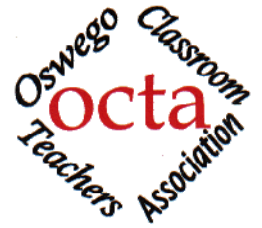


OCTA Advocate

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



May/June 2021

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 OCTA President Carrie Patane - CONTRACT UPDATE](#)

[OHS FACS Teacher in the OCTA SPOTLIGHT](#)

[May OCTA Newsblast](#)

[Wear your favorite jeans for CMOO next week!!](#)

[Dental Open Enrollment Info](#)

[OCTA DENTAL RATES 2021 - 2022](#)

[WANT TO SAVE MONEY? USE AN IN-NETWORK DENTIST](#)

[Why Do I Need to Set Up a 403B Account?](#)

[NYSUT STATEMENT ON FALL REOPENING](#)

[99% of Statewide School Budgets Pass!](#)

[NYSUT Member Benefits](#)

[Get to know your OCTA Leadership](#)

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



Carrie Patane
OCTA President



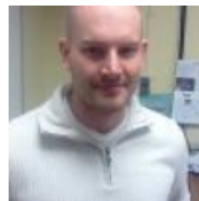
Kim LeRoy
VP Grievance



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:



Dear OCTA Brothers and Sisters,

To say that this has been a long year would be a gross understatement. Paradoxically, it is hard to believe it is already June and summer is on the horizon. In order to end this year on a positive note, I have some good news to share.

First: The OCTA will NOT be pulling dues from your final paycheck of the year (which you will receive June 18th). We recognize that, due to Covid, our expenses have been less than we typically experience and are hoping you will enjoy a little extra in your pocket to kick off your summer.

Second: Dr. Calvin and I are meeting on Friday to sign a tentative agreement and we will be able to ratify a successor contract next week! In a typical year we would require members to attend an in person meeting in order to hear the details of the pending agreement and to ask any questions you may have about the information being presented. Since nothing about this year is “typical” I ask that all members make arrangements to attend a virtual Google Meet after school on Monday, June 7th.

Secondary will meet virtually at 2:30 PM.

Elementary will meet virtually at 3:45 PM.

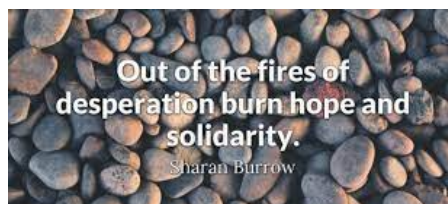
In order to help maintain confidentiality, there will be NO handouts. If you miss the meeting you will need to reach out to a member of the negotiations team so that they can answer your questions. The team will NOT answer questions over email. You will need to set up appointments or go see them in person. Contract ratifications must be completed in “good faith” and that includes maintaining confidentiality until all parties have ratified the agreement. The BOE will not ratify until AFTER we ratify our contract, so the details of our agreement must be kept confidential until AFTER the next Board of Education meeting.

WE ALL play a role in these delicate, integral procedures. WE ALL must continue to strive to be a part of the collective bargaining process by asking questions, seeking out information, understanding our contract language, and communicating with building leadership to attain optimal working conditions. We deserve it, but more than that, our students deserve it. My gratitude goes out to all of the members who volunteered to sit on this committee and dedicated many hours over the last year and a half to get us where we are today. (CER: Molly Clark; FLS: Jennifer Cahill; FPS: Laurie Kelly, Michelle Ross, Erin Wilder; KPS: Gretchen Coakley, Dr. John Garruto; MIN: Kim LeRoy; OHS: Kathleen Audlin, Barb Carroll, Stephen Defren, Carrie Patane, Stacey Van Campen; OMS: Joshua Lerch; NYSUT: Dave Derouchie)

All of this being said - I hope this puts a smile on your face as we come to a close for the 2020-2021 school year. We can feel more hopeful and assured based on the [Governor's](#) and [NYSUT's](#) messages that students need to be back full time for in person learning in the fall. Remember to take extra special care and time to recover and reflect this summer.

As Walt Whitman once wrote, “Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you.” Here's to many days of sunshine this summer reflecting not on what was, but what is to come.

