What’s New at NYSTRS?

Annual Delegates Meeting
November 6 and 7, 2016
The Year in Review

• Headlines
  • Straight from NYSTRS.org

• Initiatives and Technology
  • Consultation Sites
  • Upgrades to Video Consultation Sites
  • Security Enhancements
  • New Video Tool for Employers

• Awards
What New Members Need to Know

Here are five key reasons to care about retirement early in your career.

Keefe Elected Board President

David P. Keefe of Hempstead was recently elected by fellow trustees as NYSTRS Board president. Michael J. Masse of Fayetteville was elected as vice president.

Feehan Joins NYSTRS Board

Stephen P. Feehan, a wealth management advisor from Windsor, N.Y., joined the Board of the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System (NYSTRS) July 1.

Graphics Help Tell NYSTRS’ Story

It is said a picture is worth a thousand words. If that’s the case, the new Infographics page on NYSTRS.org has a lot to say.

Loan Interest Rate to Drop

The fixed interest rate on loans issued by NYSTRS to eligible Tier 3-6 members will decline by 0.5% effective July 1.

Military Service Eligibility Expanded

Chapter 41 of the Laws of 2016 enables eligible members to claim up to three years of service credit for military duty – no matter when the service occurred.

New ‘Popular’ Publication Debuts

A new NYSTRS publication is intended to make complex System financial information more understandable for those without a background in public finance.
Keefe Elected Board President

08/24/2016

David P. Keefe of Hempstead was recently elected by fellow trustees as NYSTRS Board president. Michael J. Masse of Fayetteville was elected as vice president.
R. Michael Kraus

- Retired from the Board June 30, 2016 after 24 years.
- Served as Board President since 2009.
Keefe Elected Board President

- David P. Keefe of Hempstead, the retired teacher representative, was recently elected by fellow trustees as president of the NYSTRS Retirement Board.
  - Taught in the Hempstead Public School system for 34 years before retiring in 2004.
  - Past president of the Hempstead Classroom Teachers’ Association.
  - Dave was first elected to the NYSTRS Board in 2004.
  - Chairs the Retirement Board’s Executive and Retired Member committees, and serves on the Compensation, Disability Review, Ethics and Investment committees.
Masse Elected Board Vice President

- Michael J. Masse of Fayetteville, a bank executive and former president of the Fayetteville-Manlius Board of Education, was elected as vice president of the NYSTRS Retirement Board.
  - Mike was appointed to the NYSTRS Board in 2009 by the New York State Board of Regents on the recommendation of the State School Boards Association.
  - He chairs the Audit and Ethics committees and serves on the Compensation, Executive, Investment and Retired Member committees.
Feehan Joins NYSTRS Board

07/11/2016

Stephen P. Feehan, a wealth management advisor from Windsor, N.Y., joined the Board of the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System (NYSTRS) July 1.
Feehan Joins NYSTRS Board

- Stephen P. Feehan, a wealth management advisor from Windsor, N.Y., has joined the NYSTRS Retirement Board.
  - Stephen was elected to the position by the New York State Board of Regents on the recommendation of the state School Boards Association.
  - He is also a member of the Windsor Central School Board of Education.
Graphics Help Tell NYSTRS' Story

06/21/2016

It is said a picture is worth a thousand words. If that's the case, the new Infographics page on NYSTRS.org has a lot to say.
Graphics Help Tell NYSTRS’ Story

NYSTRS Modeling Excellence
$108 billion net assets (6/30/16)
84% of assets invested externally
24¢ per $100 payroll
$6.7 billion in benefits paid in 2015
8.7% return on investment
$53 billion growth of investments

NYSTRS Finances

Investment Income
5-Year 8.3%
10-Year 6.2%
20-Year 7.6%
25-Year 8.7%
30-Year 8.9%

Total Assets**
2011 $108.3
2012 $109.7
2013 $110.8
2014 $112.0
2015 $113.2

Funded Ratio
2011 106.1
2012 106.4
2013 106.6
2014 106.8
2015 107.0

NYSTRS’ Story of Excellence

New York State Teachers' Retirement System Distribution of the Annual Benefit of All Retired Members (as of June 30, 2015)

Centis and Sensibility

Costs and Sensibility: Providing an annual pension and retirement benefits is a shared responsibility. Over the past 30 years, earnings and investment returns have fluctuated, thus affecting the funding status of the plan. NYSTRS has a formula to determine the amount of money contributed by employers and employees towards the plan. This ensures a balanced approach in funding the pension plan while maintaining a stable retirement income for members.

