



Oneida Teachers' ASSOCIATION

Partners for a Better Community

November/December Newsletter

Volume 46—Issue #2

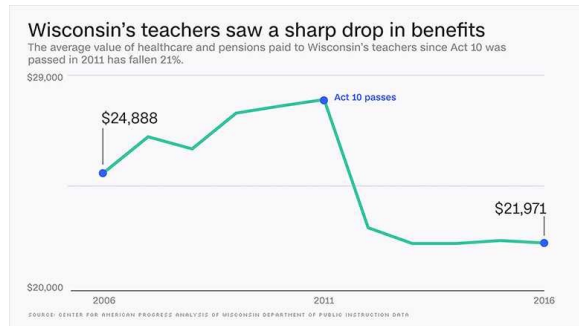
www.oneidateacher.com

A Message from our President - Dave Dampf

2017 is almost in our rearview mirror. We have accomplished much this year, but I am most proud of all the fundraisers that have benefited local organizations and families. You are an incredibly generous group of professionals, and you never fail to step up when there is a need.

Something to keep your eye on during the coming months is the Janus case. The United States Supreme Court will be rendering a decision that could drastically change labor laws. As of the Abood decision (1977), the Supreme Court ruled that public sector workers represented by unions had to pay agency fees because they benefit from “collective bargaining, contract administration, and the arbitration of grievances.” Many states have become “Right to Work” states – a misleading name – meaning that public workers do not have to pay agency fees. Those that receive these benefits but don’t help to pay for them are commonly called free-riders.

In 2011, Wisconsin approved Act 10 which made Wisconsin a Right to Work state. Median teacher salaries have dropped by almost 3% and median benefits declined by almost 20%. More than 10% of the teachers in Wisconsin left the profession after Act 10 passed. As you can imagine, this has a significant impact on students.



On a happier note, if you are considering retirement at the end of this school year, please remember that you must have your letter in by the end of December to be eligible to receive the local retirement incentive. Page 38 of your contract has more information.

I hope that you have a wonderful holiday with friends and family. Enjoy the time and rest up for 2018.



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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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

Next Meeting: *Dec 12th* 3:30 pm rm. TBA @ Seneca Street Elementary
 Jan 9th 3:30 pm rm. TBA @ North Broad Elementary
 Feb 13th 3:30 pm rm. 100 @ Oneida High School
 Mar 13th 3:30 pm rm. TBA @ Otto Shortell Middle School
Any special meeting dates will be announced through e-mail.

Board of Education Meeting (Second Tuesday of the month)

Dec 12th 6:00 pm @ Seneca Street Elementary
Jan 9th 6:00 pm @ North Broad Elementary
Feb 13th 3:30 pm @ Oneida High School
Mar 13th 3:30 pm @ Otto Shortell Middle School

Congratulations!



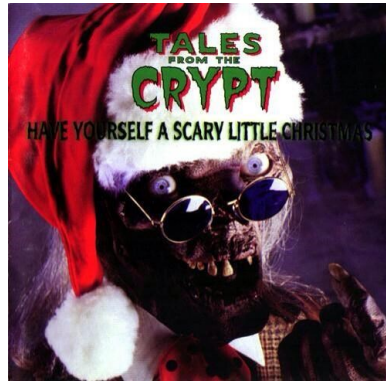
Great job on getting the word out and voting down the Constitutional Convention.

Donations and Contributions



We have started out the new school year with donations going to **The American Red Cross** (Disaster Relief Fund for the Hurricane Recovery), **Breast Cancer Awareness** and our local **Food Pantry's**. Total contributions so far this year are almost **\$800**.
Great job everyone!

TALES FROM THE CRYPT



The members of the Oneida Retired Educators Association (OREA) 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.

With Thanksgiving 2017 in the books, we remain thankful that the latest Constitutional Convention Proposition was soundly defeated. Congratulations to you for your part in making this happen, and remember to be ever-watchful the next time this rolls around.

Now Christmas approaches, and the thoughts of many turn to family. Our “blood family” of course is at the top of our list...but I would be willing to bet that most of us are so close with many of our colleagues that we also think of our school “family” with great affection. Indeed, the school family endures into retirement, with monthly lunches or even weekly get-togethers to stay close and connected with those we spent so much time with as we worked together through the years.

Beyond our everyday relationship with our immediate school family is another “family” which is our most important workplace group, and that is our union “family”. Jan Corn, the president of our Retirees Council 8, told of a recent Central New York Labor Council event during which several union activists were honored for their leadership. One honoree spoke about the union being “family”. “We fight for our union brothers and sisters just as we do for our own personal family members,” said Corn. “The union has your back, both as an active teacher and as a retiree. We believe that the union helps to provide a better life for all of us...we serve our union and our communities well, through dedication and belief in the solidarity of collective action. Your only strong voice is through the union.” With an anti-union climate currently pervasive in Washington, we are facing many challenges, and a strong union is now more important than ever.

The members of OREA wish you and all of your “families” the happiest of holidays, and continued success in the new year as you continue to work hard to educate the future of our community. Remember...we are all members of the very large nuclear and extended family known as the Oneida Teachers Association.

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

P.S. Thank you so much for inviting us to the Fall Fling! Many OREA members greatly enjoyed your generosity!

