

# OCTA Advocate

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



## September 2020

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Carrie Patane  
OCTA President



Kim LeRoy  
VP Grievance



Gretchen Coakley  
VP Negotiations



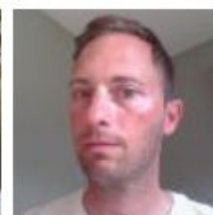
Jenn Cahill  
VP Pol. Action



Mike Patane  
Treasurer



Michelle McManus  
Secretary



Dan Rose  
VP Newsletter



## Message from your OCTA President - Carrie Patane

### 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 for 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. )*



## Contract Extension & Salary Notices

Our contract extension was approved by the BOE on 9/1. Megan Wilson will need to do a lot of work to create new salary notices. She needed to wait for the BOE to approve the contract extension BEFORE the update could take place. This process involves looking at the salary of EACH teacher, TA, and regular sub to make sure the system rolled it over correctly with their contract rate, stipends, longevity, degrees, etc. All new hires will also need to have their salaries recalculated.

I know many of you were waiting on your salary notices before returning your letters of assurance. You may still do so, but with this new contract in place, you could also return your assurance letter separately if you want to. I plan on turning in both documents at the same time in order to save them some filing time.

Our first payday is 9/11. We should have our salary notices before or shortly after our first payday. Be sure to look everything over for accuracy.

The payroll calendar is to the right for your planning needs:

### PAY DATE

02-JUL-20	
17-JUL-20	
31-JUL-20	
14-AUG-20	
28-AUG-20	
11-SEP-20	Teacher 1st Pay
25-SEP-20	
09-OCT-20	
23-OCT-20	
06-NOV-20	
20-NOV-20	
04-DEC-20	
18-DEC-20	
31-DEC-20	
15-JAN-21	
29-JAN-21	
12-FEB-21	
26-FEB-21	
12-MAR-21	
26-MAR-21	
09-APR-21	
23-APR-21	
07-MAY-21	
21-MAY-21	
04-JUN-21	
18-JUN-21	

# NEXT GENERATION

ABOUT OUR UNION   PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT   MEMBER BENEFITS   RESOURCES & PRO TIPS

NYSUT has a lot to offer! Check out <https://nextgennysut.org/> for support, tips, and member benefits!!!

## Come to us for the savings...



DINING &  
SHOPPING  
DISCOUNTS



TRAVEL  
&  
TOURS



CAR &  
TRUCK  
RENTALS



Student Loan  
Assistance



Local  
Discounts



Shopping & Travel  
Discounts



Legal & Financial



Professional Learning  
& CTLE



Certification  
Help

## Come back for the insurance



LIFE  
INSURANCE



AUTO  
&  
HOME



LONG-TERM  
CARE &  
DISABILITY

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://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.

**MEMBER  
BENEFITS**  
  
Working to Benefit You

Sept./Oct. '20

August 25, 2020

# Lawmakers Must Act to Stop Education Cuts!

Author: Andy Pallotta, President

Source: NYSUT Member Action Center <https://mac.nysut.org/>

## State cuts to education and higher education are happening and will continue unless we take action now!

Not long ago, one hundred and seven New York state lawmakers signed on to a Statement of Principles committing to do everything possible to avoid devastating budget cuts...including asking billionaires and ultra-millionaires to pay a bit more.

Now, the state Division of Budget has announced a massive 20 percent cut (they call it a "withholding", but it is effectively a cut!) in school funding, including K-12 schools and community colleges.

That means it's time for action!

As New York heads back to school in the midst of a global pandemic, our public schools and colleges need more resources—not fewer—to keep students, educators, and school staff healthy and safe.

Our union continues to aggressively press Congress for assistance, but in the face of inaction by the federal government, we must demand that the state lawmakers who pledged to stand with us take action now.

We are asking the Legislature to pass revenue raisers—demanding that billionaires and ultra-millionaires pay their fair share—and also to call on the state to tap into the following sources of funding to stop the cuts:

- Utilizing settlement funds;
- Utilizing borrowing abilities granted by Congress; and
- Exhausting rainy day funds.

Cuts are happening, so now is the time!

