

OCTA Advocate

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



DECEMBER 2025

Use the following Table of Contents to navigate this month's ADVOCATE!!

Click on the bookmark to jump to the article. Click on the OCTA ADVOCATE hyperlink in the page header to navigate back to this table of contents.

[Message from your OCTA PRESIDENT](#)

[Who's in the OCTA Spotlight this month?](#)

[OCTA Blast: November / December](#)

[Save with NYSUT Member Benefits!](#)

[NYSTRS Prep Seminar Schedule: 2026](#)

[Dental Benefit Information](#)

[NYSUT YEAR IN REVIEW](#)

[YOUR SOURCE: Retirement Benefit Newsletter](#)

[LINK to OCTA Webpage & Resource Guide](#)

Meet your 2025-2026 OCTA Officers!



Carrie Patane:
OCTA President



Kim LeRoy:
OCTA VP Grievance



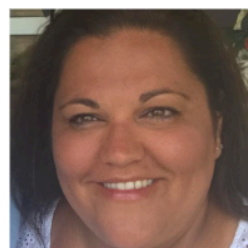
Jess Burridge: OCTA
VP Negotiations



Jenn Cahill:
OCTA VP PA



Mike Patane:
OCTA VP
Treasurer



Michelle McManus:
OCTA VP Secretary



Dan Rose: OCTA VP
PR

Greetings OCTA Members,



As we head into the holiday season and prepare to turn the calendar to a new year, I want to take a moment to thank you for all that you do—for your students, your colleagues, and our community. December is a time for reflection, gratitude, and hope, and it's also an important time to focus on one of the most pressing issues facing our members and the future of our profession: **Fixing Tier 6.**

As you know, Tier 6 is fundamentally unfair. Educators in this tier contribute more, work longer, and receive less than colleagues in earlier tiers—while doing the same vital work. These inequities impact recruitment, retention, and morale, and they threaten the long-term strength of public education across New York State.

The good news is that there *is* momentum for change—but real progress will only happen if lawmakers hear directly from us. That's why NYSUT is calling on members from across the state to come together in Albany:

Statewide Rally to Fix Tier 6
Sunday, March 8, 2025
12:00–2:00 PM
MVP Arena, [51 S. Pearl St., Albany, NY](#)

NYSUT is expecting 15,000 union members to attend and is sponsoring buses across Central New York. Registration allows NYSUT to plan bus pick-up locations, which is why it's so important that we register and report our interest early.

Fix Tier 6 is about fairness, dignity, and protecting the future of our profession. Together, NYSUT members have already made meaningful progress—final average salary calculations have been improved, and the number of years required to vest has been reduced. As we look ahead to the new year, it's time to finish the job.

How You Can Help:

- Register for the March 8 rally using the QR code on the flyer or at: fixtier6.org/events/statewide-rally-to-fix-tier-6
- Complete a brief poll so I can report interest to NYSUT and reserve at least one bus from Oswego
- Invite family and friends—bus riders do *not* need to be OCTA members

The flyer and QR code were shared in Michelle's December meeting minutes, and paper copies were also distributed. Showing up matters. Our voices matter. As we head into the holidays and look toward a new year, this is our chance to stand together and be heard—and to be part of history.

Wishing you a restful holiday season and a hopeful start to the new year.

In solidarity,
Carrie Patane, President, OCTA

★ OCTA Spotlight: Melissa Stafford (KPS)



KPS' December Spotlight shines on **Melissa Stafford**, a dedicated educator whose love for children and learning has guided her remarkable career. As the youngest of 12 children—and an aunt by just five months old—Melissa has always been surrounded by kids and fascinated by how they grow and learn.

Melissa's journey into education began at **Mexico BOCES**, where she studied Early Education during her senior year of high school. Inspired by her Early Childhood teacher, **Janette Spicer**, she pursued her dream and later earned her **Master's degree in Literacy Education from SUNY Oswego**.

Now in her **26th year in education**, Melissa has spent **7 years as a Preschool Teaching Assistant at BOCES** and **19 years in the Oswego City School District**, teaching grades 1–3 at KPS. She is currently teaching **first grade—her favorite**—where she witnesses what she calls the “*magical*” transformation that happens as students become readers. Seeing literacy click for her students continues to wow her and give her goosebumps every day.

