



UNIFIED SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

USA Newsletter

June 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](#)

Celebrating
the end of the
School Year



Your USA Union Board met at Loguidice at 4pm on June 3rd for our last meeting of the school year!. It has been quite a long year and everyone should be proud of the work they have done! Summer months give a good chance to rest and recharge. Relax and take pride in what you have done this year! We will see you in August for opening day or at your centers in September! Be watching for events & gatherings coming your way in the fall. If you are interested in joining your union board and making a difference for our members, please send a letter of interest to Carey Casillo-Young.



Unions not only help their members-but perform acts of service to the community as well! The Italian dinner basket (left) has been donated for raffle to the WNY Foster Closet. The Buffalo Bills basket (right) is going to the Lindsay Matthews Memorial Scholarship Run. Special shout out to Barbara Reinagal for assembling and distributing the baskets!



Our local union is huge and continuously adding new members! It's incredible the growth we have seen. That is why we now have a website to keep you in the know as things happen! Check in from time to time for updates on upcoming events and how we would like member to get involved!

Welcome to the Flip Side!



LET MEMBER BENEFITS HELP YOU PLAN FOR RETIREMENT

If you recently retired or plan to do so in the near future, it's important to prepare for the transition from in-service work to retirement.

Maintaining NYSUT membership in retirement is crucial, especially if you're currently participating in a NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed program(s) and would like to continue doing so. This can be accomplished in one of two ways:

- 1 Continue membership within your local if retiree membership is offered. Contact your local to find out if any retiree membership requirements are in place. You must comply with these requirements to continue your membership in NYSUT along with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and National Education Association (NEA).
- 2 Continue as an at-large member of NYSUT through the Retiree Council in your region. Contact your local to ensure you will be reported as retired to NYSUT. This will provide you with membership in the Retiree Council in your region along with NYSUT, AFT, and NEA. If you have questions about maintaining NYSUT membership or would like more information about NYSUT retiree programs, you will want to contact the NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant serving your region. You can find this information at nysut.cc/retireeconsultants.

More than a dozen of the endorsed programs offered by Member Benefits can be purchased through either payroll or pension deduction. These convenient payment methods offer reduced premiums or the elimination of service fees in many instances. An active NYSUT membership is required to participate in payroll or pension deduction. If you're currently participating in one (or more) of our endorsed programs, we encourage you to look into switching to pension deduction after you enter retirement.

Learn more about continuing Member Benefits-endorsed programs or the pension deduction process by scanning the QR code, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.



May/June 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 6 members must work to age 63, up to 40 years of service, or face heavy penalties.

Tier 4 member contributions are capped at 3 percent and end after 10 years.

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!



HELP NYSUT FIX TIER 6!



FixTier6.org

OPENING DAY 2025



E2CCB
Erie 2-Chautauque-Cattaraugus BOCES

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.