



Member Newsletter
Volume V, Issue 5
June 2021

Joe DiTucci, President
Jacquelyn Lanpher, 1st Vice President
Rob Allen, 2nd Vice President
Amanda Van Huben, Secretary
Cheri Hall, Treasurer

Message from the President

Recently, a number of our members were granted tenure. I want to congratulate them on reaching a significant professional milestone and for a continued long successful career in Spencerport. This year we also had eight people who achieved another significant landmark in their career: retirement. I also congratulate them and wish them well on the next phase of their lives. Jacquelyn Lanpher has been able to meet with each of them and present them with gifts from the STA. It will be difficult to replace their experience and knowledge. Please look for their names later on in the newsletter.

On May 18, two new board members were elected to the Spencerport Board of Education. We would like to thank Mike Miceli for his past years of service on the Board and look forward to the continued service of Kevin Hutton and the new perspectives that Leah Brown will bring. We also supported the budget that continues to carry on all of the great educational programs we have in Spencerport.

As you all know, we have been involved in negotiations with the district. Our goal was to have a successor agreement in place before the end of the school year. Unfortunately, at this time, we will not have an agreement by the end of this school year. We have a number of negotiations sessions set up with the district over the summer. We will keep you informed as we go through the process.

There have been many postings for new TOSA positions. This is in response to the district receiving funds from the Federal Government to help alleviate some of the fallout from the pandemic. There are two programs. The district will receive \$4,936,114 from the American Rescue Plan (ARP Act) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) plan. They will also receive \$3,372,021 from the Coronavirus Response and Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA Act). The district is working through the logistics of these plans, but these funds will certainly go a long way to help the district deal with the impact of the pandemic.

As I come to the end of my first year as President, I do want to say Thank You to everyone for their support. I have a great team around me, and without them, it would have been an even more difficult year. A special thank you to Jacquelyn Lanpher, Rob Allen and Sue Chatterton. I have asked a lot of them, and they have delivered. The hours, energy, thought and passion they have put into representing you during contract negotiations has been immense. I also want to thank Steve Monks, our NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist. I have relied quite heavily on Steve's knowledge, expertise and perspective this year. I wish Steve all the best as he retires and has a life of Saturdays to look forward to. In his place, we will be working with Dave Calogero. We have had the opportunity to work with Dave a few times already and believe the transition from Steve to Dave will be smooth one.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the yeoman's effort the members of the STA have given over the past 16 months to continue to provide a quality education to the students of Spencerport. I've searched for the correct word to describe the effect of the pandemic on public education and our members and have settled on "challenging." I dare say that no matter whether there have been positives or negatives from the pandemic, each of us has had to face new challenges that have required us to stretch more than we ever have before. We have been successful, but that effort has come at a cost to our members. The most common response I have heard when I ask people how they are doing over the past few months is "I'm tired." While that is often the response at the end of most years this year is different. The "tired" goes deeper than "I just need a good night's sleep and I'll be fine;" it's a deep fatigue stemming from a pandemic that has affected everyone in many ways over the past 16 months. I do know that the efforts have been appreciated by many in the district.



In one of my messages last year, I shared a photo of a robin's nest with eggs in it. This year, I share this photo from the wreath hanging on my front door. Momma was not happy and screeched at me from a nearby tree, but I had to get this picture of the newly birthed baby robin.

We will be in touch over the summer. I sincerely wish you some rest and relaxation and hope you can recharge for next year.

In solidarity,

Joe



Best Wishes,
Steve Monks!



The STA would like to congratulate Mr. Stephen Monks on his retirement!

Steve has served as the Spencerport Teachers' Association NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist since 2003. Previously, he worked in the Greece Central School District for over 21 years as a Spanish teacher. (He was actually my Spanish teacher and a great one at that!)

Steve has been an invaluable asset to the STA with his guidance, advice, and wealth of knowledge. His position at NYSUT and as our friend will be hard to replace!

Best of luck on your next adventure, Steve!