Average ECR’s by Decade

Average over all years: 10.96%
New ‘Popular’ Publication Debuts

05/12/2016

A new NYSTRS publication is intended to make complex System financial information more understandable for those without a background in public finance.
New ‘Popular’ Publication Debuts

- We have a new publication designed to make complex System financial information more understandable for those without a finance background.

- The inaugural edition of the *Popular Annual Financial Report*, or PAFR, is now available in the library at NYSTRS.org. This first PAFR summarizes System finances for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

- With data primarily pulled from our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the PAFR relies heavily on graphics and other visuals to tell the System’s financial story. Unlike a CAFR, which can be technical in nature, a PAFR presents facts in a clear, concise manner.

- For those who like to crunch numbers and delve to more granular levels, the CAFR will always be available on our website.
The NYSTRS Retiree

As of June 30, 2016, there were 153,107 retirees receiving a service retirement benefit from NYSTRS. Another 2,056 were receiving a disability benefit. What does the typical NYSTRS service retiree* look like?

80%
Percent of benefits paid to New York State residents

67%
Female

$41,192
Average maximum annual benefit

28 years, 2 months
Average years of service at retirement

72 years
Average age at 6/30/16

* As of 6/30/16
How $5B in Benefits Maps Out
02/09/2016

A new addition to the website allows you to see how NYSTRS benefits are distributed.
NYSTRS Ranks In Top 10
02/12/2016
NYSTRS ranked 9th of top 1,000 pension funds.
NYSTRS Ranks in Top 10

- The annual rankings of the top 1,000 U.S. 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 $107.5 billion in assets at the end of its most-recent fiscal year, the System is well funded.
Study: Public Pensions Healthy
01/15/2016

Public pension funding levels are up and costs to manage plans are down, according to a recent study by the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS).
Public pension funding levels are up and costs to manage plans are down, according to a recent study by the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS).

The report, released in November 2015, shows that public pension funding levels are at 74.1% nationally, up from 71.5% last year. NYSTRS, one of the best-funded public pension plans in the nation, was 92.9% funded.

Among the nearly 200 public retirement systems surveyed, the average cost to administer the plans was 60 cents for every $100 managed, down from 61.1 cents a year earlier. NYSTRS manages its plan for about 24 cents per $100.

By comparison, the NCPERS study found most private sector equity and hybrid funds have an average cost of between 70-78 cents for every $100 managed.
Loan Interest Rate to Drop

06/07/2016

The fixed interest rate on loans issued by NYSTRS to eligible Tier 3-6 members will decline by 0.5% effective July 1.
The fixed interest rate on loans issued by NYSTRS to eligible Tier 3-6 members declined by 0.5% effective July 1. The reduction corresponds with the Retirement Board’s decision to lower the assumed rate of return on investments from 8.0% to 7.5%.

The new rate is 6.5%, down from 7.0%. Additionally, a life insurance premium of 0.10% is charged annually, guaranteeing the loan is fully insured after 30 days. This protection is forfeited should the loan go into default.
Military Service Eligibility Expanded

06/03/2016

Chapter 41 of the Laws of 2016 enables eligible members to claim up to three years of service credit for military duty – no matter when the service occurred.
Military Service Eligibility Expanded

- Chapter 41 of the Laws of 2016 enables eligible members to claim up to three years of service credit for prior military duty—no matter when the service occurred. Previously, to purchase military service credit, the service must have been performed during specified periods of war and certain hostilities.

- In order to be eligible to claim this credit, members must have been honorably discharged from the military, have at least five years of credited service, be active NYSTRS members on or after May 31, 2016 (when the law took effect) and claim any possible military credit before their effective date of retirement. To apply, they must send us their honorable military discharge Form DD214.
SUNY Graduate and Teaching Assistants

- Members who served as graduate or teaching assistants at SUNY between 1982 and 1991 are now eligible to purchase prior service for that work – provided they were on SUNY’s payroll at that time.

- This change applies to both active and retired members.

- The February 2016 *Your Source* and April 2016 *Resource* contained articles informing members of this change.
Payment Limitations to Non-Spouse Beneficiaries

Per Internal Revenue Code § 401(a)(9), the survivor percentage payable under a joint and survivor form of benefit may be subject to limitation if the beneficiary is a non-spouse and the member’s age exceeds the beneficiary’s age by more than ten years.
2016-17 COLA Calculated
05/03/2016

Eligible retirees receiving a monthly NYSTRS benefit will receive a 1.0% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) beginning with their September 2016 payment.
2016-17 COLA Calculated

- Beginning with the September 2016 payment, eligible NYSTRS retirees received a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 1% on the first $18,000 of their monthly benefit.

