

OCTA Advocate

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



NOVEMBER 2022

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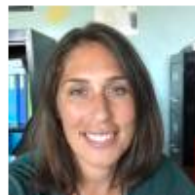
Meet your 2022-2023 OCTA Officers!



Carrie Patane
OCTA President



Kim LeRoy
VP Grievance



Jess Burridge
VP Negotiations



Jenn Cahill
VP Pol. Action



Mike Patane
Treasurer



Michelle McManus
Secretary



Dan Rose
VP Newsletter



Message from your OCTA President - Carrie Patane

This year, I am thankful to serve another term as your union president, and I am equally thankful (and proud) to be a part of the strong, committed, unwavering labor movement that continues to thrive across this beloved country of ours, where every day our brothers and sisters fight for better, safer and more fair working conditions.

In a time when union-busting and collective bargaining bad-mouthing tries to take hold, it is an honor to witness the birth of new labor unions like [Workers United](#), started at a Starbucks facility in Western New York and now spreading rapidly west. Read more about Workers United and what they stand for, and what they are hoping to accomplish with their [Red Cup Rebellion](#) this winter season by clicking on the links within this message. NYSUT is standing by the Starbucks employees and is helping them in their fight to unionize. Educators drink a lot of coffee! I encourage you to support these employees by NOT giving Starbucks gift cards for the holidays, and if you receive one, you can show support by placing your order under the name "Union Strong" to show solidarity with the employees who are hard at work.

Our collective voices must continue to be heard above the rising noise of big businesses and anti-labor establishments who want to bully unions out of existence. We will continue to organize and bargain collectively because we all deserve jobs with decent pay and decent hours. We must take some time this holiday season to give thanks for what we have, and to appreciate those who continue to fight for what is just and fair. Take some time before the end of the year to read through and get to know our OCTA contract, and know that many generations of union advocates have fought hard for the rights we have earned as teachers and TAs. I am especially thankful for those who have come before me and who have paved the way for our generation to be blessed with a strong contract and a strong union. I am thankful for our membership who stands in solidarity and remains united during difficult times. Lastly, I am thankful for the privilege I have been given to represent all of you.

Click below for access to a digital copy of our updated collective bargaining agreement. We, like so many before us, have fought, and continue to fight for decent, fair, and safe conditions in which to work. Please know that as your union president I am committed to providing a strong voice for all of our members.

[**21-24 OCTA Contract**](#)

First Grade Fitzhugh Star in the November OCTA Spotlight!

Fitzhugh Park would like to congratulate **Tim Barbeau** as this month's OCTA Spotlight Educator! Tim is entering his 18th year in education; fifteen in first grade where he noted how rewarding it is to 'step back and acknowledge the individual growth for each of his students come June.'

From a young age, Tim knew he wanted to be a teacher. He would often help his mom (retired OCSD teacher Mrs. Deborah Barbeau) in the classroom. When he saw how hard she worked to make a difference in the lives of her students Tim knew that teaching would be his life's work.

When asked what he loves most about teaching, Tim answered, "I truly love making a difference in my students' lives, whether that be helping them learn and grow, giving them a safe, positive environment away from home, or making a positive connection with them that will encourage them to be the best version of themselves."



You can often find Mr. Barbeau at our school family events as he is committed to being involved in positive experiences that support our students' connection between home, school and community. In addition to his classroom duties, Tim is also the FPS Primary Team Leader and the coach of the Leader in Me Lighthouse Team. In the past, Tim was a Curriculum Coordinator and a PBIS Coach.

Congratulations Tim! Thank you for your dedication!

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. Send your nomination today!*

SRP Recognition Day took place on Nov. 15, 2022, in New York State!



November 15th was a celebration day for the hard-working women and men who help educate, feed and transport students, monitor their health, administer school offices, and maintain school facilities – providing a safe and nurturing environment for student-centered learning. We honor the super heroes of our schools. SRPs Rock! Didn't get a chance to celebrate? Thank an SRP today, after all, they are all around you!

OCTA Scholarship Committee in search of new members!

Submitted by Meghan Donabella & Korrine LaDuc - OCTA Scholarship Co-Chairs

OCTA Scholarship Committee

The OCTA Scholarship Committee is looking for volunteers. Every year, the scholarship committee organizes fundraisers (such as Jeans Week & payroll deduction) which allow the committee to award graduating OHS seniors with valuable scholarships in the spring. If you would like to participate in this year's committee, please email Korrine LaDuc & Meghan Donabella.

Jeans Week - Save the Dates:

February 13 - February 17

Meghan Donabella & Korrine LaDuc
OCTA Scholarship Co-Chairs





OCTA Newsblast November 2022

Highlights from our November OCTA Meeting

Political Action/Vote Cope - Thank you to everyone that donated and a very special thank you to all the reps that went and had conversations with members and received the donations to turn in. We are successful because of all of you!