Ms. Jacquelyn Lanpher
First Vice-President, STA



The STA's contract negotiating team: Jackie Lanpher, Rob Allen, Steve Monks, Joe DiTucci and Sue Chatterton

STA History Class

Naming of the Terry Taylor Elementary School

By Peter Randazzo, Past STA President

Terry Taylor began his teaching career as a student teacher in Instrumental Music in the Ogden Parma Town Line Road Elementary School. The year was 1969 and he was part of a student teacher exchange program from Livingstone College in North Carolina. After graduation he accepted the offer of a teaching position at Town Line. Over the next 24 years, he taught in every school in the district.

After his death from liver failure in 1994, the teachers in Spencerport searched for ways to honor this man. It was Mary Ingersoll, Elementary teacher and Vice President of the STA, who offered a solution. She called a meeting of the Town Line teachers and proposed the idea of naming the school after him. The faculty loved the idea and endorsed it 100%. Naming a school for a teacher was unheard of in our district. There were buildings named for prominent citizens, School Board members and teachers who later became administrators. But we never had a building named for just a teacher.

Mrs. Ingersoll brought the idea to the Executive Council of the Spencerport Teachers' Association, and it was overwhelmingly received. The proposal was delivered to the Superintendent and School Board who liked the idea but weren't ready to officially accept it. They said they wanted time to study the proposal, but the STA felt they were stalling and looking for ways to say no. That's when the STA decided to put a little pressure on the Board.

The STA started its campaign by asking teachers and others to flood the district with letters. Teachers, SRPs, school volunteers, parents, community leaders and outside individuals were asked to join the efforts. The STA then drafted a petition and had it signed by everyone in the district and circulated it within the community. One person even brought a copy to the Senior Center and had Spencerport's senior community sign it. When it was delivered to the Board, they couldn't understand why we felt we had to go that far. They couldn't see that they were dragging their feet. Well, the petition did the trick, and on November 20, 1994, the Board passed the necessary resolution. What had been the Ogden Parma Town Line Road School, will now forever be called the Terry A. Taylor Elementary School.

The STA Newsletter will continually feature "History Class" articles submitted by our retired leaders!

We hope you enjoy these submissions.





Local News



Congratulations to the following students on receiving the Spencerport Teachers' Association Scholarship in the amount of \$1000:

Adam Hostetler
Jacob To
Lillian DePalma
Olivia Maloney
Madison John
Karalyn Giancursio

Congratulations to the following students on receiving the Spencerport Central Retirees' Association Scholarship in the amount of \$2000:

Skylar Mogab
Audrianna Rotoli

Congratulations to [Juliana Zastawrny](#) on receiving the Robert B. Clement Scholarship in the amount of \$1000.

It is due to the generous donations from our past and present members to our annual scholarship drive that we have been able to donate over \$76,000 to scholarship winners since 2015.

THANK YOU very much for your contributions!
Ms. Jacquelyn Lanpher
First Vice-President, STA

Happy Trails!

Congratulations and best wishes to the following STA retirees!

Amy Crumb
Taylor

What year did you join the district? In what role? What other roles have you held? I joined the Spencerport School District in 1996 as a parent of kindergarten and second grade students. I started getting a paycheck from Spencerport in 1999 as a special education teacher. That year I taught at Bernabi. The next two years, I split my time between Bernabi and Munn. When there was an opening at Taylor, I transferred and will now be retiring from Taylor. In 2012, I became the Enrichment Specialist and technology teacher. That was a huge change!

I was the special education teacher leader and have been on the Building Planning Team for 15 years. I was the advisor for the Peer Mediators which are now the Student Leaders. I have participated on a variety of committees.

Do you have a favorite to share? One of the things I enjoy about being a teacher is seeing my students as successful young adults.

I often don't recognize the grown-up version of the elementary school child I once taught, but when they start talking, I am reminded again of that sweet little person. I am proud to be a part of their journeys.

What will you miss the most? I will miss the excitement students bring to school. They are usually so eager to try what we are doing and their enthusiasm is infectious. However, I now have a grandson who will bring that happiness into my days.

What will you miss the least? I will not miss grading.

What do you look forward to in retirement? In retirement, I plan to see the world!