In solidarity,
Carrie



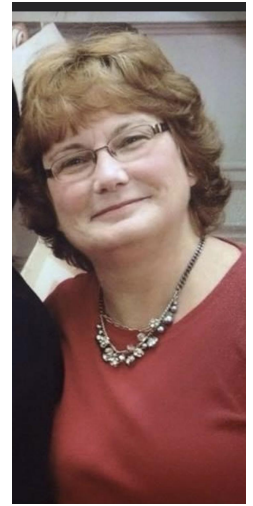
Retiring FACS Teacher in the OCTA SPOTLIGHT!



Cheryl Irwin has taught Family and Consumer Science for over 40 years in the OCSD! She is retiring this year and has deserved this honor for her countless years in the district working with colleagues and students.

Cheryl has provided so many opportunities for students to learn independent life skills, including cooking, meal planning and preparation, budgeting, lesson planning, and implementing cultures from around the world into the classroom. Additionally, she collaborates with various colleagues to discuss student success and student needs.

Congratulations, Cheryl. Enjoy the spotlight. You have earned it! Thank you for all that you do, and all that you have done for the OCSD and for the OCTA.



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!

OCTA Newsblast May 2021

Highlights from our May 2021 OCTA Meeting



***New officers elected for next year:**

1st VP: (Grievance) Kim LeRoy

2nd VP (Negotiations)Jessica Burrige**** replacing Gretchen Coakley for remaining term - 1 year

3rd VP: (Public Relations) Dan Rose

Treasurer: Mike Patane

OMS Co-Presidents: Jeff Brown, Allison Anderson, Mary Alice Steer

replacing Peg and Lori for remaining term - 1 year

***Dues HOLIDAY!!!** THE OCTA APPRECIATES YOU! Members will NOT pay dues in their final paycheck. Due to covid, our expenses for the 20-21 school year were less than "usual" and so we will use the funds we did not expend in order to pay for your NYSUT dues during the last two weeks of June. All members will have a DUES HOLIDAY in your last paycheck. Expect a nice little BONUS in your final paycheck in order to kick off Summer Break and celebrate a JOB WELL DONE!

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

NOTE: The AETNA website will be updated at the beginning of June

What you need to do by 5/31/2021:

- Download/print your health assessment results to keep this information handy. You may want to share this with your doctor or compare it to upcoming results.

- Complete any current Journeys – Once the change occurs, programs will reset. This means any incomplete Journey history will go away. Remember, you can always verify Journey completions on the Accomplishments tile of the Health Dashboard.
- Get ready to have some fun with the site.

PS

***Vote COPE:** THANK YOU!!

The OCTA won the *Dan Sanders Award Level*; thank you to everyone that contributed! Consider contributions of \$5 per paycheck for next year (or a flat rate of \$100 a year).

***Dental and Health Insurance Open Enrollment will be happening soon - STAY TUNED -**

Rates are tricky this year. We are self insured and our USAGE determines our rates. Due to Covid, things are a little difficult to project..

***NYSUT RA** - Nysut is pushing for an elimination of live streaming with students in person for 21-22.

PPT: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WSeSEcX_OiQimHP6ZLPKDSqyiug1BRxg/view?usp=sharing

***Summer School** - The district is proposing that summer school be offered 5 days a week for 6 weeks at all grade levels. The district and the association are currently negotiating rates.

***NYSUT Member Benefits**- Use the links below to see what benefits are offered to you as a member of NYSUT. Member Benefits Quick Guide link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f4PCfoeHfk42wiFK2e0Wt2dS12VDHqEa/view?usp=sharing>

***Legal Plan Brochure:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iQbTENz00V6mxIkU6JL0co4xrnHv9sar/view?usp=sharing>

OCTA RESOURCE GUIDE:

