

# *Together*

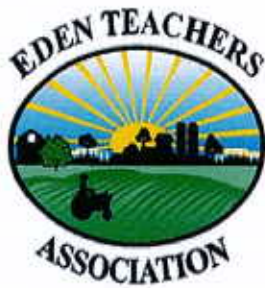
*Union of Caring Professionals*

## **Eric Cooper**



We will be honoring Eric on May 25th at the NYSUT Awards Ceremony at Salvatore's Italian Restaurant. Eric has been a member of Eden Teacher's Association for all nineteen years that he has been a high school chemistry teacher. He has served in many leadership capacities including the Science Chairman for five years, senior class advisor for eighteen years, head negotiator for our last two contracts and lastly, as our Grievance Chairman for many years. He has been an active participant as our school's baseball coach, five of these years as varsity assistant coach and fourteen years as head coach. For the last ten seasons, he has served as JV football coach. We are pleased to honor Eric for all of his great achievements.





# ETA Calendar

## General Meetings & Events 2015 - 2016

May 9th - General Meeting EE /Room 208

May 25th - NYSUT Awards Dinner at Salvatore's

June 6th - General Meeting - TBA

## Next Dress Down Days

- May 6th - Meals on Wheels
- June 3rd - Eden Community Foundation

**June 9th - Awards & Retirement Dinner**

Pearl Street Grill 5:00 p.m.



**Donation Requests** can be found on the ETA website ([www.etaunion.org](http://www.etaunion.org)) under the forms page. Thank you Lorry for providing us with these!

# Retirement Column

## NYSTRS Ranks in Top 10

The annual rankings of the top 1,000 pension funds are out and NYSTRS held steady at No. 9, according to trade publication *Pensions & Investments (P&I)*. The rankings were based on total assets as of Sept. 30, 2015.

Both public and private retirement funds and plan sponsors were included in the rankings. NYSTRS, which administers a defined benefit (DB) plan, was positioned as the seventh-largest DB fund as well as No. 7 among public funds.

With \$110 billion in assets at the end of its most-recent fiscal year, the System is well funded. The plan is managed cost effectively, with investment fees and expenses averaging 24 cents per \$100 managed, as compared to 60 cents or more in fees associated with a private retirement plan, such as a 401(k).



## Long Careers a Member Hallmark

Periodically, there are stories in the press focusing on six-figure pensions. Assertions that this is “proof” that public pensions are too generous and that defined benefit plans are unsustainable are the lingering sound bites.

The problem is the picture these stories paint is distorted because these assertions are not supported by important facts and context.

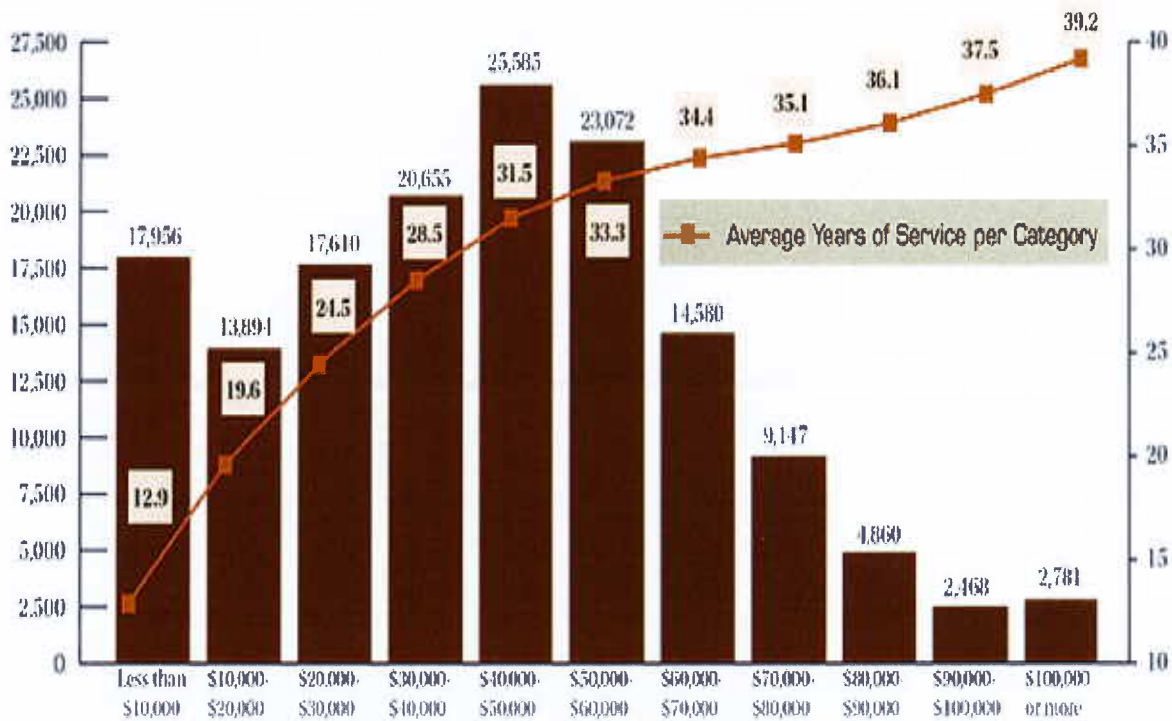
As the chart (next page) illustrates, less than 2.0% of the nearly 156,000 people receiving a NYSTRS pension earn more than \$100,000 a year. Most importantly, those 2,500 individuals worked an average of almost **40 years** to earn their pensions. In other words, they worked long and hard to earn their retirement benefits.

