Message from the President

A few years ago, I realized that in order to better serve our members, we needed to create and implement a strategic plan for the STA. We applied for and were accepted into NYSUT's Local Action Project (LAP), which is a platform for locals like ours to do just that. Our team consists of Joe DiTucci, Lisa Cutten, Jenn Ott, Gretchen Breon, and myself. MaryJean McQuilkin is also part of our team, representing SCSOPA (Spencerport Central Schools Office Personnel Association). We made a three-year commitment to spend a week in Saratoga Springs every July for three years working on this plan. Our plan focuses on improving member involvement, strengthening our political action efforts, improving communication with our members, and expanding our community outreach and coalition building. This summer, we finished our second year, and we are excited to continue building on the great accomplishments we have already made.

I met with Dan Milgate and Gary Bracken over the summer. We quickly realized that we shared my number one goal, which is to improve the climate and culture in our district. This will in turn improve morale, which is crucial for delivering a first-class education to our students. A teacher’s working conditions are a student's learning conditions! We also shared a host of ideas with each other. Some of the ideas I shared with them with respect to the elementary level was having a more balanced curriculum, increasing the amount of recess and play, working on a new and improved schedule, and the possibility of semi-departmentalizing grades 3 through 5 to cut down on the number of preps teachers have. I also discussed the possibility of an on-campus daycare for our teachers and the importance of negotiating a new contract before our current agreement expires.

We continue to face many challenges at local, state and national levels, but I am extremely confident that if we remain united, we will overcome each and every one. As you may know, the SUNY Board of Trustees has proposed a plan that would allow charter schools to bypass state certification standards and “certify” their own teachers with minimal in-house training and just a few dozen hours of field experience. The SUNY Charter Schools Institute’s proposal is insulting to students and teachers alike. The charter school industry is pushing for a two-tiered system because they are having significant difficulties recruiting and retaining teachers. This outrageous proposal exposes what we all know about charter schools and the privatization movement: it's ALL about making money at the expense of the students in New York State.
Every twenty years, the New York State Constitution requires New Yorkers to vote on whether or not to open their Constitution for change. On November 7, 2017, this item will be on the ballot for consideration. It is imperative that we ALL vote no! There are a host of protections in the New York State Constitution that could be lost if the Constitution is opened. For example, the right to collectively bargain, pension benefits, the right to organize a union, worker's compensation and workplace safety and health, civil rights, environmental protections, and the right to a sound public education are all at stake.

Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court split on the Friedrichs vs. California Teachers Association case. Justice Scalia had unexpectedly passed away, and the 4-4 tie meant that the decision reverted to the decision of the lower court. In Friederichs, the plaintiffs challenged the legal right of public-sector unions to collect member dues to cover the costs associated with collective bargaining. If the court would have rendered an unfavorable ruling, it would have had an enormous impact on the solidarity and finances of public sector unions. However, this "victory" was short lived because a new challenge from anti-labor forces was already in the pipeline and on its way to the Supreme Court. The name of this latest case is Janus vs. AFSCME. This lawsuit is being financed by the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation. The case involves an Illinois health care worker who is arguing that he should not be forced to pay monthly union fees despite the fact that he benefits from the work his union does for him. The court is expected to hear arguments by the end of this year with a decision coming down by June 2018. An unfavorable decision will, in effect, cause the same catastrophic impact that the Friedrich's case would have had. We will keep you informed as this case proceeds.

Staying committed to the STA could never be more important than at this time! All the rights and privileges we enjoy and that were hard won by those that came before us are under attack and at stake. We all need to stay the course and support each other as we fight to protect these treasured rights.

John Kozlowski, President

Vote “NO”
November 7, 2017 on the Constitutional Convention

NO √
STA FEATURE INTERVIEW:
Paul Hypolite, NYSUT Regional Political Organizer

STA: What is your role with NYSUT?
Paul: My title is the Regional Political Organizer. In short, I coordinate our regional strategic plans on political issues, which includes candidate and issue-based campaigns such as the Constitutional Convention. This includes supporting our local unions for school board and budget races through help with messaging, recruiting candidates, and advising on our campaigns. I also coordinate our regional campaigns for state-wide and congressional races which requires us to build and maintain relationships with allied community groups, other unions, and political leaders who support the labor movement.