**Take action now at the [NYSUT Member Action Center](https://mac.nysut.org/) to tweet at lawmakers who have signed on to the Statement of Principles and tell them that now is the time for action!**

**The emergency has arrived. It's time to break the glass.**

[P.S. If you don't have a Twitter account, call your State Legislators and tell them to do whatever it takes to avoid these education funding cuts!](#)

[TAKE ACTION NOW - CLICK HERE!!!](#)

**[Sign up for MAC text alerts!](#) Text the word "nysut" to the contact number 21333.**

**Follow the NYSUT Member Action Center on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NYSUTActionCenter/>**


[PDF Version](#)

## 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



PROVIDED

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 Josephine Wilber.



PROVIDED

#### 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

## OCSD New Hires in the OCTA SPOTLIGHT!! OCTA would like to take a moment to welcome new teachers and staff to the Oswego City School District!

					
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
					
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
					<b>NOT PICTURED:</b> 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	

## Buc Strong shirts are back! Buc Masks too!



Alleson 1-Ply Sublimated Mask  
\$10.00



4 Colors

Port & Company Long Sleeve Core Blend  
Tee  
\$16.00



B-CORE 3-PLY MASK  
\$10.00

### ORDER DEADLINE - SEPT 9th!!!

<https://octafall20.itemorder.com/sale>

Shirts can be ordered with or without the OCTA logo, so anyone can order one!

The order closes on Sept 9th! Shirts should be ready 3 weeks after the sale closes and should be delivered to school mailboxes on or before OCT 1.

Note - there are two mask options. The BUC mask is 1 ply. To make this more effective you should consider wearing it over a disposable mask. There is also a 3 ply mask that says "OSWEGO" on it.

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## VOTING & Absentee BALLOTS



New York State launched an online portal where all registered voters can request an absentee ballot if you are worried about in-person voting due to COVID. There's no need to wait — [you can request an absentee ballot for the November 3rd election today](#). *(Please note that you must already be registered to vote at your current address. If you aren't registered to vote, or need to change your voter registration address, visit [elections.ny.gov](https://elections.ny.gov) for more info.)*

Jennifer Cahill (OCTA VP Political Action)

## 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**

### COVID-19 Update & FAQs

**08/17/2020**

NYSTRS has implemented a variety of measures related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Large meetings and events, including our PREP seminars, are canceled until further notice. Benefit consultations are being conducted by telephone. A large percentage of staff are telecommuting. Our building is closed to the public but our phone lines remain open at (800) 348-7298 to answer your questions and we are still receiving mail.

We thank you for understanding that the health, safety and welfare of our members and staff are our utmost concern. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation as well as the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the New York State Health Department, and we will continue to adjust our plans as needed.

To ensure members have the information needed to make informed decisions, we have put in place alternative communication methods. Please read on for more information. We also urge you to use the self-service tools and secure messaging function available through your online [MyNYSTRS](#) account. [\(READ MORE CLICK HERE\)](#)

### 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](#)
- [Max Option: Secret Agent](#)
- [MyNYSTRS: Your Information on Your Schedule](#)

[\(READ MORE CLICK HERE\)](#)

# Self-Care And Setting Boundaries For Teachers During The COVID-19 Pandemic

by Julia Marie Hogan

(Submitted by OCTA member Jessica Bowman Leonard via the [OCTA Facebook page](#))

In a matter of a week or two, your day-to-day life has been turned upside down. School has now gone online for the foreseeable future, everyone is sheltering in place, and social distancing is the new norm. As an educator, you're now tasked with developing brand new lesson plans suited for online teaching (after a crash course in online course development) while juggling your own childcare or children's schooling, working from home, and taking care of yourself and your family.

Many educators I know have shared how challenging it is to try to master an online format and keep your students motivated and engaged in such a short amount of time. These new changes also bring with them a host of challenges that you might be struggling to navigate, including the fact that working from home is

harder in many ways, your own reaction to what's happening in our communities and the world, and grieving the loss of the remainder of the school year and the fun activities you had planned.

