October 2020

OCTA Advocate

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



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Meet your 2020-2021 OCTA Officers!











Carrie Patane OCTA President VP Grievance

Kim LeRov

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 WORK TOGETHER AND STAY UNITED!!



As we all ponder our own individual struggles and challenges, we must remember that we are a team. We are a family. We are a union of individuals who work together to help each other and lift each other up.

We must each offer our strengths to one another. We each come with our own unique skill sets. As we navigate these uncharted waters, we must work together to stay afloat.

We all take a lot of pride in our own work as individuals. It is in our nature. It is essential to work as a team and offer the BEST

experience possible to ALL of our students. No student is taught by just one of us. We are ALL teaching ALL of our students together. That will make this journey much more manageable and we will be that much more successful.

That of course will help make our lives, our spirits, and our hearts feel a little more full.

All for one and one for all, united we stand divided we fall.

(Please consider creating a shared google drive folder or a MASTER CLASS shared between you and your colleagues so you can easily "reuse posts" made by others in your grade level or subject area. Sharing resources in that drive space will be greatly useful. We need to work together as much as possible to help all of our students achieve the greatest amount of success as possible. Remember - ALL OCSD students are OUR students.)

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS for the 2020 - 2021 OCTA spotlight!!!



Do you know an OCTA member who works hard at what they do? Someone whose efforts seem to go unnoticed?



Someone who always seems to have positive energy? Do you know an

OCTA member who deserves to be in the SPOTLIGHT? Then nominate them to be cast in the monthly OCTA spotlight! This section of the newsletter and website will highlight one (or more) OCTA member(s) per month. Send the candidates name, along with a brief description of what makes them special to <u>drose@oswego.org</u>. All nominees and nominators will receive a SPECIAL GIFT from OCTA! Send your nomination today!



October 2020

RESOURCES & PRO TIPS

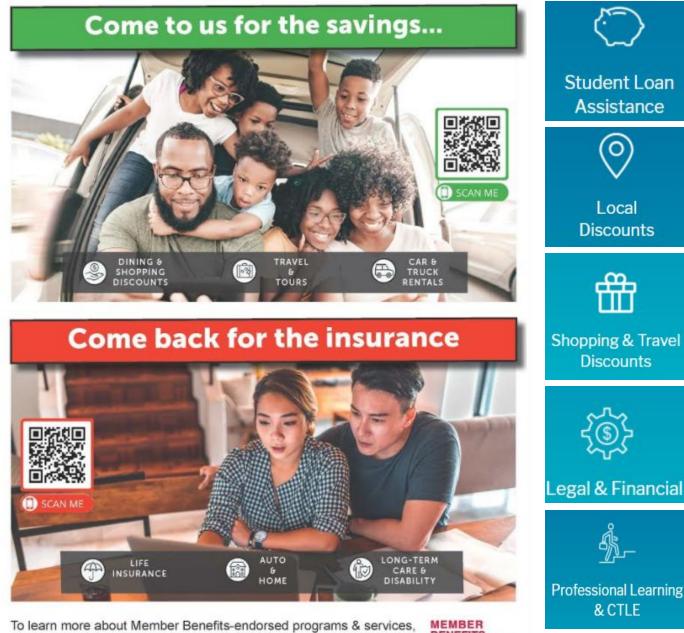
NEXTGENERATION WISH

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

ABOUT OUR UNION

MEMBER BENEFITS



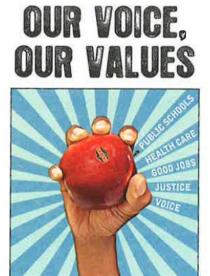


To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit *memberbenefits.nysut.org*, call 800-626-8101 or scan the QR codes above.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. BENEFITS NySU Working to Benefit You

Sept /Oct. 20

Certification Help



OUR VOTE-COPE

school budgets.

Jenn Cahill, OCTA's

Vote-Cope coordinator, kicked off this year's campaign with Presidents & Vice Presidents earlier this month at the OCTA meeting.

