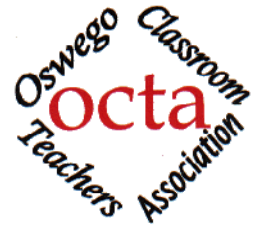


# OCTA Advocate

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



## April 2021

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Carrie Patane  
OCTA President



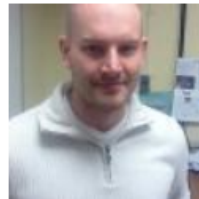
Kim LeRoy  
VP Grievance



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:



As we all move into the final stretch of another challenging school year, we must remember that solidarity is more important than ever in order to preserve and protect our extended family. Unions depend on each and every member working TOGETHER to advocate for and defend our basic human rights like living wages, safe workplaces, a secure retirement, and protections against discrimination.

We must continue to hold strong.

We must not be discouraged. As difficult as it may be some days, we must continue to stay positive for our students, as they take their cues from us. We are tired, we are worn. Remember, though: Our students are tired and worn, too. Please keep this in mind as we assign work during these final two months of the school year.

Allow time to yourself to recharge over the extended Memorial Day weekend; time to slow down, to store some energy, to reflect, to balance.

As you probably heard, the [President of the Syracuse Teachers Association, Mr. William Scott, passed away](#) suddenly and unexpectedly this past weekend. This shook me to the core and reminded me that no one is invincible. No matter how important the work, no matter how essential the task, we MUST take time for ourselves and our families and allow our students to have the opportunities to do the same.

On a final note, please remember to participate in this year's budget and Board of Education vote. Visit the [OCTA Facebook Page](#) for voting information, times and dates as they become available.

Be mindful, make memories, and show kindness each day.

In solidarity,

Carrie

## Minetto TA in the OCTA SPOTLIGHT!



Sari "Stephanie" Spedding (pictured: far right) is a veteran teaching assistant at Minetto Elementary who will be retiring at the end of this school year. Steph works with an unmatched diligence and patience. An integral member of the grade-level team of which she is a part, Steph is a hard worker who goes above and beyond to make her students' school experience the best it can be. She is kind, composed, and caring in her interactions with students and staff and she has a magical way of connecting with anyone around her. Thank you to Steph for all the years of hard work and dedication given to Minetto and the Oswego City School District. We will miss you dearly, Stephanie, but wish you all the best!!



**Do you know an OCTA member who works hard at what they do?**

**Someone whose efforts seem to go unnoticed?** 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!*



NYSTRS.org

**New York State Teachers' Retirement System**

## Get involved in OCTA by becoming an OCSD Retirement Delegate!

Retirement Delegates from all New York State districts meet at the NYSTRS annual convention in Saratoga Springs, NY each year. If you become a OCSD retirement delegate, you will have the opportunity to attend this annual meeting and become well versed in the areas of retirement and retirement related benefits. You will also serve as a liaison between OCTA members and the New York State Teachers Retirement System.

Delegates serve a 2 year term. Elections happen every odd year and must take place from March 1- June 1. Names must be submitted by July 1. Please send your name along to [drose@oswego.org](mailto:drose@oswego.org) if you are interested in this important position. If no names are put forth, current delegates will be reelected for a 2 year term.

## **OCTA Newsblast April 2021**

*Highlights from our April 2021 OCTA Meeting*



**Do not move/share technology** (including computers, phones, printers, or other devices). Everything is logged and installed the way it needs to be. If we make a change to our tech it can cost the tech dept. hours to track the part or remedy the solution if you have modified something. (The issue has continued to where CSEA members have gone to Jim and Kelly with sincere complaints about the impact on their job duties and their ability to appropriately complete their assignments.)

[ELT Courses for PD](#) - Click on the link to view **PD courses**. Most of the courses are free to the first 15 people who register.

NOTE: Nysut recently reported that they have heard Boces is contesting unemployment claims for summer school for those who put in claims in the Summer of 2020.

