

OCTA Advocate

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



April 2022

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Carrie Patane
OCTA President



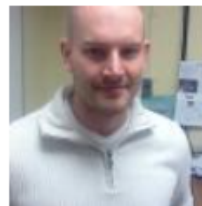
Kim LeRoy
VP Grievance



Jess Burrridge
VP Negotiations



Jenn Cahill
VP Pol. Action



Mike Patane
Treasurer



Michelle McManus
Secretary



Dan Rose
VP Newsletter

Message from your OCTA President, Carrie Patane:



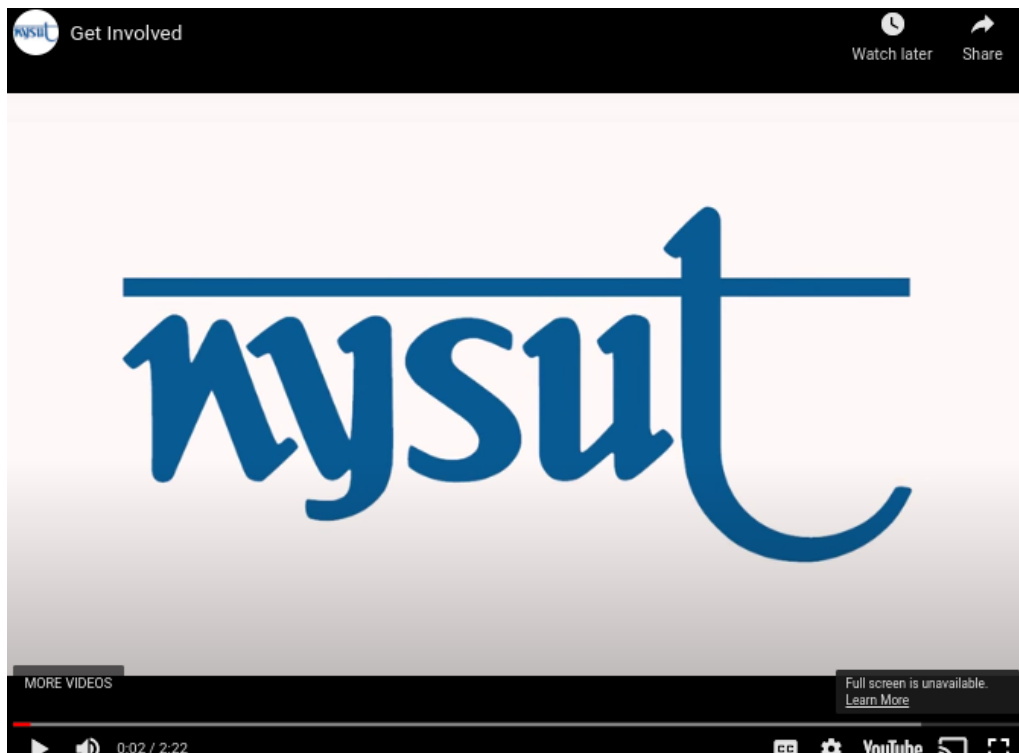
Every year, the [New York State United Teachers](#) meets in Albany at the rep assembly (RA) to debate and vote on policy, amendments to the constitution and proposed resolutions. All local and affiliated unions across the state send representatives to be a part of this integral process. This year, the [OCTA](#) sent Dan Rose and Kim LeRoy to fulfill this important yearly duty.

If you do not already know, [NYSUT](#) consists of more than 600,000 people who work in, or are retired from, New York's schools, colleges, and healthcare facilities. They are classroom teachers, college and university faculty and professional staff, school bus drivers, custodians, secretaries, cafeteria workers, teacher assistants and aides, nurses and healthcare technicians.

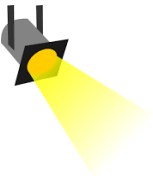
[NYSUT](#) is a federation of more than 1,200 local unions (including your [OCTA](#)), each representing its own members. [NYSUT](#) is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers ([AFT](#)) and the National Education Association ([NEA](#)). They are also part of organized labor - the [AFL-CIO](#) - and of Education International, with more than 20 million members world wide.

The [OCTA](#) is so proud to be a part of this interconnected, thriving labor movement.

