

A message from the President

As you know, we once again returned to the school year without a successor agreement in place. This marks the second contract in a row where the OTA and the District have failed to reach a settlement. Two contracts ago, the first with the current administration; a settlement was reached in late August. Previous to this administration, negotiations were very amicable and Oneida had never gone back in September without a successor agreement in place. For the second consecutive time, impasse was declared, and we will enter into mediation. Two sessions are currently scheduled; the first on October 15, the second on November 3. Until a successor agreement is reached, the terms and conditions of the current contract remain in place.

It's fortunate that our contract remains in place as we continue to work toward an agreement. The provision that allows this is the Triborough Amendment to the Taylor Law. Without this, we would be forced to start from scratch each time a contract expires. This, along with other important laws, is under constant attack from outside groups. Tenure, APPR, length of year, and insurance coverage are easy targets for an uninformed public who see those in our profession as underworked and overpaid dependents who survive on taxpayers' dollars. Governor Cuomo has recently stated that the teacher rating system needs to be "refined." He seems to agree with those who question how 94% of teachers can be "effective or highly effective." He is just one politician who seems to consistently attack teachers and our profession. To help combat that, we must seek out those who support us. VOTE/COPE serves as NYSUT's political action arm. Money collected through V/C is used to support groups who protect and serve in our best interests. While some find the thought of "lobbying" distasteful, it has become a necessary tool. Without people fighting for us, significant losses could occur in areas of tenure, retirement, and teacher evaluation. Brian Myatt is our V/C coordinator...if you are not currently contributing, please consider doing so. Contact Brian for more information.

The OTA Fall Fling is scheduled for **Thursday, November 6** at the Marble Hill Inn. There was great feedback from last year's FF at the Hill. The format will be the same as last year. Information will be given to reps and they will pass it along to their buildings. You will be asked to sign up so we can get an accurate count for food prep. Please make every attempt to attend...if only for a short time.

Monthly OTA Rep meetings take place, generally, on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:30. They are open to everyone and we try to visit each building throughout the year. Meetings usually last about an hour. Please feel free to stop in...it's your union...get involved.



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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

OTA Representative Meeting (First Wednesday of the month) ALL ARE WELCOME!

Next Meeting:	Oneida High School	Oct 8th	3:30 pm	rm 126
	Site to be announced	Nov 5th	3:30 pm	rm 126
	Site to be announced	Dec 3rd	3:30 pm	rm 126

Any special meeting dates will be announced through e-mail.

Board of Education Meeting (Second Tuesday of the month)

Oct 14th	District Offices	7:00 pm
Nov 13th	District Offices	7:00 pm
Dec 9th	District Offices	7:00 pm
Jan 13th	District Office	7:00 pm

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 the District Office and begin at 7 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

The High School, Otto Shortell Middle School and Seneca Street Elementary are starting out this year with their first Casual Friday On September 19th.



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

As the 2014-2015 school year begins, 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.

On your first day of classes with students, 55 of us gathered for breakfast to enjoy social time and catch up on some current issues. Common Core, the tenure debate, Singapore math...these were all topics that came up, along with the current state of negotiations and the always hot topic of health insurance. We will continue to stay in the loop locally by sending a rep to monthly OTA meetings, and on the state level by being active in our NYSUT retirees' council.

As you deal with the daily challenges faced by educators, please remember that what you do every day in the classroom is important, appreciated, and has a lasting impact on the students you teach. The most recent evidence: on September 27, many of us attended the Oneida City School District Foundation's Wall of Distinction Induction Ceremony and Alumni Dinner. Of the eight new inductees, six are graduates of the Oneida City School District, and two are OREA members...Jim Tuggey and Eric Belusar were honored for their contributions to the community, but more importantly for the impact they have made in the lives of hundreds of children. The testimonials by former students were heartwarming and proof that these men had indeed positively influenced the lives of many. We are very proud of Jim and Eric! In general, the six Oneida-graduate honorees made positive statements regarding growing up in Oneida and attending Oneida schools, and several said they could name many teachers that were especially influential in their lives. Dr. Robert B. Halder, retired Rear Admiral of the United States Navy, said it best: "After high school I attended many other institutions for college, medical school, etc., but the only reunion I attend is in Oneida. This is the most important, because those were the formative years."

Who knows what is in store for the students in grades Pre-K through 12 as they move through the Oneida schools...there could be another Rear Admiral, a successful broadcaster, a future leader of a municipal fire department, a key military figure, an inventor of an important advance in medical technology, a beloved priest, a revered educator...you are part of the formative years...your work is important, and the OREA supports you. Good luck for a successful school year!

Patricia Albaugh, Past President, OREA

(We welcome our new President, Jean Martin, retired 4th Grade, North Broad.)

Happenings in your Union

Thinking of Retirement

Some things to consider for those who are getting close to retirement.

1- Make sure that you have been paying attention to your account on MYNYSTRS. (everyone should be checking their accounts)

2- If you haven't been to a retirement seminar yet, make sure to get in on one. Check out NYSTRS PREP program.



