



UNIFIED SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

USA Newsletter

April 2025

USA Union Officers:

Carey Casillo-Young Hewes Center	President Ext. 3068
Christopher Auge LoGuidice Center	Vice Pres. Ext. 2196
Angela Bacon Maple Ave.	Secretary Ext. 2391
Barbara Reinagal Baker Rd.	Treasurer Ext. 6414

Shelly Ackendorf LoGuidice	Sick Bank Ext. 2068
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Meeting Dates 24-25:

~~Sept. 10th - Baker~~
~~Oct. 8th - Hewes~~
~~Nov. 5th - Zoom~~
~~Dec. 10th - Zoom~~
~~Jan. 7th - Zoom~~
~~Feb. 4th - Zoom~~
~~March 4th - Zoom~~
~~April 8th - LoG~~
 May 6th - Carrier
 June 3rd - LoG

USA Building Reps:

Matt Girard	Baker Rd.	Ext. 6419
Kristen Knab	Holland	Ext. 6106
Stephanie Duenas	Loguidice	Ext. 2083
Heide Karin	WNY P-Tech	Ext. 2821
Amy Albright	Hewes	Ext. 3061
Denise Waterman	Hewes	Ext. 3060

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

[Copy of Officer & Rep list](#)



Your USA Union Board met for the first time in person in a long time! Meeting via Zoom was good for those winter months but it was good to be back together in person! We met at Loguidice, enjoyed each others company and discussed a lot of fun stuff! Keep reading for more info! Our next meeting will be held at Carrier at 4pm on May 6th. Come join us if you are able!

Last call for FREE t-shirts! Come on! That's in everyone's price range! If you're having trouble with the link, please email Denise Waterman with your preferred size and location! Dwaterman@e2ccb.org

[Free T-shirt Link](#)



ERIE 2-CHAUTAUQUA-CATTARAUGUS BOCES

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR 2025

JULY 7-AUG. 15, 2025

STUDENTS: 8:30AM-2PM
STAFF: 8:15AM-2:15PM

NOW HIRING

- Special Education Teachers
- Aides
- Speech Pathologists
- Language Pathologists
- Physical Therapists
- Occupational Therapists

APPLY AT E2CCB.ORG/JOBS

Program Locations:

- Baker Road Educational Center, Orchard Park
- Bloom Program at Rogers, Jamestown
- Lodi Educational Center, Fredonia
- North Collins Central School District
- Perade Elementary School, East Aurora
- Southwestern Elementary School

E2CCB
Erie 2-Chautauque-Cattaraugus BOCES

From Robin Brown: *It's hard to believe we are already in the last week of April - it's nice to see the sun shining and feel the warmer weather approaching :) We are still hiring for our Extended School Year program (ESY) for our special education students. If you currently work for E2CCB, we would love to have you join our ESY team - please use the interest form below if you have not already done so!*

Please use the QR code on the bottom of the picture to apply!

Welcome to the Flip Side!



**EXPERT LEGAL
& FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE**

NYSUT members have access to programs and services from NYSUT Member Benefits that can help them save money, protect their family, and assist with planning for the future.

With our **Legal Service Plan**, you will receive crucial estate planning documents (Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Power of Attorney); free attorney consultations; and guaranteed maximum fees for personal legal matters. Plan participants receive guaranteed hourly rates along with discounted prices for referral attorneys.

Our **Financial Counseling Program** offers access to certified financial planners that provide fee-based financial counseling services. Participants can get help with retirement planning, 403(b) & 457(b) plan advice, debt management, savings, budgeting, and more.

Check out **Synchrony Bank** for some of today's most competitive interest rates on certificates of deposit, money market, and savings accounts. An optional automated savings program (which makes transfers from your checking account at another bank to your money market or savings account at Synchrony Bank) is an easy way to build your balances in higher-earning accounts.

Our online **Financial Learning Center - powered by Kiplinger's Personal Finance** - offers numerous articles designed to assist NYSUT members with achieving their personal financial goals and better understand the nuances of insurance, savings, investing, and more. This free resource is updated on a monthly basis.

Do you have student loan or general debt concerns? Our **Cambridge Credit Counseling program** is available at no cost to assist NYSUT members with better understanding general debt consolidation and student loan repayment options. Members can take part in a free consultation with a certified Cambridge counselor or sign up for a no-cost student loan debt webinar provided by Cambridge.

Take back your financial independence and protect your family for whatever the future may bring.

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



March/April 2025



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!



OPENING DAY 2025

E2CCB Opening Day 2025: Healthy Connections

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Opening day is not mandatory for 10-month employees. You will get paid if you attend.