New DOH Guidance 4/9:

[https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Pre-K\\_to\\_Grade\\_12\\_Schools\\_MasterGuidance.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Pre-K_to_Grade_12_Schools_MasterGuidance.pdf)

- CDC update was 3/19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>

Please make sure you are following cleaning guidance for equipment use in P.E. classes or during outdoor activities. All guidance regarding cleaning is on page 16 in the guidance.

\*Negotiations Chair- There has been a nomination to fill the position of Negotiations Chair with Jessica Burridge from KPS.

\*Thank you for the Stuff A bus Jeans Week support. \$1725 was raised for Stuff a Bus.

**\*Wellness incentive- Please take a look at the Wellness Incentive and take part in what Aetna is offering.** Complete "JOURNEYS" to win prizes! [Member, Employer, Agent/Broker & Provider Login](#)

\*ENV Person reached out to Aetna and they are having regular meetings to keep issues at bay. Please reach out to Melissa and Heidi if you are having concerns. Also notify Kim LeRoy or Mike Patane as they sit on the health committee.

\*Dental Open Enrollment will be at the end of May. Stay tuned for more information.

**\*Due to CDC and NYS guidance for gatherings, etc. and in order to prevent illness or exposures, we will NOT be holding our Annual Volleyball Tourney this year**



## OCTA Officer Elections in May!!!!

**Want to get actively involved in the OCTA? Feel like you could make a difference?**

**All enrolled, active OCTA members are eligible to run for three OCTA officer positions up for election this year:**

- Negotiations Chair - Gretchen Coakley
- Internal Public Relations - Dan Rose
- OCTA Treasurer - Mike Patane

Elections will take place during the month of May. All positions are filled for a two-year term (September 2021-June 2023).

**Please see your building president if interested in running or email [drose@oswego.org](mailto:drose@oswego.org) for more information. Jessical Burrridge was nominated for the position of Negotiations Chair at our last meeting. If there are no additional nominations, the secretary will cast one vote for all unopposed positions at our May meeting.**

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[Mobile app](#)
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## Looking for a dentist?

Find in-network dentists in your area by using your current location or entering a ZIP code manually.

Don't know which plan you have? [Sign in to your account](#), check your Delta Dental ID card or contact your Delta Dental Company.

Delta Dental Medicare Advantage and Delta Dental Patient Direct coverage are not available in all 50 states.

Search by current location:

☒ Yes
 ☐ No

### Why choose an in-network dentist?

[Read more](#)

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## Cost matters

How much is it going to cost? Want to know before you set foot in the dentist's office? Get started here.

Our Dental Care Cost Estimator provides estimated cost ranges for common dental care needs.

Sign in to get a more accurate range that includes in-network savings.

[Submit](#)

The Dental Care Cost Estimator provides an estimate and does not guarantee the exact fees for dental procedures, what dental benefits your plan will cover, or your out-of-pocket costs. Estimates should not be construed as financial or medical advice. For more detailed information on your dental care costs, please consult your dentist or your Delta Dental.



### How often should I visit the dentist?

[Read more](#)[Company info](#)[Press center](#)[Smile power](#)[Tools](#)[Follow us](#)

## Test your teeth and bone strength

How much emphasis do you put on your oral health?\*

- ☐ I brush at least twice a day, floss daily and visit my dentist regularly.
- ☐ I occasionally skip a brushing or flossing session and a dental appointment.
- ☐ My routine is sporadic and it's been more than a year since I've seen the dentist.

