

# OCTA Advocate

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



November 2020

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**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
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**November 17th is School-Related Professional (SRP) Day!** It is a well-deserved honor for the hard-working women and men who are the heartbeat of our schools. SRPs educate, transport, feed and nurse our students, administer school offices and maintain school facilities -- all of which provide a safe and nurturing environment for student-centered learning. They work tirelessly throughout the day -- often beginning the day before sunrise to prepare our school buses and as school buildings for students.

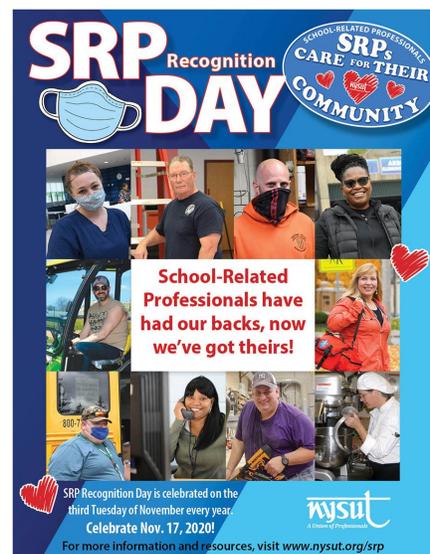
**Who are SRPs?** We are your school bus drivers and attendants, cafeteria workers, teaching assistants and aides, school nurses, maintenance and grounds keepers, clerical and support staff in your schools. As you go about your day today, please say thank you to the SRPs that you encounter (we are everywhere!).

Also, if you can get your hands on an SRP magnet, put it on in support of these professionals who help educate, feed, transport and keep our children safe and healthy.

[Thank you SRPs! Our schools would not be the same without you!](#)

In Solidarity,

The Oswego Classroom Teachers' Association



## OMS physical education teacher in this month's OCTA Spotlight!!!



Brad Shannon has been a Physical Education Teacher and Coach in the Oswego City School District for over 20 years. During that time he has always modeled a commitment to hard work and dedication to a job well done – he is a great role model for his students and his peers.



A visit to Brad's classroom is always an exciting one! Students in his class are highly engaged and happy -- and he is always right in the middle of everything! Along with all of his work in the classroom Brad is also a Coach for several Modified Teams including: Cross Country, Girls and Boys Basketball and Softball. He was also an instructor in the new OMS Intramurals program during the 2019 – 2020 Schoolyear. Brad is a positive force at OMS and is always willing to lend a hand; he is a member of several committees and has taken on a leadership role in the OMS Physical Education Department.

During this virtual/remote learning time a visit to Mr. Shannon's Google Classroom will find a variety of activities including Golf 'Lessons' that are led by Mr. Shannon 'out on the links' J

Without question OMS and the OCSD is lucky to have Brad aboard!

**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](mailto:drose@oswego.org). All nominees and nominators will receive a SPECIAL GIFT from OCTA! Send your nomination today!*



## New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) Benefits Presentation for OCTA

November 18, 2020 from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.