The truth is the largest percent of NYSTRS retirees (32.0%) earn pensions ranging between \$40,000 and \$60,000 annually. Almost 48,000 of our retirees fall in this range. More than 70,000 other retirees, or about 47.0% of the total, earn **less than** \$40,000 a year.



The almost 22,500 people receiving pensions between \$50,000 and \$60,000 worked an average of 33.5 years to earn it. The more than 25,000 who earn between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in retirement worked almost 32 years. The next time you hear complaints about six-figure pensions, help complete the picture by sharing these important facts.

### New York State Teachers' Retirement System Distribution of the Annual Benefit\* of All Retired Members — as of June 30, 2015



\*Maximum annual retirement benefit including supplementation and COLA.

- The average System retiree receives \$41,000 on an annual basis, a benefit earned through a career in teaching.
- Approximately 78% of System retirees receive less than \$60,000 per year.
- Less than 2% of System retirees receive an annual benefit over \$100,000.

Submitted by Lorry Malkowski

# ***School Law Book***

Linda Schwanz has a copy of the 31st edition of the school law book that she has offered to bring in for our members use. Please contact her at the GLP to sign it out. Because the law book is updated every two years, it would not be cost effective to purchase one when it is available for free on line. Therefore, Lorry will be putting a link on the ETA web page for members to cross reference with the hard copy.

**NATIONAL BOARD**  
*Network™*

**National Board Council  
of New York State**

**If you missed the awareness session on  
National Board Certification on February 17...**

**There will be another awareness session at the  
Erie-Catt Teacher Center at the GLP on  
MAY 11 @ 4:30pm!**

**Please contact Amy Steger for more information.  
[asteger@edencsd.org](mailto:asteger@edencsd.org) or x4213**

## The Value of NYSUT Membership

You may not be aware that your NYSUT membership allows you to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality, competitive insurance plans.

Member Benefits strives to provide the highest-quality programs for NYSUT members and closely scrutinizes all proposals from reputable vendors before any endorsements are given.

While we work continuously to maintain quality benefit programs at competitive prices, you are encouraged to shop and compare before making any purchasing decisions.

### MetLife Auto & Home®



Call MetLife Auto & Home to learn about the special savings and discounts you may be eligible for.

**1-866-NYSUT-22**

If you are looking for potential savings on your auto or homeowners insurance, consider enrolling in the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed MetLife Auto & Home Insurance Program.

This program offers special group rates on personal property and liability coverage not available to individual MetLife policyholders. NYSUT members can choose from a variety of coverages that include auto, homeowners, boat, renter's, and much more.