- Retirees are eligible when they are age 62 and have been retired five years.

- This COLA brought the cumulative maximum monthly increase to $312, or $3,744 annually, since the 2001 legislation was enacted.
Are You Retirement Ready?
04/22/2016

If you plan to retire at the end of the school year, we have just the tools to help you get retirement ready so you may sail smoothly into your new chapter of life.
Are You Retirement Ready?

- If you plan to retire soon, congratulations! NYSTRS wants to be sure you are retirement ready so you can sail smoothly into your new chapter of life.

- We recommend you have a benefits consultation before filing to retire so you can thoroughly review your personal benefit information.

- We have a variety of publications to help guide you.
  - *Countdown to Retirement*
  - *Maximum or an Option: Choosing a Benefit Payment Right for You*
  - *NYSTRS Retirement Checklist*

- We’re here to answer any questions you may have. Call (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6250 or send a secure message through your MyNYSTRS account.
Are You Retirement Ready?

Questions? Maybe a consultation is in order.
New York State Teachers’ Retirement System
2016-2017 Benefits Consultations

Meet with a NYSTRS Representative
- Learn about your NYSTRS benefits.
- See the impact of reaching key service milestones.
- Review your benefit payment options at retirement.
- Receive personalized benefit estimates.

Schedule a Consultation
- With a myNYSTRS account at NYSTRS.org; or
- By calling NYSTRS at (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6100.
- You can book up to 90 days ahead.
- In Video, we “meet” using a computer webcam run by NYSTRS.

Video Consultation Sites (Hold Year-Round)

**CENTRAL VALLEY**
- Central Valley Elementary School
  45 Route 52

**ELMIRA**
- G.S.T. BOCES Central Business Office
  3475 Corning Road

**ENDICOTT**
- Union Endicott Central School District
  Administration Building
  1100 East Main Street

**FAIRPORT**
- Monroe #1 BOCES
  Foreman Center
  41 O’Connor Road

**FREDONIA**
- Friege 2 BOCES
  LeGrand Education Center
  9520 Fredonia-Stockton Rd.

**GARDEN CITY**
- NASSAU BOCES
  Administrative Center
  71 Clinton Road

**HARRISON**
- Southern Westchester BOCES
  Lower Hudson Regional Information Center
  450 Mamaroneck Ave.

**HOLBROOK**
- Eastern Suffolk BOCES
  Instructional Support Ctr
  12 Andrea Road

**HORNELL**
- G.S.T. BOCES
  Wildwood Campus
  1126 Bald Hill Road

**ITHACA**
- Tompkins Seneca-Tioga BOCES
  Roy DeShemper Educational Services Building
  555 Warren Road

**JAMESTOWN**
- Public Schools Administration Bldg.
  197 Martin Road

**LACRANGVILLE**
- Arlington High School
  1157 Route 55

**LE ROY**
- Genesee Valley Educational Partnership/Genesee Valley BOCES
  80 Munson Street

**LEXINGTON**
- Genesee Valley Center for Instruction, Technology and Innovation
  179 County Route 64

**MEXICO**
- The Center for Instruction, Technology and Innovation
  179 County Route 64

**MT. MORRIS**
- Genesee Livingstone
  Steuben-Wyoming BOCES
  Mt. Morris Campus
  27 Lackawanna Avenue

**NEW HARTFORD**
- OCM BOCES
  4747 Middle Settlement Rd.

**OLAND**
- GENOA BOCES
  424 Westfield Road

**PLATTSBURGH**
- Champlain Valley Educational Services
  14 Area Development Drive
  ISC Building, Suite 100

**POTSDAM**
- Potsdam Central School District
  High School
  29 Lory Street

**SANBORN**
- Orleans Niagara BOCES
  4124 Saunders Settlement Road

**SMITH TOWN**
- Smithtown Central School District Administrative Office
  26 New York Avenue

**SYRACUSE**
- OCM BOCES
  Main Campus
  110 Elwood Davis Drive
  Liverpool

**WATERTOWN**
- Watertown City School
  1335 Washington Street

**WEST NACK**
- Rockland County BOCES
  60 Parrott Road
  Building 10
  PDC Conference Center

**WEST GENEVA**
- Ernie 1 BOCES
  355 Harlem Road

**WESTHAMPTON BEACH**
- Eastern Suffolk BOCES
  210 Old Riverhead Road

**WHITE LEAVING HEIGHTS**
- Western Suffolk BOCES
  Suffolk’s Edge Teacher Center
  31 Lee Avenue

**YORKTOWN HEIGHTS**
- Putnam Northern
  Westchester BOCES
  200 BOCES Drive

In-Person Consultation Sites

**ALBANY**
- NYS Teachers Retirement System
  10 Corporate Woods Drive
  (Hold Year-Round)

**CORTLAND**
- Mccoy Educational Center
  1710 NYS Route 13
  Oct. 18, 27
  March 7
  Dec. 15
  April 25
  Feb. 9
  May 8, 25