Melissa prides herself on building strong, meaningful relationships with her students, making sure they know her care extends far beyond just one school year. Outside the classroom, she loves the outdoors—camping, hiking, kayaking, and snowmobiling—along with traveling. Last summer, she and her husband spent a month trekking across Europe and are already dreaming of their next adventure.

Thank you, Melissa, for your passion, heart, and dedication to KPS. We are lucky to have you!

★ OCTA Spotlight: Kris Jorgensen (FPS)

FPS proudly recognizes **Kris Jorgensen** for her outstanding dedication to students and music education. Kris has a unique ability to bring out the best in her students while creating a fun, supportive, and safe learning environment where everyone can grow and shine.

Currently teaching **band in grades 4–6**, Kris pours countless hours into building a strong program—from carefully matching students with the right instruments, to selecting engaging music, to holding after-school practices. Her hard work clearly shows, as her bands consistently deliver phenomenal performances at every concert.

Originally from **Minnesota**, Kris earned her undergraduate degree from **The University of Northern Iowa** and a **master's certificate in flute performance from Northern Illinois University**. She has been part of the **Oswego City School District for 12 years**, bringing with her a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to her students.

What Kris loves most about teaching are the moments when things “*click*”—when students recognize their own growth and feel pride in what they’ve accomplished. She believes music education is more important than ever, teaching students that they **can do hard things**, hold themselves to high standards, and succeed together in a supportive community.

In her free time (what little there is!), Kris stays busy with her two daughters, who are avid musicians and swimmers. She also enjoys her pets, tending to plants, and traveling.

Thank you, Kris, for building confidence, community, and a lifelong love of music in our students every day!



★ OCTA Spotlight: Alex Bush (OHS)



The OHS OCTA Spotlight recognizes **Alex Bush**, an Oswego High School alumnus who has returned to make a powerful impact on the next generation. As one of OHS’s younger and dynamic teachers, Alex has quickly become an integral part of both the **Social Studies Department** and the broader OHS community.

Alex has revitalized **AP Psychology**, bringing new energy and relevance to the course. Beyond the classroom, he has expanded opportunities for students by creating a new **Outdoor Adventure club**, introducing them to the incredible natural resources of our region. He has also helped launch a **youth leadership course**, empowering students to develop the skills needed to shape Oswego’s future—just as he has.

Alex’s passion for learning, leadership, and student engagement is evident in everything he does. His commitment to innovation and connection continues to strengthen the OHS family.

and inspire students to grow academically and personally. **Thank you, Alex, for your energy, vision, and dedication to Oswego High School and its students!**

★ OCTA Spotlight: 8th Grade Math Educator (OMS – East Team)

This OCTA Spotlight celebrates a dedicated **8th grade math teacher** who proudly calls **Oswego, NY** home. A graduate of **St. Paul's, Oswego Middle School, and Oswego High School**, she has now spent **nine years teaching in the Oswego City School District**. After five years teaching **Math AIS**, she has been a valued member of the **8 East team for the past four years**, where she currently teaches 8th grade math.

She loves building lifelong connections with students and finds the greatest joy in those breakthrough moments—when a struggling student finally “*gets it*.” She also appreciates her students’ humor, which keeps the classroom joyful and fun.

Outside of school, she lives an active and adventurous life. She enjoys hiking with her boyfriend and their dogs, spending time with her cat, crafting and making shirts, sailboat racing, and taking on athletic challenges. In recent years, she has completed **four Spartan obstacle course races**. She also loves traveling, hosting game nights with friends, and exploring new places, with a goal of visiting **all 50 states**.

Looking ahead, she hopes to foster as many animals as possible, creating a safe, loving, five-star home for shelter pets while helping them find their “*furever*” families.

Thank you for your dedication, positivity, and commitment to students—both in and beyond the classroom!





OCTA Blast November/ December

Highlights from our Nov./ Dec. OCTA Meeting

8th. Please let your building president or vice president know if you are interested in being a part of this rally. If we get enough OCTA Members we will get our own bus. You can bring a guest and it does not have to be a NYSUT Member.

Thank you- Special Thanks to John Ray and Mike Smith from The Oswego Teachers Federal Credit Union. They dropped two trays of cookies to each building. Please stop in the staff room to see their latest interest rates and CD rates.

Vote Cope- Thank you for your contributions to VOTE COPE. OCTA was 7th in the region for contributions. Woohoo!