What advice do you have for a new teacher? My advice for new teachers is to make strong connections with their students. Students will be more willing to work for teachers who know and understand them. Making connections between their learning and their lives is important.



Doug Hanson High School

What year did you join the district? In what role? What other roles have you held? I started as a part time teaching global 1993. I was teaching at SUNY Brockport in the EOP program teaching Afro-American History also at the time. Then I was asked halfway through the year to become full time, teaching 8th, 10th, and Sociology while still at the college. Most recently, I have overseen the Senior Project.

Do you have a "favorite" to share? Our department lunches lifted me up every day.

What will you miss most? My fellow teachers. They are wonderful people, great teachers and true friends. The SLIP program—watching the students volunteer and give back to our community, seeing them grow and excel.

What will you miss least? CAFETERIA DUTY!

What do you look forward to in retirement? Fishing, golfing, yard work, and writing the great American novel.

What advice do you have for a new teacher? The more you expect, the more you will get.



Cathy Herman High School

What year did you join the district? In what role? What other roles have you held? In the fall of 1997, I student taught with Mike Blackwell. I was hired as a long-term business department sub in September of 1998 and hired full-time in 1999. My first assignment was at Cosgrove Middle School, where I taught Information Technology to 8th graders. When Cosgrove was expanded to include the 6th grade, IT was put in with the 6th grade curriculum. Around 2010, I came to teach at the high school full time. For the past three years, I have been the advisor for the Business Honor Society.

Do you have a "favorite" to share? My favorite thing is getting the chance to work with all the students who came through my classroom. I especially loved the challenge of reaching students who seemed to close to falling off that edge of caring about school.

What will you miss most? It's hard to narrow down what I will miss the most, but I guess I would have to say the turkey gravy dinners from the cafeteria.



What will you miss least? What I will miss the least is the constant change in direction each year. And yes, planning.

What do you look forward to in retirement? I have lots of plans for retirement. Typical things like projects around the house and travel. I planned my first vacation for the end of September. I am taking my parents to the coast of Maryland. It is their favorite place since they love blue crabs. My dad is 94 and mom is 88, and they thought they would never get to go there again.

What advice do you have for a new teacher? I feel it is hard to give advice to a new teacher because it is not easy to predict what each year will look like. But for me it is important to always be positive. Whether it is students, coworkers or any other worker in the building, "Treat others the way you want to be treated." And when you are having a bad day, remember, you don't have to look very far to find someone who is worse off than you are.

I am proud to have been a part of Spencerport Central Schools. I wish you all the best.

Christine Kincaid Bernabi

What year did you join the district? In what role?

What other roles have you held? I began my teaching career as a student teacher at Leo Bernabi School and never left! Bernabi has been my “second home” since 1990 when I was hired as a part-time ELA teacher. My role was to push-in to first, second, and third grade classrooms to teach Language Arts skills. The following year, I was hired as a first grade classroom teacher. I have been teaching at Bernabi ever since and can’t believe how quickly this 30 years has gone by!

The district has also provided me the opportunity to serve in several leadership roles, including Math Teacher Leader, Grade Level Team Leader,

Differentiation Mentor, and 21st Century Team (now Digital Conversion Team). I truly appreciate all that the Spencerport School District has done to help me grow as an educator.

Do you have a "favorite" to share? I have so many fond memories throughout my teaching career in Spencerport that it would be impossible to name just one. I have ALWAYS enjoyed building relationships with my students and watching them as they are engaged and excited about their learning.

What will you miss most? Being a teacher was my childhood dream. I will truly miss teaching and inspiring my students each and every day. I will miss watching their faces when they suddenly understand something that was challenging for them. I will also miss collaborating with wonderful parents and colleagues throughout the district.

What do you look forward to in retirement? I am looking forward to enjoying more time with my family and helping with my two grandchildren....soon to be four! I am also excited about spending additional time at our cabin in the Adirondacks. I will be hiking, biking, golfing, and of course reading many books! (Especially to my grandchildren!)

What advice do you have for a new teacher? We all know that “change is inevitable.” Do your best to embrace it and grow from it! Each day as you enter your classroom, remind yourself of why you are there! Focus on what’s best for your students as you continue to strive for excellence throughout your amazing journey as an educator!