**FORT EDWARD**
- WSEF BOCES Central Office
  1133 Burgoyne Avenue
  Oct. 16
  Nov. 10
  Dec. 7
  Jan. 19
  March 13
  April 13
  May 8

**GEORGETOWN**
- Oneonta City School District Offices
  51 Center Street

**ONEONTA**
- Oneonta City School District Offices
  31 Center Street
  Oct. 13
  Nov. 17
  Dec. 13
  Jan. 17
  March 14
  April 27
  May 24

**CANAAN**
- Saranac Lake HS District Offices
  79 Canaras Avenue
  Nov. 13
  April 12
  March 14
  May 17

**GENEVA FALLS**
- Seneca Falls District Office
  100 Clinton Street
  Oct. 11, 12, 19, 20, 25
  Dec. 13, 14
  Jan. 10, 11

**SYDNEY**
- Sidney Central Schools
  95 West Main Street
  Feb. 8
  May 10
New Video Consultation Sites

- Smithtown
  - Smithtown Central School District
  - Administrative Office, 26 New York Avenue

- West Nyack
  - Rockland County BOCES
  - Building 10 - PDC Conference Center, 65 Parrott Road

- Ithaca
  - Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES
  - Roy Dexheimer Educational Services Building, 555 Warren Road
“Old” Sites; New Locations

- New Hartford
  - Now held in OHM BOCES Support Services Building
  - 4747 Middle Settlement Road

- Syracuse
  - Now held at OCM BOCES Main Campus in Liverpool
  - 110 Elwood Davis Drive
Directions to Consultation Sites

For directions to a specific location, select a site from the following drop down menu.

Syracuse

Syracuse:
OCCM ROCES Main Campus
110 Elwood Davis Drive
Liverpool, New York 13212

Directions
Google Maps: To Site | From Site

Upcoming Dates:
Video consultations are held year-round; call NYSTRS for details.
Consultation Upgrades

- If a member begins booking a consultation through our online Appointments Scheduler but doesn’t complete the process, a new placeholder notes the member’s EmplID. We can contact the member to verify whether (s)he wants to attend and, if so, complete the reservation.

- We have been replacing fax machines at our video consultation sites with “smart” printers. We receive an email when the printer has a jam or is low on paper or toner, allowing us to troubleshoot those issues more efficiently.
Technology - MyNYSTRS

- We now have the capability to send initial secure messages to members via MyNYSTRS. These outbound messages can help in many ways. For example:
- Fulfilling requests for personal information such as EmplID or option selection.
- Announcing of video site closings due to inclement weather.
- Reaching out to members when needed (e.g., we stayed in touch with our Canadian retirees, so they knew what steps we would take to ensure delivery of their benefit payment if the Canadian Post Office was shut down due to a labor conflict).
Security Initiatives

- Employer Secure Area (ESA)
  - Among several new security initiatives introduced this year, we now use two-factor authentication on the ESA, so a PIN is required to login.

- Email Security Initiative
  - To help protect staff from phishing attempts, a banner appears at the top of the text body for any email that has been received from outside of the NYSTRS email system.
Technology

- We introduced a new video tool for employers this year: *Mandatory or Optional Membership: A Handy Guide.*

- The tool is available on the Employers > Employer-Tutorials page of our website at NYSTRS.org.
Awards

2016 AVA Digital Award – Gold Medal
For Government Websites
Awards

2016 Hermes Creative Award – Gold Medal
For Mobile App
Awards

Government Finance Officers Association’s (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (yearly since 1995)
Awards

GFOA’s Distinguished Budget Presentation Award
Awards

The Public Pension Coordinating Council’s Public Pension Standards Award for Funding and Administration (12th year)
We Want Your Feedback

- To ensure we provide you with exceptional service, we host many continuous customer service surveys. For example:
  - PREP Seminars
  - Benefit Consultations
  - Post-Call
  - New Retiree (through a 3rd party vendor)
Interested in Hosting a NYSTRS Benefit Presentation?

Contact Dave Costello at:
(518) 447-4763 or
david.costello@nystrs.org