OCTA Scholarship- Jeans Week raised \$1270 for future OCTA Scholarships. If you forgot to turn your money in you can Venmo Laurie Kelly. Her Venmo is @Laurie-Kelly-10.

Human Concerns- Human Concerns is struggling to get enough food donations to meet the increased demand for assistance this year. OCTA will be organizing a very short food drive. Look for an email from a building rep letting you know where you can place your donations. Human concerns is looking for Chef Boyardee type foods: "Protein soups with 7 grams of protein or more, individual sized snacks and oatmeal.

SAVE THE DATES:

Bowling-The FALL Bowling tournament is being run by **Carol Janice** on **FRIDAY, FEB 3rd**. Start choosing your teammates and work on your team names! (Approx times: Secondary: 2:45 -4:30 Elementary 4:15 - 6)

Volleyball- **Julie Tubolino and Ryan Lavner** will be organizing this event. Thank you!. Keep your calendars open... The tournament is scheduled for **Friday June 16th**.

New Peer Support Line offered

NYSUT Member Benefits has launched the [Peer Support Line](#), a confidential, peer-to-peer, dial-in helpline free to all members and their families. Staffed by trained in-service and retired individuals, this service will provide support and referrals to callers seeking assistance on a wide array of personal, family, and work-related problems. For more information or assistance, call [844-444-0152](tel:844-444-0152).

OCTA RESOURCE GUIDE:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kc9DjnHtYkQTqCKMI2iw4Krey8BFebZtAO5i1wM05Gs>

COVID: To Report a Positive At Home COVID Test in OSWEGO COUNTY: PLEASE REPORT!!!

https://health.oswegocounty.com/information/2019_novel_coronavirus/isolation_quarantine_guidance.php

OCSD Employee COVID Hotline: 315-341-2055

OCSD Student COVID Hotline: 315-341-2050

***District Safety Hotline-** If you have a safety concern the district has a confidential safety hotline. **The number is 315-341-2056.**

Know Your Paycheck Deductions:

Check your stub to make sure you are receiving the appropriate deductions for each paycheck

FICA is social security
MEDI is Medicare
FEDERAL is federal tax
STATE is state tax
D/I OCTA is disability insurance
HI10F15% is 10 month family health

MED/DENT is your flex spending account
DFBOCTIN is your OCTA Dental Insurance
VISFIND = Vision individual
OCTA28+ is your union dues
OPL is city library contribution
NYSUT = member benefits (Life ins, legal, etc.)

OCTA Building Leadership 22-23

CER

Terri Stacy
 Ted Beers

FPS

Erin Wilder
 Julie Tubolino

KPS

Mary Lynne
 Maxwell
 Hope Mazuroski

FLS

Michaela Kearns
 Amy Armet

MIN

Crystal Mason
 Amy Sullivan
 Keri Hunter

OHS

Gina Iorio
 Heather Sugar
 Robert Dumas

OMS

Jeff Brown
 Alison Anderson
 Mary Alice
 Brennan

2021-22 NYSTRS Benefit Profiles now available!

Benefit Profile Tutorial

Benefit Profile Tutorial

The information below is as of 6/30/20XX, but may also include prior, transitional, or other credit. If you see a discrepancy, ask the applicable employer to review your record.

- "District Name Not Available" appears if a district merged or was later renamed.
- If you worked at multiple districts in a school year, credit is combined on one line.

Employment for the 20XX-XX School Year (7/1/XX – 6/30/XX)

School Year	Employer
20XX-XX	Albany School District
20XX-XX	Schenectady School District
20XX-XX	Troy School District

Service Credit History

School Year	Employer
20XX-XX	Schenectady School District
20XX-XX	Albany School District

Run Time: 7 Minutes

Download Transcript →

Watch on YouTube

Your Oswego New York State Teachers' Retirement elected delegate Dan Rose attended the NYSTRS annual delegates meeting in Saratoga Springs during the first week of November. The most recent edition of your [NYSTRS benefit profile](#) was sent out to all NYSTRS members in November. Your benefit profile provides a wealth of information, and is available to all members with a [MNYSTRS](#) account. To learn more about how to read your benefit profile, view this tutorial:

Life is complicated. NYSUT Member Benefits can help.

PEER SUPPORT LINE



The Peer Support Line is a new service available through NYSUT Member Benefits that's offered at no cost to all NYSUT members and their families.

**MEMBER
BENEFITS**

nysut
Working to Benefit You

The Peer Support Line can help with:

- Finding mental health services or support groups
- Answering questions about Medicare and Medicaid
- Managing work-related stress
- Providing support to new members
- Sourcing elder care or caregiving services
- Assisting with marital, relationship or child rearing concerns
- Reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness

The Peer Support Line is a partnership between NYSUT Member Benefits and Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care.

For more information or assistance, call toll-free 844-444-0152.