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

Building Officers

OHS- Gina Iorio
Heather Sugar
Robert Dumas

FLS- Jamie Turtura
Amy Armet

OMS- Lori Bradway Viega
Peg Holt

FPS- Jamie Brancato
Erin Wilder

KPS- Mary Lynne Maxwell
Jessica Burridge

CER- Terri Stacy
Ted Beers

MIN- Carol Janice
Amy Sullivan

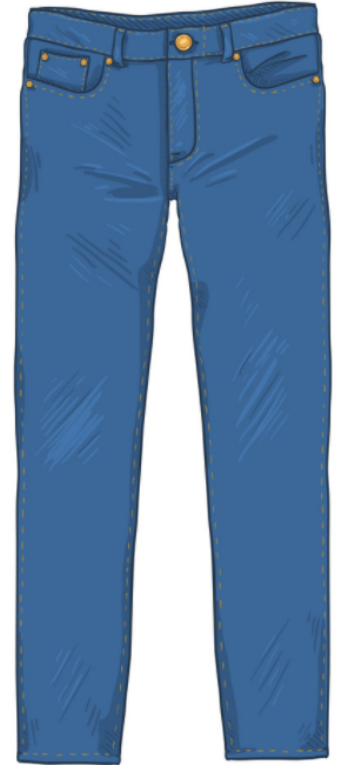
Next Week = Jeans Week for CMOO!!

I hope this email finds you all well, and that you're enjoying this weekend's gorgeous weather. **Dr. Calvin has granted us permission to host a jeans week to benefit the Children's Museum of Oswego next week!** CMOO is hoping to raise money for an outdoor interactive exhibit (I've included an attachment to help visualize).

Please consider donating \$10 for the week, or \$5 on Friday to help this organization that benefits the children in our community. Building collectors are as follows:

CER: Terri Stacy
FLS: Amy Armet
FPS: Jamie Brancato
KPS: Hope Mazuroski
MIN: Kim LeRoy
OMS: Peg Holt
OHS: Heather Sugar

Thank you all so much for your consideration.
[Click here for more information about CMOO!](#)



OCTA Dental Plan Spring 2021 Open Enrollment

Will be done through email, U.S. mail and phone calls.

Starts Tuesday 5/25/2021

Ends Friday 6/11/2021

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

315-402-6479 or octadentalplan@gmail.com

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. 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 mail in a check during open enrollment to pay the premiums for July and August. Otherwise enrollment will start September 1st with premiums paid by payroll deduction.
 3. 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.
 4. You can contact Patrick Armet at octadentalplan@gmail.com or 315-402-6479 if you have any questions.
 5. You will need to mail in or scan and email any 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 or 315-402-6479.
-

OCTA DENTAL RATES 2021 - 2022

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

Helpful OCTA Dental Forms (attached to this email):

[What documents do I need for dental open enrollment?](#)

[Dental Plan Payroll Deduction Authorization](#)

[Dental Enrollment Form](#)

Find my Delta Dental company

Find a dentist

Cost estimator

Sign in / Register

DELTA DENTAL

Insurance products

Member tools

For dentists

Employers & brokers

Oral health resources

Search



Member dashboard

Dentist finder

Cost estimator

Mobile app

Member FAQ

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.

Specialty

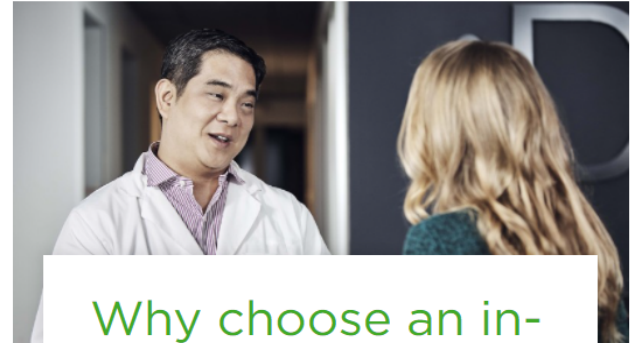


Your plan



Dentist's last name (optional)

Search by current location:

☒ Yes☐ No

Why choose an in-network dentist?

[Read more](#)

ARE YOU CLOSING IN ON RETIREMENT? Want to learn more about how to prepare?



You might know that when an OCTA member retires, 100 of their accumulated sick days will be used to grant lifetime health coverage. **But did you know that any unused, accumulated sick days beyond 100 will be bought back by the district at a rate of \$75-\$95 per day (per the OCTA contract). However, this money can ONLY be deposited into a 403b account.** Don't have a 403b account

started with the district yet? Click [this link](#) or contact [Dan Rose](#) to start and account today! Want to know more about 403b accounts, what they are and what they are used for? [CLICK HERE!](#)

May 24, 2021

NYSUT statement on fall school reopening

Source: NYSUT Media Relations



ALBANY, N.Y. May 24, 2021 – New York State United Teachers President Andy Pallotta issued the following statement today following Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s comments about reopening schools this fall:

“Educators know that being in person is the best way for students to learn and for teachers to teach. We support offering full-time in-person instruction five days a week and await formal guidance for the fall on how districts, working with educators and parents, should craft their plans to bring all students back to the classroom.”