Our Spring Fling

On Friday June 13th, the OTA held it's Spring Fling at Dupree's Bar & Restaurant. A raucous crowd of about 70-80 people braved the pouring rain and enjoyed two free drinks and plenty of appetizers.

Our annual Fall Fling is planned for November 6th at The Hill. Keep the date open.



The Oneida Teachers' Association welcomes it's new hires

Make sure that you saw "Hello" to our newest members and make them feel comfortable at their new positions!

Michael Blair split between OSMS & SS (phys ed)

Shanna Delany-Hasto new NB (elementary)

Carly Hein new OSMS (science)

Ryan Kramer OHS (ela)

Melissa Kringer split SS/DV (art)

Robbin Argentine new nurse WP 40%

Our 2013-14 Oneida Teachers' Association Retirees

**Patricia Sarvey — Nurse
Durhamville Elementary School**

Pat has been with Oneida City School District since 2001. She was initially hired to work at Sylvan Verona Beach. When the Beach closed, Pat moved over to Durhamville Elementary where she is retiring from.

**Brenda Southfield - 1st Grade Teacher
North Broad Elementary**

**David Ossont — Science Teacher
Otto Shortell Middle School**

**Deb Longnecker — English Teacher
Oneida High School**

**David Willey - Physical Education
Teacher
Seneca Street Elementary**

Happenings in and around your Union

Meet your Executive Committee

Pictured:

Dave Dampf—VP Middle level
Dewayne Cronk—VP
Mark Vinette—Treasurer
Jen Armlin—Secretary



Next Month meet Mark Vinette
and Steve Paz (VP Elementary)

Brian Mroczek is a Math teacher who has worked for the Oneida City School District since 1991. He has held numerous positions in the OTA including Vote Cope Coordinator, Building Rep and Vice President. Brian has been serving as the **President** of the OTA for 10 years. Brian maintains that the OTA has continually tried to maintain a balance between what is good for the teachers and maintaining the needs of the students and the District.

Dave Dampf has been employed by Oneida City School District for 23 years as a Social Studies teacher. Dave is currently the **Middle Level Vice President** and also serves on Negotiations and APPR. He started out as a Building Representative at OSMS. Dave coined the phrase “Above and Beyond” for the OTA because “we all work hard to protect the education of our students and we work together to make a difference for our community”.

Dewayne Cronk has worked as an English teacher for Oneida City School District for 21 years. He has spent the last 8 years as an active member of the OTA. He was a Building Representative and then was elected as the **Vice President** of the OTA. Dewayne is also a member of the Negotiating Committee. Dewayne has said that the OTA continues to strive to represent the teaching profession in a manner that best benefits the students, the community and the district as a whole.

Jen Armlin is a 4th Grade Elementary teacher who has been employed by Oneida City School District for 13 years. Jen has served as the **Secretary** for the OTA for the past two years. She is also a member of the Negotiating Committee and is one of the Building Reps for Seneca Street. Jen enjoys being part of the OTA because of the sense of unity it provides. The monthly meetings allow all members to be informed about the happenings in other buildings.



Member Shopping Program *powered by PayCheck Direct*

**As NYSUT members, you work hard every day!
*Shouldn't buying what you want be easy?***

Well, now it can be... The Member Shopping Program powered by PayCheck Direct allows eligible NYSUT members to purchase what they want now and pay interest-free over 12 months. Choose from either 12 or 26 payments via automatic checking account withdrawals.

Through PayCheck Direct, all eligible NYSUT members have access to thousands of name-brand products such as appliances, computers & tablets, electronics, furniture, jewelry & watches, home & garden items, children's toys, and recreation & fitness items.

PayCheck Direct offers a 30-day in-home trial on many products; flexible return policy; no interest fees, credit checks, down payments, or finance charges; and toll-free customer service representatives located in the U.S.

NYSUT members are encouraged to shop and compare prices before making a purchase with this program and consider it as an alternative to using their credit card. Please note that PayCheck Direct will have access to certain information from NYSUT's membership files to verify levels of eligibility for those NYSUT members that choose to participate in this program.

**For more information about PayCheck Direct,
call toll-free 866-441-9160 or visit memberbenefits.nysut.org.**



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.



Election 2014: NYSUT Endorsed Candidates

Attorney General (statewide)
Eric Schneiderman (D)

Comptroller (statewide)
Thomas DiNapoli (D)

New York State Senate

SD47 | Joseph Griffo (R)
SD48 | Patty Ritchie (R)
SD51 | James Seward (R)
SD53 | David Valesky (D)
SD54 | Michael Nozzolio (R)

New York State Assembly

AD120 | William Barclay (R)
AD121 | William Magee (D)
AD126 | Diane Dwire (D)
AD127 | Albert Stirpe, Jr. (D)
AD128 | Sam Roberts (D)
AD129 | William Magnarelli (D)
AD130 | Bob Oaks (R)
AD131 | Brian Kolb (R)

United States Congress

CD21 | Aaron Woolf (D)
CD22 | Richard Hanna (R)
CD23 | Martha Robertson (D)
CD24 | Dan Maffei (D)