STA: The STA has appreciated your help for the last two years in organizing evenings where we call the hundreds of current and retired NYSUT members in the Spencerport district to share with them which candidates we support for the Board of Education. Can you please tell our members a bit about the Constitutional Convention vote and, specifically, how a YES vote could impact teachers?
Paul: We encourage every member to Vote NO on Con Con on November 7th for three easy reasons. First, this is an expensive proposition that could cost our state well into the hundreds of millions depending on how long the convention lasts. And the majority of people elected will be politicians, Albany lobbyists, and political party hacks who will make and spend a ton of money to amend the constitution when there is already a process to amend it for free. We call this the politician's convention because this is a party for Albany insiders with our hard-earned tax dollars.

Second, enshrined in our constitution are important protections like the right to a free public education, the protection that our pensions cannot be diminished, and great environmental protections that protect the Catskills and Adirondacks for all of us and future generations to enjoy. We have a ton to lose if this goes through, and we don't think there is a lot of upside. And if some groups have good ideas for amendments, we encourage them to present those amendments and do it in the current process for free!

Third, we are not alone in this fight. A huge coalition of over 200 organizations, some of whom are not typically allies, have teamed up to oppose this convention in a coalition group called New Yorkers Against Corruption. Groups from both ends of the political spectrum are standing against a Constitutional Convention: the Working Families Party, Planned Parenthood, a ton of LGBT and environmental groups, the NRA, Right to Life, and the Conservative Party are all opposed to this wasteful idea. Also, the entire labor movement in the AFL-CIO is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with us to oppose Con Con because we all understand how much we have to lose in the politician's convention. Please remember to vote on November 7, and flip over your ballot to Vote NO on the Constitutional Convention.

STA: Educators in Michigan and Wisconsin saw their paychecks immediately cut when legislation passed that was specifically designed to reduce the compensation and retirement benefits of public sector employees. Are teachers in New York similarly threatened?
Paul: Teachers in New York state are absolutely in danger of their pensions being taken away or reduced if a Constitutional Convention is approved. We have very strong language in our constitution that prevents
lawmakers from coming after us, and there is no doubt that some of the people who are constantly fighting public education are behind the convention. We are in their cross-hairs.

**STA:** Not everyone believes that teachers earn or deserve their salaries, benefits and pensions. Is it true that educators should be cautious when speaking to friends and even family about the Constitutional Convention? In other words, what other reasons are there to vote NO besides the threat to public employee pensions?

**Paul:** Unfortunately, most private sector workers do not enjoy the rights and privileges of union protection and benefits such as quality pensions. It is true that this issue is not as important to the general public as it is to us, so it is not good to lead with pension cuts as an issue when talking to a friend or neighbor about the Constitutional Convention. Instead, we should stress the fact that this is going to cost New Yorkers a ton of money when we already have a way to amend the constitution for free. And we should remind our friends and family that we have some very good 'forever wild' protections that allow us to enjoy the Catskills and Adirondacks, and those protections will also be in jeopardy. Lastly, the convention will be run by Albany lobbyists, politicians, and part hacks who can receive their current salary as legislators and get a second salary as delegates to the convention—basically, they will be paid extra to do something that can be done for free. Any law can be changed through a process called “initiative-referendum.” We do not believe they will have our interests at heart.

**STA:** Thank you for this important information, Paul!

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the work you do every day to support our community as educators. You perform a tremendous public service, and we are extremely lucky to live in a state with such great educators and the best public system in the country. Please remember that we always support you and have your back. We are all brothers and sisters in the strongest union in America because of you. Thank you!

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*Paul Hypolite, NYSUT Regional Political Organizer*
The Constitutional Convention: Vote NO this November

*The referendum will be on the back of the ballot—don’t forget to turn your ballot over!*

Every twenty years, NYS voters can vote YES or NO in a ballot referendum to open up the constitution and rewrite it. When you vote this November, the ballot will include a simple question: Should New York hold a Constitutional Convention? This question will be on the back of the ballot. It is important that when we vote, we remember to turn our ballots over to VOTE NO to a Constitutional Convention.

