

# OCTA Advocate

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



## January 2020

January 16, 2020

### Lacking funds, Westchester County schools struggle to meet the social and emotional needs of students

Author: Liza Frenette



Source: NYSUT Communications

*Caption: "I've seen this place fully diminish from the time I got here," said Robert Kirklin, local president of the Hawthorne Cedar Knolls Paraprofessionals. "All of the avenues for [student] success are being taken away over and over and over again." See video below. Photo by El-Wise Noisette.*

A tableful of educators, lawmakers and union leaders were leaning in to hear stories of White Plains students shortchanged by diminished funding, when a walkie-talkie

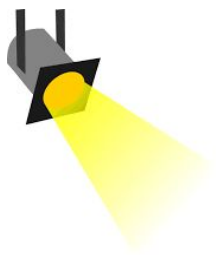
crackled.

The caller needed help with a student in emotional crisis. The school health care professionals at the table were familiar with the situation; there are about a half dozen such incidents a day with different students. The rest of the class was evacuated and professionals were able to calm the child.

"We're working backwards," said Laura Fein Zottola, school social worker and member of the White Plains TA. Without enough staff, with elimination of programs, "we wind up missing things on the proactive end."

She is the only social worker for 640 kids.

[\(READ THE REST CLICK HERE\)](#)



## Dedicated Minetto educator Carol Janice is in this month's OCTA spotlight!

A HUGE **thank you** to Carol Janice for promoting and running the OCTA bowling event last week! Without Carol this would not have come together. Thank you for all of your hard work on this super successful event.



Congratulations, Carol! Enjoy the OCTA spotlight ---you earned it!!

*Know an educator in the Oswego City School District who deserves the OCTA Spotlight? Email a picture and brief description to [drose@oswego.org](mailto:drose@oswego.org). Nominees should be OCTA members in good standing. All nominators and nominees receive a special gift courtesy of the OCTA! Thanks in advance for the support.*



## OCTA BOWLING A STRIKING SUCCESS!!

I ENTHUSIASTICALLY announce that together we raised \$1844 dollars for charity at our January Bowling Tournament!!! *Thank you Carol (and Jill) for doing all of the leg work to make this event a success. Thank you Dr. Goewey for allowing us to add the Jeans Week fundraiser, as it greatly impacted our donation totals.*

If you have pictures to share, please put them in my Google Drive folder~

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1g6F9api9KBhy5LUwlq5QMFXhwv7uKpm?usp=sharing> We would love to use these for next year's video!! (Thank you Nick Little!)

A HUGE **thank you** to **Carol Janice** for promoting and running this event! Without Carol and her partner in crime (**Jill Jaquin**) this would not have come together. Thank you ladies for all of your hard work on this super successful event. **Save the dates!!!** Don't forget **VOLLEYBALL will be scheduled for Friday June 19th, 2020!!**

The bowling event will be held next year on **FRIDAY, January 29th, 2021**. Start thinking of your team names now. Remember - the more teams that play, the more money we make for a special charity and the more fun we have!

### Winners:

**8 - SECONDARY** teams came out to play -

The winner was **OMS "We Never Strike Out"** - donating **\$693 to Blessings in a Backpack.**

Congratulations to Josh Lerch, Kevin Morgan, Candace Bartlett and Patrick Bond!

### 16 - ELEMENTARY teams came out to play -

The winner was **"FLS "Foxy Ladies Strike"** - donating **\$1151 to Special Olympics!** Congratulations to Kory Donovan, Stephanie Steiger, Jennifer Sharkey and Roxanne Davis!

**"The Bowl Cutz"** won best team name and the \$20 prize! Well done Liz Heckt, Megan Parkhurst, Emily Poulton & Ellen Rowberry!



## Important Message from Director of Secondary Education and Personnel



I've heard from a few folks that there's some confusion about some coming half days, so I thought it might be helpful to lay them out:

February 14th- half day release for students and OCTA members. An agreement was reached regarding a contractual item and the agreement language stipulates that no other duties will be assigned after the release time.

**April 3rd-** half day contractual grading time- students will be dismissed at the half day mark but faculty will remain for grade reporting allocated time.

**May 22nd-** half day release for students and OCTA members. This is the second half day stipulated in the agreement noted above.