PD/ Grad Course Information- Please note that the District is not responsible for maintaining a record of your PD hours. While many of our PD sessions and graduate courses are entered into Frontline, it is important to verify that all your hours are properly recorded. If you notice any discrepancies or missing hours, you can manually enter them into the TEACH system.

For PD hours taken on Superintendent Conference Days that have not been entered into Frontline, please reach out to Julia Simpson for assistance, and she will be happy to help.

Additionally, please be aware that VECTOR courses are not entered into Frontline because they are reported directly to the State through the VECTOR platform.

Blessings- It's Jeans/ Athletic Wear Week.

Please consider wearing jeans/ athletic wear and donating to Blessings in a Backpack. The BIB jeans/athletic wear week will be held December 15th-19th. Please donate \$10 to wear jeans or athletic wear this week. You may give your donation to the person in your building below or Venmo Michelle-McManus-35 Last 4 digits 1049

BE A PART OF HISTORY!

LET'S RALLY TO **FIX** **tier six**

WHAT: **Statewide Rally to Fix Tier 6**

WHEN: Sunday, March 8, 2026 * 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

WHERE: **MVP Arena**
51 S. Pearl St.
Albany, NY 12207

WHY:

- FIXING TIER 6 IS ABOUT FAIRNESS, DIGNITY AND PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION!**
- 2026 is a critical year on the political calendar for NYSUT members to make their priorities known to the Assembly, Senate, and Governor--and at the top of our list is **FIXING TIER 6!**
- We've already fixed the Final Average Salary calculation and reduced the number of years it takes to vest in the pension. Now it's time to take a big bite out of **FIXING TIER 6!**
- Whether you're in Tiers 5 & 6 and you're showing up to fight for yourself and your own family, or you're in Tiers 1, 2, 3, or 4 and you're paying forward the advocacy that secured you a dignified pension, we need all hands on deck on Sunday, March 8th.
- We are expecting ~15,000 union members to fill the MVP Arena. **RSVP now or miss out on your chance to BE A PART OF HISTORY!**

RSVP: fixtier6.org/events/statewide-rally-to-fix-tier-6

SCAN ME!

OHS- Gloria Canale Giberson
 OMS- Michelle McManus (put in Math Coaches mailbox)
 FLS-Meghan Harrison
 CER- Ted Beers
 KPS- Tricia Carroccio
 FPS- Laurie Kelly
 MIN- Kim LeRoy
 Ed Center/ Warehouse/ Bus Garage: send to Michelle McManus at OMS or Venmo Michelle McManus

Stuff- A- Bus- Stuff-A-Bus Jeans/ Athletic Wear week will be January 5th-9th. More information to follow. Ease back into January with some jeans or athletic wear.

Safety- Classroom doors should be locked at all times. Discuss this with your building safety committees, however, if your door is locked when it is shut, no one can get in without a key and you are better protected from unforeseen threats.

Share safety concerns with your union Safety Representatives:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>OHS- Gina Iorio
 MIN- Don Fronk
 OMS- Dan Rogers
 CER- T. Lagoe
 KPS- Carolyn Slobodian
 FLS- Kate Bowman
 FPS- Cari Joyce</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Location of incident Describe concern (threat or building issue) Was anyone injured? Describe injury Did the employee fill out the Employee's Accident Report for Workers' Compensation and return it to the nurse? |
|---|---|

EMAIL THEM THE FOLLOWING:

Insurance- If you are having difficulties with MVP be sure to reach out to Assured Partners (was ENV) at (315) 641-5848. They can help you with Benefit questions, claims issues, finding providers, etc. You should also inform Amanda Hamilton at the EDC and Carrie Patane of claim issues so they can pass the information on to the members of the Healthcare Committee. IF you have reached out to Assured Partners and you still have concerns, please let us know that too. **Make sure you are using Teladoc, ask for GENERIC RX, and use Express Scripts when possible to help reduce plan costs and to lower our premiums.**



FIX TIER 6 - [How bad is it?](#) [Get involved!!](#) [Watch a Video](#)

[Visit Fixtier6.org](#)- Visit this website to learn more about supporting fixing tier 6. Make sure you write out the Oswego Classroom Teachers Association.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP): To contact them call (315-470-7447).

The district provides members with services to help with stress management, family stress, anxiety and panic, workplace issues, communication barriers and more. The service is provided by Help People. It is a free and confidential service! Offices are located in Fulton, Liverpool and Syracuse.