Policyholders can earn extra discounts for good driving, multiple policies and anti-theft devices. MetLife Auto & Home recently raised the multi-policy discount on its homeowners insurance with auto from 7% to 15%. The multi-policy/multi-product discount on auto insurance with home remains at 8%.

Visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call **800-626-8101** for specific details about this program or other Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services.

MetLife Auto & Home is a NYSUT Member Benefits Trust (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 5.5% of total premiums for this program. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Mar/Apr '16



## Understanding School

### Violence Part 1

**School violence** is youth violence that occurs

on school property, on the way to or from school or school-sponsored events, or during a school-sponsored event. A young person can be a victim, a perpetrator, or a witness of school

violence. School violence may also involve or impact adults. Youth violence includes various behaviors. Some violent acts—such as bullying, pushing, and shoving—can cause more emotional harm than physical harm. Other forms of violence, such as gang violence and assault (with or without weapons), can lead to serious injury or even death.

### Why is school violence a public health problem?

11 homicides of school-age youth ages 5 to 18 years occurred at school during the 2010-2011 school year.

Of all youth homicides, less than 1% occur at school, and this percentage has been relatively stable for the past decade. In 2012, there were about 749,200 nonfatal violent victimizations at school among students 12 to 18 years of age.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 9% of teachers report that they have been threatened with injury by a student from their school; 5% of school teachers reported that they had been physically attacked by a student from their school.<sup>1</sup> In 2011, 18% of students ages 12–18 reported that gangs were present at their school during the school year.<sup>1</sup> In a 2013 nationally representative sample of youth in grades 9-12:<sup>2</sup>

- 8.1% reported being in a physical fight on school property in the 12 months before the survey.
- 7.1% reported that they did not go to school on one or more days in the 30 days before the survey because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.
- 5.2% reported carrying a weapon (gun, knife or club) on school property on one or more days in the 30 days before the survey.
- 6.9% reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times in the 12 months before the survey.
- 19.6% reported being bullied on school property and 14.8% reported being bullied electronically during the 12 months before the survey.

1. Robers S, Kemp J, Rathbun A, and Morgan RE. *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2013* (NCES 2014-042/NCJ 243299). National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Washington, DC; 2014. 2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Youth risk behavior surveillance—United States, 2013. *MMWR*, Surveillance Summaries 2014;63(no. SS-4). Available from [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6304.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6304.pdf)

## ***President's Message***

The budget process is upon us once again. The state continues to put school districts in a position by imposing the tax cap, limiting additional aid, and now giving tax payers a break if the district stays at or below the tax cap and combines services with other districts. The lines of communication between the ETA and the administrators are better now, than they have been in the past. We have a representative on the budget advisory committee and building principals have solicited our input.

During the next couple of months, it is extremely important that we stand united and act in solidarity.

Meanwhile, it is important our members stayed informed about TWO important issues that could potentially impact OUR future. The first one is, Friedrichs vs. CA Teachers Association. Remember the strength of a union comes from working together and speaking with a collective voice. The second concern is the voting for a Constitutional Convention on November 7, 2017. It is important to realize that a yes vote could alter working conditions, retirement security and our members' ability to provide a sound and basic education. You can stay informed on these two topics by logging into your nysut.org account, reading the NYSUT United publication and checking out the ETA website.

Thanks to all of our members for supporting VOTECOPE. We have dropped from an average \$107.10/member, to \$99.97/member. This speaks volumes of our members understanding the importance of political action and the vital role it plays in our professional life. As demands continue to be placed on our profession and the never ending attacks on unions, your voluntary contributions helps advocate for the issues and legislation that are crucial to our profession. The drive has begun. ☺

NYSUT continues to hold Albany accountable. They have filed suit saying that the State Education Department's actions on Teacher Improvement Plans violates the state's Taylor Law and teachers' collective bargaining rights. They are encouraging our members to take action NOW at the NYSUT Member Action Center to tell lawmakers to amend and fix the tax cap. They successful in restoring school aid and will continue to work on modifications to the property tax cap.

Please stay informed and HAPPY SPRING!!!!

*Colleen Kot*