The current New York State Constitution contains a very important clause stating that “no public employee pension shall be diminished.” Our leaders in NYSUT are all but certain that in rewriting the constitution, lawmakers and special interest groups that have been attacking public education all across the country will introduce legislation to legally alter our pension promises. A Constitutional Convention puts public union members at significant financial risk, and at a time when public schools are facing a severe teacher shortage, pension reform (i.e., reductions) would make entering the profession even more unattractive. The following page of our newsletter lists five reasons why we should all vote NO to a Convention. There are other ways to pass laws (called initiative-referendum), and should New Yorkers vote yes for a Convention, the waste of taxpayer funds will be colossal.
New York State Constitutional Convention

What do you need to know to protect our profession?

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: A waste of tax dollars
why in five
1. Experts estimate a constitutional convention will cost hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars.
2. Lawmakers can collect salaries and pension credits as elected officials and as delegates simultaneously.
3. The last time a constitutional convention took place, it cost taxpayers millions and accomplished nothing.
4. Constitutional conventions don’t have mandatory end dates — delegates keep meeting and taxpayers keep paying.
5. Should taxpayers fund a party for Albany insiders? No!
Vote NO!

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: A Politicians’ Convention
why in five
1. During the last convention, four out of five delegates were career politicians and Albany insiders.
2. And every politician who ran for a delegate seat that year, won a delegate seat.
3. And who ran the show? All of the convention leaders were sitting legislators.
4. Most troubling? Thanks to Citizens United, corporate special interests can spend unlimited money getting their cronies elected.
5. Do you trust Albany insiders to do what’s right? Don’t risk it.
Vote NO!

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: It’s just not necessary
why in five
1. A process already exists to amend the state constitution, and it doesn’t cost a thing.
2. For example, the state Legislature passed an amendment in 2013 expanding casino gambling. The same process could be used for new amendments.
3. Opening the state constitution is like opening Pandora’s Box. You can’t predict what changes delegates will make.
4. The last time a convention took place it was a complete failure; voters rejected every proposed constitutional change.
5. Don’t add to Albany waste.
Vote NO!

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: Labor rights at risk
why in five
1. At risk: The right to unionize and bargain collectively. Your union’s strength could be jeopardized.
2. At risk: Workers’ compensation. Safeguard your rights if you’re injured on the job.
3. At risk: Public pension protections. The constitution guarantees your pension will be there.
4. Other states have made drastic pension changes with disastrous results for active members and retirees. Don’t let it happen here!
5. Don’t risk your rights/your future.
Vote NO!

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION: What’s at stake?
why in five
1. The environment — New York State’s constitution has the nation’s strongest protections for forever wild areas like the Adirondacks and the Catskills. Greedy developers could push to undo these safeguards.
2. Public education — The state constitution guarantees our students the right to a free public education.
3. The social safety net — The state constitution ensures the state provides for citizens in need.
4. Our voting rights — The constitution provides valuable protections.
5. Don’t risk losing these vital safeguards.
Vote NO!
Political Action News: SUNY Charter School Proposal

On July 26th, the State University of New York (SUNY) Charter Schools Institute, the organization that oversees all of New York’s charter schools, proposed legislation that would allow certain charter school chains, such as the Success Academy—New York City’s largest chain—to certify their own teachers. A public comment period began that ended on Monday, September 11th, 2017. It is no coincidence that this insulting legislation was proposed while educators were enjoying their deserved—and unpaid—summer breaks. You can learn more about the SUNY Charter School Committee here.  

http://www.newyorkcharters.org/suny/suny-trustees/  The four-member committee consists of three attorneys, one businessman, and zero educators.  

NYSED’s website contains this information from Commissioner Elia and Chancellor Rosa: “Every student in New York State deserves a high-quality teacher. The Board of Regents and State Education Department are focused on ensuring that strong and effective teachers with the proper training, experience and credentials are educating New York’s children in every public school – including charter schools. SUNY’s teacher certification proposal is cause for concern in maintaining this expectation.”

On NYSUT’s website, you can read a letter by Executive Vice-President Jolene DiBrango.  