Kim Yantz High School

What year did you join the district? I joined the district in 2003. I graduated from Clarkson University in 1985 with a BS in Chemical Engineering. I worked as a Quality Assurance Engineer, Quality Assurance Manager, an Applications Engineer (sales position) and a Pharmaceutical Sales rep before becoming a science teacher. While at Spencerport, I taught Chemistry, Physics, AP Physics and Forensics.

Do you have a favorite to share? I have SOOOOO many good memories – it is impossible to narrow it down. One thing that really stands out is how so many teachers came together for senior cap and gown pick up during “the COVID” year. It was heartwarming to see all of the teachers (in the wind and snow) cheering and waving signs for each car as the seniors and their families arrived.

What will you miss the most? The kids! They are so interesting and sweet, with so many dreams (and fears) about the future. I love watching them blossom into young adults and seeing what they become.

What will you miss the least? No doubt – grading labs!

What do I look forward to in retirement? Traveling around the country and babysitting my new grandson. I also do a lot of yoga!

What advice do I have for new teachers? To remember that every student needs to feel safe and wants to be acknowledged and heard. They want to know that they are important – because they are! Be present and listen to them.



Congratulations to these additional retirees!

Julie Bishop, High School

Anna Rivoli, Munn

Teresa Trujillo, Cosgrove

Congratulations!

The following teachers were approved for tenure, which will go into effect this fall.

Elizabeth Bender
Bernabi

Patricia Condon
Bernabi

Laura Hulbert
Bernabi

Jennifer Magliocco
Bernabi

Julie Miller
Munn

Nicole Comanzo
Taylor

Lorraine Fousse
Taylor

Marissa Tedesco
Taylor

Rebekah Maher
Cosgrove

Jaclyn Neusatz
Cosgrove

Alexander Ekins
High School



2021-2022 Executive Council Meeting Dates

September 16, 2021

October 21, 2021

November 18, 2021

December 16, 2021

January 20, 2022

February 17, 2022

March 17, 2022

April 14, 2022

May 19, 2022

June 16, 2022

Editor's Message

The STA Newsletter is five years old this June! Thank you for reading and contributing!

The past five years in public education have been tumultuous. Teachers in large cities and even entire states went on strike. Here in New York, we defeated an attempt to hold a Constitutional Convention where the ultimate goal was to attack our pensions. Nationally, we were united across the political spectrum in our disdain for former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.

And then a pandemic struck.

A Rand Corp. survey administered early this spring found that 1 in 4 teachers plan on resigning at the end of this school year. Teachers' responses revealed they were "twice as likely to experience job-related stress than the general employed adult population, and about three times as likely to experience symptoms of depression as the general adult population."¹

An already-stressful job was made even more challenging during the Covid-19 pandemic, but districts and states with strong unions were more likely to make sure teachers and students were safe in their classrooms.

What will Fall 2021 look like? I know that I have promised myself to recommit to best practices, connect with and support the students who were most negatively affected by the disruptions of the past year, and to vigilantly practice my own self care. You can't pour from an empty cup, and this year, we have been drained.

In the past couple issues of the STA Newsletter, you'll have seen a new feature called "STA History Class." These articles are by past members and officers of the STA, and I hope you enjoy learning about our members' history- specifically, the sacrifices they made to "professionalize" teaching and secure us the working conditions we have today. When you feel pressured to give up your only planning period of the day, think about the more than \$10,000 in today's money lost by each of the teachers who went on strike to define our work day. (If you missed the article about what the strike was like, and the toll it took, you can find it in the February issue, which is archived on our STA website.)

As we head into summer, our negotiations team continues to work for a new contract. On behalf of all of us in the STA, thank you Joe DiTucci, Jackie Lanpher, Sue Chatterton and Rob Allen for all of your time, talent and effort. Thank you, Steve Monks, who many of us got to know well over the years. Best wishes to Steve in his retirement!

Have a wonderful summer!

