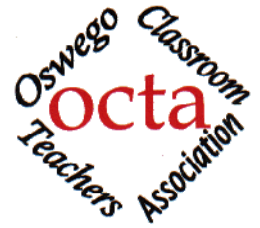


OCTA Advocate

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



DECEMBER 2020

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](#)

[OHS Special Education Teacher in this Month's OCTA Spotlight](#)

[OCTA MEMBERS Build Desks for Students in NEED](#)

[Families First Coronavirus Response Act set to expire on December 31, 2020](#)

[Virtual New York State Teachers' Retirement System Seminar a SUCCESS](#)

[NYS Deferred Compensation Information](#)

[NYSUT calls on state to make masks mandatory](#)

[OCTA IN THE GIVING MOOD! DECEMBER DONATIONS LIST](#)

[VOTE-COPE DRIVE A SUCCESS](#)

[2020-2021 Dues Withholding explained](#)

[JOIN THE OCTA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE](#)

[Oswego Teachers Publish Book](#)

[Save Money On Your Dental Bills](#)

[NYSUT Member Benefits](#)

[Get to know your OCTA Leadership \(building by building\)](#)

[Access the OCTA Website for EVEN MORE INFORMATION](#)

Meet your 2020-2021 OCTA Officers!



Carrie Patane
OCTA President



Kim LeRoy
VP Grievance



Gretchen Coakley
VP Negotiations



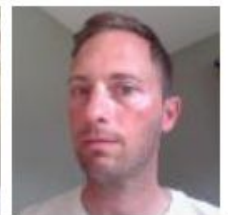
Jenn Cahill
VP Pol. Action



Mike Patane
Treasurer



Michelle McManus
Secretary



Dan Rose
VP Newsletter



Message from your OCTA President, Carrie Patane:



Changes for a new year are upon us. We will see a number of new shifts in education, both locally and nationally, as we enter 2021. Change is hard, but this past year has been such an exceptional challenge that I suspect most of us are eager for change in the new year.

As Albert Einstein once said, "In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity." We must remember all we have accomplished and achieved this year. The challenges we have faced have allowed us to learn and grow. Through adversity, we have developed new and innovative ways to accomplish our goals and to motivate our students. ***We remain united in the challenge to educate all students and we will continue to love them while helping them stay focused, engaged, and healthy.***

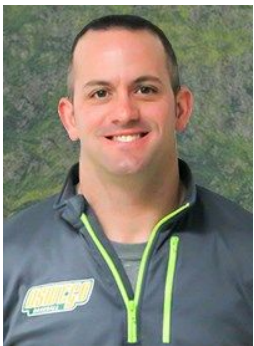
Each new year presents new challenges. We are READY for whatever 2021 throws our way. Colleagues, fellow teachers, friends, I am more proud now than I have ever been to be a member of the Oswego Classroom Teachers Association, and I know that together we will seize every opportunity coming our way this new year.

Take care of yourselves and your families. Be well and be safe!

Carrie



OHS Special Education teacher in this month's OCTA Spotlight!!!



Kyle Brown is a 9th grade special education teacher at the high school. Kyle is actively involved in sports, extra curricular activities and often volunteers in OCTA related fundraisers. Recently, Kyle spear-headed a project with fellow OCTA member and colleague Betty Wells, making desks for students who lacked a more comfortable virtual learning environment. In the end Brown and Wells were able to deliver 170 desks to students in the Central New York region. Read the full story below!!



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!



OCTA Members Build Desks for students in need

written and submitted by Dan Rose, OCTA VP

When OCTA members Kyle Brown (OHS Special Ed) and Betty Wills (OHS Teaching Assistant) noticed some of their students in less than ‘ideal’ virtual learning environments, they decided to take matters into their own hands. **(RIGHT: Kyle Brown constructs 1 of the 170 desks he recently helped deliver to students in the Central New York Area)**

Literally.

