

OCTA Advocate

A newsletter for members and friends of the Oswego Classroom Teachers Association



October 2021

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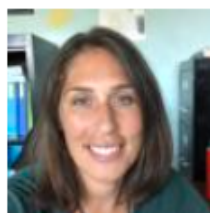
Meet your 2021-2022 OCTA Officers!



Carrie Patane
OCTA President



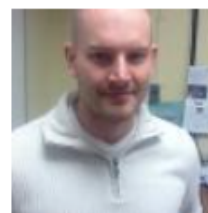
Kim LeRoy
VP Grievance



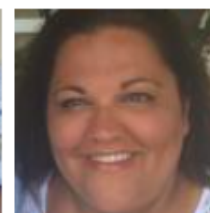
Jess Burrige
VP Negotiations



Jenn Cahill
VP Pol. Action



Mike Patane
Treasurer



Michelle McManus
Secretary



Dan Rose
VP Newsletter



**Message from your OCTA President,
Carrie Patane**

WORK TOGETHER AND STAY UNITED

Hello All,

Our MOA for streaming ended on Oct 31st.

The BOE meeting has been moved to Nov. 9th, so we will not have a new agreement in place until after then. I met with Dr. Calvin to discuss our concerns about invoicing, and to advocate for compensation for our TAs who are required to stream. As we continue to discuss a successor to our previous MOA you should continue to document when you were required to stream and submit the invoice weekly.

We take pride in our own work as individuals. It is in our nature.

However, in these challenging times, we must continue to lean on one another. It is essential to work as a team and offer the BEST learning experience possible to ALL of our students. No student is taught by just one of us. We are ALL teaching ALL of our students together.

Togetherness. Family. Solidarity. This is what has made this challenging journey much more manageable .

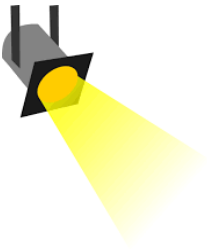
This feeling of unity helps make our lives, our spirits, and our hearts feel a little more full.

All for one and one for all, united we stand divided we fall.

Please consider creating a shared google drive folder or a MASTER CLASS shared between you and your colleagues so you can easily “reuse posts” made by others in your grade level or subject area. Sharing resources in that drive space will be greatly useful. We need to work together as much as possible to help all of our students achieve the greatest amount of success possible.

*In Solidarity,
Carrie*





OMS Special Ed Instructor and Long-Time Kingsford Park Teacher in the October OCTA Spotlight!

Carrie Ackerman works tirelessly for her Oswego Middle School students without expecting any type of acknowledgement other than the satisfaction of knowing that she is doing what is best for them. At the start of last school year, Carrie went to several homes to deliver Chromebooks and to explicitly teach students how to access Meets and Google Classroom. Carrie shares educational materials with students and often stays after school to assist students with their learning and provides a nurturing, safe environment. She routinely offers snacks to students who are hungry and makes meaningful and long-term connections with students both in and outside the district. Carrie is a wonderful teacher and asset to the Oswego City School District. We are fortunate to work with her and OMS is lucky to have her on our team!



Chyrise Conte has been teaching in the OCSD for 34 years, and ALL of them have been in the sixth grade. Her favorite part about teaching is the interaction with her students. They make her laugh out loud everyday. Anyone who's ever worked with Chyrise knows that, even though she's never had any kids of her own, it hasn't stopped her from being a great parent. She goes above and beyond for her students to make them feel just like everyone else. She has bought countless "cool" sneakers for her students and she always seems to know which students are struggling, who needs what, and then Chyrise finds a way to get everyone exactly what they need. She is kind, generous and always giving of herself. Kingsford Park and the Oswego City School District will miss having Ms. Conte around, but wish her all the best on her new journey.



Do you know an OCTA member who works hard at what they do? Someone whose efforts seem to go unnoticed?

Someone who always seems to have positive energy? Do you know an OCTA member who deserves to be in the SPOTLIGHT? Then nominate them to be cast in the monthly OCTA spotlight! This section of the newsletter and website will highlight one (or more) OCTA member(s) per month. Send

the candidates name, along with a brief description of what makes them special to drose@oswego.org. All nominees and nominators will receive a SPECIAL GIFT from OCTA! Send your nomination today!

