

*A message from the President: Dave Dampf*

In this message, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to all members of the Oneida Teacher's Association. The past year has presented many challenges, and we stood together to meet and overcome them.



One of our biggest challenges happened when the Supreme Court ruled on the Janus case in June of 2018. You showed your commitment to the OTA by signing commitment cards and the OTA remains 100% union strong. The solidarity shown in this way allows us to more effectively bargain on your behalf.

Further, as you know, it took the better part of a year to reach a tentative agreement for our contract. Your negotiating team put in a tremendous number of hours. You showed your support by wearing grey, baking cookies, and providing dinner during late night meetings. Most importantly, though, you showed your solidarity through having conversations, asking questions, and sharing concerns with the negotiating team. This communication allowed us to clearly know what you value most in our contract. With your continued help and words of encouragement, a settlement was reached and then ratified.

Last but not least, your generous donations and your volunteer hours have allowed us to show our commitment to the Oneida community. Dress down days have supported numerous local charities. Your OTA Community Action team continues to highlight all that is best about Oneida and its teachers. Through this team's work, we are sponsoring a flag to express our gratitude to local members of the armed forces. This team is also spearheading "Read Across Oneida" on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

For all of these reasons – and more – I am grateful to you.

You are the strength of the OTA.

Thank you,  
Dave Dampf

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

### OTA Representative Meeting (Second Tuesday of the month) ALL ARE WELCOME!

Next Meeting: Feb 12th 3:30 pm @ OSMS  
Mar 12th 3:30 pm @ WP  
Apr 13th 3:30 pm @ TBD  
May 14th 3:30 pm @ TBD

Any special meeting dates will be announced through e-mail

### Board of Education Meeting (Second Tuesday of the month)

Feb 12th 6:00 pm @ Otto Shortell Middle School  
Mar 12th 6:00 pm @ Willard Prior  
Apr 13th 6:00 pm @ Costello Transportation Center  
May 14th 6:00 pm @ CTC

## Board of Education Meetings

The Oneida City School District Board of Education will meet on the second Tuesday of every month.

The meetings are generally held at one of the buildings in the district and begin at 6 pm.

We all need to remember that it is our job, our livelihood, that is constantly under attack. Make every effort to attend a meeting to show solidarity in the OTA. Remember, it is in your best interest to know what is going on in your district.

## Donations and Contributions

Through the 1st of December, the OTA and OSEU have raised almost \$1400.00 in our Casual Friday fund raising! (numbers represent funds raised by OHS, OSMS, DV and SS)



***If your building is making donations, send me a note and tell me where the donations are going and how much you raise so we can share with everyone!***

## TALES FROM THE CRYPT

The members of the Oneida Retired Educators Association remind you that we are alive and well and still active on the educational scene in Oneida. With over 160 members, we continue to be interested in the education of our children, the situations, rights and benefits of current and retired educators, and the state and federal legislation that affects us all.

During the recent partial government shutdown (hopefully we aren't in another one as this is read!), some people wondered why there wasn't more of an outcry by workers. The answer was given that we are not living in a strong organized labor era. OTA and OREA members are painfully aware of this, and must continue to resist and repel efforts to erode the strong union we have built over the past 40 years. It's interesting to see what is happening locally on the union front outside of the teaching realm. Paul Thomas, friend of many OREA members and husband of one, shares this story with us:

"I was brought up in a family where my father was a union worker. I became a union worker at a creamery during college year summers (AFL/CIO Milk Wagon Drivers Union). My professional career was outside the realm of unionization. In retirement, I took a job at one of the large box stores. During the "on-boarding" process, we were advised that the company was non-union. We were instructed that if anyone approached us about organizing a union, we were to report that to management. Of course, the words that ran through my head at that were something along the line of "no way in hell would I report that" (I'm sure those weren't the exact words, but you get my drift.)

In the three and one half years that I worked for the big box store, I watched as corporate management continually took away from employees. Perks and incentive bonuses routinely disappeared. The company has since dissolved the positions of department managers, thus eroding the wage scale and people's self-worth.