OCTA's campaign will run from OCTOBER 8 - 30th; just in time for us to show our thankfulness for all that the union provides.

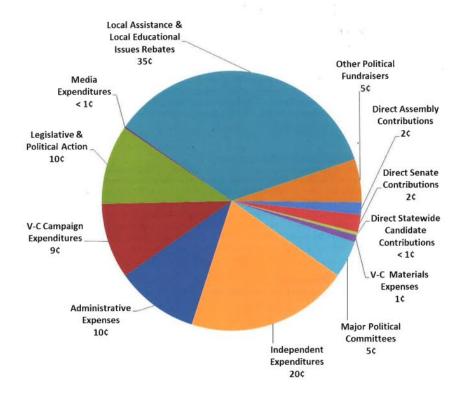
Learn MORE about <u>VOTE-COPE and political</u> <u>action: CLICK HERE!</u>

WHAT IS VOTE-COPE AND WHY CONTRIBUTE?

Your statewide union has a political fund-raising arm called VOTE-COPE. VOTE-COPE is NYSUT's non-partisan action fund that coordinates the voluntary contributions of members and supports NYSUT-endorsed candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public-education and pro-labor.

No NYSUT dues dollars are used to support candidates or campaign committees.

NYSUT sends rebates to local unions based on a percentage (up to 40 percent) of the contributions VOTE-COPE receives from that local union's members. Those rebates can be used in local activities such as school board races and for passage of



Your VOTE-COPE Dollar at Work

October 2020

The Voice for VOTE-COPE

"Political strength is when we get people elected in Abany who do what we want them to do," says Jeff Zuckerman. It's as simple as that. It's the reason NYSUT has

an extensive and thorough endorsement process and the reason the union holds phone banks, labor walks and scores of other political action activities. Most importantly, it's the reason members give to VOTE-COPE.

"We need VOTE-COPE and VOTE-COPE needs us," says Zuckerman, a Bronxville Teachers Association retiree who has volunteered for VOTE-COPE for the past 30 years and now serves as a pitchman for the fund at union events. NYSUT members contribute almost \$9 million annually to VOTE-COPE, but the fund needs much more than that for us to effectively compete on the political stage.

NYSUT needs more political strength, Zuckerman tells members every chance he gets. Threats to tenure, to the Triborough amendment to the Taylor Law (which ensures collective bargaining rights for public employees in New York state), to our pensions and to Social Security and Medicare are intensifying.

Here are Zuckerman's Top 10 reasons to contribute to VOTE-COPE:

In political contributions, we're outspent 15-1 in this country by corporate interests.

Up to 40 percent of a local's VOTE-COPE contribution is rebated for local political action.

There's not one thing we've ever lobbled for that our members don't want and benefit from. Every one of those things

www.nysut.org

Jeff Zuckerman's

Top 10 reasons to give



capitol briefing

Jeff Zuckerman, Bronxville Teachers Association retiree

costs money, and voluntarily contributing to VOTE-COPE is the only way to pay for it. EVERYONE benefits from these efforts; EVERYONE must contribute to support them. Our union dues are not legally allowed to be used for political action activities.

Retirement securityI Someday you will want to begin collecting your retirement and until that day you can sleep soundly knowing that your defined benefit pension and your Social Security will provide for you as you enter the next phase of life - or will it? Public pensions and Social Security are under attack and VOTE-COPE dollars are the tools we use to beat back those attacks. Without the tools to defend your retirement security in the present, your future may look very different.

Eighty-two percent of teachers now retire between the ages of 55 and 62 with 30 years of service. Before lobbying supported by VOTE-COPE changed the law, everyone in Tiers 3 and 4 had to work until age 62 or they suffered devastating reductions to their pensions. If we are honest, an additional \$50 or \$100 contribution to VOTE-COPE, over the course of an entire year, will not really, really alter anyone's life for the worse.

On the other hand, losing tenure, losing pension protection or losing bargaining rights will most definitely change everyone's life for the worse.

