

**A Message from our President - Dave Dampf**

Welcome to all returning and new staff. The new school year is well under way; hopefully, it has been a smooth start and things are going well. While this is not a Presidential election, voting next month is ESSENTIAL for all of us.

In November of this year, New Yorkers will be asked to vote on the opening of a Constitutional Convention. This vote is required every 20 years in our state. The last time a convention was opened was 5 decades ago, in 1967. That one was opened by the NYS Legislature and all proposals were later voted down by the public. It cost a lot of money and nothing was accomplished.

This year, the question will appear on the back of the ballot – so be sure to turn it over. There will actually be two questions there. One will be about stripping pensions from public officers convicted of committing a certain type of felony. The other will be about the convention and it will read something like this:

**Shall there be a convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same?**

It is very important that you vote “NO” to this question. Our website offers information about why your NO vote is so critical. The opening of a convention could lead to a loss in state pensions, a loss of labor protections, the loss of a guaranteed free public education, and is estimated to cost the taxpayers of NY a minimum of \$350,000,000. Imagine how we could use 350 million dollars in more productive ways.

The OTA is purchasing lawn signs for each of our members and we should have enough for our retirees, as well. I'll let you know when they come in.



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## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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

Next Meeting: Sep 12th 3:30 pm Rm. 107 at OSMS  
Oct 10th 3:30 pm Rm. 207 North Broad  
Nov 14th 3:30 pm TBA  
Dec 12th 3:30 pm TBA

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

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

Sept 12th 6 pm @ Costello Transportation Center  
Oct 10th 6 pm @ Willard Prior elementary School  
Nov 14th 6 pm @ Durhamville Elementary School  
Dec 12th 6 pm @ Seneca Street Elementary

## Get out to Vote!!



On November 4th, you have the opportunity to vote "NO" on the Constitutional Convention. For more information, see any Building Rep.

## Donations and Contributions



Thank you everyone who has contributed to our Casual Fridays!

During the school year 2016-17 we raised over \$2500 for local charities and community partners.

Lets keep up the good actions and continue to support our community through our Casual Fridays!

**THANK YOU!**

## TALES FROM THE CRYPT



As the 2017-2018 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.

THIS YEAR, we are very concerned about the vote on a proposed New York State Constitutional Convention. By now you have all heard about it and know the importance of going to the polls on Election Day and voting NO! You have heard all about it through the OTA and in your NYSUT magazine, so I don't have to tell you what a disaster it would be for all of us if this proposal passes.

I will spare you the reasons the Constitutional Convention would be awful for the whole state, not just public employees. Let's just focus on us: the pensions the retirees have worked so hard for, and the future pensions of you current teachers could be in danger! These could be cut or even abolished if the State is ever allowed to get its hands on our fund.

There are enough working and retired public employees in New York State to vote this thing down. The key is to get them to VOTE!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!! November 7! Go to your polling place. After you vote on the candidates of your choice, TURN OVER THE BALLOT. Vote NO on the proposed Constitutional Convention. (Just in case you aren't a registered voter, make sure you get registered pronto! The deadline for that is imminent!) Remember that each vote matters!

The members of OREA wish you all a successful school year!

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

P.S. We are all extremely proud that two OREA members were recently inducted into the OCSD Foundation Wall of Distinction. Congratulations to Sandy Aylesworth, Phys. Ed. teacher throughout the district, and Pam Lynch, Art at OHS!

## Happenings in and around the OTA



### Annual Fall Fling

The OTA is continuing its tradition of hosting an annual Fall Fling. Once again, we are looking at the Marble Hill Inn as the site of the festivities. A tentative date of November 3rd has been announced. As we have done in the past, your building rep should contact you once everything is finalized.

Check out the Oneida Teachers' Association website;

[www.oneidateacher.com](http://www.oneidateacher.com)

Lots of information on the Constitutional Convention, NYSUT information, a digital copy of our contract and much more.



Say "Hello" to the newest members of our OTA family  
Pictured are Mike Finnerty, Kaley McHale and Lindsey Guasp

Make sure to give them all a nice welcome to the OTA and Oneida City School District.

Michael Finnerty – LMS – Durhamville

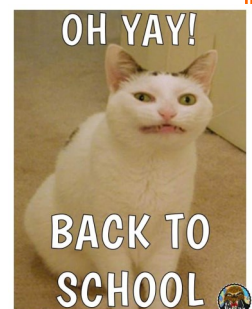
Nicolas Grossman – Guidance Counselor – High School

Lindsey Guasp – Reading Teacher – Durhamville

Kaley McHale – Art Teacher – High School

Sara Willis – Speech Pathologist – Willard Prior

Matthew Cretaro – Social Studies – High School



## Happenings in and around the OTA

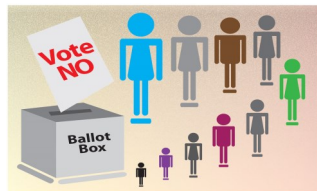
### *Flipped the Ballot Over!!*

There is **NO** “Peoples” Convention! Everyone that will be involved in the Constitutional Convention will be part of our current Legislative body. We will be spending **MILLIONS** of **DOLLARS** for the same representatives to do the job they were voted in to do. Don’t **WASTE** tax payer money for something our representatives should be doing anyways!