Rev/Dec 2022

Dental Benefits Reminder!

submitted by OCTA Dental Administrator Lindsay Voigt



Just a friendly reminder from OCTA Dental: **Please take note of the Plan language that stipulates enrollees are entitled to two cleanings/preventative visits per 12-month period**, and Visit A and Visit C of such visits need to be scheduled a minimum of **12-months and one day from each other**—For example, if you went to the provider on June 20, 2022 (Visit A), then if your next visit was December 23, 2022 (Visit B), your next visit would need to be scheduled on June 21, 2023 (Visit C) or later in order to be covered—

Providers always try to do their best to properly schedule and space appointments, but ultimately the responsibility rests on members to ensure that their appointments are properly spaced based upon the Plan language as described above—

Please also know that 12-month periods are all individual and based upon when you have your first visit with your provider and use your coverage (For example, if you go to your provider in June, then your 12-month period is from June-June)—The 12-month period is NOT based on the school year or calendar year of January-December—

Please feel free to reach out to OCTA Dental at: octadentalplan@gmail.com should you have any questions about this or anything else dental related!

DENTAL DID YOU KNOW?! You can create your very own Delta Dental Login and Mobile Account and in turn gain access to various helpful tools related to your dental insurance? [GO ONLINE TO MANAGE YOUR DENTAL PLAN!](#)



Resources at your fingertips

Go online to manage your plan



Whether you need to check your benefits or select a new dentist, you can do it all with Delta Dental's online tools.

Create an account

What you can do:

- Check your plan details and eligibility.
- Browse claim history.
- Download plan documents.
- Find an in-network dentist.
- View your member ID card or print a paper copy.
- Update your settings to paperless.



Try it out: Go to deltadentalins.com and choose **Log in** to create an account or log in to your existing account.

Tip: Access your benefits info on mobile, tablet or desktop!

OCTA Bowling Tournament

Friday, February 3, 2023 (SAVE THE DATE!)

Lighthouse Lanes



Start thinking about your team of four and a team name! (Teams of four will play two games.)

Secondary: Arrive at 2:45 and start playing at 3.

Elementary: Arrive by

4:15 p.m. and start by 4:30.



Below you will find the updated schedule for NYSUT Student Debt Webinars.

Webinars are led by our partners at Cambridge Credit Counseling and are designed to help NYSUT members better understand the various student loan repayment options with a focus on Teacher Loan Cancellation and Public Student Loan Forgiveness programs. This workshop will also address the recent federal student loan forgiveness program.

Below are the clinics that are currently open for registration:

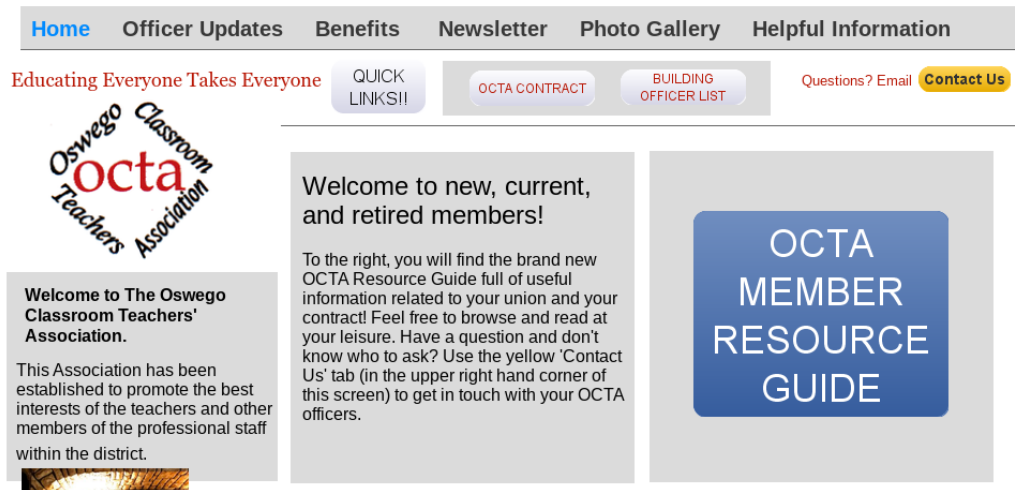
- Wednesday, Nov. 30
- Tuesday, Dec. 13
- Tuesday, Jan. 10

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR WEBINARS](#)

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

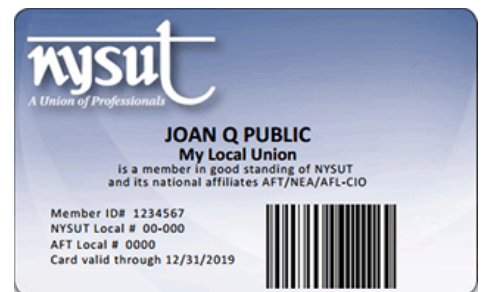
Click on the screenshot of the homepage below to explore the site! Find quick links to important union documents like the new OCTA Contract, the OCTA building officer list, and the new OCTA resources guide!

Oswego Classroom Teachers' Association



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.