“Betty and I had several students that looked like they were working from their bed or an unorganized area of their home” said Brown. “We saw a couple of retired educators making desks for students in Cicero and we figured that we could provide our students a little slice of regular school life at home in the form of study desks.”

At first, Brown and Wills leaned on family volunteers and materials from their own homes to construct the wooden desks, but when surrounding communities caught wind of the humanitarian project, a slew of local businesses and volunteers offered help, assisting not only with the building of the desks, but with the painting and delivery, too.

Brown and Wills want to send special thanks to New Haven Building Supply (Tim Searles) and Raby’s in Oswego (thanks, Rob!) who both pitched in, supplying invaluable building materials like plywood, boards, screws, wood glue and finishing nails.

“Without the help of these local businesses, we would not have been able to make as many deks,” said Brown. “We wanted to start a desk-building trend in our community, and I think we did.”

With the continued efforts of OCTA members from across the district, Brown and Wills have taken this ‘trend’ into the holiday season, a humanitarian project that has (at the writing of this article) produced a total of 170 finished and delivered home desks to students in Oswego, Phoenix, Hannibal, Sandy Creek, Central Square, CNS, APW, Mexico, Fulton, Red Creek and Liverpool.





Other notable donations for the project came from the Children's Board of Oswego who contributed \$2000 dollars to the cause, as well as the Oswego Classroom Teachers' Association, who has raised over \$1000 dollars in contributions from the membership so far.

Big thanks from Brown and Wills also go out to OCTA members and volunteers: Dan Rupert, Alex Bush, Josh Lerch, Blake Adkins, Julia Kinsey, Lauren Boshart, Rachel Henderson, Ben Heckethorn, Laurie and John Kelly, Kaylee Baldwin, Faith O'Brien, Molly Clarke, MaryAlice Brennan-Steer and husband, Serena Waldon, Amanda Brown, Lourie and Emma Burger, Chris and Maria Kaleta, Laura and Brian Bateman, Carol Janice, Sheri Dafoe, Amanda and Bill Brown, Sam and Bridgett Henderson, Chuck and Lorie Burger, Christina Mendez, Robin Tryon, Laura Stevens, Laurie Kelly as well as Wills immediate family members, who all helped paint, build and deliver

the 170 desks. (ABOVE: Kyle Brown and Betty Wills construct home desks for students in need)

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS PAID SICK LEAVE AND EXPANDED FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE UNDER THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

For informational purposes, Melissa and I wanted to remind everyone that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act is set to expire on December 31, 2020. Congress has not yet passed any successor legislation. We will notify individuals who have previously received approval for various paid leaves related to FFCRA as to next steps.

This expiration does not impact approved unpaid leaves of absence or ADA accommodations.

We will pass along any new information, as soon as we receive it. For reference, the original information was sent August 10 and I have included the Employee Rights poster below.

Thank you!

Heidi Sweeney, EdD

Executive Director of Secondary Education and Personnel

[EMPLOYEE RIGHTS PAID SICK LEAVE AND EXPANDED FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE UNDER THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT](#)

Thank You to all of the OCTA Members who attended the virtual New York State Teachers' Retirement System seminar in November!

The session included an overview of pension calculation rules by tier, as well as information on:

- 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.



If you did not get a chance to attend the fall retirement session, don't worry! OCTA will offer another seminar in the spring. Send an email declaring your interest to Dan Rose (drose@oswego.org).

Don't have time to attend the seminars but still want the information? Browse the plethora of material available on the NYSTRS website! [CLICK HERE](#)

NYS Deferred Compensation Information!

Want to know more about the savings vehicle called the 457 Plan?