The only thing between us and Wisconsin — where the governor and legislature took away bargaining rights for public employees — is VOTE-COPE.

2 If we lose Triborough, then we are Wisconsin.

We have no other weapon!

The most powerful corporate interests in history are trying to remove tenure, reduce our pensions, reduce salaries and benefits and slash aid to public schools, universities and health care systems. We have no way to fight back other than with dollars we get from VOTE-COPE contributions.



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Best Practices for Remote Learning

Source: NYSUT Research and Educational Services

Educators are faced with difficult decisions about what instructional content to keep synchronous (live sessions), what content to ask students to engage with on their own time (asynchronous), and what content to cut. A flipped classroom is one way to deliver both synchronous and asynchronous content



where the teacher becomes a facilitator of learning and allows students to work at their own pace. Students interact with new background material first — asynchronously — through text, video, survey, games or other delivery methods, including some formative assessment to guide the live or synchronous classroom instruction. Educators use the synchronous class time to discuss the new information in large or small groups, exchange perspectives, clarify any questions or misconceptions, learn from each other and build community. Educators don't have to flip their entire classroom, but can begin with a single lesson to introduce the concept. It may be helpful to work with another teacher who has experience flipping or who is also interested in incorporating this method.

READ THE REST - CLICK HERE

October 2020



Oswego Classroom Teachers Association spotlighted in NYSUT's United magazine!!

Click on the screenshot below to see the entire spread in the most recent edition of NYSUT United, and then take some time to read through the rest of NYSUT's informational magazine.

[LOCAL UNIONS IN ACTION]

Oswego Classroom Teachers Association



From left, OCTA President Carrie Patane; Joy Bifera, EVS Manager for Oswego Health; and OCTA Secretary Michelle McManus. The union donated gift cards for a local business to 62 Oswego Health employees.

Led by President Carrie Patane, members of the Oswego Classroom Teachers Association supported local businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and showed support for workers on the front lines.

Each week for more than three months the union adopted a local business to spotlight for the week. Next, OCTA members donated money via Paypal. Funds were collected Monday through Thursday of each week, with Patane sharing live totals with the membership daily. When all the numbers were tallied, teachers in the Oswego City School District raised \$13,687.50. All of the money went back to local businesses and essential workers throughout the community. The OCTA was also able to buy books for their local bookmobile and purchase ice cream gift cards for all 250 graduating seniors. In the final week of the fundraiser. OCTA held a virtual T-shirt fundraiser. donating all proceeds to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund to purchase personal protective equipment for front-line workers.

"Besides creating an entirely NEW online school, this is how we supported our community during our 'shut down,'" Patane said. "Together, we are unstoppable."

Pine Plains Federation of Educators

When the COVID-19 pandemic threatened to cancel the Pine Plains Federation of Educators' annual family literacy night, members rallied with just a week's notice and transformed the one-night event into a full virtual Family Literacy Week. Activities were posted daily on individual elementary school's Facebook pages for students and their families. Activities

included read alouds, virtual field trips, secret messages, a virtual obstacle course, photos, dances and more. The PPFE is led



by Josefine Wilber.

Wappingers Congress of Teachers

Members of the Wappingers Congress of Teachers came together while staying apart these past few months to support families, community members and those on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, the local purchased 100 meals for health care workers at Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital. Throughout the month of April, the WCT donated money to support the efforts of several food banks and suppliers in the area.

In May, the local hosted its annual food drive with a twist. "I didn't want to give up the food drive just because our school buildings could not be open for

IT'S WHAT WE DO

Kingston educators inspire community-wide conversations on race

Sometimes a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single book.

In Kingston, that book is So You Want To Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo. City residents are reading it as a group called Kingston Reads. A hundred readers attended the first virtual meeting July 2. Sessions continued throughout the month.

Social worker Amy Kapes and librarian Charlotte Adamis — members of the Kingston Federation of Teachers — joined assistant principal Kathy Sellitti to launch the group. In recent years they have worked with colleagues to study racism and have read several books, along with attending workshops and professional development programs.

