

The Official Publication of the Walkill Teachers' Association
NYSUT Local # 13-265
AFT Local #3082 affiliated with NEA * AFL-CIO

December 2023

Volume 34, Issue 4
Jordan Dirago, Editor

iMP@CT

Congratulations to our 25+ Year Members

Thank you for your dedication, hard work, and loyalty!

25 Year

Monique Bean
Ivette DiMarco
Christine Nisa
Donna Otto
Lisa Sutta
Stacey Wager
Lori Williams



26 year

Teresa Custy
Glen LaPolt
Michele Missale
Meredith Rubinstein
Richard Shands
Michael Strano



27 Year

Gina DeToro
Fritz Meier

28 Year

Dawn Anthor
Tanya Yuro Clark

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Congratulations



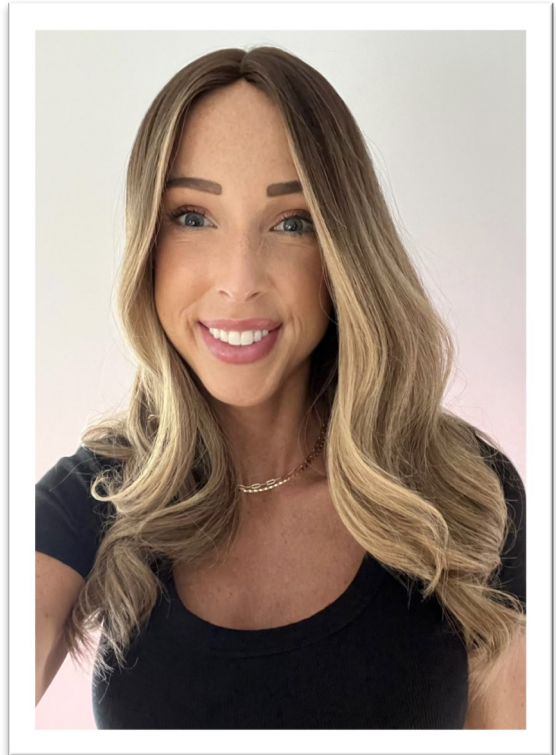
Coaches vs. Cancer Basketball Game Fundraiser

The High School defeated the JGBMS/Elementary School members in the annual faculty basketball game organized by AJ Higby. Over \$1000 was raised for the Coaches vs. Cancer Foundation



New Member Spotlight

Hello, my name is **Sara Bender** and I am a 4th and 5th grade Special Education teacher at Ostrander Elementary School. I enjoy working out, traveling, baking, learning new things, and spending time with my family and friends. As a former Wallkill graduate, I am very excited to be teaching in my home district. I look forward to being involved in school and community events and athletics.