Blasting this “fake certification” process, DiBrango writes,  

The “certification pathway” detailed in the draft regulations is not a certification at all. New York State certifies teachers and alternative pathways exist, but all of these are connected with nationally accredited institutions of higher education. A state certification allows a holder of the certification to undertake professional activities across New York in the relevant field for which the person is licensed. However, the process authorized by the draft regulations would result in a document that would only be valid at SUNY authorized charter schools.  

Therefore, the piece of paper given to a person who completes the process contained in these regulations amounts to a coupon that is only redeemable for employment at SUNY charter schools. As a result, this person is not certified to teach and cannot be employed in a teaching capacity in public school districts, charter schools authorized by the Board of Regents, or schools in other states.  

This issue is compounded given the high teacher turnover rates at charter schools in New York State. SUNY-authorized charter schools have teacher turnover rates that exceed 30% during the first five years of employment. One in five SUNY-authorized charter schools has five year teacher turnover rates in excess of 50%. Employees who leave (both voluntarily and involuntarily) these charter schools and have used these draft regulations to gain their employment will be unable to pursue positions in other education institutions except other SUNY authorized charter schools. This creates a
great disservice to young teachers who are beginning their careers in education and will leave many of them unemployable in the teaching field.

We know that the “reformers” leading the organized movement to privatize public education desire a temporary workforce; instead of career teachers, charter school advocates and privatizers envision teaching as a temporary “community service” experience for young people before they move on to “real jobs.” This proposal is all the more egregious when taking into account the extremely rigorous current NYS teacher certification process and the very real teacher shortage, especially in the areas of special education. A recent article in the Democrat & Chronicle stated that more than 25% of three- and four- years olds who had been referred to pre-school CSE’s had not received their evaluations within the required 60 days—more than 400 children in Monroe County. Education is underfunded, and there is a serious shortage of educators, especially for our most vulnerable learners.

The public comment period for charter school “fake certification” has ended, but it makes a difference to personally call the lawmakers who represent you in Albany, as well as the Commissioner and the Chancellor to tell them that public education is a cornerstone of our democracy, and that charter schools should not be able to certify their own teachers. In fact, charter schools should not even exist.

Emmy Thevanesan, Cosgrove Building Rep & Political Action Coordinator

Find your NYS Senator’s phone number here: https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator
Find who represents you in the Assembly here: http://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/
Governor Cuomo: 518-474-8390
Chancellor Rosa: 518-474-5889
Contact information for the Board of Regents members found here: https://www.regents.nysed.gov/members
Find phone numbers and email addresses for the New York State Education Department here: http://www.nysed.gov/contact-NYSED

Watchdog: Crisis in special ed services for preschoolers leaves families scrambling
This infographic was shared at the Spring 2017 Political Action building meetings. The SUNY proposal to allow charter schools to certify their own teachers fits into both of the upper quadrants. We must remember our greatest strengths are our size and solidarity. Alternative certification paths have nothing to do with student achievement—30 hours of classroom training is laughable—and everything to do with diminishing the professional (NYSUT) teaching workforce.

An excellent resource to stay informed and to get involved is NYSUT’s Member Action Center. [https://mac.nysut.org/](https://mac.nysut.org/). You can sign up to get action alerts sent to your cell phone each Tuesday.

When calling lawmakers or members of the Board of Regents to advocate for our profession, consider using these talking points:

- State your opposition of vouchers, and ask for your lawmaker’s position
- State your opposition of charter expansion/lifting the charter cap/increasing funding for charter schools, and ask for your lawmaker’s opinion
- State your support of strong unions for a healthy middle class, and ask for your lawmaker’s opinion on right-to-work legislation
- Call to inform your lawmaker that you are a constituent who supports public education; state that you believe charter schools and vouchers are an unsustainable drain on resources meant for real public schools
- State that you believe lawmakers need to address the root cause of achievement gaps between districts: poverty
- Contact members of the Board of Regents and share issues/topics that you believe should be their focus and priority
The STA welcomes the following new members!

Elizabeth Bender
Bernabi
Kindergarten

Hometown: Pavilion, NY
College: Roberts Wesleyan
Why did you choose to teach? I went into teaching because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of students. I had many great teachers growing up who inspired me to be here today.

Rob Burgett
High School
Math

Hometown: Rochester (Gates)
College: SUNY Brockport
Why did you choose to teach? I have always known I wanted to teach as a way to share my passion for math with other students.

