



Oneida Teachers' ASSOCIATION

Partners for a Better Community

May/June 2023
Newsletter

www.oneidateacher.com

OTA - Facebook Page

Volume 51—Issue #5

A Message from our President - David Wright

As the school year comes to a close the OTA negotiations team has been working on another MOA (Memorandum of Agreement). This agreement addresses the topic of religious holidays. With just over 200 members, the OTA has a variety of different values and beliefs. Each year when the school calendar is created our required workdays do not take into account all of the values and beliefs of all of our members. Often these members are required to work during their religious holidays or take a personal day in order to attend religious events. Often this leaves these members with no or diminished number of personal days to take care of other items that we might use our three personal days for each year.

In working with the distinct the paragraphs below are part of the MOA that was created to address this topic.

Employees who have firmly held religious beliefs shall be entitled to take up to three additional days off each year, with pay, to observe their religious holidays. Such days off shall not be unreasonably denied by the Employer.

Employees requesting time off for religious holidays must provide the building principal with at least seven days notice prior to the requested date(s) off. The School District shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate employees' requests for time off for religious holidays, subject to the operational needs of the business.

The above is only part of the MOA that was developed. To view the full document please visit the OTA website at oneidateacher.com. Under the contract section you can see this along with other MOAs that have been created.

As we close the books on another school year, take some time this summer to recharge, relax, and enjoy time at the beach. Spend time with family and friends and make sure to stay hydrated.



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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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

Next Meeting: May 16th 3:30 pm TBA
June 13th 3:30 pm TBA — Spring Fling Date
No Summer Meetings Scheduled
Sept 12th 3:30 pm TBA
Any special meeting dates will be announced through e-mail.

Board of Education Meeting (Second Tuesday of the month)

May 16th 6:00 pm District Office
June 13th 6:00 pm Costello Transportation Center
Start of New Fiscal Year
July 11th 6:00 pm TBA
Aug 8th 6:00 pm TBA
Sept 12th 6:00 pm TBA

Board of Education Meetings

The Oneida City School District Board of Education meets 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 scrutinized. 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

Thank you Everyone!

With a Year End Total of just over \$5000 — Great Job Oneida CSD!

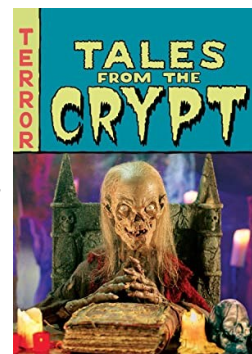
We are always looking for new organizations or community needs for our Casual Fridays.



TALES FROM THE CRYPT

The Oneida Retired Educators Association (OREA) wants you to know 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.

There's a bright light at the end of the 2022-2023 tunnel! Year-end activities are in full swing, retirements have been announced, and plans are being considered for the next school year. It's a frenetic and exciting part of the school year, and is firmly implanted in the memories of OREA members...so much so that it sometimes appears in our dreams! One of my current "anxiety dreams" (retirees aren't supposed to have anxiety!) features the discovery that it is mid-June and I haven't taught the kids any math all year, or I realize that I haven't had them label and color a single map. Then I start a frantic search for materials, but of course can't find any. Yikes. People sometimes ask when the school dreams stop...so far the answer is: Never!



We know you have all fulfilled your curriculum requirements to the best of your ability, and congratulate you on the completion of another school year. We are especially eager to congratulate the 2023 retirees and welcome them to our ranks! These lucky staff members have contributed a huge chunk of their lives to the OCSD...and just look at all the lives they have impacted! We remember Mary White and wonder just how many thousands of library books she helped children sign out; Kenny Endemann got them to school on time; Cheryl Ano gave one-on-one attention and helped in countless ways; Melanie Fountain helped keep the District Office running, and Kathy Gerber...yikes! What are we all going to do without turning to Kathy to solve our insurance problems and every other thing that we ran crying to her to fix?

Holly Marshall, Lisa Billington Mahon, Jackie Moyer, Dewayne Cronk and Dave Dampf...Oneida is losing so much skill, talent, compassion and expertise as these OTA members leave. We were happy to see that several mentioned the OTA in their recent newsletter remarks, and thank them for their service to the union as members, perhaps building reps, and beyond. We are especially grateful to Dewayne for his many years of service, including 15 years on the negotiating team to help ensure excellent terms for all members, both active and retired, and to Dave for his years on the Executive Committee and as President.