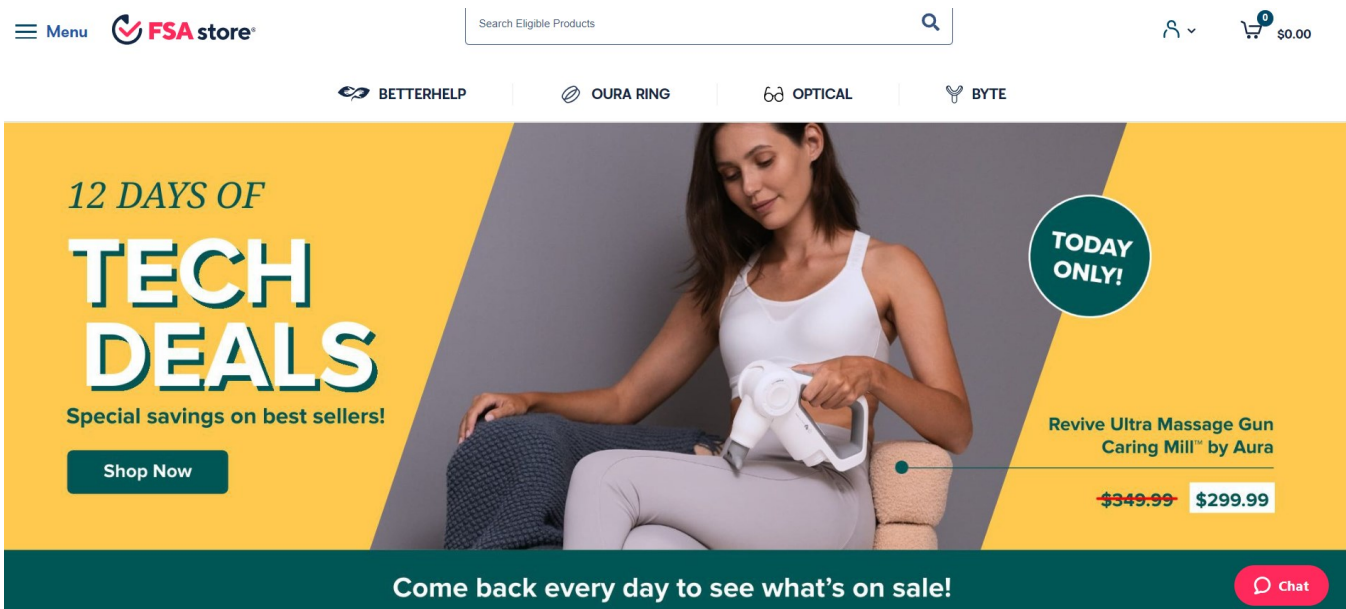


FSA Store

Shared by Kathy Winter

If you have not spent your whole Flexible Spending/Benny Card for the year, you can purchase items from the FSA Store at this website

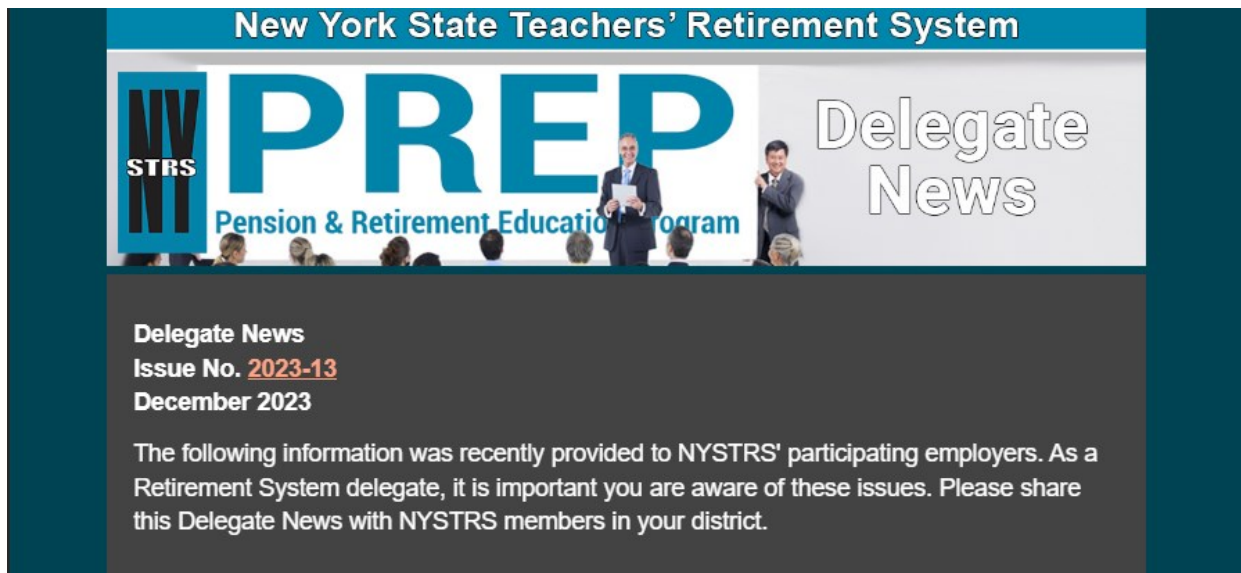
www.fsastore.com



The screenshot shows the FSA Store website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a 'Menu' icon, the 'FSA store' logo, a search bar labeled 'Search Eligible Products', a user profile icon, and a shopping cart icon showing '\$0.00'. Below the navigation bar are category links: 'BETTERHELP', 'OURA RING', 'OPTICAL', and 'BYTE'. The main banner features a woman sitting and using a white massage gun. The text on the banner reads: '12 DAYS OF TECH DEALS', 'Special savings on best sellers!', 'Shop Now', 'TODAY ONLY!', 'Revive Ultra Massage Gun Caring Mill™ by Aura', and a price reduction from '\$349.99' to '\$299.99'. At the bottom of the banner, it says 'Come back every day to see what's on sale!' and includes a 'Chat' button.