Member Benefits Teacher Discounts- Click on this [link](#) to view teacher discounts.

OCTA RESOURCE GUIDE- [2025-2026 OCTA Resource Guide](#)

Jeans Weeks-

OCTA Scholarship- Feb. 9-13

Stuff A Bus- January 5-9, May 18-22

Blessings- Dec. 15-19, March 23-27

Prom- April 6-10

New members, and anyone who hasn't completed it yet or needs to update their email or name, please take a moment to fill out the [OCTA Contact Form](#).

Know Your Paycheck Deductions- [Document from Meghan Wilson](#)

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/single health

INSREIMB = Insurance Reimbursement (in Dec) for those off step

TRS= money you pay into NYS Teachers Retirement

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.)

THANK YOU to our OCTA Building Leadership 25-26

CER

**Ted Beers
Holly Babcock**

FPS

**Julie Tubolino
Cari Joyce**

KPS

**Tricia Caroccio
Allie Yule**

FLS

**Meghan Harrison
Amy Armet**

MIN

**Keri Hunter
Stacie Waterhouse-
Roberts**

OHS

**Gina Iorio
Heather Sugar
Robert Dumas**

OMS

**Jeff Brown
Clare Donovan**

Substitutes

Terri Stacy

PACK YOUR BAGS AND SAVE!



With Member Benefits

Do the colder temperatures have you longing for a little getaway?

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses several programs that can help with all your travel plans, including MB Discounts & Deals, Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel, and Purchasing Power.

MB Discounts & Deals offers NYSUT members exclusive access to savings at over 850,000 popular hotels and resorts worldwide along with flights, vehicle rentals, theme parks and attractions, Broadway shows and museums, sporting events and concerts, movie tickets, ski tickets, restaurant dine-in or take-out, and so much more. If you have not already done so, you can create an account at mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com with a preferred email address, a password, and your seven-digit NYSUT ID number (which can be found at nysut.org/memberid).

Does your bucket list include taking an unforgettable excursion to Asia, the South Pacific, Mediterranean, Africa, Europe, or numerous other destinations? NYSUT members save at least \$150 per person on published

Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel tours along with the opportunity to save thousands per trip with additional discounts and savings. GCT & OAT provide the chance to become fully immersed in the culture of the region you are visiting, including lesser-known locations that most Americans never get to experience. Discovery opportunities, activities, and educational discussions are included with each trip.

With **Purchasing Power**, eligible NYSUT members can package their entire vacation together – including hotels, flights, attractions, vacation rentals, and cruises – while paying over 12 months through payroll deduction or Automated Clearing House (ACH) withdrawals. Purchasing Power is not a discount program, but offers no credit check and no down payments; it serves as an option over traditional financing options like high-interest credit cards.

SCAN ME



Explore all that is available to you from Member Benefits by scanning the QR code, visiting mb-nysut.org/travelmb, or calling 800-626-8101.



New York State
Teachers' Retirement
System

Winter/Spring 2026 PREP Seminar Schedule

Pension & Retirement Education Program (PREP)

Location	Address	Dates
Albany/Capital District	Capital Region BOCES 900 Watervliet Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12205	Tuesday, March 10, 2026 Tuesday, April 7, 2026
Binghamton	DoubleTree by Hilton Binghamton 225 Water St., Binghamton, NY 13901	Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Buffalo	Buffalo Airport Hotel 4600 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, NY 14225	Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026 Tuesday, March 3, 2026 Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Fishkill	Hyatt House Fishkill/Poughkeepsie 100 Westage Business Center Drive, Fishkill, NY 12524	Thursday, March 12, 2026
Hauppauge	Radisson Hotel 110 Vanderbilt Motor Pkwy., Hauppauge, NY 11788	Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026
Mount Kisco	Hotel MTK 1 Pat Reilly Way, Mount Kisco, NY 10549	Friday, Feb. 20, 2026 Thursday, March 19, 2026 Thursday, April 9, 2026
Plainview	Holiday Inn Plainview – Long Island 215 Sunnyside Blvd., Plainview, NY 11803	Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026 Wednesday, March 18, 2026 Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Rochester	RIT Inn & Conference Center 5257 West Henrietta Road, Henrietta, NY 14467	Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026 Wednesday, March 4, 2026
Stony Brook	Hilton Garden Inn Stony Brook 1 Circle Road, Stony Brook, NY 11794	Tuesday, March 17, 2026 Tuesday, April 7, 2026
Syracuse	Hilton Garden Inn Syracuse 6004 Fair Lakes Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057	Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026 Thursday, March 5, 2026 Thursday, April 9, 2026