The labor movement in this country has a long, rich history - as does the labor movement in New York State. Take some time this month to watch the video below and explore [NYSUT's](#) website to learn more about the labor movement of which you are a part!



In solidarity,
Carrie



Recognize any of your colleagues in this month's OCTA SPOTLIGHT? Click on the image below to read all about these amazing OCTA members and education advocates!!

OCTA SPOTLIGHT

The Oswego Classroom Teachers Association is proud to announce the recipients of the April SPOTLIGHT! Congratulations to all of the winners, you deserve the honor.



Sandra Rookey worked at Minetto for over 20 years, most of her career was spent in kindergarten.

Kathy Audlin works tirelessly to help our high school students be successful both in the classroom and out.

Meghan Harrison started teaching in public schools in January of 2008, however, she took 2 years off to be the Humane Education Manager for Lollypop Farm, the Humane Society of Greater Rochester.

Shannon Isham has been teaching for 14 years now. Her favorite part of teaching is seeing the kids happy and taking a few moments in the busy day to stop and have fun.

Holly Allen is in Fitzhugh Park's spotlight this month. Holly has been a teacher for 23 years.

James DeBiase is a School Counselor at Charles E. Riley Elementary.

Elisa Davis teaches 8th grade science at the Oswego Middle School.

[CLICK HERE](#) to link to the [OCTA FACEBOOK](#) page for more information on these award winners!

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. 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 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; 2022

Highlights from our April OCTA Meeting



*Volleyball- We will not be having a volleyball tournament this year. Not many people were able to attend. We are hoping to have a large OCTA gathering at La Parilla on the Water (Formerly Alex's) on June 17th. Stay tuned.

*Dental- OCTA Dental is transitioning to a new dental administrator. Heidi Sweeney will be our new administrator. She is currently working with Patrick Armet to transition into this new role. The email address will remain the same. If you have dental needs, email octadentalplan@gmail.com.

*Streaming- From Dr. Calvin

1. All K-6 students who test positive for COVID-19 will receive tutorial services throughout their quarantined period (5 days or more – dependent upon illness) instead of receiving live streamed instruction from their regular classroom teacher.
All 7-12 students who test positive for COVID-19 will continue to be livestreamed, as they have been throughout the school year. All teachers and teacher assistants who provide livestream instruction to students will be paid \$5 per period, with a maximum of \$20 per day.
2. Per the most recent - revised NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) guidance, students who have been exposed to a COVID - positive person, and are testing **NEGATIVE**, are no longer required to quarantine. They are now allowed to return to school utilizing mitigating strategies (i.e. wearing a mask). Accordingly, moving forward the district will be requiring this group of students to return to

school utilizing appropriate mitigating strategies as outlined in NYSDOH guidance. Our goal will be to keep all students in school wherever possible.

*****NOTE: Streaming Pay-** As of **Monday, April 4th** the rate of pay for streaming is \$5 per period, now with a maximum daily rate of **\$20** per day. *Any teacher (ELE or Secondary) who streamed from April 4th on can now submit an electronic form for \$20 a day!*

***Retirement**

403B webinar - April 26th! *403(b) PLANS - BASICS to SPECIFICS Tuesday, April 26, 2022 6:00 PM EST*

This webinar explains the basics of how 403(b) plans work, from tax savings to investment choices and more. Detailed information will be provided on the most utilized 403(b) providers and if applicable, the New York State Deferred 457 Compensation Plan. Specific information presented will include relevant fees, investments options, features, and more.

[REGISTER FOR RETIREMENT WEBINAR: CLICK HERE!!](#)

***Budget and BOE Election**

Heather DelConte & Lynda Sereno terms are up at the end of June. Petitions are available at EDC and are due April 27th at 5PM

jcahill@oswego.org by Thursday, April 28th. Polling Sites:

DISTRICT NO. 1

WARD 10 – (TOWN OF SCRIBA & TOWN OF VOLNEY – OSWEGO CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS ONLY)

LOCATION: SCRIBA FIRE STATION

DISTRICT NO. 2 (New Polling Location)

WARD 2 , WARD 4 AND WARD 6

LOCATION: CRISAFULLI ICE RINK

DISTRICT NO. 3

WARD 1, WARD 3, WARD 5 AND WARD 7

LOCATION: ELIM GRACE CHURCH

DISTRICT NO. 4

WARD 8 (TOWN OF MINETTO AND WARD 9 TOWN OF OSWEGO – OSWEGO CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS ONLY)

LOCATION: OSWEGO TOWN HALL

Proposition No. 1 – School Budget for 2022-2023

Shall the Board of Education adopt a budget for the Oswego City School district in the amount of \$96,920,846 for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022?