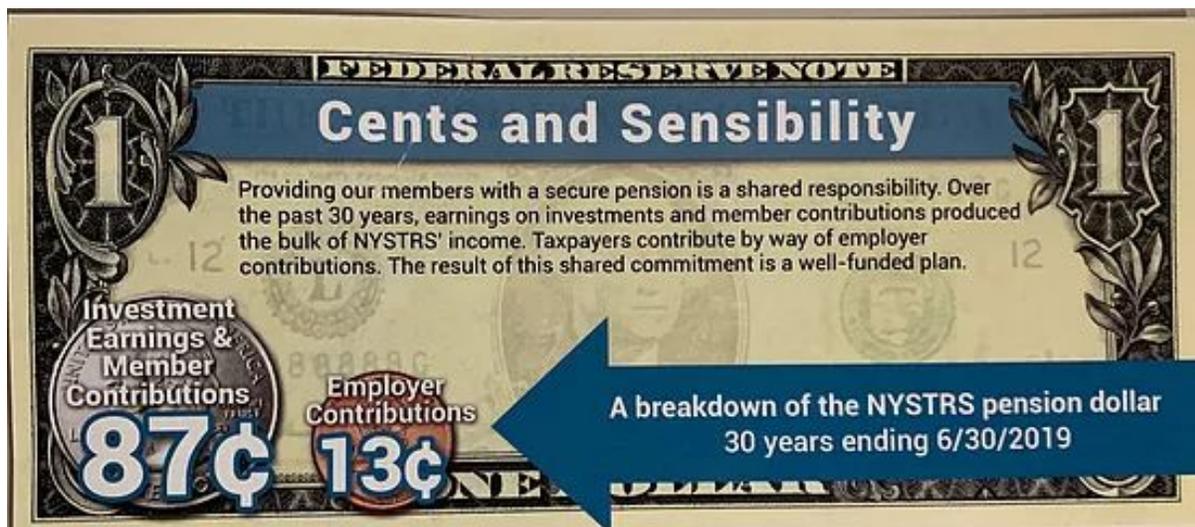
Join us for a one-hour NYSTRS Retirement Benefits session on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. when a NYSTRS Information Representative will discuss key topics you need to know.

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.

*PLEASE respond to this email to let Dan Rose know that you are interested in attending this virtual seminar. Mr. Rose will then forward you the invite for the meeting!! Thank you!*



[Learn more about the New York State Teachers Retirement System - CLICK HERE!](#)

## OCTA Christmas Fundraiser!!

**Donate \$10 for a chance to win \$50 AND Help families in need in the OCSD have a MERRY CHRISTMAS! [FACEBOOK POOL LINK](#)**

ALL of the money raised in this Money Pool will be divided up between our 7 buildings in order to help support their Holiday Drive which helps provide gifts for children in need at our schools.

Your name will be entered for EVERY \$10 you donate. (Be sure to include your name as it appears on FB or the name of the person you are sending in money for.)

Donate by 11/20 at midnight. The lucky winner will be drawn on Saturday, the 21st of November.

The winner will receive a \$50 Visa Gift Card. (This cannot be sent over school email, but please let your colleagues know about this if they are not in our OCTA FB group.) [DONATE: CLICK HERE!](#)

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November 14, 2019

## NYSUT workshops help members navigate student loan debt

Author: Sylvia Saunders

Source: NYSUT Communications



Managing student loan debt is confusing — and it can be easy to get misinformed or scammed.

To help our members get straight talk and learn about their options, NYSUT is hosting a [statewide series of student debt workshops](#) in partnership with Cambridge Credit Counseling, a non-profit debt relief agency.

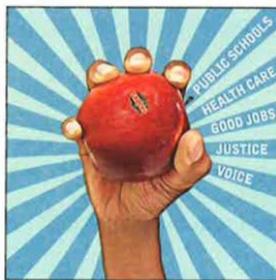
“I wish I had this five years ago,” said Saratoga Springs Teachers Association member Sherry Dorrer, who

attended an after-school workshop this week. "I've been trying to stay on top of it — but you get a different answer every time you call your loan servicer. There are so many moving parts."

Dorrer, who plans to follow up with a free one-on-one consultation with a certified student loan counselor, said she found the union's workshop extremely helpful. "I now feel like I'm on the right track to qualifying for the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program," she said. Hopefully, she only has seven more years to go.

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

**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

## Buc Strong Gift Store:

Many of you asked about offering the BUC Strong shirts for xmas shopping. This link will be open through CYBER MONDAY (Nov 30th) They will be distributed to your buildings again once they come in. I expect them to be in your buildings the Monday before Xmas.

<https://holidayocta.itemorder.com/>

## MASK ONLY Store (for pick up):

IF you are ONLY looking for a mask and you cannot wait until Xmas, you can place a PICK UP order. The MASK ONLY store is open until Dec 31st. They will let you know when your order is ready for pick up at the B&T store in Fulton. These will NOT be delivered to your building.