Happenings in and around the OTA



Nick Grossman
Guidance Counselor
Oneida High School

Hello, my name is Nicolas Grossmann and I am one of the School Counselor's at OHS. I received my undergraduate degree from SUNY Cortland in School Counseling. After graduating from Cortland, I enrolled in a Master's Program at Syracuse University in School Counseling. Last year I completed my internship at Liverpool HS and graduated from SU in May. I have always enjoyed playing sports and in my first year here at Oneida, I began coaching boys modified soccer. I also enjoy spending time with my friends and family. I am looking forward to working more with the students and staff here at Oneida.



Matt Cretaro
Social studies
Oneida High
School

Hello, my name is Matt Cretaro and I am the new Social Studies Teacher at Oneida High School. My instruction includes teaching Global 9 and Economics. This is my first year teaching, and so far, I have found it very interesting. I am a graduate of SUNY Cortland and received my degree in 7-12 Social Studies. I did my student teaching at Otto Shortell Middle School and also assisted with coaching the Varsity baseball team. I like to spend time watching and playing sports, spending time with my friends and family and traveling.



Mike Finnerty
Library Media Specialist
Durhamville Elementary
School

Say hello to Mike! He is the new Library Media Specialist at Durhamville Elementary School



Lindsey Guasp
Reading
Durhamville Elementary

Say hello to Lindsey! She is the new building Reading Teacher at Durhamville Elementary School.

Happenings in and around the OTA



Sara Willis
Speech Pathologist
Willard Prior Elementary

Hello everyone, I am Sara Willis and I am the Speech teacher at Willard Prior. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Speech and Language Disabilities from Utica College. I later attended Syracuse University where I received my Masters in Speech-Language Pathology. For the past three years, I worked as a speech pathologist district wide for VVS and, prior to that, I worked at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Utica with swallowing disorders and stroke/TBI. I live in Oneida with my husband Joe and daughter Lane who is in pre-K at Willard Prior. I like to try new restaurants, see live music, refinish furniture and decorate. My husband and I are always renovating something around the house, trying to decide what our winter project will be this year.



Kaley McHale
Art Teacher
Oneida High School

Hello, my name is Kaley McHale and I am the new Art teacher at the High School. I received my AAS in Photography from the Fashion Institute of Technology and then went on to get my Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and Tufts University. My Masters' Degree is in Art Education from Syracuse University. Prior to coming to Oneida, I was teaching Art at Danforth Middle School in the Syracuse City School District. During the summer, I teach Special Education Art through OCM BOCES. For my free time, I like to spend as much as I can outside, usually hiking.



Happenings in and around the OTA



Annual Fall Fling

On Friday, November 3rd, the members of the OTA, OSEU and OREA gathered together at the Marble Hill Inn to enjoy some food, beverage and conversations! About 100 people attended our annual fall get together. It was an excellent evening to chat with our current members and to catch up with our former members. Hopefully, everyone had a good time and can look forward to our Spring Social!

Supreme Court Decisions and the OTA

There is currently a case that is going to be reviewed by the Supreme Court that will have a direct impact on the OTA and our members. **Janus v. American Federation of State**, are asking the Supreme Court to overrule a previous case, **Abood v. Detroit Board of Education**, which said that workers need not pay for political actions of unions but need to pay for the unions collective bargaining efforts to prevent freeloading. The **Janus** case is to go in front of the Supreme Court early in 2018 with a decision expected sometime in May or June.

APPR Updates

1- There is no longer a **Dimension 10** in our APPR. You no longer need to record any of that information into a form. However, it is still recommended that you keep track of all of you contacts and other information over the course of the school year.

2- **Observations:** Pre and Post observation forms are no longer a requirement. It is suggested to still use these forms if you are untenured or if there is some question between yourself and your administrator.

3- **SLO's:** High school members may need to revisit their "expected outcomes" (target) and refine them in the future.

Thinking About Retirement?

Whether you are 1, 3 or 5 years out, you want to check out NYSTRS. There is an abundance of information for you to collect, digest and use to your benefit. 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



NYSUT Member Benefits... more than just insurance!

As an additional benefit to NYSUT members and their families, your union membership allows you to participate in more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits.

These offerings include crucial products that you may already purchase such as life, auto & homeowners insurance, unbiased financial services and expert legal advice. But your NYSUT membership also allows you to participate in a variety of shopping, travel and personal programs that can help you save on everyday purchases and those special occasions.



Our endorsed shopping/travel/personal programs offer savings on numerous online purchases, including:

**Theme Park & Movie Tickets
Hotel & Vacation Discounts
Car & Truck Rentals**

**Office Supply Discounts
Retail Store Discounts
Concerts & Sporting Events**

**Electronics Discounts
Ski Tickets
Car Buying Service**

Participation in Member Benefits-endorsed programs also gives you a trusted advocate ready to assist you with any issues or concerns with any of our programs.

Member Appreciation Month coming in February 2018!

As a show of thanks to the more than 600,000 NYSUT members that comprise this labor union, NYSUT Member Benefits will once again be holding our annual Member Appreciation Month celebration in February 2018.

Special prize drawings will be held each day of the month. To be eligible to win, you must be a member of our voluntary MAP Alert email service.

Sign up any time through the end of February 2018 to be eligible to win... but if you join MAP by January 31, 2018, you'll have the most chances to win!

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



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.