If you are finding yourself struggling to cope with these changes and your own emotions surrounding them, you're not alone. These are challenging times, and it's very normal to experience mixed emotions and stress during times like these. The key to thriving rather than just surviving is to make self-care a priority. Here are a few tips for practicing self-care during this unprecedented time.

[\(READ MORE CLICK HERE!\)](#)

Carrie Shuba Patane shared a link.

Some members have been eager to share resources which will be helpful as we return to our classrooms (virtual or in person). In order to prevent clutter, please use THIS THREAD to post links, books, strategies, etc. that you believe our colleagues will benefit from.

Join our facebook group if you have not already...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/650368071734949>



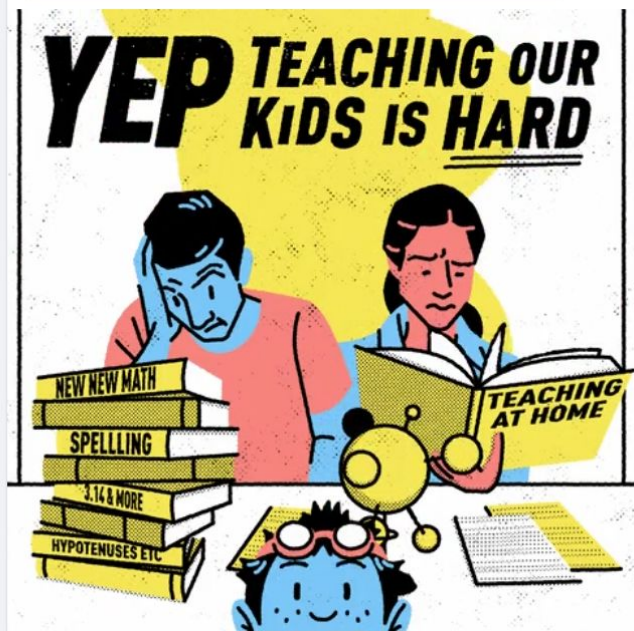
OCTA



Carrie Shuba Patane shared a link.

Admin · August 17 at 11:05 AM · 🌐

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## **RECOVERING, REBUILDING, AND RENEWING: THE SPIRIT OF NEW YORK'S SCHOOLS**

### ***REOPENING GUIDANCE***

When the Board of Regents, the Education Department, and I decided to convene a Task Force to help create this guidance document, it became immediately clear that we needed to hear from as many voices as possible. New York is a large and diverse state, and we knew that our diversity had to be well-represented on the Task Force.

By holding four separate regional meetings, we were able to ensure the work of the Task Force was done in a thorough and deliberative way. By including stakeholders with expertise in various substantive areas, we were able to elicit the critical input we needed to inform the decision-making that went into this guidance document.

We also held a statewide Youth Forum to hear directly from students, because we must always consider their perspective and listen to their voices. The students did not disappoint; the Regents and I were absolutely amazed at their mature and thoughtful contributions. They told us what has worked for them and what has not, and they suggested actions the State can take to improve their educational experience next year and into the future. As with the adult stakeholders, the students' input is reflected throughout this guidance document.

We are truly grateful to all the Task Force and Youth Forum participants for their time and rich contributions. As well, we would like to thank the staff of the State Education Department for their valuable contributions to this document – with a special note of appreciation for the extraordinary efforts of Dr. Kimberly Young Wilkins, Deputy Commissioner for P-12 Instructional Support, who oversaw every aspect of the project. The COVID-19 pandemic has confirmed what many of us have always known: schools are an irreplaceable part of our lives and our communities. We have come to rely on them to provide essential services that go far beyond traditional academics. Simply put, schools must function for our society to function.

Everybody wants our students back in school. But it would be reckless to return until it is safe to do so. That is why this guidance document contemplates three possible reopening scenarios: in-person instruction, remote instruction, and a combination of the two.