We hope you will join us in September at our Back to School but Not For Us breakfast in September, and will join the 139 retirees who currently make up the OREA. Your union involvement does not end now...the OREA needs you! Retiree Council 8 President Jan Corn reminded us at our recent RC8 luncheon, "Union is forever." As Dave Dampf so aptly said, "Trust and support your union. You work under the terms and conditions of a very impressive and hard-fought contract. Those that came before you sacrificed for it, and you need to protect it for those that will come behind you."

Congratulations to you all!

Patricia Albaugh...Oneida Castle School...2007

Happenings in and around the OTA

OTA SCHOLARSHIP 2023

The OTA awarded 5 scholarships to Oneida High School Seniors this year.

Nominations were held in late April via Google Form. Members voted once for up to 5 individuals.

At this time we would like to inform you of the five (5) recipients of the \$500 OTA Scholarship Awards.

Syrriah Alexander will be attending MVCC
Wyatt Bishop will be attending ESF
Julia Bognaski will be attending RIT
Andrew Hicks will be attending Colgate
Olivia Piersall will be attending Hamilton



OTA and VoteCope

Around 78% of OTA members contribute to Vote Cope for a total of \$3973 per year.

Our 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 school budgets.

GIVE TO VOTE-COPE	SUPPORT EDUCATORS
	HELP OUR STUDENTS
	PROTECT OUR RIGHTS
	ADVANCE DEMOCRACY
	UNITE OUR NATION

Happenings in and around the OTA

Food Truck Wednesday

The High School Sunshine Fund



sponsored a food truck on Wednesday June 21st at the High School. OHS faculty and

staff were given a menu from *Brake from the Grind* food truck and chose to either pre-order their meal or order it from the truck that day.

It was a pleasant afternoon with a tent set up outside. Tables were provided to sit down and eat your lunch and chat with your colleagues.

OTA End of Year Celebration

When: Tuesday, June 13th

Time 3:30—6:00 pm

Where: Oneida Community Golf Course

Taking the place of our Spring Fling, our End-of-the-Year event was a chance to catch up with fellow members of the OTA in a relaxing environment. This year, we invited all of our current and retired members to the Celebration. It was a nice opportunity to get out, socialize with colleagues, and relax a little before we all head out for the summer.



Thinking About Retirement?

Whether you are 1, 3, or 5 years out, you want to check out **NYSTRS**. There is an abundance of information to collect, digest, and use to your benefits. Don't forget to sign up for one of their retirement seminars. There's still time!!!

NYSUT Retirement Seminars - go on **NYSTRS** to sign up for one



NEW PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT!

Universal Life Insurance with Convalescent Care Benefit

provided by:

Trustmark[®]
benefits beyond benefits

- Innovative universal life insurance product provided by Trustmark[®], combining life insurance coverage with a convalescent care benefit that can be used to pay for long-term care services.
- **Limited time offer!** In-service members ages 18-64 who enroll between May 1 and June 16, 2023 may qualify for guaranteed coverage (no medical questions) up to \$50,000.
- Retiree members up to age 70 may elect coverage up to \$100,000 by answering some medical questions.

LIVING BENEFITS FOR LONG-TERM CARE

You could require long-term care services at any point in your life, which could cost hundreds of dollars per day. This universal life insurance program includes a convalescent care benefit that can help pay for these services at any age. Policyholders with a qualifying claim can collect up to 4% of their universal life death benefit per month for up to 25 months -- helping to cover the cost of long-term care services such as an in-home health aide, assisted living facility, or nursing home care.

LIFE INSURANCE

Protecting your loved ones is one of life's greatest responsibilities. Along with the grief that comes with losing a family member, survivors may suddenly be faced with costly expenses, debts, and a loss of income. Your death benefit can be used to help pay these expenses or for other items such as tuition or savings.

YOURCARE360 ONLINE RESOURCE GUIDE

This program includes access to YourCare360, providing an online resource that can help to guide you and your family through the caregiving journey.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,
visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org
or calling 800-626-8101.

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

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