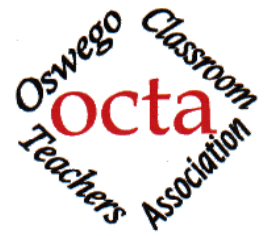


OCTA Advocate

A newsletter for members, retired members, friends and supporters of the Oswego

Classroom Teachers Association

May 2019



May 22, 2019

Voters approve 98 percent of school budgets statewide

Source: NYSUT Media Relations

ALBANY, N.Y. May 22, 2019 —

Voters across New York displayed their pride in their public schools Tuesday by approving 98 percent of school budgets, according to a preliminary estimate by the New York State United Teachers. Voters also elected 29 NYSUT members to school board seats in districts around the state.



“Parents and community members showed their commitment to strong public education by resoundingly approving school budgets statewide in near-unanimous fashion yet again and electing to school boards educators dedicated to serving their area’s students,” NYSUT President Andy Pallotta said. “At a time when resources have been limited, it has never been more important for voters to stay engaged in and support our public school students and their dedicated teachers.”

(Read the rest [CLICK HERE!](#))

OCTA SPOTLIGHT

Y`miAcl `YnžU) H [fUXY`hYUW Yf`Uhi?]b[gZcfX` DUf_`9`Ya YbHfmiGW cc` has done outstanding work integrating technology into her literacy instruction. She has most recently been working to teach her students coding, explaining how this technology can benefit their academic future. Kelly goes above and beyond to create engaging lessons that will motivate and inspire the young scholars in her classroom.



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more! She not only services students for RTI reading, but she is also the advisor for Student Council. She meets with Student Council before school, organizes many activities, fundraisers and events with these students and teaches them how to be strong leaders. Jenn helps organize the Leighton Carnival and heads up the Talent Show. These are huge undertakings that she carries out with ease. Jenn tutors students over the summer and even works with former students who are now in middle and high school.

Jenn's strength and resiliency are admirable. She is a dependable colleague and we are so thankful to learn from her both as an educator and as a human being.

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Trina Mills runs the OHS Social Fund, which recognizes life changing events in our lives.

She is always trying to build a sense of community in our school. She does this by organizing monthly breakfasts, bldg wide BINGO events, surprise treats throughout the year, welcome back notes and other holiday "gifts." She also helps organize the end of the year picnic with OCTA.



Trina works hard, with no expectation for reward or thanks, to make OHS a better place. In a building that is so big, Trina Mills makes the world a little closer and nicer.

OCTA Dental Plan Spring 2019

Open Enrollment

Monday June 3rd

Thursday June 6th

Wednesday June 12th

2:45 until 5:00 at the

OCTA Office

122 A West 2nd Street, Oswego

If you have any questions or you would like to verify who is enrolled on your coverage or what level coverage you have please contact Patrick Armet at

octadentalplan@gmail.com

(See below for 2019 rate information)

OCTA Dental Plan (Delta Dental)

Open Enrollment Information –June 2019

1. **If the personal information for yourself and any dependents is correct and you do not want to change your enrollment you do not need to do anything, it will stay the same for next year.**
2. There is a slight increase in premiums for family and two in unit. The reason for this increase is we have seen an increase in claims, creating an 8.7% increase in recommend premiums for family and two in unit. The plan is using reserves to offset some of this increase and to keep individual and member +1 premiums the same as the current year.

OCTA Dental Premiums 2019-2020		
Coverage	2018-2019 Premiums Effective 9/1/18 (per payroll/year)	2019-2020 Premiums Effective 9/1/19 (per payroll/year)
Individual	\$5.00/\$105.00	\$5.00/\$105.00
Member + 1	\$25.00/\$525.00	\$25.00/\$525.00
Family	\$45.89/\$963.69	\$48.00/\$1,008.00
Two in Unit (family coverage)	\$22.94/\$481.74	\$24.00/\$504.00

3. If you are a new enrollment or if you are increasing your coverage (example: individual to family) and want the coverage/change to take place July 1st you will need to bring a check to open enrollment to pay the premiums for July and August.