Jamielynn Cerretto
Middle School & High School
Health

Hometown: Spencerport
College: SUNY Cortland
Why did you choose to teach? I love Health and teaching about it. Also, I loved all of my teachers and wanted to be like them.

Nicole Comanzo
Canal View
Kindergarten

Hometown: Rochester
College: SUNY Oneonta
Why did you choose to teach? I went into teaching to make a positive impact on my students and make learning fun.
Maribeth Doyle  
Bernabi Elementary  
First Grade  
**Hometown:** New Hartford, NY  
**College:** SUNY Oneonta  
**Why did you choose to teach?** My 5th grade teacher inspired me to become a teacher because she brought love and excitement into the classroom.  
**Fun Fact:** I have been playing soccer since I was 5, and I currently play on two leagues in the Rochester area.

Lorri Fousse  
Taylor  
**Special Education**  
**Hometown:** Puerto Rico  
**College:** St. Lawrence University; Nazareth  
**Why did you choose to teach?** I went into teaching because I love working with, relating to, and supporting children.

Lindsay Jones  
**High School**  
**Social Studies**  
**Hometown:** Spencerport  
**College:** SUNY Oswego  
**Why did you choose to teach?** I had amazing teachers growing up who influenced me.

Thomas Kanaley, Sr.  
**High School**  
**Business**  
**Hometown:** Clyde, NY  
**College:** SUNY Morrisville, Rochester Institute of Technology & SUNY Oswego  
**Why did you choose to teach?** I got into teaching because I have been a life-long learner and coach.  
**Fun fact:** I enjoy spending leisure time with my family of 7, wife and 5 kids.

Jen Magliocco  
Bernabi  
**First Grade**  
**Hometown:** Hilton  
**College:** Roberts Wesleyan  
**Why did you choose to teach?** I went into teaching because I love working with kids and want to make a difference!  
**Fun to know:** I have played soccer since I was five and have been coaching modified soccer in Hilton for the last 8 years.
Laura Hulbert
Bernabi
First Grade
Hometown: Spencerport
College: SUNY Fredonia
Why did you choose to teach? I wanted to be a teacher because my teachers here at Spencerport left a huge impact on me, and I truly looked up to all of them.

Laurel Kane
Munn
Music
Hometown: Bloomsburg, PA
College: Houghton College; Eastman School of Music
Why did you choose to teach? I went into teaching because I loved being a music student and wanted to pass my knowledge to other students.

Samantha Heagerty
Bernabi
Music
Hometown: Hamlin, NY
College: SUNY Potsdam
Why did you choose to teach? I went into teaching to be there for the kids, to be someone in their lives for them to look up to, and to give kids an opportunity to express themselves through music in the classroom.

New Music Teachers Laurel Kane & Sam Haegerty

Jamey Wezelis
Cosgrove
Spanish
Hometown: Churchville
College: Binghamton
Why did you choose to teach? I love Spanish and want to share the language with others.
Fun to know: I'm very interested in theatre. I enjoy watching plays and musicals as well as occasionally performing in one too.
Joanna White
Cosgrove
Reading & ELA
Hometown: Watertown, NY
College: SUNY Oswego & Nazareth
Why did you choose to teach? I went into teaching because I have always loved reading, the English curriculum and adolescents. My mom was a teacher and inspired me to follow her.
Fun to know: For five years, I worked at the Seneca Park Zoo.

Natalie Kirisits
High School
Reading
Hometown: Buffalo
College: Nazareth; University of Buffalo
Why did you choose to teach? I wanted to become a teacher because I love that I can have a direct impact on today’s youth.

Jennifer Latshaw
High School
Special Education
Hometown: Syracuse
College: St. John Fisher; Syracuse
Why did you choose to teach? I became a teacher after working with inner city kids in a volunteer position. I fell in love with it and never looked back!
Fun to know: Outside of school, I enjoy spending as much quality family time as possible with my two teenage daughters.