Proposition No. 2 – Purchase of Transportation Vehicles

Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Oswego (the "School District") on March 1, 2022, which authorizes:

- a) the purchase of nine (9) 64-passenger diesel C2 buses and one (1) 37-passenger/3 wheelchair diesel C2 bus, at a total combined maximum estimated cost not to exceed **\$1,303,000**;
- b) the issuance of up to \$1,303,000 serial bonds of the School District to pay the cost thereof;
- c) the pledge of School District's faith and credit for payment of bond anticipation notes and such bonds; and
- d) the levy of taxes on the taxable real property in the School District to be collected in annual installments to pay debt service on such obligations, be approved?



Proposition No. 3 Oswego City Public Library

Shall the Oswego SD Public Library Board of Trustees be authorized to levy and collect an annual tax separate and apart from the annual school district budget, in the amount of \$1,388,439 (an increase of \$27,224 for the continuing support and maintenance of the Oswego SD Public Library, with this appropriated amount to be the annual appropriation until thereafter modified by a future vote by the taxpayers of the Oswego City School District?



***Retirement:**

403B webinar - April 26th! 403(b) PLANS - BASICS to SPECIFICS

This webinar explains the basics of how 403(b) plans work, from tax savings to investment choices and more. Detailed information will be provided on the most utilized 403(b) providers and if applicable, the New York State Deferred 457 Compensation Plan. Specific information presented will include relevant fees, investments options, features, and more.

***To Report a Positive At Home COVID Test in OSWEGO COUNTY: PLEASE REPORT!!!**

https://health.oswegocounty.com/information/2019_novel_coronavirus/isolation_quarantine_guidance.php

OCSD Employee COVID Hotline: 315-341-2055

OCSD Student COVID Hotline: 315-341-2050

OCTA RESOURCE GUIDE:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kc9DjnHtYkQTqCKMI2iw4Krey8BFebZtAO5i1wM05Gs>

OCTA Elections in May!!!!

Want to get actively involved in the OCTA?
Feel like you could make a difference?
All enrolled, active OCTA members in good standing are eligible to run as building reps.
Former building reps may run for Building Presidents. Former Building Presidents can run for three OCTA officer positions up for election this year:



Officer Elections: (current members running)	Building President Elections:(current members running)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCTA President (Carrie Patane) • OCTA 2nd VP (Jessica BurrIDGE) • OCTA 4th VP (Jenn Cahill) • OCTA Secretary (Michelle McManus) 	<p>SEE LIST ATTACHED: https://docs.google.com/document/d/15NoAO8qpGs1Et7Sxwb4fOTYSm4u94lt3KyOrP_FhNA0/edit#bookmark=id.pnww2z8kqpax</p>

Elections will take place during the month of May. All positions are filled for a two-year term (September 2022-June 2024). **Please see your building president if interested in running or email drose@oswego.org for more information. If there are no additional nominations, the secretary will cast one vote for all unopposed positions at our May OCTA meeting.**

OCTA Leadership Attends NYSUT RA Convention



On April 1-2, two members of your OCTA executive board, Dan Rose and Kim LeRoy, attended the NYSUT RA Convention in Albany. It was the first in person meeting for the RA in over 2 years.

Members make their voices heard by electing local delegates who represent them at NYSUT's annual convention, the Representative Assembly. The RA is the union's highest policy-making body, except for a membership referendum. All NYSUT members are welcome to attend the annual Representative Assembly, but only duly elected and reported delegates may debate and vote on

proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, proposed resolutions and other business that might be brought before the Representative Assembly according to NYSUT Constitution and Bylaws provisions or policy.