The PREP seminar helps members understand their NYSTRS benefits and offers tips for retirement planning. Always check nystrs.org/prep for the latest seminar schedule. Topics in each free half-day session include:

- **NYSTRS Benefits:** Pension, disability coverage, loans, vesting and death benefits.
- **Financial Planning:** Saving early, catching up, withdrawals and financial advisors.
- **Social Security:** Benefits, eligibility rules, when to collect and earning limits.
- **Estate Planning:** Wills, trusts, powers of attorney, health care proxies and living wills.
- **The Retirement Process:** Retirement options, "resigning" vs. "retiring," choosing a retirement date, retirement checklist, monthly payments, taxes and earnings limitations on NYS public employment.

Reservation and Attendance Information

- **Make a reservation** online in MyNYSTRS at nystrs.org or call 800-348-7298, ext. 6180 during our business hours.
- **Sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Registration begins at 8 a.m.
- **Slots fill quickly**, so we recommend making a reservation early.
- **Bring your latest Benefit Profile** with you (you can print it from MyNYSTRS).
- **Not going to attend?** Cancel through MyNYSTRS or by phone so others may reserve a spot.

The PREP seminar is not intended for individual benefits counseling. To schedule a one-on-one consultation, members should visit the Retirement Planning/Benefits Consultations page of nystrs.org.



Dental Benefits Reminder & Member Perks

Submitted by you Dental Administrator, Lindsay Voigt
octadentalplan@gmail.com

Dental Plan Update – Effective January 1, 2026

Beginning January 1, 2026, members will be eligible for **two dental cleanings per calendar year**, with **no six-month waiting period required**. Cleanings may be scheduled **at any time between January 1 and December 31**.

Important Address Reminder

Please be sure to **update your address with the district and Delta Dental** if you have moved. We have seen an increase in reimbursement checks being returned because Delta Dental has **outdated addresses on file**, resulting in delays or missed payments. A quick update can prevent unnecessary issues.

Delta Dental Member Perks – More Than Just Your Smile

Your Delta Dental membership includes access to valuable extras that support your overall wellness, including:

- **Virtual dentistry services** for low- or no-cost remote consultations
- **Free wellness resources** such as articles, videos, recipes, and newsletters
- **LASIK discounts** (save up to 35%) through QualSight – call 855-248-2020
- **Hearing aid discounts** (average savings of 66%) through Amplifon – call 888-779-1429
- **LifePerks discounts** on oral health products, travel, childcare, entertainment, and more

To explore these benefits, visit:

www1.deltadentalins.com/memberperks



Year in Review: Union Highlights & Collective Wins

This past year was marked by uncertainty, political upheaval, and rising economic pressures—but also by resilience, solidarity, and meaningful progress for educators and working people. While members held differing hopes and concerns about the new federal administration, one truth remained constant: educators continued to show up every day for students, patients, and communities, often without the pay, resources, or respect they deserve.

Despite these challenges, the union delivered important victories. Nationally, we saw progress on **Social Security Fairness**, moving closer to eliminating the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset, which would improve retirement security for millions of public servants. The union also secured a **major settlement restoring Public Service Loan Forgiveness** and income-driven repayment protections for members with student debt.

In Congress, organized labor pushed back against unprecedented attacks on collective bargaining. The House passed the **Protect America's Workforce Act**, affirming that union contracts must be honored—an essential response to executive actions that attempted to void federal union agreements. While challenges remain in the Senate, this effort underscored the ongoing fight to protect workers' rights.

Across the country, unions defended public education funding, negotiated policies to improve learning conditions (including cellphone-free school days), secured **safe healthcare staffing agreements**, and continued advocating for schools to be safe, inclusive spaces. Organizing also surged, with **dozens of new local and independent unions joining the AFT**, reflecting growing belief in the power of collective action.

As the year closed, the union reaffirmed its commitment to fighting rising costs, defending public education and healthcare, opposing corporate-driven inequality, and standing firmly against hate and violence. Through it all, solidarity remained our greatest strength.