Beth Ward
Taylor
Occupational Therapy
Hometown: Rochester
College: University of Scranton
Why did you choose to teach? I am a school-based OT because it allows me to creatively work on building students’ foundational skills. I love helping students to be successful with skills that are challenging for them!
Fun to know: I grew up in the Rochester area and then moved to Boston after college to begin my career. I moved back to Rochester with my husband two years ago, and we’re very happy to be here!
Matt Marchaesi  
High School  
Physical Education  
Hometown: Rochester  
College: Brockport  
Why did you choose to teach? I want to build relationships and make a difference in the lives of young adults.

Kate Zobkiw  
High School  
Intervention Specialist/ Drug & Alcohol Counselor  
Hometown: Irondequoit  
College: SUNY Albany  
Why did you choose to teach? I wanted to become a drug and alcohol counselor to normalize the stigma of addiction in families.

Dave Szmania  
Bernabi  
Reading  
Hometown: Alexander  
College: Geneseo  
Why did you choose to teach? I chose to become a teacher because as a high school junior, I had a positive experience tutoring students in middle school. I saw the impact I could have with students and decided to make it a career!

Marissa Tedesco  
Canal View  
Fourth Grade  
Hometown: Greece, NY  
College: St. Bonaventure  
Why did you choose to teach? I have multiple siblings and cousins who I enjoy spending time with. This is how I became passionate about teaching.
We asked new teachers, “What do you expect from your union?”

Spencerport’s Newest Teachers
New Teaching Assistants & Nurses

Tara Beeles
Canal View

**Hometown:** Salamanca, N.Y.

**College:** Ashford University for Bachelors; attending Capella University for Masters

**Why are you an educator?** I worked the summer at Boces ESY. I had a great experience, and I decided that education was where I needed to be.

**Fun Fact:** I have 4 children; 2 girls, ages 9 and 7, a 3 year old boy, and an angel boy.

Sarah Ernisse
Cosgrove

**Hometown:** Henrietta, NY

**College:** SUNY Fredonia

**Why are you an educator?** I had some really great elementary teachers while I was in school. I wanted to be just like them.

**Fun fact:** I have two dogs. One is a rescue named Dunkin. She is a Husky-Dalmatian mix with one blue eye and one brown eye. The other is a Pug named Wally. He is my shadow and follows me everywhere.

Emily Leone
Bernabi

**Hometown:** Greece; I graduated from Spencerport Schools

**College:** SUNY College at Brockport, currently going for a Masters in Literacy Education...currently have a bachelors in English/Childhood Education and a minor in Coaching Athletics

**Why are you an educator?** I love to motivate students to work hard, reach their goals and have a growth mindset.

**Fun Fact:** I am the Program Assistant Girls’ Basketball Coach for Spencerport.

Marcus Watts
High School

**Hometown:** Henrietta

**College:** The College at Brockport

**Why are you an educator?** I enjoy helping people.

**Fun fact:** Life is an unexpected journey!
Annette Cranker
Cosgrove Nurse

Hometown: Gates-Chili
College: Excelsior College

Why are you a school nurse? I chose to be a school nurse after working for many years with chronically ill adults. I felt I had come to a time in my life where I wanted to witness new beginnings, and how better to do that in nursing than with school age children?

Fun Fact: I went to 5 different elementary schools as a child and I loved it!

Callie White
Flex Nurse

Hometown: Honeoye, NY
College: St. John Fisher College

Why are you a school nurse? I chose to be a school nurse because I look forward to seeing the students change and evolve over time. Also, I like to teach and educate students and teachers when it comes to health needs.

Fun fact: I was a "test baby" for the Croup/Whooping cough vaccine.
Celebrations

**Taylor**
Kenneth Rhodes’ film “Sold on Time” was shown on Sept 21st at the Rochester Fringe Festival. He was also nominated for a Best Supporting Actor award at the WNY FAME film festival on September 15th.

Recent College of Saint Rose graduate Marisa Benson, daughter of Marlene and Rik Benson, married her high school sweetheart, Nicholas Pitcher, in a beautiful ceremony at Colgate Divinity on Saturday, August 19, 2017. The newlyweds reside in Cincinnati where Nicholas is a logistics supervisor for ABF freight. Marisa will begin her graduate studies in speech pathology in January at the University of Cincinnati.

*Please email celebratory news to Danielle Blossom*

**Nurses**
Beth Hoben’s daughter Grace was married this summer to Chris Brugger. Her youngest daughter, Audriana, graduated from Brockport and is now a certified PE teacher currently subbing at World of Inquiry.