<https://maskonly.itemorder.com/>

NEW OPTIONS: Under Armour / OCTA & BUC 3 ply mask: <https://holidayocta.itemorder.com/sale>



B-CORE 3-PLY MASK OCTA LOGO  
\$10.00

B-CORE 3-PLY MASK BUC logo  
\$10.00



Under Armour Men's Hustle Fleece  
Hoodie OCTA Logo  
\$50.00

Under Armour Men's Locker Tee 2.0 Ls  
OCTA Logo  
\$34.50

Under Armour Men's Locker Tee 2.0  
Short Sleeve OCTA Logo  
\$31.00

## Special Mary Kay discounts for OCTA Members!!!!

Save 30% (plus NO tax or shipping charges) Use this link or click on the image below . . . Be sure to identify which building you work in for order delivery.

<http://www.marykay.com/mrspatane>



### Introducing the NYSUT COVID Tracker website

No matter where in the state you are or what your district's reopening plan is, everyone deserves to feel safe at work. That's why we are launching the [NYSUT COVID Tracker](#) website and encouraging NYSUT members to [report any unsafe working conditions](#) they encounter in schools. NYSUT's COVID tracker is currently being expanded to receive safety reports from SUNY and CUNY four-year campuses and community colleges. We expect this feature to be live and accessible by the end of next week.



## **2020-2021 dues withholdings**

**Submitted by Mike Patane, OCTA Treasurer**

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.

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## **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**