1. You can enroll via the website: <https://www.nysdcp.com/iApp/tcm/nysdcp/enroll/index.jsp>
2. For help deciding which funds you would like to invest in, you can use this tool:
<https://www.nysdcp.com/iApp/rsc/myInvestmentPlannerDecisionEntry.x>
3. To evaluate how your contribution amount will affect your paycheck, you can use this tool:
https://www.nysdcp.com/iApp/tcm/nysdcp/learning/tools/paycheck_impact_calculator.jsp
4. If you'd like to meet with one of our local Account Executives to discuss all your options in person, you can find your rep here:
https://www.nysdcp.com/iApp/tcm/nysdcp/support/contact/meet_your_account_executives.jsp (Choose by the County you work in, not where you live)

If you need live assistance, please contact a HELPLINE Counselor at 1-800-422-8463 Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. or Saturdays, 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. (ET) and we will be happy to assist you.

Chris

Administrative Services Agency

NYSUT calls on state to make masks mandatory at all times in schools

Source: NYSUT Media Relations

August, 2020



NYSUT calls on state to make masks mandatory at all times in schools ALBANY, N.Y. Aug. 27, 2020 —New York State United Teachers — joined by American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, local educators and others — today called on the state to update Department of Health school reopening guidelines to make mandatory the wearing of masks at all times indoors during the school day, except for appropriate break periods and in cases of medical accommodation.

In a letter to state Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker, the union cited ongoing concerns with school reopening plans across the state and the disparate mask policies that exist among school districts. NYSUT urged the state to look to scientific research showing the efficacy of masks and recent guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics that recommends the universal use of face coverings. The union also cited a recent change in Pennsylvania guidance to make the use of masks mandatory at all times during the school day.

[\(READ THE REST - CLICK HERE!\)](#)

OCTA December Donations

The OCTA donates money every year to various causes and charities across the county and region. The OCTA is proud of his long history of giving back. December donations are listed below:

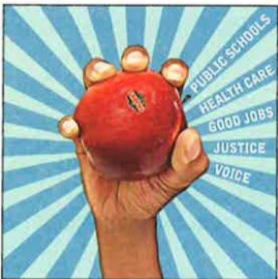
\$200 to Oswego County Labor Council for Holiday giving (food and toys).

\$100 to the United Way.

\$100 to Oswego Opera Theater.



**OUR VOICE,
OUR VALUES**



OUR VOTE-COPE

Thank you to one and all that donated during our Vote-Cope campaign this year!

Our donations will help NYSUT with fair funding for schools, COVID -19 safety protections, higher staffing levels, tenure protection, collective bargaining rights, pension protection, and a fair evaluation process. These battles cost millions of dollars to wage. Your voluntary contribution to Vote-Cope is the only way for all of us to ensure that the people in power hear our voices and understand what we need to succeed in our work and our lives.

Vote-Cope Coordinator and OCTA VP, Jenn Cahill



OCTA Holiday Giving

Organized by Carrie Shuba

Thank you to all OCTA members who donated to the OCTA Holiday Giving Fund Raiser

ALL of the money raised (nearly \$800 dollars!!) was divided up between our 7 buildings in order to help support Holiday Drives which provided gifts for children in need.

Please watch for an OCTA facebook post with the final tallies for each school!



2020-2021 dues withholdings

Submitted by Mike Patane, OCTA Treasurer

Hold onto your last pay stubs of the 2020 tax year. The last pay for the 2020 year will be December 31st, which will have your dues withholdings. This amount will also be on your w-2 forms you'll be receiving from the district in January.

Full dues for each active member (defined as earning \$34,000 and above) of the Oswego Classroom Teachers' Association should be \$847.92 for the 2020-21 school year. \$40.38 will be withheld for each of the 21 paychecks with a limit of \$847.92.

Three-quarters dues: (defined as having a salary in the range of \$25,500 - \$33,999) pay \$24.69 for each of the 21 paychecks with a limit of \$518.46.

Half-time dues: (defined as having a salary of \$17,000 - \$25,499) should have a new limit of \$423.96 with a per check withholding amount of \$20.19.