Get to know your building leadership!

Below is the current list of OCTA Building Officers and Representatives for this school year. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with your building president, vice president and representatives. Thank you to all members who have stepped up to take on a leadership role.

Building Officers and Representatives 2020-2022

OHS	315-341-2202	FLS	315-341-2700
Gina Iorio Pres	giorio	Jamie Turtura Pres	jturtura
Heather Sugar Pres	hsugar	Amy Armet VP	aarmet
Robert Dumas VP	rdumas	Carolyn Dehm	cdehm2
Gloria Canale-Giberson	gcanale	Jennifer Cahill	jcahill
Lindsay Brown	lbrown23	Jim Hartmann	jhartman
Tami Palmitesso	tpalmit2	Michelle McManus	mmcmanu2
Kathy Audlin	kaudlin		
Jenn Smith	jsmith3	FPS	315-341-2400
Kaylee Morse	kmorse	Erin Wilder Pres	ewilder
Sarah Kimak	skimak	Jamie Brancato VP	jbrancat2
Trish Shene	pshene	Laurie Kelly	lkelly
Amy Orr	aorr	Cari Joyce	cjoyce2
Sarah Williams	swillia2	Lisa Coleman	lcolema2
		Julie Tubolino	jtubolin
OMS	315-341-2300		
Jeff Brown Pres	jbrown	MIN	315-341-2600
Alison Anderson Pres	aanders4	Carol Janice Pres	cjanice
MaryAlice Brennan Pres	mbrennan	Amy Sullivan Pres	asulliva
Sally Kingsbury	skingsbu	Sandy Kunzwiler	skunzwil
Susan Roik	sroik	Don Fronk	dfronk
Chad Platten	cplatten	Rayna Mills	rmills2
Elise Davis	edavis	Jenn Szkotak	jszkotak
Peg Holt	mholt	Crystal Mason	cmason
Michelle Cooper	mcooper	Keri Hunter	khunter
Maureen Wallace	mwallace		
KPS	315-341-2500	CER	315-341-2800
Mary Lynne Maxwell Pres	mmaxwell	Terri Stacy Pres	tcullens
Hope Mazuroski	hmazuros	Teddy Beers VP	tbeers
Carolyn Slobodian	cslobodi	Molly Clark	mclark2
Gretchen Coakley	gcoakley	Holly Babcock	hbabcock
Shannon Kane	skane	Ann Jadus	ajadus
Kristyn Frost	kfrost		
Sub President- Ed Stacy	Sub Co Vice Presidents - Meg McLaughlin		

AFT settles student debt lawsuit, wins big gains for borrowers



10/13/2021 - The AFT, AFT President Randi Weingarten and eight individual AFT member plaintiffs have reached a [landmark settlement](#) with the U.S. Department of Education in the case *Weingarten v. DeVos*, and as a result tens of thousands of student loan borrowers can expect imminent relief from their student debt. The suit, originally filed in July 2019, addresses the Education Department's utter failure to deliver on its own Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

Under the historic agreement, all PSLF applicants who were denied relief will have an opportunity for their cases to be reviewed by the department, setting public employees across the country, including teachers, nurses and firefighters, on a path to a life-changing reduction or elimination of their crushing student debt burden.

PSLF guarantees that those who work in public service and consistently pay their monthly student loan bills will have the balance of their loans forgiven after 10 years. But since the program's inception in 2007, fewer than 2 percent of applicants have received the relief they were promised. Instead, borrowers faced rampant servicer misconduct, were issued confusing and sometimes contradictory guidance about the status of their applications, and had no clear process for contesting erroneous decisions.

The settlement allows for an official review for those denied the forgiveness they believed they were owed. It will help borrowers receive credit for years of past payments, putting them that much closer to full forgiveness.

[READ THE REST: CLICK HERE](#)

New York State Teachers Retirement System



SIGN UP NOW!!! drose@oswego.org

New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) Virtual Benefits Consultation (presented by OCTA)

November 8 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m

A real NYSTRS Representative will discuss key topics you need to know.