*All other units will work normal shift hours on February 14th and May 22nd.*

Please let me know if you have any questions- hope that helps clarify things. thanks!

**A few members inquired about the extra insurance cards** they had requested for dependents who might not live at home. After checking with ENV, here are some options for requesting additional corrected insurance cards:

Aetna's ID card system that sends out the cards has no way to cross reference who ordered extra cards after the first set was sent. If folks requested extra cards, they will have to do so a second time after they receive their new card. There are a couple of different ways folks can order additional cards.

- Call Aetna 1-866-760-0848
- Call ENV 315-641-5848
- Register on the Aetna portal and request the id card there or print a card
  - Go to [www.Aetna.com](http://www.Aetna.com); Select the Login button; Select Register and follow the prompts
- Download the Aetna app and have the card available on a smart phone
  - [Attached is a flyer with instructions](#)



Please join us for a...

## 'Candid'ate Conversation

• Monday, January 27 •

• 6:00 pm •

• NYSUT •

• (Brittonfield Parkway, East Syracuse) •

We will be discussing candidates for the office of U.S. President and their positions, electability, and support of a pro-public education agenda.

The goal is to submit a regional recommendation of our preferred candidate to NYSUT. These recommendations will be compiled and shared with NEA and AFT as input for any endorsement these organizations may make.

Please register at  
<https://www.nysut.org/eReg/PCRC20>



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020 ISSUE  
JANUARY 05, 2020

## NYSUT Counts: Census 2020

Source: NYSUT United

# NYSUT 2020 COUNTS census

NYSUT Counts is our union's initiative to ensure every resident of the state is reported in the 2020 Census.

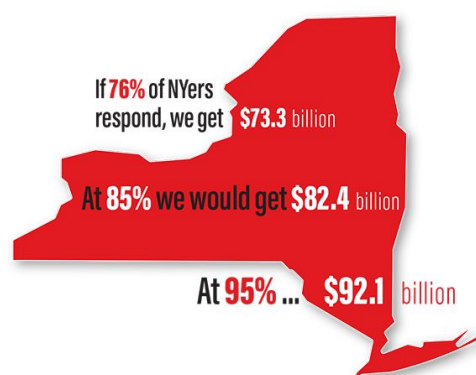
The results affect the allocation of \$700 billion in federal funding to schools, hospitals, municipalities and needy families.

"Much like our drive to defeat the state constitutional convention referendum a couple of years ago and our successful outreach to union members after the U.S. Supreme Court's Janus decision in 2018, this crucial initiative is an opportunity to engage the power of our union," said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta.

NYSUT is committed to holding one-to-one conversations with NYSUT members about the importance of being counted; providing curriculum resources to use with students; using direct mail and digital advertising; and working in coalition with other unions, community groups and like-minded organizations.

"For equity, fairness and justice, everyone must be counted," Pallotta said. "The census begins April 1, but it's not too early to begin to organize, educate and prepare communities for full participation."

[READ THE REST. CLICK HERE.](#)



## OCSD Retirement Delegate Visits Annual New York State Teacher Retirement System Convention

Submitted by OCTA Retirement Delegate Dan Rose ([drose@oswego.org](mailto:drose@oswego.org))

Early last month, elected OCSD retirement delegate Dan Rose attended the annual NYSTRS convention held at the Saratoga Springs City Center. The two day conference was full of information sessions related to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System. Below, is a list of the sessions offered at this year's conference. Please feel free to browse the session list and follow the links to the presentations! Email [drose@oswego.org](mailto:drose@oswego.org) for further inquiries or to seek more information about all things retirement.

### If you couldn't make it to Saratoga, here's a recap:

- Delegates unanimously elected teachers [Sheila Sullivan Buck](#) and [Elizabeth Chetney](#) to the Retirement Board. Buck, of Rush-Henrietta Central Schools, was re-elected to a new three-year term as one of the three active teacher members on the Board. Chetney, of Baldwinsville Central School District, was elected to complete the term of Paul J. Farfaglia, who retired from teaching in June.
- A variety of seminars were offered, with topics ranging from the role of the delegate to the long-term stability of the System.
- Delegates took part in a question-and-answer period with the NYSTRS Board and staff.

Copies of the seminar presentations can be downloaded from the links below. Be sure to also check out the graphic recording of the presentations, which visually capture key points.