NYSTRS News

Shared by Michael Lapolla



The banner features the NYSTRS logo on the left, the word 'PREP' in large blue letters in the center, and 'Delegate News' in white text on the right. Below 'PREP' is the text 'Pension & Retirement Education Program'. The background shows a group of people, with two men in the foreground, one holding a document and the other speaking into a microphone.

Delegate News
Issue No. [2023-13](#)
December 2023

The following information was recently provided to NYSTRS' participating employers. As a Retirement System delegate, it is important you are aware of these issues. Please share this Delegate News with NYSTRS members in your district.

NYSTRS Announces Winter/Spring 2024 Schedule of PREP Seminars

Many retirees tell us they wish they began focusing on financial and retirement planning much earlier in their lives. To help active members avoid that pitfall, NYSTRS offers a proactive approach to prepare for retirement: the Pension & Retirement Education Program (PREP).

NYSTRS is pleased to issue the Winter/Spring 2024 schedule of seminars, which is available on the [Retirement Planning/Pension & Retirement Education Program](#) page at NYSTRS.org and on the ensuing page of this Administrative Bulletin.

The PREP seminar educates members of all ages and career stages on the value of careful financial and retirement planning. The seminar further helps them understand their NYSTRS benefits and how their future pension fits into their overall retirement picture. This information is a key piece of the plan that helps members achieve their retirement goals and dreams.

The half-day seminars, which are free and held throughout the state, cover the following topics: NYSTRS benefits, financial planning, Social Security, estate planning, and the retirement process.

Spots fill up quickly! **Please share this information with NYSTRS members at your district as soon as possible so those who would like to attend a seminar can register now. We kindly request that you forward this Bulletin, and print the schedule found on the ensuing page and post in your district's staff lounges and common areas.**

Instructions for making reservations, which are accepted in the order in which they are received, are included on our website and the schedule found on the ensuing page of this Bulletin.

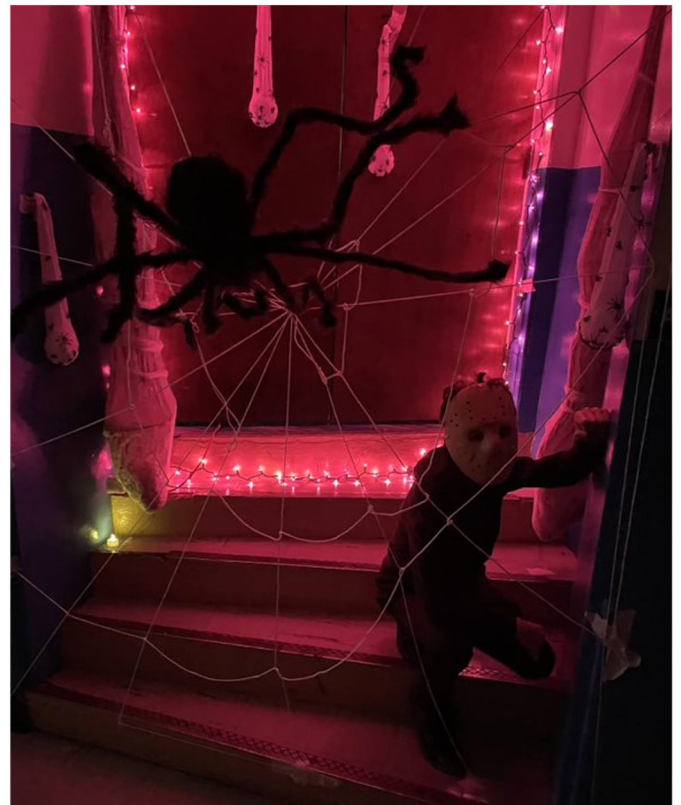
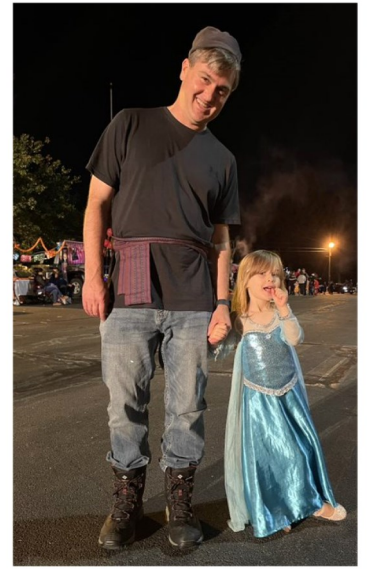
PREP seminars are not intended for individual benefits counseling. Members interested in a benefit consultation should visit the [Retirement Planning/Benefits Consultations](#) page of our website to learn how to schedule a personal consultation.