One-quarter dues: (defined as having a salary of \$8,500-16,999) should have a new limit of \$211.98 with a per check withholding amount of \$10.09.

One-eighth dues: (defined as having a salary of \$8,499 or less) should have a new limit of \$105.99 with a per check amount of \$5.05 for the 21 pay periods.

The dues deduction for members of the Per Diem Substitute Unit (including teachers of homebound students and tutors in the ESL Program) of the Oswego Classroom Teachers' Association should be 1.3% or (\$2.75) with a limit of \$211.98

Thank you for your continued cooperation and assistance.

OCTA Scholarship Committee

The OCTA Scholarship Committee is looking for new members! 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 8 - 12



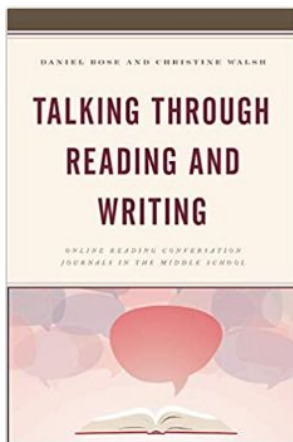
Our Own Local Authors!

Submitted by Jennifer Cahill, OCTA VP

Congratulations to our own Dan Rose and our SUNYCO colleague, Christine Walsh who recently published a book!

Daniel Rose has been teaching eighth-graders to become more independent readers and writers for almost two decades. He lives in Oswego, NY, with his wife, Kelly, and three kids, Sebastian, Sydney, and Ellie.

Christine Walsh is a visiting assistant professor at the State University of New York, Oswego, PDS (Professional Development School) liaison, and literacy coach/consultant. She lives in Baldwinsville, NY, with her husband, Brian, son, James, and golden retriever, Bailey.



Book Description:

In this book you will read many examples of rich literacy conversations between a teacher and his 8th grade students that never would have occurred face to face in the classroom. These conversations take place online when 8th graders write to their teacher about the books they're interested in reading and choosing to read independently. Students write about what happens when they read or don't read, how they feel about reading, how they're connecting with characters and ideas, why they don't have enough time to read, and what their reading goals are. And their teacher writes back to them. Every week. After each conversation you will read some "meta-talk" that shines a light on what the conversation has taught us about this language learner and how this "data" is informing our beliefs and practices. Embedded within the chapters are

suggested resources (articles, book recommendations, links, websites, blogs, etc.) you can follow should you want to read more in that chapter. What these students reveal about their own literacy development- their successes, their challenges, their lives- and how their teacher nudges them along socially, emotionally and academically, teach us the value and power of one practical, authentic literacy tool- the Reading Conversation Journal.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR DENTAL BILLS?

Choose a dentist who's part of the Delta Dental Network!

The plan saves money but at the same time you will have lower out of pocket costs. Lower cost to the plan results in lower premiums for everyone. Listed below are dentists who are part of the Delta Dental network and make it on to the list for our most utilized providers. If you are looking for a new dentist, considering one of the dentists on this list will save both you and the plan money.

PRV Full Name	Specialty
<u>SHELDEN SACKS</u>	General Dentist
JUAN LOPEZ-ROSARIO	General Dentist
JENNIFER MERRY	General Dentist
<u>FRANK FRUCE</u>	General Dentist
THOMAS BUNKER	General Dentist
<u>BARBARA PANKO</u>	General Dentist
<u>YAMILKA SERRANO</u>	General Dentist
<u>CHRISTOPHER ROZHON</u>	Pediatric Dentist
EVAN GROSS	General Dentist
<u>SHEILA SOLTANI</u>	General Dentist
<u>ALFONSO MEROLA IV</u>	General Dentist
<u>CHRIS PATERAS</u>	General Dentist
<u>SUZANNE SHAPERO</u>	General Dentist
<u>IMADEH NOSEGBE</u>	General Dentist

Don't see your dentist on this list? It may mean that they are a non-participating provider. If you want to check to see if your dentist or orthodontist is part of the network, go to www.deltadentalins.com and look on the right hand side for Find a Dentist and enter the location, name, or network. We participate in the PPO and Premier networks.