The session will include an overview of pension calculation rules by tier, as well as:

- How to be sure you receive all the service credit for which you are eligible.
- Important service milestones and their impact on your pension calculation.
- The various pension payment options.
- Death benefits and their continuation into retirement.
- The steps to take to file for retirement.

Meeting participants will be able to submit questions through a chat feature during the meeting. We encourage general questions in this public setting. Specific questions concerning your individual situation should be discussed during an individual benefits consultation or by calling the Retirement System at (800) 348-7298.

Join us for this one-hour NYSTRS Retirement Benefits Consultation on Monday, November 8 starting at 5:30 p.m.

PLEASE let Dan Rose drose@oswego.org know that you are interested in attending this virtual seminar. Mr. Rose will then forward you the invite for the meeting!

Want to know more about the NYSTRS and the benefits available to you as an educator in New York State? Visit the [ACTIVE MEMBERS](#) section of the NYSTRS Website. You can also create an account and view your service credit and current benefit profile by clicking here: [MYNYSTRS](#)



NYSUT MEMBER BENEFITS

Check out what your union membership has to offer!

Member Benefits Discounts & Deals

Below are the most popular vendors that NYSUT members have shopped with using MB Discounts & Deals this past year -- with a potential savings of almost \$900,000! Have you been missing out?

<u>EAT</u>	<u>PLAY</u>	<u>SHOP</u>	<u>TRAVEL</u>
HelloFresh	Six Flags Theme Parks	Samsung	TripBeat
Burger King	Hersheypark	Apple	Great Wolf Lodge
Subway	Sky Zone Trampoline Park	Dell	Carnival Cruise Lines
Domino's	Bronx Zoo	Lenovo	Sandals Resorts
Jersey Mike's Subs	LEGOLAND New York	Advanced Auto Parts	Norwegian Cruise Lines

MB Discounts & Deals offers NYSUT members exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on restaurants, groceries and food delivery, theme park tickets, hotels and flights, oil changes and vehicle maintenance -- with more than 21,000 New York State deals and thousands more nationwide.

You can even refer your favorite local business (restaurant, coffee shop, workout facility, etc.) to join the network and provide NYSUT members with a special discount. Don't miss out... register your account today!

Member Benefits is proud to endorse MB Discounts & Deals along with dozens of other programs and services that may be able to benefit you and your family members. Take some time to explore our website to find out how we can help you make every dollar count!



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



FLASH BUC STRONG CLOTHING SALE!!

The Buc Strong orders from September have all been delivered to their respective buildings. If you missed out, here is your **last chance to order in 2021: This sale only runs until Nov 9th.** There are 2 separate sales. The options are limited since the apparel choices are in short supply.

OCTA SALE:

This sale is for all OCTA Logo apparel. These have the OCTA logo on them. It is called the OCTAholiday sale. There are some Buc Strong options in this sale as well. These will be **delivered** to buildings and are only for OCTA members. <https://octaholiday.itemorder.com/> **BUC STRONG PUBLIC SALE:** The second sale is open to the public but is a **PICK UP ONLY** sale for BUC STRONG APPAREL. You may share this link with friends or on social media. Any orders will need to be PICKED UP at B&T in Fulton once they come in OR the shopper can pay for shipping. <https://bucstrong2021.itemorder.com/> **This will be the LAST SALE for BUC STRONG or OCTA apparel until next year.**



Adult Apparel Tall Ladies Apparel Ladies Apparel BUC ... More



Adult Apparel

[View Category Page](#)



Nike Club Fleece Crew Cj1614

\$54.45

3 Colors



Sport-Tek Side Blocked Micropique Sport-Wick Polo

\$32.20

2 Colors



Port Authority Superpro Twill Shirt

\$36.25

2 Colors



BREAKOUT HOOD TEE

\$29.75



Bargaining strength in action

From NYSUT United Magazine

New union-negotiated advances in salary, benefits and working conditions are improving the lives of educators and support staff — as well as bringing in desperately needed new hires.

The value of union membership doesn't end with the paycheck. Union leaders, guided by NYSUT's core values — good jobs; affordable, high-quality health care; strong public schools; a strong and vibrant democracy; and a society free of discrimination, bigotry and hatred — fight tirelessly for contracts that support members and their families.