Otherwise enrollment will start September 1st with premiums paid by payroll deduction.

4. Dependents are automatically covered up to age 26. If you want to remove a dependent before they turn age 26 you must notify the plan to make the change.
5. You can contact Patrick Armet at octadentalplan@gmail.com if you cannot make it to one of the available dates. You will need to meet in person to complete required forms.
6. Retirees are eligible to remain enrolled in the OCTA Dental Plan. Premiums are different for retirees. If you know any current retirees who are interested in joining the plan please have them contact Patrick Armet at octadentalplan@gmail.com

15th Annual O.C.T.A. CHARITY VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

JUNE 21st from 3:30 until 8ish

Rain date: NONE – Go hang out in the bar and visit!

@ CHEAP SEATS!

Friday, June 14th: TEAM NAMES/ROSTERS/COLORS and MONEY -FIRM DEADLINE
By this date, team rosters and \$5 from each player are due. **MONEY DEADLINE! FIRM!!**
Last chance to edit the roster. If players are added after the 14th the team forfeits the match.

There will be a captains meeting **at 4pm @ Cheap seats (6/14)** \$ collection and tournament seeds.

Friday, June 21st: SHOW TIME!!! Have some fun - Arrive early to eat free food, “check out the competition” and mingle with colleagues.

The contest begins at 3:30 and should be finished around 8ish.



Protect Your Loved Ones with Union-Endorsed Benefits

Insurance... It's often the type of product you hope to never have to utilize. In the event you do need it, though, it's important to have the insurance product that best meets your needs and those of your loved ones.

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses a variety of **crucial insurance programs** that provide important protection for NYSUT members and their families, including life, auto and home, disability, long-term care, dental and vision plans, and more.

The Power of the Union

Regardless of whether you're participating in one of our endorsed insurance programs; legal or financial services; or many shopping, entertainment or travel offerings, NYSUT members receive a quality product and enjoy the **"Power of the Union"** behind them.

The **"Power of the Union"** should serve as a steadfast reminder to all NYSUT members that we are your advocate. Unlike when purchasing products available to the general public, NYSUT Member Benefits is here for you if ever have any issues or concerns with our endorsed programs. You aren't just a member to us... you are part of our union family.

Member Benefits is here to offer assistance with the student loan crisis. Visit our website for more information.

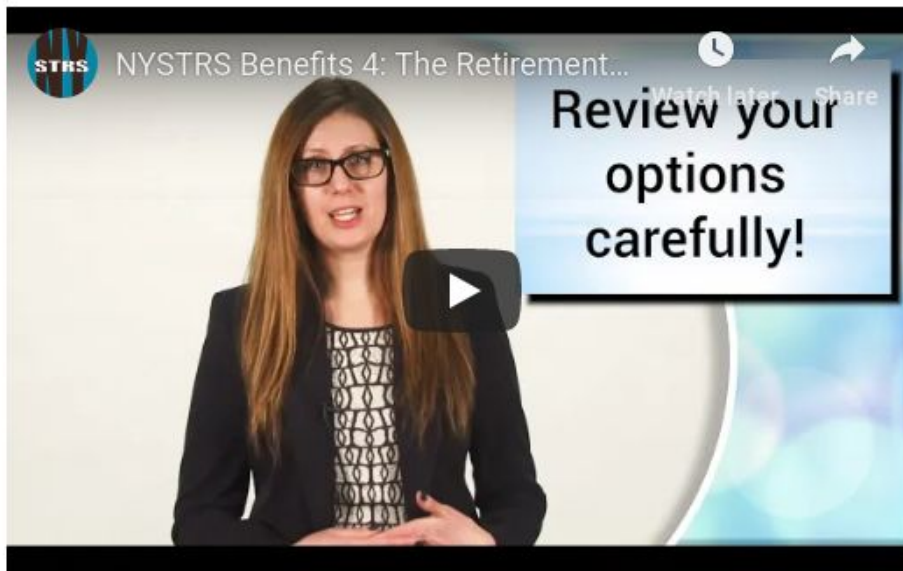


To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.