*FACT: Bone loss and tooth loss are linked. Osteoporosis — a weakening of the bones — can cause tooth loss when the jawbone becomes less dense.*

## OCTA DENTAL RATES 2021 - 2022

**Stay tuned for specific information about open enrollment.**

**If you do not want to change your current plan, you do not need to do anything.**

OCTA Dental Premiums 2021-2022		
Coverage	Per pay period deduction (21 pay periods)	Total Deduction for School Year
Individual	\$2.00	\$42.00
Member + 1	\$25.00	\$525.00
Family	\$50.00	\$1,050.00
Two in Unit (family coverage)	\$25.00	\$525.00

**The OCTA Member Resource Guide! Your one-stop shop for all things OCTA!!**



## Resource Guide

2020-2021

Contract Language valid through June 2020

**\*\*Join the OCTA Facebook Page..... Search OCTA and send a request for approval\*\***

**[CLICK HERE TO READ THE RESOURCE GUIDE IN ITS ENTIRETY!!!!](#)**

Flex Spending  
Prescription Drugs  
Member Benefits  
Mentoring  
Dress Code  
Bereavement

Cancer Screening  
Snow Days  
Social Media  
Sick Bank  
Maternity Leave  
Work Day

Paycheck  
Investments  
Evaluations  
Electronic Forms  
Student Teachers  
Substitut

# HOW TO FREEZE YOUR CREDIT



## In a Nutshell

To help stop fraudsters from opening new financial accounts in your name, you may want to consider a credit freeze, which prevents new creditors from accessing your credit reports. It's not hard to freeze your credit, but it doesn't happen automatically.

Freezing your credit is usually easy and helps keep criminals from opening fraudulent credit accounts in your name. [READ THE FULL ARTICLE: CLICK HERE!](#)

# MARY KAY®

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## Mother's Day MARY KAY Friends and Family discount!

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NO SHIPPING

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[www.marykay.com/mrspatane](http://www.marykay.com/mrspatane) - be sure to identify the building you work in.





April 22, 2021

## 'Courageous conversation' and listening important tools to combat racism

Source: NYSUT Social Justice

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- **NOTE:** We encourage webinar participants to [register for one of three small-group follow-up discussions](#) in May.

The death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer placed America at a turning point. It forced the nation to confront the prevalence of societal racism and the need for an ongoing conversation about how to make things better.

Learning how to constructively have those conversations was the focus of “Courageous Conversation: The Art of Listening, Mercy and Change,” the April event in NYSUT’s ongoing Many Threads, One Fabric social justice series.

J. Philippe Abraham, NYSUT secretary treasurer, leads the series and NYSUT President Andy Pallotta thanked him for his efforts. “This is bold, powerful work at a difficult time,” he said. “This is work you were born to do.” [READ THE REST: CLICK HERE](#)

## Legal or financial concerns? NYSUT Member Benefits can help

Whether it's assisting NYSUT members with everyday essentials, important choices about insurance needs, or making prudent decisions about financial and legal concerns, NYSUT Member Benefits can help.



**Scan the QR codes below to learn more about the following endorsed programs and services.**

**Legal Service Plan:** For a low annual price, our Legal Service Plan provides unlimited toll-free legal advice; a simple will, health care proxy, living will and power of attorney; and guaranteed maximum fees for many legal matters. If a NYSUT member who is a current participant in the Legal Service Plan passes away due to COVID-19, the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco has offered to extend a number of services at no cost to the member's family.



SCAN ME

### Financial Learning Center:

We recently contracted with popular financial publisher Kiplinger's Personal Finance for our new Financial Learning Center. This interactive microsite offers numerous articles on a wide variety of financial topics, including selecting the best value in tax planning software and more. No matter your point in life or financial situation, you are sure to find something of interest.



SCAN ME

**Mid-Island Mortgage:** With our UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program presented by Mid-Island Mortgage, NYSUT members receive special purchase and refinancing mortgage discounts for a variety of home-related needs. Whether you're looking to buy a home, lower your mortgage payment or planning a home improvement project, Mid-Island Mortgage can help you save up to \$2,700 on lender fees and closing costs.



SCAN ME

### Cambridge Credit

**Counseling:** Our program with Cambridge Credit Counseling can assist NYSUT members with better understanding their student loan re-payment and debt consolidation options. NYSUT members can receive a no-cost, no-obligation, consultation with a Cambridge certified counselor. Cambridge is also the provider of NYSUT's Student Loan Debt Webinars.



