



Oneida Teachers' ASSOCIATION

Partners for a Better Community

September/October Newsletter

Volume 47—Issue #1

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www.oneidateacher.com

A Message from our President - Dave Dampf

We've put another September behind us and the weather is letting us know that fall is here. Welcome back to our returning members and welcome aboard to our new staff.

Many of us started the year with a sprint as we moved back into our classrooms, unpacked boxes, put up fresh bulletin boards, and dug into all sorts of lesson planning to meet new district initiatives.

It is so important to remember that education is a marathon, however. You can shoot out of the blocks quickly, but then you must pace yourself. There are so many new aspects to our day and it's easy to get bogged down by all of the responsibilities outside of teaching and learning. Off the top of my head, there's Stafftrac, APPR, SLO's, yearly observations, conferences, bullying prevention, attendance initiatives, committee work, recording information in SchoolTool, and attending meetings.

It's easy enough to focus on all of these other things. However, we must not lose focus on our primary mission: to teach our students to love learning. We are all very good at that and we sometimes don't get enough credit for all that we do. Every. Single. Day.

I have visited each building in the district over the past couple of weeks. I saw hallways filled with artwork already and classrooms buzzing with energy. I saw happy kids and teachers that were happy to be with them. You are professionals. The parents and the students of Oneida are fortunate to have you partnering with them.

Lastly, I'd like to commend the membership – both returning and new. The Oneida Teacher's Association is at 100% participation. I am told that we are the only local in the region that can make that statement, and I am proud of you for making it happen. We are stronger together.

I hope you'll be able to join us at the Fall Fling on November 2. We plan on adding some new prizes to our raffle this year so that we can further show off our OTA pride. See you there!



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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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

Next Meeting: Oct 9th 3:30 pm @ Otto Shortell Middle School
Nov 13th 3:30 pm @ TBD
Dec 11th 3:30 pm @ TBD
Jan 8th 3:30 pm @ TBD

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

Board of Education Meeting (Second Tuesday of the month)

Oct 9th 6:00 pm @ Durhamville Elementary
Nov 13th 6:00 pm @ Seneca Street Elementary
Dec 11th 6:00 pm @ North Broad Elementary
Jan 8th 6:00 pm @ Oneida High School



School time!

Teaching, it's what we do and
what we love!
Welcome back and hope everyone
has a great year!

Donations and Contributions



Here We Go Again!

Lets make this a great year of
providing financial support
and assistance to the many organizations
and community members that
we support through our
Casual Friday's!

Let's Do A Great Job Everyone!



EXECUTIVE BOARD (2018-19)
OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Dave Dampf
VICE PRESIDENT: Dewayne Cronk
VICE PRESIDENT: Dave Wright
VICE PRESIDENT: Steve Paz
TREASURER: BeeAnn O'Herien
SECRETARY: Jen Armlin

BUILDING REPS:

HIGH SCHOOL

Bud Leo
John Markle
Chris Meeker
Brian Myatt
Dona Fiedler
Pete Gillander

OTTO SHORTELL

Jackie Skibitski
BeeAnn O'Herien

WILLARD PRIOR

Craig Clarke

SENECA STREET

Cindy Smith

NORTH BROAD

Colleen Jones
Jen Armlin
Shelly Crowley

DURHAMVILLE

Steve Paz
Stephanie Gwilt

RETIREEES (OREA)

Cindy Fallon

Welcome to MAC (Member Action Center) and PAC (Political Action Center)



If you are ever in the need of more political information on the education front, join NYSUT at their MAC site, <https://mac.nysut.org> . Once you are at the site, you can sign up to get information sent directly to your I-phone or other mobile device. This is a great way to stay on top of what is happening on the Education frontlines.

If you would like to get a daily quick shot of what is happening in education, you can subscribe to Phil Cleary's morning e-mail blast, *NYTN News Teachers Can Use*. Phil is an elementary teacher in the Baldwinsville School District and one of three PAC coordinators working with NYSUT.

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

Welcome back to school! 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.

In keeping with our mission of reminding everyone of the importance of a strong union for both active and retired teachers, Terri Phillips, Retired, OSMS, submitted the following:

“I belong to an on-line group of teachers from all over the US and Canada, and lately I've been hearing some pretty scary stories. One teacher from Wisconsin said that she was losing her job because the principal wanted to hire his niece. Others have asked for advice wondering how they were going to manage the eight different preps they found they had been assigned when they came back to school. Some talked about being required to chaperone at athletic events on the weekends. They neither volunteered for this nor were they being paid for it. Still another was written up for giving a student detention and was not even allowed to tell her side of what happened.

An even worse story came from a teacher in Texas. She was ordered by her superintendent to take her science class and paint the bathrooms in the football stadium before Homecoming the next week. When she questioned how this could possibly relate to her science class she was told, "It doesn't matter because science is not that important... and don't forget to scrub the walls first, as they are covered in pee." !!!!! And guess what...they don't have a union.