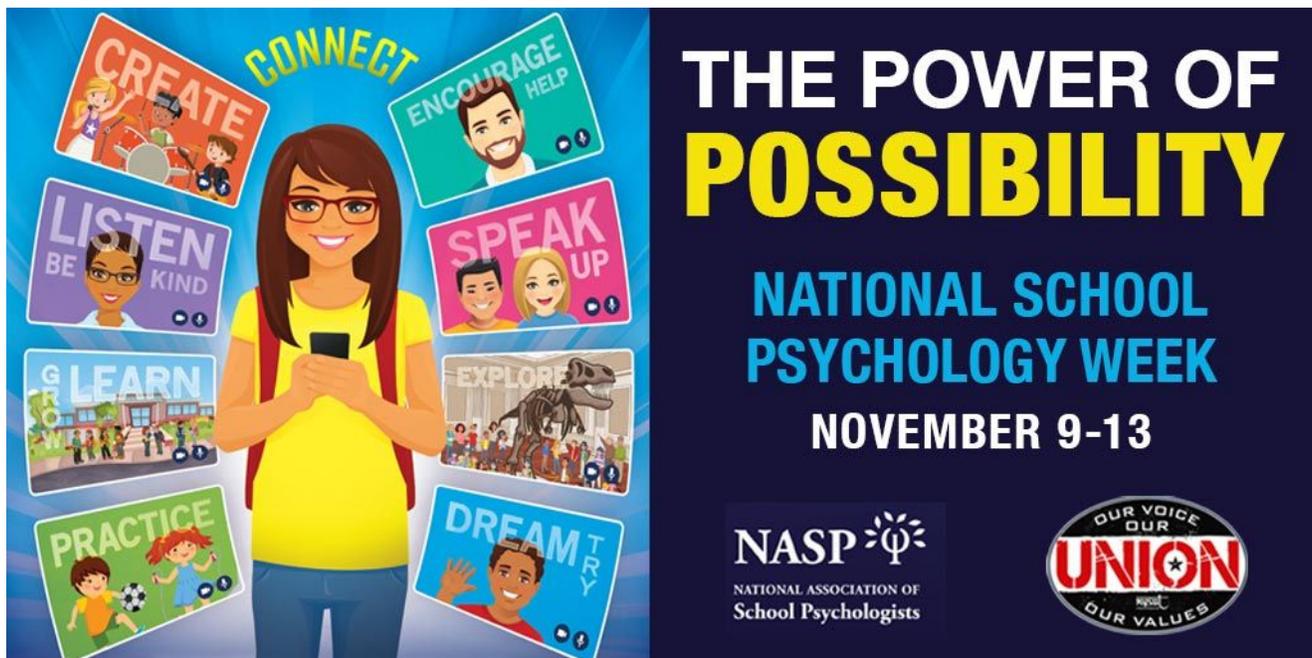


November 09, 2020

# Pandemic heightens need for school psychologists

Author: Liza Frenette

Source: NYSUT Communications



In Newburgh, school psychologist Kelly Caci is putting together an in-person and online bereavement group for students who have lost a family member or friend due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Two students lost a parent and another a coach in a community league. Students have lost grandparents and friends to the virus.

The role of school psychologists has expanded in need and importance as students struggle with drastically changed lives due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, isolation, family addiction issues, an increase in poverty, and adjusting to hybrid learning. During [National School Psychology Week Nov. 9–13](#), the spotlight is on school psychologists' heightened role and the work they do to help students thrive.

“Life is nowhere near ‘normal’ anymore. The pandemic has definitely caused an increase in anxiety and depression,” said Caci, a member of the Newburgh Teachers Association and of NYSUT’s Health Care Professionals Council. Additionally, she noted that online learning requires a lot of independence and some students struggle with that.

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

# 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](http://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

<b>OHS</b>	<b>315-341-2202</b>	<b>FLS</b>	<b>315-341-2700</b>
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	<b>FPS</b>	<b>315-341-2400</b>
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
<b>OMS</b>	<b>315-341-2300</b>	<b>MIN</b>	<b>315-341-2600</b>
Lori Bradley-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
<b>KPS</b>	<b>315-341-2500</b>	<b>CER</b>	<b>315-341-2800</b>
Mary Lynne Maxwell Pres	mmaxwell	Terri Stacy Pres	tcullens
Jessica Burr ridge Pres	jburr ridg	Teddy Beers VP	tbeers
Hope Mazuroski	hmazuros	Molly Clark	mclark2
Carolyn Slobodian	cslobodi	Holly Deban	hbabcock
Gretchen Coakley	gcoakley	Ann Jadus	ajadus
<b>Sub President- Ed Stacy</b>	<b>Sub Co Vice Presidents - Meg McLaughlin &amp; Beth McCrobie</b>		

# SRP Recognition DAY



**School-Related Professionals have had our backs, now we've got theirs!**



SRP Recognition Day is celebrated on the third Tuesday of November every year.  
**Celebrate Nov. 17, 2020!**



For more information and resources, visit [www.nysut.org/srp](http://www.nysut.org/srp)

# Come to us for the savings...



# Come back for our financial services



To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://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.



## 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

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with links for Home, Officer Updates, Benefits, Newsletter, Photo Gallery, and Helpful Information. Below the menu is a tagline "Educating Everyone Takes Everyone" and a "QUICK LINKS!!" section with buttons for "OCTA CONTRACT" and "BUILDING OFFICER LIST". A yellow "Contact Us" button is also present. The main content area features a circular logo for the Oswego Classroom Teachers' Association, a welcome message, and a prominent blue button for the "OCTA MEMBER RESOURCE GUIDE".

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!

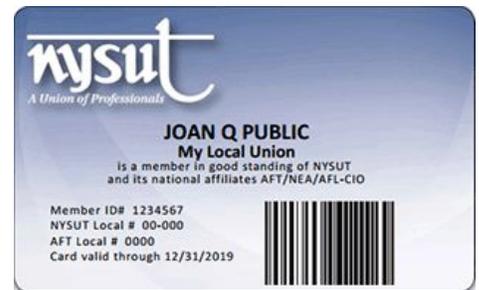
To the right, you will find the brand new OCTA Resource Guide full of useful information related to your union and your contract! Feel free to browse and read at your leisure. Have a question and don't know who to ask? Use the yellow 'Contact Us' tab (in the upper right hand corner of this screen) to 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