In solidarity,

Emmy Thevanesan
STA Newsletter Editor

¹ <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/nearly-one-in-four-teachers-say-they-may-quit-by-the-end-of-the-school-year-heres-why-11623772938>

STA Leadership, 2020-2021

Officers:

President	Joe DiTucci
1st VP	Jacquelyn Lanpher
2nd VP	Rob Allen
PAC Chairs	Sue Chatterton and Rob Allen
Secretary	Amanda Van Huben
Treasurer	Cheri Hall

PAC* Representatives:

Bernabi	Laurie Palmateer
Canal View	Elissa Kingsbury
Munn	Stacy Lonardo
Taylor	Danielle Blossom
Cosgrove	Janeen Henry
Wilson	Dan Pincelli

Building Reps:

Bernabi:

Brianne Eason
Jennifer Ophardt

Taylor:

Danielle Blossom
Ken Rhodes

Nurses:

Kelly Cave

Canal View:

Sue Chatterton
Laura Gannon

Cosgrove:

Gretchen Breon
Janeen Henry
Suellan Morton
Pam Robinson

TAs:

Ellen Borraccia
Cheryl Ebertz

Munn:

Stacy Lonardo
Scott Schwind

Wilson:

Becky DiNatale
Bridget Herrmann
Steve Kelley
Natalie Kirisits
Dan Pincelli

Building Planning Team Reps:

Bernabi:

Laurie Palmateer

Terry Taylor:

Danielle Blossom

Canal View:

Sue Chatterton

Cosgrove:

Emmy Thevanesan

Munn:

Scott Schwind

Wilson:

Rebecca DiNatale

Social Media Coordinator:

Gretchen Breon

Webmaster:

Bryan Swanson

Newsletter Editor:

Emmy Thevanesan

Political Action Coordinator:

Ryan Ewanow

PAC: Professional Advancement Committee; the committee that meets with the negotiations team throughout a contract year

Not sure where to start with your summer to-do list?

Whether it's assisting NYSUT members with everyday essentials, important choices about insurance needs, or making prudent decisions about financial and legal concerns, NYSUT Member Benefits can help.



Scan the QR code below to learn more about the following endorsed programs and services.

Saving you money: MB Discounts & Deals

With the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program, NYSUT members can save up to 50% at more than 700,000 merchants nationwide (including thousands throughout New York State). Save on groceries and food delivery; restaurant dine-in or takeout; gasoline, oil changes and vehicle maintenance; clothing and shoes; and much more. You can even request that your favorite merchant join the network.

Saving you money: Every \$\$\$ counts

Whether your summer plans include home renovations, replacing or upgrading appliances, getting a new car, stocking up for the return to school, or even just hanging out and enjoying some time off, Member Benefits has a variety of endorsed programs -- **Purchasing Power, Buyer's Edge Inc., Office Depot/OfficeMax, Bose, Powell's Books** -- that might be able to minimize the impact on your wallet and maximize your enjoyment of the all-too-fleeting summer months.



Protecting your family: Insuring yourself and your family

Member Benefits endorses a number of competitive insurance programs that are available to NYSUT members. These include **auto/home/renters, life, disability, long term care, dental, vision, and even pet insurance**. Some of these programs are also available to or cover spouses/domestic partners of members, dependent children, dependent parents, and grandparents. Most offer payroll & pension deduction as payment options.

Planning for the future: Have a plan for wherever life takes you

It's never too early or too late to make a plan. Just starting a career or looking at retirement? Beginning to pay off loans or building a nest egg? Looking to buy a new home or refinance the one you're in? Welcoming a new child or adopting? Now would be a good time to look into the ways to put a plan in place or make adjustments to your existing one. Explore the **Member Benefits Financial Learning Center** for assistance; while you're there, check out our **Legal Service Plan** and **Financial Counseling Program**.

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of programs and services that are available to NYSUT members and their families, including the following options:



DINING & SHOPPING DISCOUNTS



TRAVEL & TOURS



CAR & TRUCK RENTALS



LIFE INSURANCE



AUTO & HOME



LONG-TERM CARE & DISABILITY

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, call 800-626-8101 or scan the QR code above.

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