Here are a few examples of powerful union-won gains across the state: The Fairport Transportation Association settled a contract significantly improving the salaries of bus drivers and attendants.

The local union, led by Ron Rutherford, was stymied from attracting new hires by starting salaries for drivers of \$14.50 an hour, and \$12.50 an hour for attendants. Pay will now be \$18 an hour for drivers, and \$15 an hour for attendants.

Additionally, the district agreed to use federal stimulus money so that drivers will receive an extra \$2 an hour for three years; attendants will be paid an extra 25 cents hourly for three years. "They were one of the lowest-paid bus driver groups in Monroe County," said Sheila Sullivan Buck, NYSUT labor relations specialist. "They were bleeding members."



[READ THE REST IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE OF NYSUT UNITED](#)

NYSUT Certification Webinars



[NYSUT Certification Webinars](#) (Click for list)

We know that certification in New York State can be complicated and stressful. That's why NYSUT has an office that's entirely devoted to helping our members navigate the certification process. While the State Education Department manages all certifications, our certification experts are here to give you honest answers and help you through the process. NYSUT is pleased to offer a new range of **free webinars to help our members with their certification questions**. These webinars are designed to help NYSUT members with specific challenges they encounter understanding and managing their certifications. **Space in each webinar is limited. Please sign up only if you plan to attend.** Webinars are free for NYSUT members. Upcoming Certification Webinars Initial to Professional Certification Guidance Teaching Assistant Certification Guidance Options Related to Expiring Certificates/Changing Assignments



Yes, Halloween is tomorrow, but Voting Season is already here!

submitted by Jenn Cahill, OCTA VP (POLITICAL ACTION)

Listed below are links to ballots and places to vote if you choose to do so early. Whether it is early or on Election Day, please remember to vote and have your voice heard.

NYS Ballot Proposals:

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/2021BallotProposals.html>

Onondaga County:

<http://www.ongov.net/elections/SampleBallots.html>

Oswego County:

https://www.oswegocounty.com/government/board_of_elections/view_sample_

IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION



Carrie Shuba Patane

Admin · October 28 at 6:07 AM · 🌐



Ballot Initiatives

When you go to the polls this year, make sure you flip your ballot to vote on the five ballot proposals on the back. NYSUT supports three of these initiatives this year; related to redistricting and improved voter access.

Proposal #1 makes several changes to the redistricting process allowing for a more equitable distribution on representation in both Albany and Washington DC as well as capping the number of state senators to 63. Passage of proposal #3 would allow voters to register to vote closer to Election Day. Proposal #4 seeks to remove current restrictions on absentee voting; making no- excuses absentee voting a reality here in New York State.

NYSUT has long supported these proposed changes as the legislation required to place them on the ballot worked it's way through the legislative process.

Below is text of the ballot initiatives.

[READ THE FULL POST ON THE OCTA FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

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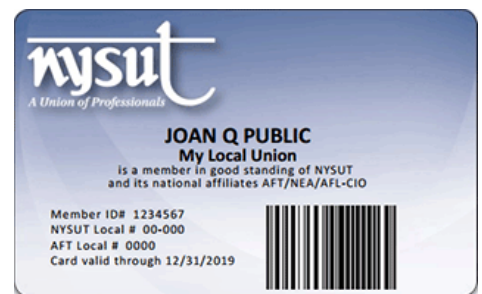


Have you visited the OCTA website yet? What are you waiting for!!!!?

Click [HERE](#) to explore the site! Find quick links to important union documents like the new OCTA Contract, the OCTA building officer list, and the new OCTA resources guide!

Need A Quick NYSUT Membership Card?

[Login here and download a PDF of your membership card.](#)



To request a replacement for this card, call NYSUT at 1-800-342-9810 ext. 6224

OCTA Advocate is published by the Oswego Classroom Teachers Association, West 1st Street, Oswego, NY. **President:** Carrie Patane, **VP Grievance:** Kim LeRoy **VP Negotiations:** Jessica Burrige **VP Political Action:** Jenn Cahill, **VP Newsletter:** Dan Rose, **Secretary:** Michelle McManus, **Treasurer:** Mike Patane. Affiliated with the New York State United Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.