SCAN ME

**NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of programs and services that are available to NYSUT members and their families, including the following options:**



DINING &  
SHOPPING  
DISCOUNTS



TRAVEL  
&  
TOURS



CAR &  
TRUCK  
RENTALS



LIFE  
INSURANCE



AUTO  
&  
HOME



LONG-TERM  
CARE &  
DISABILITY

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.

## 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

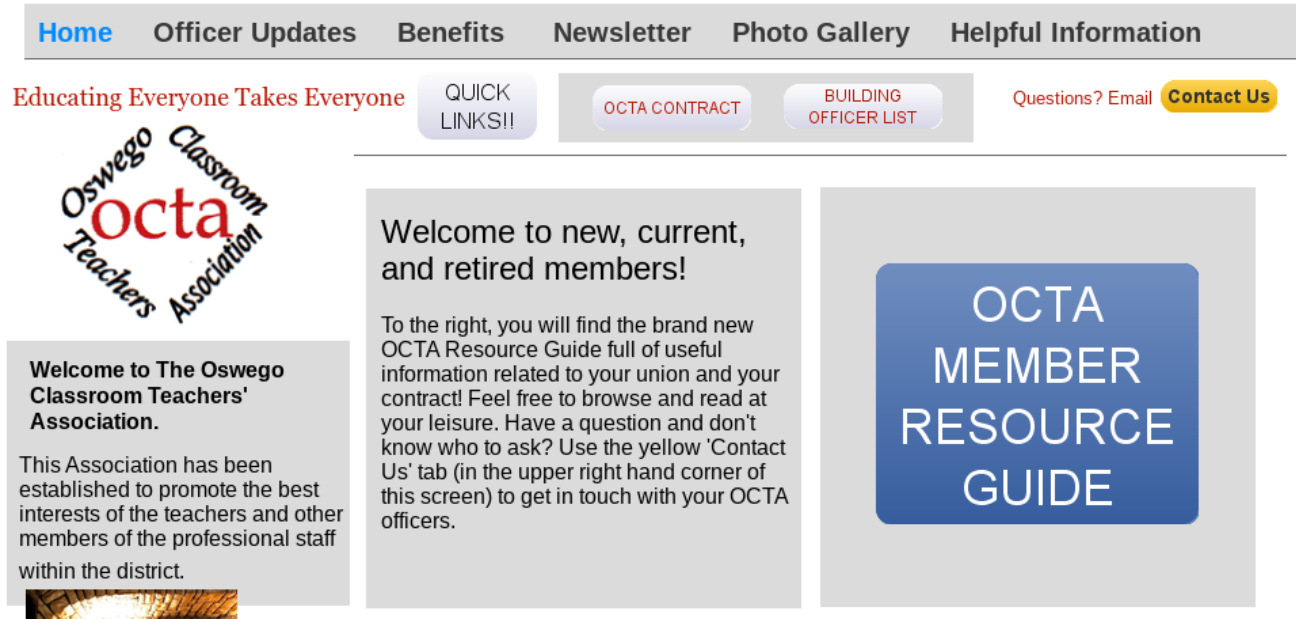
## Building Officers and Representatives 2020-2022

<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	gcanale	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 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
<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 Burrridge Pres	jburridg	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>		

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

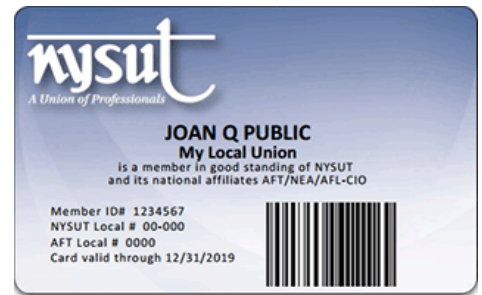
Click on the screenshot of the homepage below to explore the site! Find quick links to important union documents like the new OCTA Contract, the OCTA building officer list, and the new OCTA resources guide!

### 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 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.