Kapes decided to bring in the community on this shared journey.

"This is the critical piece of doing the work. You can't do it alone," said Adamis.

"We emphasize that we want it to be a dialogue," Kapes said.

The district's students are about 50 percent white, and 50 percent Black and brown. The faculty is not diverse, and the district has been working to change that.

Reading books allows people to privately wrestle with issues and reflect, and then to engage with others, Kapes said. So You Want to Talk About Race discusses the history and context of racism, and the guilt, fear and defensiveness that white people can harbor, she said.

The district offers studies of racial issues for faculty and staff. And a NYSUT program for educators on racial equity. which **Meet the OCSD 2020 NEW HIRES!** In these challenging times, it's great to know that we have a group of energetic, proficient educators stepping in and stepping up in this incredible time of need. If you see one of these brave men or women in the district somewhere, stop and say 'hello' and be sure to make them feel welcome!

Jessie Anderson: 6th grade teacher, CER	Keeghan McSweeney: Special Ed, Minetto	Alex Bush: OHS 9th & 10th grade social studies	Shannon Isham: FLS, Special Ed	Josh Bradbury: 2nd grade, Leighton	Kelly Jackson: elementary art, Riley
Elexis Rinoldo: 2nd Grade, KPS	Katie Clancy: 8th grade Social Studies, OMS	Julia Kinsey: Living Environment, OHS	Crystal Peneston: Special Ed, Leighton	Don Dowd: 6th grade, FPS	Clare Donovan: 7th grade ELA, OMS
N G					
Jacob Herrick: RTI Reading Specialist, FPS	Kira Canale: Leighton, 4th grade	Abigail Shafer: 7th grade social studies, OMS	Allison Yule:4th grade, KPS	Bryan Rapholtz: School Counselor, Leighton.	Aaron Raymer: general music Fitzhugh Park
					NOT PICTURED: Kim Miller: FLS/KPS Band Matthew Wexler: OHS ENGLISH
Brian Miller: KPS/MIN Strings	Robert Donnelly: OHS Physics	Kaylee Baldwin: OHS MATH	Hillary Burnell: FLS	Liz Hollers: MIN music	



2020-2021 dues withholdings Submitted by Mike Patane, OCTA Treasurer

Full dues for each active member (defined as earning \$34,000 and above) of the Oswego Classroom Teachers' Association should be \$847.92 for the 2020-21 school year. Please have \$40.38 withheld for each of the 21 paychecks with a limit of \$847.92.

Three-quarters dues: (defined as having a salary in the range of \$25,500 - \$33,999) pay \$24.69 for each of the 21 paychecks with a limit of \$518.46.

Half-time dues: (defined as having a salary of \$17,000 - \$25,499) should have a new limit of \$423.96 with a per check amount of \$20.19.

One-quarter dues: (defined as having a salary of \$8,500-16,999) should have a new limit of \$211.98 with a per check amount of \$10.09.

One-eighth dues: (defined as having a salary of \$8,499 or less should have a new limit of \$105.99 with a per check amount of \$5.05 for the 21 pay periods.

The dues deduction for members of the Per Diem Substitute Unit (including teachers of homebound students and tutors in the ESL Program) of the Oswego Classroom Teachers' Association should be 1.3% or (\$2.75) with a limit of \$211.98

Thank you for your continued cooperation and assistance.

OCTA Scholarship Committee

The OCTA Scholarship Committee is looking for new members! Every year, the scholarship committee organizes fundraisers (such as Jeans Week & payroll deduction) which allow the committee to award graduating OHS seniors with valuable scholarships in the spring. If you would like to participate in this year's committee, please email Korrine LaDuc & Meghan Donabella.

> Jeans Week - Save the Dates: October 26 - October 30 &



February 8 - 12

MAKE A VOTING PLAN, NOW!! *Dear NYSUT members:*

We are pleased to provide this <u>Voter Guide</u> and special <u>Retiree Edition</u> so YOU and your VOTE can help move the state and the nation away from regressive corporatism and toward progressive solutions.