The full power of the national labor movement was on display at the RA, and Dan and Kim felt the energy and passion from the NYSUT governing body, state leaders, teachers and union representatives. NYSUT president Andy Pallotta (pictured above with Dan and Kim) gave an impassioned opening speech about the importance of unions in education, the history of unionism, and the future of the labor movement. Want to hear Pallotta's speech and the topics which were debated and discussed this year? [Click here to read all about it!](#)



BUDGET VOTE

SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 17, 2022

Petitions for the BOE are available at EDC and are due back by April 27th at 5 PM sharp! Ms. Heather DelConte's & Ms. Lynda Sereno's terms are up at the end of June.

SUMMER PD OFFERINGS!

Please explore the [summer PD offerings](#). Summer is a great time to strengthen your teaching skills! (Click on the image below to scroll through these summer offerings).



INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS

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**

MARY KAY®

beaut^enews™

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

Orders due by MAY 8th!

**30% off all orders.
NO TAX
NO SHIPPING**



Must PICK up orders OR tell me the building you work in so I can get your order to you at work.

Order by email at cpatane@oswego.org or order online at www.marykay.com/mrspatane

Explore all your union membership has to offer!

When you're planning for the future, what's at the top of your list?

- A comfortable nest egg for retirement
- Providing for your family
- Purchasing a new home
- Home improvements
- Purchasing a new vehicle
- Travel and entertainment

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs to help turn those dreams into reality.



When it comes to saving you money, protecting your family and helping you plan for the future, NYSUT Member Benefits has a variety of programs and services to help with your goals. Whether you are just starting out on your journey, well into your career or enjoying a well-deserved retirement, there is a Member Benefits-endorsed plan that may be of assistance featuring value-added extras unavailable to the public.

Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org. There, you will find numerous tools and resources available to you as a NYSUT member – including a **Financial Learning Center** with articles designed to help educate you on financial decisions and topics. Member Benefits also endorses important **legal and financial services** along with an **online savings program** featuring some of today's most competitive interest rates.

Next up would be looking in the "Shopping, Travel & Personal" section of our site for **MB Discounts & Deals**. This program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to provide NYSUT members with exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on restaurant dine-in or take out, groceries and food delivery, clothing and shoes, hotels and flights, vehicle maintenance, and much more.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,
visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org
or calling 800-626-8101.





Dear Local Leader,

Below you will find the updated schedule for **Student Debt Webinars** that NYSUT offers to our members. Please share this information with your membership.

Below are the clinics that are currently open for registration:

- Thursday, Apr. 14 - 6:00 - 7:30 PM
- Tuesday, Apr. 26 - 4:30 - 6:00 PM
- Tuesday, May 10 - 4:30 - 6:00 PM
- Thursday, May 26 - 6:00 - 7:30 PM

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR WEBINARS](#)

Thank you.

Christopher Colabello, Regional Staff Director
New York State United Teachers
Christopher.Colabello@nysut.org
Utica Office



[NYSUT.org](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

NYSUT

800 Troy-Schenectady Road

Latham, NY 12110

United States

To update your email address, manage your preferences or to stop receiving emails from NYSUT, please [click here](#).

A Retirement Planning Webinar took place on Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Understanding the retirement plans available to you is a critical piece of proper financial planning. As education professionals, teachers or support staff, there are many different avenues to explore regarding which retirement planning strategies are best suited for your specific needs and lifestyle. The sooner you can educate yourself about the various options and strategies available to you, the more time you will have to implement them and be prepared for the type of retirement you want to live.

The webinar covered topics like:

- The nature of Retirement Plans
- The impact of a plan on your retirement
- Available program types and associated features
- Plan contribution limits
- What happens to your contributions
- What you are invested in
- The difference between the options in your plan

Sound interesting? Sound helpful? Did you miss the presentation? NO PROBLEM! Just click on the following link to view the presentation in its entirety!!

For any follow up questions, please contact one of your OCSD Retirement delegates - Dan Rose or Amy Armet.

Below please find the recorded webinar link from yesterday's presentation to provide to your members.

<https://vimeo.com/703822252/58f5bf775c>



The newly approved state budget contains several pieces of legislation that directly impact NYSTRS members. One new law allows Tier 5 and 6 members to be vested in the Retirement System with five years of service credit instead of the previously required 10 years. Another law changes guidelines on contribution rates for Tier 6 members taking on extra paid duties, and a third law extends the suspension of the retirement earnings cap for retirees returning to work at a school district or BOCES.