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

Getting Ready to Retire? These videos can help you prepare . . .
(click on image to watch video)

NYSTRS Benefits Pt. 4: The Retirement Process



Run Time:

7 minutes

[Download Transcript](#) →

IMPORTANT BENEFIT AVAILABLE TO ALL OCTA MEMBERS!!!!

Long Term Disability is a benefit to OCTA members and currently isn't offered through the portal. If anyone would like to enroll, please complete the attached form and send it back to me by June 15th.

As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me (Melissa Syrell) via email or at x2023.

[Sun Life Info](#)

[LTD Enrollment Form](#)

MUST READS!!! (Explore the latest UNION NEWS)



1. GETTING READY TO RETIRE? Go to PREP (Pension & Retirement Education Program) seminar!!!

Many retirees wish they began focusing on financial and retirement planning much earlier in their lives. The truth is: No matter how far along you are in your career, careful financial and retirement planning are critical.

PREP is designed to help members of all ages prepare for retirement. PREP is structured to allow you to tailor the program to fit your needs. Stay for the entire seminar (see the full [agenda](#)) or just the modules below that would be of greatest significance to you.

[Click HERE for the 2019 summer PREP Schedule!](#)

2. Personnel Documents Available on your Google Team Drive

This is a friendly reminder that all Personnel forms (sick bank, cancer screening, FMLA, etc.) and contracts (OCTA, OCTA II, CSEA) are located on the [Google Team Drive](#) for your convenience. When you go to Google drive, the Team Drives are listed on the left under My Drive. Choose the Personnel Office to access all forms and contracts. You should also have access to your building files as well as other offices.

Meghan Wilson

Personnel - Senior Typist

Extension 7026

(315) 341-2009

GET INVOLVED!!!!



OCTA's Adopt -a- Highway Walk will be Wednesday, June 6th @ 4:00!

We will meet in the High School parking lot (Utica Street side) at 4:00. This whole operation should not take more than an hour. Please let me know if you will be attending. **BRING A PAIR OF GLOVES!!**

Email mmcmanu2@oswego.org

The 2019 OCTA Scholarship Committee selected 19 recipients of this year's Scholarship.

Below are recipients of the 2019 OCTA Scholarship:

Andrew Baker, Nicholas Brown, Monica Cahill, Joan Carroll, Alec Caroccio, Allison Choate, Anthony DiBlasi, Huckabee Fitzgerald, Willow Su Knapp, Kelly Lizotte, Elyse Maniccia, Julia May, Drake Morgia, Dane Richardson, Logan Shepardson, Keegan Thompson, Sophia Throop, Thomas Wallace, Samuel Woods

OCTA Leadership In Albany for 2019 NYSUT Representative Assembly



(PICTURED: OCTA VPs Mike Patane, Kim LeRoy and Dan Rose pose with OCTA President Carrie Patane in Albany last month)

From student testing and school bus safety to farmworker rights, Representative Assembly delegates approved a wide variety of resolutions that will guide the union's work in the coming year.

In convention action Saturday, RA delegates approved 30 resolutions and two special orders of business. Other proposals were withdrawn, defeated or referred to the Board of Directors. After a [passionate speech by NYSUT Executive Vice President Jolene DiBranco](#), delegates unanimously approved a special order of business calling on the Board of Regents to demand that Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia and the State Education Department finally fix the state's broken standardized testing system. (See related story: [Delegates call on Regents to direct State Education commissioner to overhaul testing system.](#))

[\(READ MORE CLICK HERE!!\)](#)

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.