OCTA Leadership

Position	Name	Building	Phone #	email
President	Carrie Patane	OHS 341-2202	315-374-8111	cpatane
1st VP - Grievance	Kim LeRoy	MIN 341-2641	315-591-5605	kleroy
2nd VP - Negotiations	Gretchen Coakley	KPS 341-2500	315-591-3678	gcoakley
3rd VP - PR	Dan Rose	OMS 341-2300	315-254-5657	drose
4th VP - Political Action	Jennifer Cahill	FLS 341-2700	315-342-0891	jcahill
Treasurer	Mike Patane	OMS 341-2300	315-343-3926	mpatane
Secretary	Michelle McManus	FLS 341-2700	315-529-1049	mmcmanu2

Building Officers and Representatives 2020-2022

OHS	315-341-2202	FLS	315-341-2700
Gina Iorio Pres	giorio	Amy Armet. Pres	aarmet
Heather Sugar Pres	hsugar	Jamie Turtura VP	jturtura
Robert Dumas VP	rdumas	Carolyn Dehm	cdehm2
Gloria Canale-Giberson	qcanale	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 William	swilla2	Nick Little	nlittle
		Julie Tubolino	jtubolin
OMS	315-341-2300	MIN	315-341-2600
Lori Bradway-Veiga Pres	lbradway	Carol Janice Co-Pres	cjanice
Peg Holt VP	mholt	Amy Sullivan Co-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
Dan Rose	drose	Crystal Mason	cmason
Michelle Cooper	mcooper	Keri Hunter	khunter
KPS	315-341-2500	CER	315-341-2800
Mary Lynne Maxwell Pres	mmaxwell	Terri Stacy Pres	tcullens
Jessica Burrridge Pres	jburrridg	Teddy Beers VP	tbeers
Hope Mazuroski	hmazuros	Molly Clark	mclark2
Carolyn Slobodian	cslobodi	Holly Deban	hbabcock
Gretchen Coakley	gcoakley	Ann Jadus	ajadus
Sub President- Ed Stacy	Sub Co Vice Presidents - Meg McLaughlin & Beth McCrobie		

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-  CAR & TRUCK RENTALS

Come back for our financial services



-  STUDENT LOAN CENTER
-  FINANCIAL COUNSELING PROGRAM
-  DEBT COUNSELING

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, call 800-626-8101 or scan the QR codes above.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
nysut
Working to Benefit You

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

Home Officer Updates Benefits Newsletter Photo Gallery Helpful Information

Educating Everyone Takes Everyone QUICK LINKS!! OCTA CONTRACT BUILDING OFFICER LIST Questions? Email **Contact Us**

Welcome to The Oswego Classroom Teachers' Association.

This Association has been established to promote the best interests of the teachers and other members of the professional staff within the district.

Welcome to new, current, and retired members!

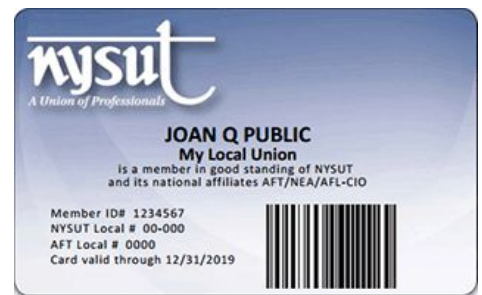
To the right, you will find the brand new OCTA Resource Guide full of useful information related to your union and your contract! Feel free to browse and read at your leisure. Have a question and don't know who to ask? Use the yellow 'Contact Us' tab (in the upper right hand corner of this screen) to get in touch with your OCTA officers.

OCTA MEMBER RESOURCE 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:** Gretchen Coakley **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.