People need to understand that without the unionization of workers we would be a country of one percent very rich and very little or no middle class. Solidarity, brothers and sisters!"

Thanks to Paul for this glimpse at union suppression that many of us never see. As you continue to meet the trials and tribulations of your day-to-day efforts in the admirable profession of preparing the future of us all, it would be good to remember Paul's advice...Solidarity! Thank you for all you do.

Patricia Albaugh, Sixth Grade, Oneida Castle School, Retired 2007



## Welcome our New members to the OTA



*Stephanie Anderson -  
Social Worker  
Oneida High School*

Hello, my name is Stephanie Anderson. I am the High School social worker. My position is new this year and my job includes; identifying and treating mental illness among students at OHS, training and providing referrals to families, providing support and guidance surrounding mental health/behaviors to students and their families, being a consultant to faculty members regarding mental health and/or behavioral needs of students being an additional support in the guidance office. I received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a minor in political science from LeMoyne College and then a Master's Degree in Social Work from Syracuse University. I am trained and certified in a variety of therapeutic modalities including DBT (Dialectical Behavior Therapy), DDP (Dynamic Deconstructive Psychotherapy) and TF-CBT (Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy). Prior to coming to OHS, I was a supervising social worker and the Madison County Children's SPOA Coordinator at the Madison County Mental Health Department. I was employed at MCMH for nearly 8 years, and employed as a therapist at Liberty Resources for 3 years prior to that. I have started an LBGT+ club here at the high school and, so far, it has been very successful. We are hoping to Charter the club soon! I am also running a Social Skills group currently and hope to start a DBT (dialectical behavior therapy group) after Christmas Break.

I am married and have two children, Mia (5) who is in Kindergarten and Jase (2). My favorite thing to do is of course spending time with my children and taking them to do/experience new things. I love to work on creative projects with them and to create crafty/ fun ideas for my home. But, my main hobby/interest is interior decoration. I graduated from OHS in 2002, so I am very excited to have come full circle and be here as a faculty member. I am so impressed with everyone's kindness and how much the teachers and staff do every day to help their students. I am even more impressed with how talented, creative and resilient the students are!



*Jessica Weaver  
Speech Pathologist  
Durhamville elementary*

Hello, my name is Jessica Weaver and I am the Speech-Language Therapist here at Durhamville Elementary. I received my Bachelor Degree from The College of Saint Rose and I am certified in Speech-Language Pathology. I continued my studies at The College of Saint Rose where I received my Master's Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

I was previously working in early intervention and preschool speech therapy. I like to stay active when I am not teaching. I participate in several recreational sports leagues including kickball, volleyball and dodgeball. I also like to spend my time baking!

### 10 things to do over the winter break

- 1- Take a vacation (warm and sunny)
- 2- Visit the zoo
- 3- Have breakfast out
- 4- Build a snowman (or snowwoman)
- 5- Go out to your favorite restaurant
- 6- Take in a sporting event
- 7- Go out to the movies
- 8- Visit with friends and family
- 9- Bake some cookies
- 10- Relax!





## Welcome our New members to the OTA



*Melissa Moshetti  
Math AIS Teacher  
Otto Shortell Middle  
School*

Hello, my name is Melissa Moshetti Tanner and I am the new math teacher at Otto Shortell Middle School. I am dual certified in Math and Secondary Education. I received my Bachelor Degree through SUNY Cortland. I have a Masters in Administration and, with that, my Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS). I had previously been teaching High School math.

I have several hobbies, one of which includes drawing. I currently hold a second job as the Sketch Artist for the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum. I also enjoy playing billiards, hiking, and spending time with my family.

It is really nice to be working here at Oneida.

### **It's never too early to be thinking about the annual OTA scholarship.**

This year the OTA will award four \$500 scholarships to deserving members of the graduating class.

Criteria include:

- 1- Be accepted at an institution of higher education.
- 2- Have a need for financial assistance.
- 3- Have achieved the Standard of Excellence established by the Oneida City School District. According to these standards, the nominee may be described as.....