- [You've Decided to Retire! What Do You Do Now?](#) (*Graphic Recording*)
- [Social Security Information](#)
- [Pension Factor and Service Credit: Two Key Components of a Pension Calculation](#) (*Graphic Recording*)
- [The Potential Liabilities of Loans / Focusing on Your FAS](#)
- [The Role of the Delegate](#) (*Graphic Recording*)
- [Preparing to Live the Retirement Dream](#) (*Graphic Recording*)
- [NYSTRS' Year in Review and the Long-Term Stability of the System](#) (*Graphic Recording*)

**You are dedicated to educating students and helping them prepare for the future**, and we are dedicated to educating you about your NYSTRS benefits. The more you know, the more informed your retirement-planning decisions will be. [Click here to visit the NYSTRS website and further your knowledge!](#)

All OCTA members can direct retirement questions to [drose@oswego.org](mailto:drose@oswego.org) or [aarmet@oswego.org](mailto:aarmet@oswego.org)



## Attention Special Education Teachers:

The Board of Regents have amended regulation to address limitations in the certification of special education teachers teaching general education curriculum content in grades 7-12 special classes. This change will allow greater flexibility in teacher assignments as district, BOCES and other providers attempt to provide curriculum content instruction for students with disabilities working toward a Regents

diploma.

The amendments allow for the following:

- A statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) for those special education teachers who have used the High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) rubric for at least three years to establish their "highly qualified" status in a core academic subject area as required by the federal NCLB in grades 7-12. A SOCE is equivalent to a certificate and is a continuously valid credential.
- A limited certification extension to teach a specific subject in a special class in grades 7-12 for those teachers who have used the HOUSSE for two years. A limited extension has a limited time validity. It is expected that the individual will be working toward completing the requirements for the full certificate extension.

Teachers who hold the following certificates and teach a content subject should apply for the SOCE or limited extension:

- Initial or professional certification in:
  - Students with disabilities (grades 7-12) generalist;
  - Students with disabilities (grades 7-12) content specialist;
  - Students with disabilities (grades 5-9) generalist;
  - Students with disabilities (grades 5-9) content specialist; and
- Permanent certification in special education (grades 7-12).

It is important to note that applications for these certificates must be submitted to SED no later than June 30, 2020, and use of the HOUSSE must occur before that date.

The NYSUT Fact Sheet on "NYS Certification-Students with Disabilities" can be found at:

<https://www.nysut.org/resources/all-listing/research/fact-sheets/fact-sheet-certification-students-with-disabilities>





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- Two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney



SCAN ME



To learn more about these Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org), call **800-626-8101** or scan the above QR codes.

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

Jan/Feb '20



# Fact Sheet 19-17: Teacher Shortage in New York State

Source: NYSUT Research and Educational Services

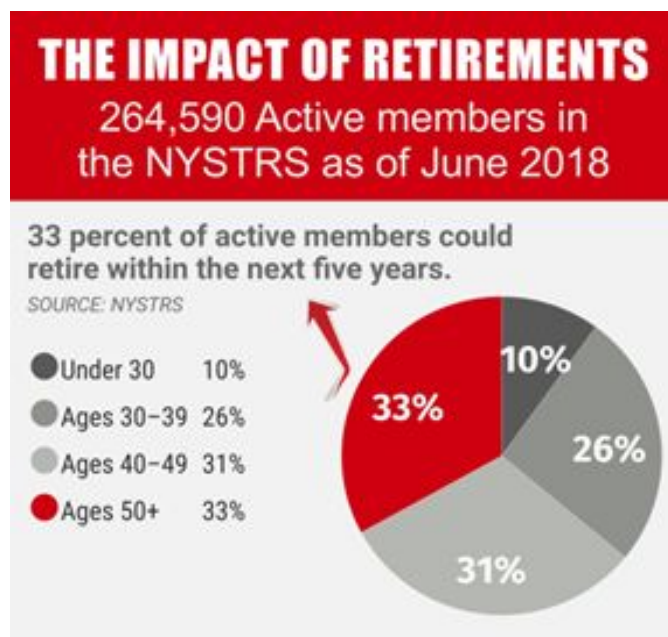
In the past several years, the national teacher shortage has captured the attention of educators, researchers, policymakers and the media. While estimates regarding the severity of the shortage vary, there is widespread consensus that demand for teachers is certainly on the rise. The U.S. Department of Education has estimated that 1.6 million or approximately 160,000 new teachers per year would be needed nationally between 2012 and 2020. A report from the Learning Policy Institute estimated the number even higher, predicting that schools will need approximately 300,000 new teachers per year by 2020.