New York State United Teachers is a statewide union with more than 600,000 members in education, human services and health care. NYSUT is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and the AFL-CIO.

May 19, 2021

NYSUT analysis: 99 percent of school budgets pass

Source: NYSUT Media Relations



ALBANY, N.Y. May 19, 2021 — In yet another strong display of support for public schools, 99 percent of school budgets are on track to win approval by voters, according to a preliminary analysis by New York State United Teachers.

- [UPDATE 5/21: Fact Sheet: 99.3% Passage Rate for School Budgets](#)

“Voters in communities across New York once again have shown that funding public schools at the local level is a top priority for their families,” NYSUT President Andy Pallotta said. “After more than a year of crisis, it’s clearer than ever before that public schools are the backbones of our communities, delivering not only an education to our students, but providing social-emotional learning, mental health services, meals and so much more. Investing in public education is investing in the future of our state. Clearly, voters agree.”

NYSUT reviewed 501 school budget votes and found that 496 passed, a 99 percent passage rate. Just five were defeated. The analysis includes seven budgets approved by voters earlier this month.

This year marks yet another strong showing of support for public schools at the ballot box. More than 95 percent of school budgets have passed annually since 2013. [\(READ MORE NYSUT NEWS: CLICK HERE\)](#)

Not sure where to start with your summer to-do list?

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 code below to learn more about the following endorsed programs and services.

Saving you money: MB Discounts & Deals

With the Member Benefits Discounts & Deals program, NYSUT members can save up to 50% at more than 700,000 merchants nationwide (including thousands throughout New York State). Save on groceries and food delivery; restaurant dine-in or takeout; gasoline, oil changes and vehicle maintenance; clothing and shoes; and much more. You can even request that your favorite merchant join the network.

Saving you money: Every \$\$\$ counts

Whether your summer plans include home renovations, replacing or upgrading appliances, getting a new car, stocking up for the return to school, or even just hanging out and enjoying some time off, Member Benefits has a variety of endorsed programs -- Purchasing Power, Buyer's Edge Inc., Office Depot/OfficeMax, Bose, Powell's Books -- that might be able to minimize the impact on your wallet and maximize your enjoyment of the all-too-fleeting summer months.



Protecting your family: Insuring yourself and your family

Member Benefits endorses a number of competitive insurance programs that are available to NYSUT members. These include auto/home/renters, life, disability, long term care, dental, vision, and even pet insurance. Some of these programs are also available to or cover spouses/domestic partners of members, dependent children, dependent parents, and grandparents. Most offer payroll & pension deduction as payment options.

Planning for the future: Have a plan for wherever life takes you

It's never too early or too late to make a plan. Just starting a career or looking at retirement? Beginning to pay off loans or building a nest egg? Looking to buy a new home or refinance the one you're in? Welcoming a new child or adopting? Now would be a good time to look into the ways to put a plan in place or make adjustments to your existing one. Explore the Member Benefits Financial Learning Center for assistance; while you're there, check out our Legal Service Plan and Financial Counseling Program.

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, call 800-626-8101 or scan the QR code above.

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	jbranca2
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		

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 OCTA website homepage. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, Officer Updates, Benefits, Newsletter, Photo Gallery, and Helpful Information. Below this is a banner with the tagline "Educating Everyone Takes Everyone" and several buttons: "QUICK LINKS!!", "OCTA CONTRACT", "BUILDING OFFICER LIST", and a yellow "Contact Us" button. On the left, there is a logo for the Oswego Classroom Teachers' Association (OCTA) and a welcome message. The main content area features a large blue box with the text "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.

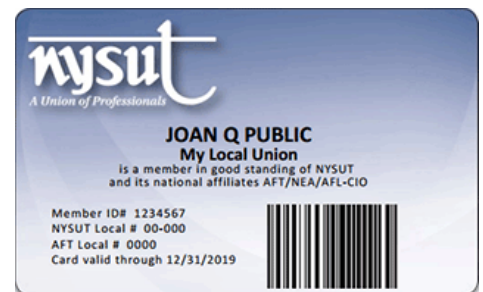
Welcome to new, current, and retired members!

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 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.

