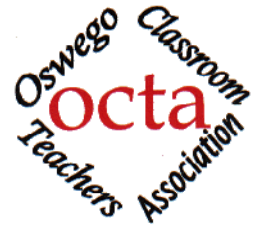


OCTA Advocate

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



SUMMER 2021

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Carrie Patane
OCTA President



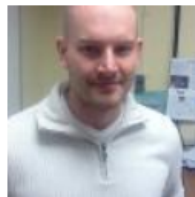
Kim LeRoy
VP Grievance



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:

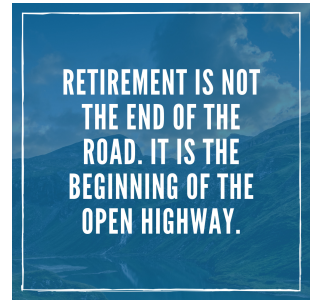


Congratulations to all of you for enduring and persevering through this challenging year. A special shout-out to all of our retirees! I wish you well and hope all of you find joy in reinventing yourselves this summer and beyond. For those of you returning with me in September, I will be sure to send email and or facebook updates over the summer months. Keep in mind that it is never too early to start investing for your retirement, so please read on and consider attending the 457 seminars coming up next week and use some of your time this summer looking at or into your 403B or Roth IRA options. You will be so happy you took care of this early on!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S OCTA RETIREES!!

This year's retirees are bringing with them over 250 YEARS of teaching experience! The Oswego Classroom Teachers Association would like to personally thank you all, and wish you well on your new endeavors.

Retirees, please make sure you join the retiree facebook group so you can stay in touch and up to date on union issues. It is also a great way to connect with other retirees and have your questions answered.



Wendy Allen is an important part of the East Team

Middle School family and has been a special education teacher with OCSD for over 30 years. She started out teaching at Riley, taught at the Academy, but spent most of her career at OMS. She will retire this fall, but will leave behind a legacy of kindness, compassion, knowledge, and unrivaled team spirit. From working side by side with students and teachers to ensure student growth and success, leading the charge for organizing the decorating of the 8 East hall for our OMS Holiday Decorating Contest, to hosting our Faculty/Staff Holiday Luncheon, kick-starting the OMS PBIS Program, and reffing the OMS Scooter Basketball games—her shoes will be difficult to fill.

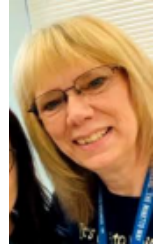
This year, we say “adiós and au revoir” to OMS teacher **Lori Bradway-Veiga!**

Her 38 years in the OCSD as an active member of the OCTA have consisted of roles as teacher, mentor, team leader, committee member, and building union leader. Her hard-work and selflessness as both a teacher and a colleague is unmatched! She will be missed but we look forward to hearing about her journeys all over the world in her retirement years!



Congratulations to one of Minetto's finest; **Kathy Shafer**. Kathy has been a dedicated and beloved teacher for twenty-nine years. She has impacted the lives of so many students across so many grade levels. She has worked alongside her teammates, dear friends, and has had many opportunities to laugh with them until their sides hurt. We would like to wish Kathy the best of luck in her new page in life. She will be sorely missed by our Minetto family.

Sari “Stephanie” Spedding is a veteran teaching assistant at Minetto Elementary who will be retiring at the end of this school year. Steph works with unmatched diligence and patience. 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!!



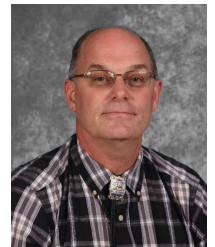
Deborah Natoli has been with OCSD since 2006. After working in other buildings, Deborah (Deb) Natoli joined the Fitzhugh Park family in 2015. She started out as a TA for Kindergarten and never left. Her caring and compassion for others are evident every day in her dealings with the Kindergarteners. She always has a smile and she is always willing to listen. Enjoy your retirement and those lucky grandkids Deb!

Heidi Conland-Sheffield: Over the years you dedicated yourself to educating students, helping your peers, and making OHS a GREAT place to be! Now it's time to sit back, relax, and watch those seeds you planted grow. OHS will miss your sense of calm and grace and the vibrant splash of color you brought to our halls. Congratulations and best of luck in Colorado!



Cheryl Irwin: For 41 years, you've dedicated yourself to the students and staff at OHS. May you be proud of the work you have done, the person you are, and the difference you have made. Your contributions to our students and the life-long skills that they have gained under your decades of service are unparalleled. Your selfless and tireless efforts to support some of the most challenging students are something all of us should strive to emulate. Congratulations and best wishes to you in your retirement!

Allen Hallett: Mr. Hallett retired last fall after 30 years in the Oswego City School District. During his time as a math and finance teacher, Allen inspired countless teachers and students. Allen volunteered as a building leader and took on many roles and positions for the teachers' union. Allen has been sorely missed since he left, and will be remembered for his enthusiasm and knowledge related to numbers, finance and teaching! Best of luck as you move forward, Allen!