Together, we showed that **when we fight, we win—and when we stand united, progress is possible**, even in the most challenging times.



This budget sends a clear message: New York is investing in student success – now and for the future.

From securing universal school meals for every child to making classrooms distraction-free, the state is stepping up for student mental health and well-being. We applaud the Governor and Legislature for recognizing that these are foundational elements for learning and must be addressed for students to succeed in our classrooms."

Melinda Person
NYSUT President



New York State
Teachers'
Retirement
System

December 2025

YourSource

A newsletter for active members of the NYS Teachers' Retirement System

Delegates Elect McKay to NYSTRS Board



From left: Natalie McKay, Dr. Mark R. Stratton and Scott R. Levy.

NYSTRS welcomed more than 400 delegates from across the state to its Annual Delegates Meeting, held Nov. 2 and 3 at the Saratoga Springs City Center. Attending delegates elected [Natalie McKay](#), a teacher in the Schoharie Central School District, to a three-year term on the Board.

McKay had been appointed to the Board earlier this year by New York State Commissioner of Education Dr. Betty A. Rosa and was unopposed.

"As an educator, I know the dedication and the hard work that we put into our craft," McKay said in her acceptance remarks following the election. "And I can promise you with confidence that I'm going

to carry that through, working with NYSTRS, continuing to make sure that we all have a safe and secure pension."

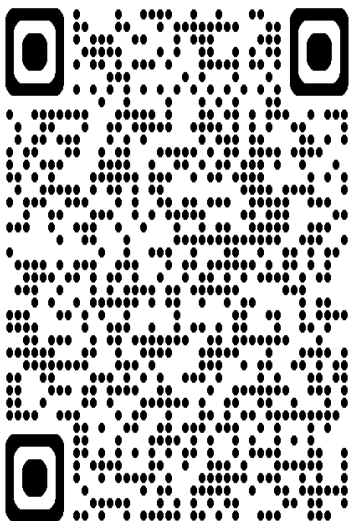
McKay is one of three active teacher members on the 10-member Retirement Board. The other active teacher Board members are [Eric J. Iberger](#) from the Bayport-Blue Point Union Free School District and [Donald A. Little III](#) from the Syracuse City School District.

Levy, Stratton Join Board; Keefe Reelected

[Scott R. Levy](#) and [Dr. Mark R. Stratton](#) also joined the Board earlier this year – Levy as a school boards association member elected by the NYS Board of Regents, and Dr. Stratton as a school administrator appointed by the Commissioner of Education. Both of their three-year terms commenced July 1, 2025.

David P. Keefe of Hempstead will begin another three-year term in January as the retired teacher representative on the Board. Keefe, who was first elected in 2004 and has served as Board president since 2016, ran unopposed and was therefore deemed reelected by NYSTRS retirees. Juliet C. Benaquisto, a retired teacher who previously served for four years on the Board as an active teacher member, is Keefe's alternate.

[Continued on page 5](#)



Annual Report Outlines Sustained and Steady Growth

In a fiscal year shaped by market volatility, NYSTRS reported sustained and steady growth.

According to the System's 2025 *Annual Comprehensive Financial Report* (ACFR), the total portfolio returned 10.6%, net of fees, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. NYSTRS' net assets reached \$154.2 billion, up from \$145.8 billion the previous fiscal year.

The System's funded ratio of 99.1% as of June 30, 2024, the most-recent calculation available, compares the actuarial value of assets to accrued benefit liability. NYSTRS' 10- and 30-year annualized net rates of return were both 8.4%.

[Continued on page 3](#)

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

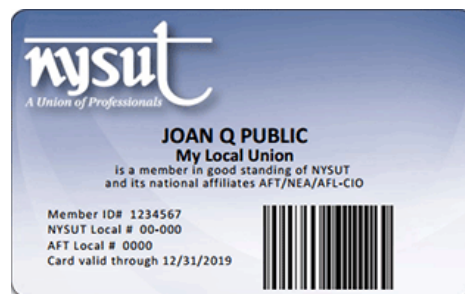
Click on the screenshot of the image below to explore the site! Find quick links to important union documents like the new OCTA Contract, the OCTA building officer list, and the new OCTA resources guide! Click on the image below to link to the [website](#)! **Many of your questions can also be found in the [2025-2026 Resource Guide](#). The link to this is ALSO posted on our OCTA Webpage!**



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.