All of this made me really appreciative of the fact that throughout most of my career NYSUT was there to prevent these types of outrageous behaviors. As a new teacher I remember wondering why on earth we needed a union. I know now how naive I was and am very grateful that I taught in New York State with a strong teacher's union behind me.” Thanks to Terri for this.

The OREA wishes you the best of luck for a successful 2018-2019 school year, secure in the knowledge that because of the OTA you will never be asked to paint a school restroom wall. Thank you for all you do!

Patricia Albaugh, Retired, Oneida Castle 2007

Grant Money

The Madison County Retired Teachers' Association is offering a \$300 grant available to assist educators with an innovative program or project. Applicants must be a teacher, administrator, or teaching assistant in a public school system in Madison County to apply. **If you'd like a copy of the application, please contact Dave Dampf at the middle school.**



Happenings in and around the OTA



Say “Hello” to the newest members of our OTA family! Pictured above are seven of the ten new members.

Jolene Finn: Library Media Specialist at Willard Prior Elementary

Megan Rice: 5th grade Teacher at Seneca Street elementary

Luke Krucher: Technology Teacher at Otto Shortell Middle School

Abigail Kimball: English Teacher at Otto Shortell Middle School

Marshall Pokrentowski: Music Teacher between Seneca Street and Willard Prior Elementary’s

Jessica Weaver: Speech Pathologist at Durhamville Elementary

Janet Jones: special education Teacher at Oneida High School

Not pictured, we have;

Beth Poulos: Physical Education Teacher at Oneida High School

Stephanie Anderson: Social Worker at Oneida High School

Melissa Tanner: Math AIS Teacher at Otto Shortell Middle School

***** Read their full Bio’s coming in our next two Newsletters *****

Happenings in and around the OTA

Negotiations

This time, no news is not good news. The District and the OTA have reached impasse on negotiations once again. After several meetings over the summer and early fall, neither the District nor the OTA were able to come to an agreement on a successor contract. With impasse, an impartial member of PERB (Public Employment Relations Board) will be assigned by NYS to sit with the two groups and see if they can come up with a possible solution to the stalled contract talks. Any future dates for negotiations will be based on the availability of the assigned PERB member. Keep your eyes open for e-mails from OneidaTeacher.

Welcome Back Steve Dunckel!

Steve is back and teaching Physics! After an exhaustive search for a qualified candidate returned no new hires, the District asked Steve if he could teach Physics for the 2018-19 school year. Welcome back Steve and have a great year!



Annual Fall Fling

Looking for a fun filled Friday afternoon? Want to hang out with former OTA teachers in a relaxed atmosphere? The OTA is hosting its annual Fall Fling on Friday November 2nd. The Fling will be held at The Marble Hill Inn in Verona. Festivities will begin at 4 pm.

See You There!

OTA Building Reps

Each building has their own Building Representatives for the OTA that the member can go to if they have questions or concerns about contractual issues (and non contractual issues). Take a look at page three of this newsletter for a list of the Executive members and the building Representatives.

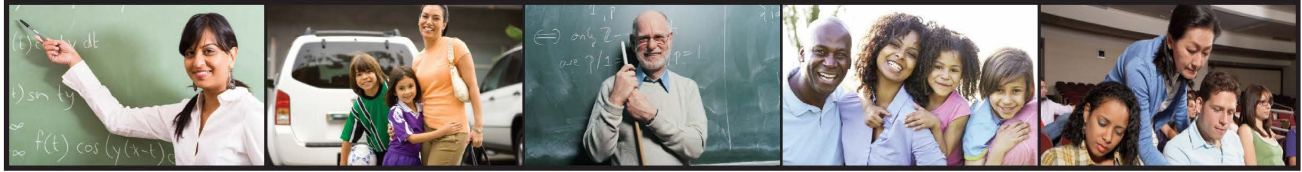


Thinking About Retirement?

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





Union-endorsed benefits designed for NYSUT members

Whether it's our endorsed homeowners or auto insurance plans, life or disability insurance, financial or legal service plans, or any of our travel, entertainment or shopping offerings, NYSUT members have the **Power of the Union** behind them when participating in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

There's no need to go it alone when Member Benefits has your back! Member Benefits acts as your advocate for any program you participate in, and we'll do our best to quickly resolve any issues or concerns you may have.

The following is just a sampling of the dozens of endorsed programs & services available to NYSUT members and their loved ones:

- Auto, Home & Life Insurance
- Vision & Dental Plans
- Legal & Financial Services
- Hotel & Vacation Discounts
- Member Shopping Program
- Car & Truck Rental Discounts
- Competitive Savings Rates
- Retail Store Discounts
- Sports & Concert Tickets
- Theme Park Discounts
- Car Buying Service
- Heating Oil & Propane Savings

We encourage you to take the time to explore the Member Benefits website and find out all we have to offer NYSUT members.

The Power of the Union

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.