Kathy Zerrahn made her imprint on the minds and hearts of so many teachers, students, and parents throughout the Oswego City School District with her talents as a special education teacher, especially at Leighton Elementary School, where she finished her career. Kathy's sense of humor, intuition, ability to multitask, and teach and reach 5-year-olds and 12-year-olds alike has made her a well-loved teacher who will be missed greatly by both colleagues and students. Kathy, we still miss walking past the snoopy-filled window by your room. It always brought a smile, even on the most difficult days! Your husband, children, and grandchildren are very lucky to get your attention now! Enjoy retirement, Kathy, you have earned this!

To: OCTA Members

From: Heidi Sweeney, Ed.D.

Date: June 21, 2021

RE: Contract Updates and Notes

Given the newly approved OCTA collective bargaining agreement, please note the following:

1. It will take a bit to finalize the new contract prior to it being available on the Personnel Shared Drive. Meghan and I have started working on items for summer programming, as that is the priority. New salary calculations and letters for the 21/22 school year are anticipated to be mailed out later in the summer.
2. There may be amendments/adjustments to any previously appointed rates, as new stipends and such may be pertinent. Updated letters will be mailed upon completion.
3. Salary Credit language has changed considerably. Meghan and I are working with Technology to update the notations on various forms. Changes of note:
 - a. Graduate credits are now capped at **6 credits per year, July 1- June 30**, except when matriculated in a degree program. *Previously approved coursework (over the last year) is grandfathered in for approval/payment but must be completed and submitted for salary adjustments within a year of the previous approval date.
 - b. Effective July 1, 2021, new requests for graduate coursework beyond the required Master's program must have prior approval, be reasonably related to the teacher's teaching assignment and of value in improving teaching service to the district, and be an approved graduate level course from a nationally or regionally accredited college or institution of higher education or recognized and approved by NYSED relevant to teacher certification.
 - c. If you are requesting to begin or matriculate into an additional degree beyond the required Master's program necessary for certification in a teacher's area of service and appointment, please submit such a request in writing to the Superintendent or their designee (me) for prior review and consideration.

Please contact me with any questions.

2021 OCTA Scholarship Winners!



The 2021 OCTA Scholarship Committee selected **11** recipients of this year's Scholarship.

Below are recipients of the 2021 OCTA Scholarship:

- ❖ William Adkins
- ❖ Joseph DiBlasi
- ❖ Gretchen Dowd
- ❖ Kimberly Kaleta
- ❖ Tyler May
- ❖ Adam Michalski, Jr.
- ❖ Amelia Rastley
- ❖ Gianna Ruggio
- ❖ Morgan Samson
- ❖ Aidan Thompson
- ❖ Maya Upcraft



RETIREMENT INVESTMENT WEBINAR: Dan Kain from NYS Deferred Compensation will be hosting Deferred Compensation Enrollment webinars on Tuesday, June 29th at 10:00am and 2:00pm

Dan will also be hosting a Deferred Compensation Pre-Retirement webinar on Thursday, July 1st 12:00pm. To register for one or more of the webinars, you may click on the links below:

Enrollment Webinars: (In this webinar you will learn about Deferred Compensation and how it can help you save for retirement as well as how to enroll)

Tuesday, June 29, 2021 10:00 am

[Deferred Comp Sign Up](#)

Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:00 pm

[Deferred Comp Sign Up](#)

Did you know You can make changes to your Deferred Compensation contributions and investments when you login to your account at www.nysdcp.com

Pre-Retirement Webinars: (We will go over how to calculate your NYS Pension, how and when to withdraw Deferred Compensation Funds, the taxes involved with doing so and much more)

Thursday, July 1, 2021 12:00 pm

[Deferred Comp Sign Up](#)

***Did you know *** You can roll over old retirement plan's such as 401k, 403b and Traditional IRA accounts into your Deferred Compensation Plan.

Daniel Kain

New York State Deferred Compensation Plan

315-527-5695

kaind@nationwide.com

Legal Service Plan

Did you know that NYSUT Member Benefits offers expert legal assistance that can assist you with everything from preparing crucial estate planning documents to dealing with traffic violations?

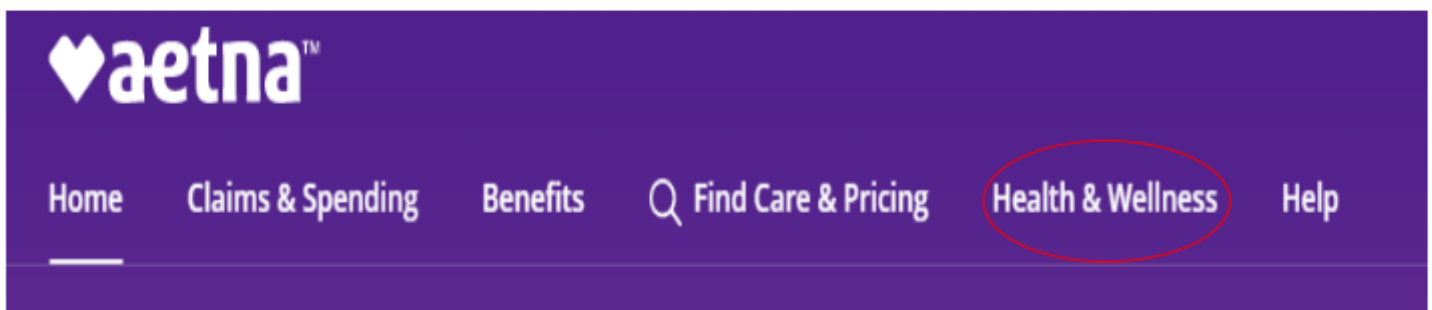
The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed **Legal Service Plan** -- provided by the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers access to a national network of attorneys that deal with personal legal matters.