[\(PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW AND BROWSE THE ENTIRE NYS REOPENING GUIDANCE BOOKLET\)](#)

## 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

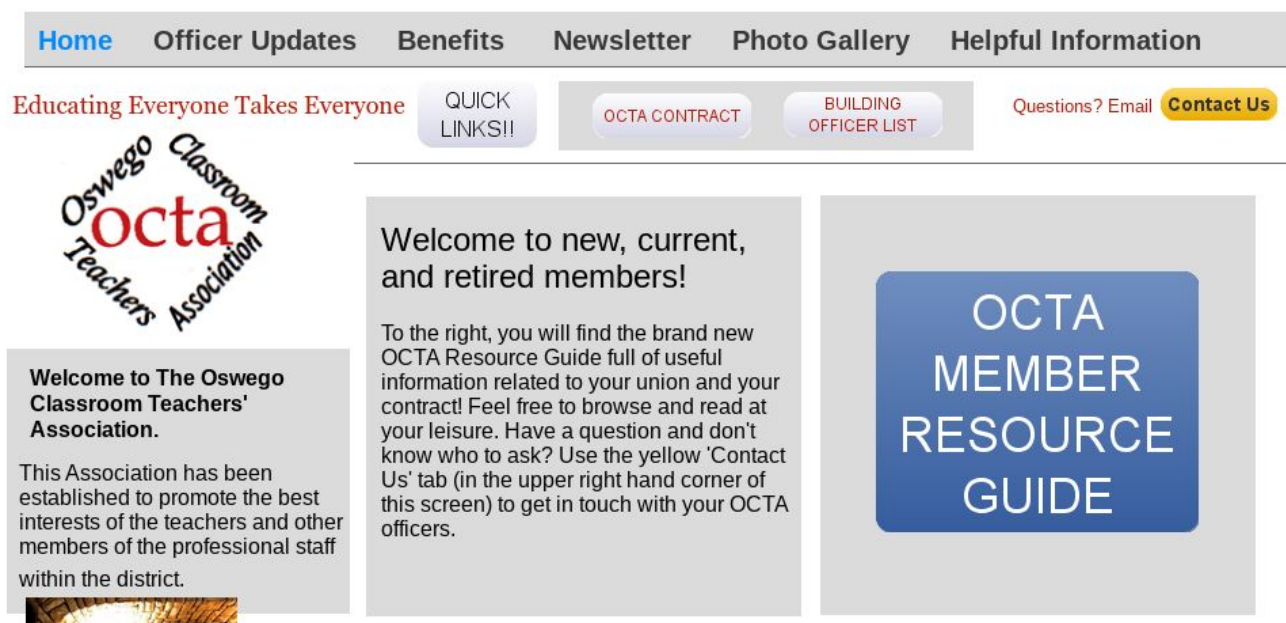
## Building Officers and Representatives 2020-2022

<u>OHS</u>	<b>315-341-2202</b>	<u>FLS</u>	<b>315-341-2700</b>
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	qcanale	Jennifer Cahill	jcahill
Lindsay Brown	lbrown23	Jim Hartmann	jhartman
Tami Palmitesso	tpalmit2	Michelle McManus	mmcmanu2
Kathy Audlin	kaudlin		
Jenn Smith	jsmith3	<u>FPS</u>	<b>315-341-2400</b>
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
<u>OMS</u>	<b>315-341-2300</b>	<u>MIN</u>	<b>315-341-2600</b>
Lori Bradway-Veiga Pres	lbradway	Carol Janice Co-Pres	cjanice
Peg Holt VP	mholt	Amy Sullivan Co-Pres	asulliva
Sally Kingsbury	skinsbu	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
<u>KPS</u>	<b>315-341-2500</b>	<u>CER</u>	<b>315-341-2800</b>
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
<b>Sub President- Ed Stacy</b>	<b>Sub Co Vice Presidents - Meg McLaughlin &amp; Beth McCrobie</b>		

## 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!

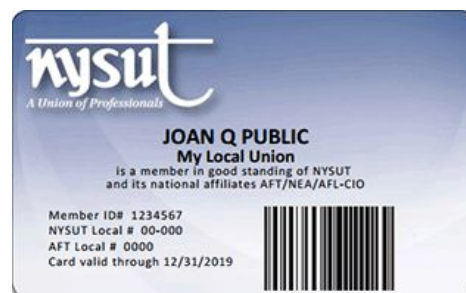
### Oswego Classroom Teachers' Association



## 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 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.

