Team** to help with direct outreach.
- ➔ Share the Fix Tier 6 message with other NYSUT members.
- ➔ Donate to VOTE-COPE, NYSUT's voluntary, non-partisan political action fund. Your donations help us get our message out to lawmakers so we can make change!



FixTier6.org