We don't need to spell out all the ways that 2020 is different from other election years in recent memory, but one thing you need to think about is the need to vote safely and to vote early. Thanks in part to our efforts, concern about exposure to COVID-19 is now an official reason to secure an absentee ballot. If you plan to vote by mail, we urge you to request a mail-in ballot promptly.

• DOWNLOAD: Voter Guide | Retiree Edition

Only through a strong, unprecedented turnout from NYSUT members can we ensure that the best interests of students, educators, health care professionals, retired members and New York's public education system, from Pre-K through higher ed, will come through this pandemic stronger than before. Our state and our country are clearly at a crossroads, and the decisions we make this fall will impact what happens from the halls of power in Washington, D.C., to the capitol in Albany and in each and every community in New York.

This guide provides the <u>complete list of NYSUT-endorsed candidates</u> as recommended by our local presidents and NYSUT's Political Action Committee, and approved by the union's Board of Directors. Please take the time to read and consider this information before you cast your ballot. You will be able to vote by mail, vote early in your community, or on Election Day at your local polls, but it is most important to make a plan and to cast your ballot. Your VOTE is Our Voice for Our Union and Our Values.

In Solidarity,

The NYSUT Officers

October 2020

adren Pallotto Jolene Di Brango Hoxell / Mar J. Chelge Dela

NYSTRS NEWS

Stay up-to-date and informed about what is happening with your New York State Teachers Retirement System

Submitted by your OCSD Retirement Delegate, Dan Rose



NYSTRS is committed to customer service. Here's how we keep you informed and connected.

- Read current issues of our *Your Source* (active member) and *Resource* (retiree) newsletters.
- Review the COVID-related FAQs, which we update as new information becomes available.
- We are prioritizing time-sensitive transactions.
- Our phone lines remain open to

help you at (800) 348-7298.

• Stay connected via MyNYSTRS to submit forms, review information and message us securely.

- Benefits consultations are being held by phone.
- Watch our PREP seminar modules at your

convenience to prepare for retirement.



New NYSTRS Members

Welcome to NYSTRS! You are a member of one of the top public pension funds in the country.

The salary and service credit you earn today is helping you build a secure future. Along with a guaranteed pension in retirement, you'll qualify for disability and death benefit coverage when you reach service milestones and other eligibility requirements. Why care about your NYSTRS membership when retirement is so far in the future? These short and entertaining videos help answer those questions:

- A Two-Minute Tutorial for New Members
- PSI: Prior Service Investigation

October 2020

- •
- Max Option: Secret Agent MyNYSTRS: Your Information on Your Schedule •

ARE YOU LOOKING TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR DENTAL BILLS?

Choose a dentist who's part of the Delta Dental Network!

The plan saves money but at the same time you will have lower out of pocket costs. Lower cost to the plan results in lower premiums for everyone. Listed below are dentists who are part of the Delta Dental network and make it on to the list for our most utilized providers. If you are looking for a new dentist, considering one of the dentists on this list will save both you and the plan money.

PRV Full Name	Specialty	
SHELDEN SACKS	General Dentist	
JUAN LOPEZ-ROSARIO	General Dentist	
JENNIFER MERRY	General Dentist	
FRANK FRUCE	General Dentist	
THOMAS BUNKER	General Dentist	
BARBARA PANKO	General Dentist	
YAMILKA SERRANO	General Dentist	
CHRISTOPHER ROZHON	Pediatric Dentist	
EVAN GROSS	General Dentist	
SHEILA SOLTANI	General Dentist	
ALFONSO MEROLA IV	General Dentist	
CHRIS PATERAS	General Dentist	
SUZANNE SHAPERO	General Dentist	
IMADEH NOSEGBE	General Dentist	

Don't see your dentist on this list? It may mean that they are a nonparticipating provider. If you want to check to see if your dentist or orthodontist is part of the network, go to <u>www.deltadentalins.com</u> and look on the right hand side for Find a Dentist and enter the location, name, or network. We participate in the <u>PPO</u> and Premier networks.