Nysut Member Benefits offers a legal plan to members at a reduced rate. You pay something like \$80 a year and you get a free will and some free legal advice with your enrollment. All of the info is on the site. [Legal Service Plan](#)

How to Complete AETNA's HEALTH ASSESSMENT / JOURNEYS EARN a \$50 Gift Card and be entered to Win BIG prizes in Sept!

1. Sign into your Aetna member website , if having an issue in Chrome use Internet Explorer
2. Spouse must have their own user name and password for member website to perform actions.
3. Once logged in click on Health and Wellness on the home page.



Once you land on the health and wellness page you will see the
Box marked Heath & Wellness click on
Access Wellness in the Stay Healthy Box 

Health & Wellness



Discount & Wellness Tools

Boost your health, save money and achieve your goals.



Stay Healthy

Access your health assessment, health record and personalized health and wellness programs. You can also get helpful information about procedures, conditions and treatments.

[Access Wellness](#) 

You can click here to complete the health assessment here .





Access your Health Dashboard

Take action to improve your health

[Complete a Health Assessment](#)

Click on Launch my health assessment once completed the date completed will show below the tab. To complete Journeys you will click on launch my programs under Online health programs . These links will both take you to the Redbrick Health site to complete.

There is also an option on this page to view the incentive rewards you have earned .

<p>Quick Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Health Programs Personal Health Record Health Decision Support from Emmi Find a Doctor Healthwise® Knowledgebase Emotional Health 	<p>Get ready! We're making some improvements to our site. On 6/1/2021, we're updating our well-being platform. Don't lose your progress! Wrap up any in-process programs by 5/31/2021. Then start fresh with improved online experience.</p> <p>Questions? Click here.</p>	
<p>Rewards</p> <p>View your incentives activities and rewards</p> <p>View My Rewards</p>	<p>Health Assessment</p> <p>Take a quick questionnaire and learn more about your health.</p> <p>Launch My Health Assessment</p> <p>You last completed your Health Assessment on April 14, 2021, at 10:14 a.m.</p> 	<p>Web Chat Appointments</p> <p>Working with your personal Health Coach is now just a keyboard away*. You can enroll in Disease Management by calling 1-866-269-4500 and setting up a web chat for a time that works best for you to review your health conditions and what the vision of a healthy "you" looks like and how to achieve it. You can also enroll in Healthy Lifestyle Coaching by calling 1-866-213-0153 and start a web chat in no time discussing your personal health goals.</p> <p>*To best understand your unique health needs, the initial appointment with your Health Coach will take place over the telephone.</p>
	<p>Online Health Programs</p>  <p>Our online programs can guide you to improve your health or better manage a chronic condition.</p> <p>Launch My Programs</p>	<p>Alerts & Tasks</p> <p>Please be sure to discuss urgent health alerts with your doctor.</p> <p>Alert</p> <p>You do not have any active alerts.</p>

This page is where you will complete your journeys . There are multiple items to choose from. You can start the journey then just follow the steps to go back into them. There is also an FAQ that can assist with any questions you may have. If you are still having issues please feel free to call Member services for assistance.

Mark your calendar! We're updating our well-being platform.

On 6/1, we're making some improvements to our site.

Don't lose your progress! You need to wrap up any In-process programs by 5/31. After that, you'll start fresh with an improved online experience.

[Questions? Click Here](#)



Get personalized suggestions.

Complete your Health Assessment to get a snapshot of your current health, lifestyle, habits and risk factors.

Then find out what's suggested to keep you on your path to better well being.

[START HEALTH ASSESSMENT](#)

Discover what's right for you
Choose a focus or explore all >



Get healthy



Be a feel good weight



Keep stress in check

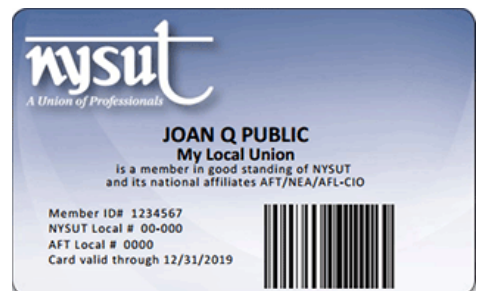


Improve your health

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.