"an effective communicator"  
"an applier of technology"  
"a life long learner"  
"a responsible citizen"  
"a critical thinker"  
"an independent learner"  
"a global citizen"



*Michaleen Mahoney  
Special Education  
Durhamville Elementary*

Hello, my name is Michaleen Mahoney and I am the new Special Education Teacher at Durhamville elementary. I am teaching the 15:1:1 classes in Fourth and Fifth grade. I received my Bachelor Degree from Utica College in General Studies and Students with Disabilities 1-6. I received my Master's Degree from Touro College in General Studies and Students with Disabilities 1-6. For the past 3 ½ years I worked as a Special Education teacher for Madison-Oneida BOCES Community Based High School level. Prior to working for Madison-Oneida BOCES, I worked at the Arc of Oneida-Lewis chapter. There I held various positions including Clinical Director and Assistant Director of Vocational Services.

I am married and have two boys ages 24 and soon to be 27. I have two dogs, Millie Mae and Henri Paul, who are also the love of my life! During the summer, I like to garden, swim, and go for walks. In the winter, I like to snow shoe and cross country ski. I also love to read!

\*\* I cannot say thank you enough to Mrs. Visalli, the teachers, and the staff at Durhamville for making me feel so welcomed!



*Matt Quenneville  
Technology Teacher  
Otto Shortell Middle  
School*

Please say hello to one of our newest OTA members. Matt took over as the Technology teacher at OSMS at the start of the 2nd MP. This is his first teaching assignment. He received his Bachelor's of Science in Technology Education from SUNY @ Oswego in December.

Make sure to give Matt a helping hand in his first year of teaching.

## Happenings in and around your Union

### Solidarity Day for the OTA!



OTA at Otto Shortell wearing their gray!



OTA at the High School wearing their gray!



OTA at OTTO Shortell on our 2nd "gray" day!



Lazy days of winter!  
Enjoy you February break!



# Read Across Oneida

Presented by  
The Oneida Teachers Association

**When:** Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

**Time:** 10AM - 12PM

**Where:** First United Methodist  
Church on the corner of  
Main St. and Grove St. in  
Oneida



**What:** In celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday, also known as "Read Across America Day," the Oneida Teachers Association will be giving away free new and gently used books to children and teens. We will have free snacks and crafts as well!

**Who is welcome:** *Every Who in Whoville!* Things of all ages!

For information, please contact:  
[Action.ota@gmail.com](mailto:Action.ota@gmail.com)



**Oneida Teachers'**  
ASSOCIATION

*Partners for a Better Community*



## Benefits designed exclusively for NYSUT members

NYSUT members and their loved ones have access to dozens of endorsed shopping, travel & personal programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits, including discounts on hotels & vacations; car & truck rentals; international group tours; sports & concert tickets; theme parks & attractions; and more.

Whether you are participating in one of our shopping/entertainment/travel offerings; auto, homeowners or life insurance plans; or financial or legal services, NYSUT members have the "Power of the Union" behind them ready to serve as their advocate.

### **The following is just a sample of the endorsed programs available to NYSUT members:**

**Bose** -- NYSUT members receive special educator pricing on high-end, high-quality electronics such as music systems, headphones and bluetooth speakers. You must contact Bose toll-free at 877-709-2073 and mention "educator pricing" to receive this exclusive pricing.

**Orlando Employee Discounts** -- NYSUT members save up to 30% on unforgettable Orlando, FL excursions to Disney World, Universal Studios and many other attractions.

**Grand Circle Travel** -- NYSUT members can enjoy a number of unique travel deals on international river cruises and other travel opportunities with Grand Circle's small ship cruise tours, river cruises and land tours.

### **Member Appreciation Month is back!**

One of our most popular annual events is set to return this February. The 2019 Member Appreciation Month celebration will be filled with a series of prize drawings for items donated by NYSUT Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers -- including gift cards, iPads, Echo Dots and more!

As a MAP Alert member, you are eligible to win prizes every single day throughout the month of February.

All MAP Alert members are already entered to win; if you have colleagues who would like to be eligible to win, they simply need to sign up for our MAP Alert service on the Member Benefits website. Prize winners will be listed daily on the Member Benefits website.



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



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