Self-Care

Take Care of Yourself: Self-Care Tips for Teachers

Discover self-care tips to help you thrive in and out of the classroom.

By The fit Team (article from https://fit.sanfordhealth.org/blog/take-care-of-yourself-self-care-tips-for-teachers)



Teachers wear many hats, including caregiver, role model, and advocate. The work you engage in is personal and requires passion, commitment, and hours that often stretch into nights and weekends. You know the importance of self-care, but how do you make time for yourself when simply finding time to use the restroom during the school day is a challenge? Valid question. However, self-care is not selfish, or a fun perk, it is crucial to your overall well-being. Start small and practice some of these helpful tips to recharge your body and brain.

Schedule Time Alone.

Teaching can become socially draining. Plan at least 10-20 minutes a day where you can take a break and enjoy some alone time. Take a walk around the school building over lunch hour, fill your water bottle throughout the day, or sneak into choir practice and enjoy the music.

READ THE REST: CLICK HERE

OCTA Leadership

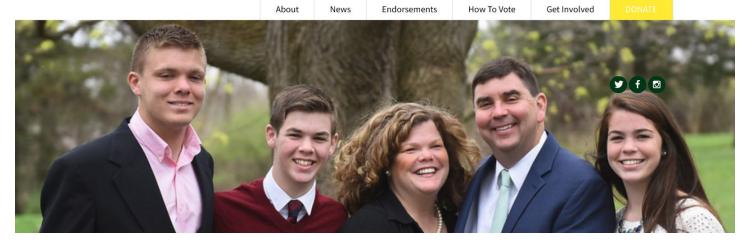
Position	Name	Building	Phone #	email
President	Carrie Patane	OHS 341-2202	315-374-8111	cpatane
1st VP - Grievance	Kim LeRoy	MIN 341-2641	315-591-5605	kleroy
2nd VP - Negotiations	Gretchen Coakley	KPS 341-2500	315-591-3678	gcoakley
3rd VP - PR	Dan Rose	OMS 341-2300	315-254-5657	drose
4th VP - Political 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

<u>OHS</u>	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	<u>FPS</u>	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	Ibradway	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		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
Gretchen Coakley Sub President- Ed Stacy		Ann Jadus - Meg McLaughlin & Beth Mc	

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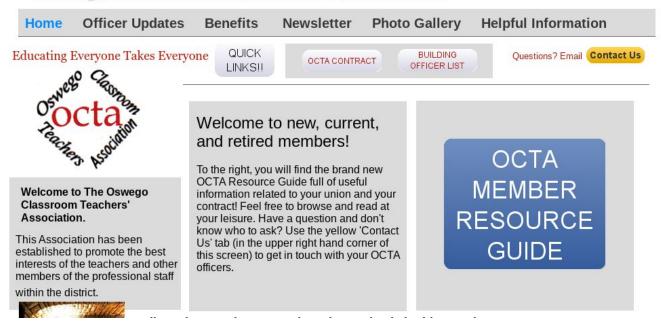
WHY I'M RUNNING

My name is John Mannion, and I'm running for State Senate in the upcoming election because our communities need representation in Albany. I'm a teacher and a union member whose family has lived in Central New York for generations, and I'm passionate about helping people reach their greatest potential. To do that, we need better healthcare, stronger schools, and more investment in our region to attract well-paying jobs. If elected to the State Senate, I'll fight every day to make these goals a reality.

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

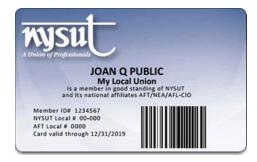
Click on the screenshot of the homepage below to explore the site! Find quick links to important union documents like the new OCTA Contract, the OCTA building officer list, and the new OCTA resources guide!

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**: 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.