See the summaries below and refer to our [2022 Legislation](#) webpage for details.

The OCTA Wants YOU!!

Want to get more involved with your union? Get to know your building leadership using the chart below! Talk to your building president and get to know the responsibilities that go along with being a building representative. Your building president will submit your name for approval at the next OCTA meeting.

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

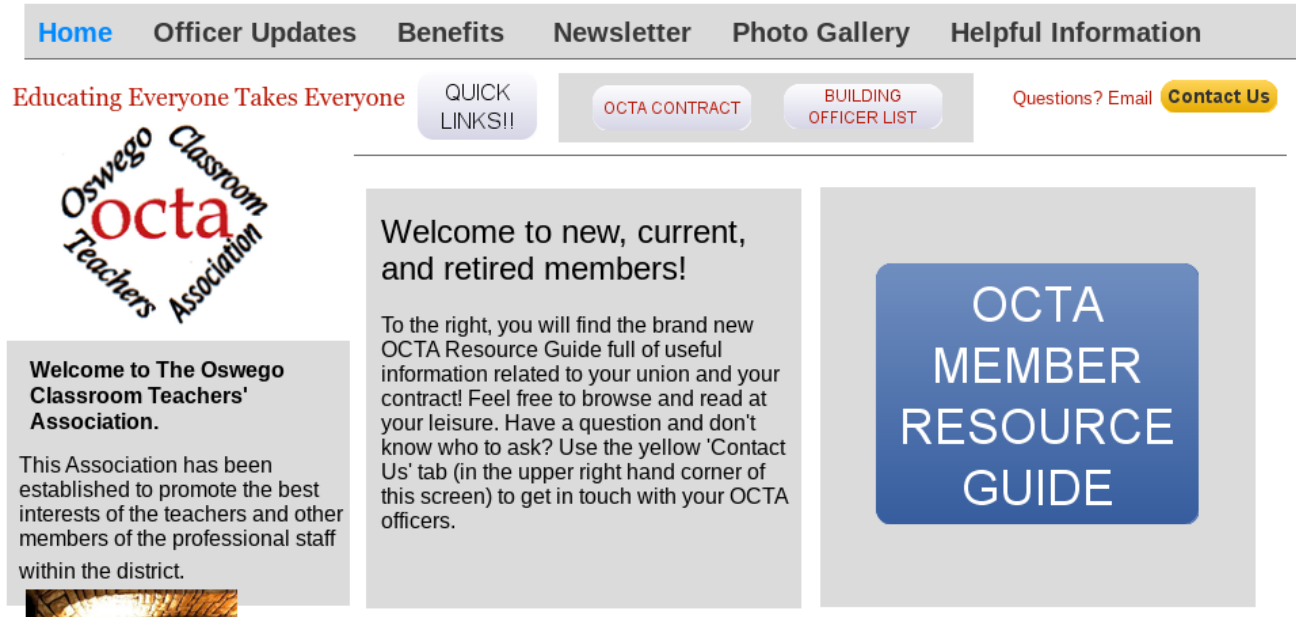
Building Officers and Representatives 2020-2022

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	gcanale	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 Burridge Pres	jburridg	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		

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

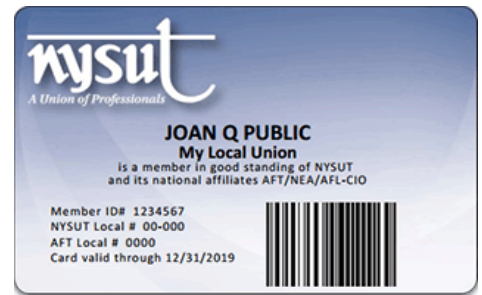
Click on the screenshot of the homepage below to explore the site! Find quick links to important union documents like the new OCTA Contract, the OCTA building officer list, and the new OCTA resources guide!

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 1st Street, Oswego, NY. **President:** Carrie Patane, **VP Grievance:** Kim LeRoy **VP Negotiations:** Jessica Burrridge **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.