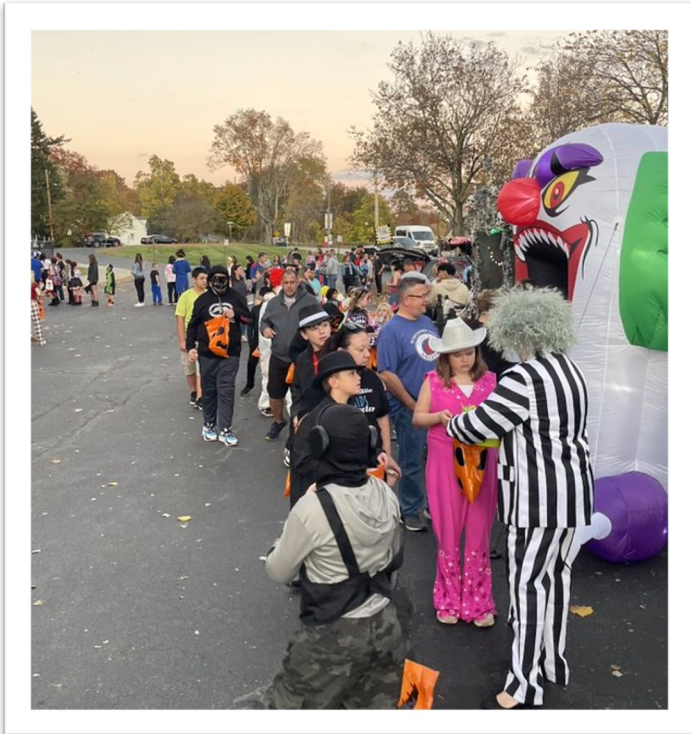
Thank you for your assistance in spreading the word about these important NYSTRS programs!

JGBMS Trunk or Treat

Pictures provided by Deb Rosenfeld

The Middle School hosted a Trunk or Treat event that raised \$580 for the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry. Special thanks to Colleen Keesler for organizing.





JGBMS Thanksgiving Food Drive

Pictures provided by Deb Rosenfeld



The Middle School administered a Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry. Special thank you to Melissa Velasquez and Colleen Keesler for organizing.



Being ready for the holidays can mean a lot of different things:

- Gifts for your loved ones
- Appliances for your home
- Confirming travel plans
- Entertainment for the kids
- Food delivery in case of inclement weather
- Savings set aside for unexpected expenses

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs and services that could help make you as prepared as possible for whatever the holiday season may throw at you.

No matter what your plans may be this holiday season, NYSUT Member Benefits is a great place to start. With a number of shopping, travel and discount programs, you are certain to find something of interest that could benefit you or your loved ones.

Speaking of savings, the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to offer all NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) exclusive access to savings of up to 50% at 850,000 locations – including more than 21,200 New York State deals. If you have not already done so, head over to mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com to create your account with your NYSUT ID number, preferred email address, and password.

You'll then be eligible to save on restaurant dine-in or take-out, flowers and gift baskets, Bose products, clothing and shoes, oil changes and vehicle maintenance, sporting events, hotels and flights, car rentals, theme parks, movie tickets, and much more. Members are encouraged to download the MB Discounts & Deals mobile app for the best user experience with this program.

Member Benefits also endorses life insurance programs, auto & home insurance, dental & vision plans, legal & financial services, and other programs to help protect yourself and those you care about most.

Participating in Member Benefits-endorsed programs also offers the added protection of having a trusted advocate on their side. Member Benefits staff take great pride in stepping in to support members with any questions, concerns, or issues that may arise.

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.

Nov./Dec. 2023