In New York, state officials estimate we will need approximately 180,000 new teachers over the next decade -- or up to 18,000 new teachers annually. The increased demand reflects trends in teacher retirements, expected increases in P-12 enrollments, fewer individuals entering the profession, and rates of teacher attrition. Available data indicates that New York is already experiencing a teacher shortage in a growing number of subject areas and in high poverty schools. Big city and rural districts are reporting severe staffing challenges.

[READ THE REST - CLICK HERE!!!!](#)



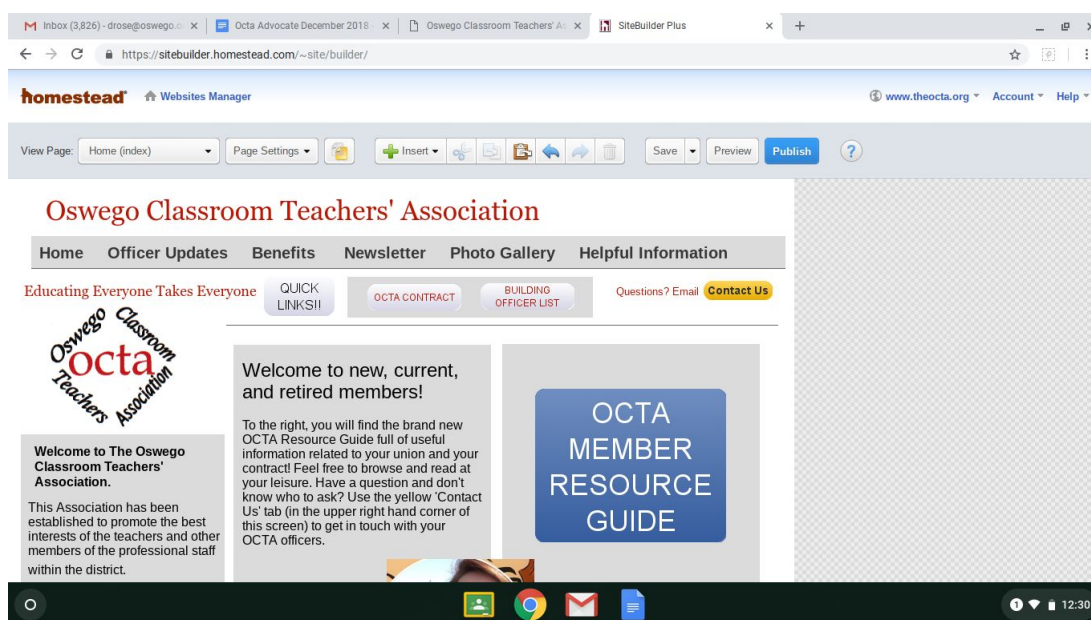
**Welcome to NYSUT**, our union representing more than 600,000 professionals who work in, or are retired from, New York's schools, colleges and health care facilities. We are college and university faculty and professional staff; classroom teachers, school bus drivers, librarians, custodians, secretaries, cafeteria workers, teaching assistants and teacher aides; nurses and health care technicians. We are one union — working together to remain strong for our members and champion the good work you do every day.



[READ THE NYSUT MEMBER GUIDE](#)

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

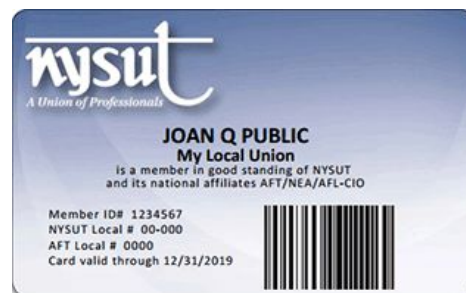
Click on the screenshot of the homepage below to explore the site! Find quick links to important union documents like the new OCTA Contract, the OCTA building officer list, and the new OCTA resources guide!



## 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.