The OTA is using some of your VoteCope money to purchase yard signs that say “Vote NO” to the Constitutional Convention. We can get back 40% of our money and use it on political activities such as this. This is how your VoteCope money can be used, to help preserve our retirement/negotiating rights and public education.

### Constitutional Convention



**Protect your Future interests!**  
**NYSUT is asking you to vote “NO” on November 7, 2017 on the NY Constitutional Convention. Find more information on their website and at [NoNewYorkConvention.org](http://NoNewYorkConvention.org) .**

At [NoNewYorkConvention.org](http://NoNewYorkConvention.org), you will find information, news, resources and tools to get you ready to fight back against the political insiders and corporate special interests who want to rewrite New York's constitution for their own benefit.

### 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



## Happenings in and around the OTA



**Thank  
You!!!**

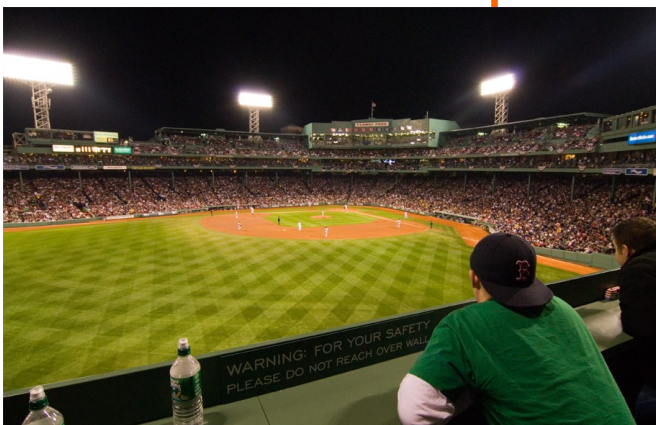
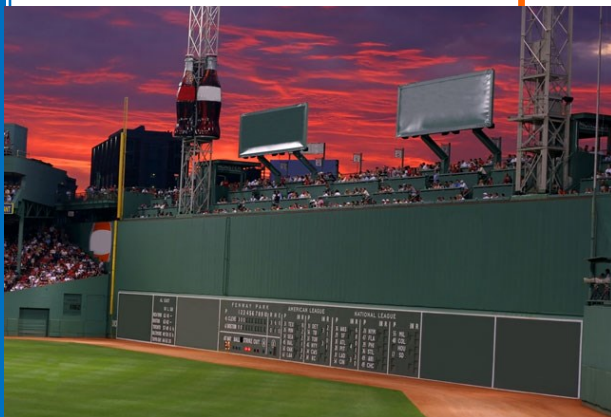
www.thebodytransformation.com

I would like to take a quick moment to thank everyone who has supported the OTA by attending Association functions and meetings and becoming generally involved in the work we do. If you have not had the time to take part in an OTA meeting, please try to do so. You will find the focus of the Association is to do what's best for the greater good whether it's membership, students, or community. Each decision made takes all factors into account.

Please support Dave Dampf and the rest of the leadership as they continue to support you. Dave is the perfect person to lead the OTA forward. I'm excited to see Dave Wright joining the OTA as a Vice President. I'm confident he will do a great job. If anyone else is thinking of getting involved, please give it a try. Attend a meeting and see what's happening.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to my going away gift. Joanne and I spent a great night in Boston watching the Red Sox from the Green Monster...best seats in Fenway!

Have a great year  
Brian Mroczek



***Have you had your financial check-up lately?***

## ***NYSUT Member Benefits launches the new Financial Planning Center!***

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the launch of our NEW online Financial Planning Center. This enhanced site will assist NYSUT members and their families with making a variety of important financial decisions.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Financial Planning Center provides helpful tools and resources to assist members with a number of crucial decisions regarding financial wellness and retirement planning.



**This new site includes more than 100 modules on different financial topics along with a financial fitness check-up to see where members stand with their financial knowledge.**

Whether it's planning for retirement, saving for college for your children or considering purchasing a home, the choices we need to make on a regular basis are never easy. If you're already enjoying retirement, you may be dealing with long-term care needs, managing your investments and estate planning.

NYSUT members can get assistance with these questions and more with our NEW Financial Planning Center.

To access the Financial Planning Center (and more than 100 planning modules), visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) and click on "Financial Planning Center."

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. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.