Dianne Robinson’s daughter, Michelle, is getting married in San Diego California November 25th.

*Please email celebratory news to Beth Hoben*
Bernabi
Lindsay & Josh Acey, along with big sisters, Ava and Brooklyn, welcomed a baby girl, Kennedy Elizabeth. She was born on August 24, 2017, weighing 9 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20 1/4 " long.

Greta Bohn welcomed a baby boy, Issac Hawley Bohn, on August 30, 2017, at 1:34 PM, weighing 9 lbs, 4 oz, and 20.5 inches long.

Tracey and Anthony D'Alonzo, and big brother James, welcomed a baby boy, Anthony Joseph D'Alonzo, on September 8th, 2017, weighing 9lb 5.8oz and 20 inches long.

Please email celebratory news to Tracey D'Alonzo

Munn
Alicia Federico was recently engaged to her boyfriend of ten years, Nihat Barut. Alicia & Nihat, who were voted cutest couple in high school, are getting married on August 18, 2018, which is their 11th anniversary of dating. Nihat proposed in their home with their two Siberian Husky puppies. He is a software engineer at Eagle Dream Technologies.

Please email celebratory news to Stacy Lonardo
Wilson
Rachel Sherman welcomed a baby girl, Bethany Grace Sherman, on February 21, 2017.

Rick and Julie Hepler welcomed a baby boy, Sullivan Thanner Hepler, on June 8th, 2017. Sullivan was born 8 lbs, 6 oz.

Sarah Colasanto welcomed a baby girl, Ava Sofia, on June 8th, 2017. Ava was born 7 lbs, 7 oz.

Canal View
Megan Cusimano married Ian Milam on July 8th, 2017.

Nicole Cubiotti married Ben Hamelin on July 29th, 2017.

Nikkie Scott married Damian Hastings on August 20th, 2017.

Deb Rogala’s son, Msgt Rogala (USAF) returned safely from Afghanistan. While serving, Kevin's orders were to supervise six military airports throughout Afghanistan. His job involved a great deal of travel throughout the volatile country. On his third day, there was a suicide bomber that killed 8 service men and wounded many more inside the base. His life and the lives of our service men and women are in constant danger. Deb shared, “We are so grateful he is home safely. We celebrated as a family in July.”

Adam Ashworth welcomed a baby girl, Arabella Sophia Ashworth, on September 8, 2017.

On September 16th, Andrew & Jeanne Pacitto celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary.

Please email celebratory news to Sue Chatterton

Please email celebratory news to Courtney Hoerner
Cosgrove

Nicole Marino was engaged on September 17, 2017. Her fiancé, Michael Shaw, proposed on the shores of Canandaigua Lake. Michael is an accountant at the University of Rochester.

Jason & Susan Swain and big brother Liam welcomed a baby girl, Elle Livia, on September 22nd, 2017. Elle was born at 9:40 AM at 6 pounds 8 ounces, 20 inches long.

Katie Burgstrom is engaged to Robert Welch, and over the summer, they purchased their first home in Brockport. They are planning an August 2018 wedding.
Over the summer, Rob Allen took part in the Linkages Summer Fellowship in Veliky Novgorod, Russia. During his visit, he stayed in a Russian home and worked with Russian English teachers, sharing teaching strategies and information about American culture, while going on cultural field trips in the region each day.

Doug & Carol Lennon’s daughter, Dr. Elizabeth Lennon, graduated from Cornell School of Veterinary Medicine in May 2017.

Katie Jo Passero accepted the position of grades 7-12 Assistant Principal in the Lyons Central School District. Cosgrove will miss her dearly but wishes her the best of luck in her new job!

Please email celebratory news to Frank Cafarella
Executive Council Update

This past June, Deb Yeara retired as Treasurer of the STA. The Treasurer of the STA keeps accurate records of all the income and expenditures of the association, collects dues, prepares and distributes an annual report of the association's finances, works with the 2nd Vice-President to validate the accuracy of membership billings, and completes and files all the necessary yearly revenue forms.

Deb Yeara was our Treasurer for the last 22 years. We would like to thank Deb for all her years of service to the STA. She has done an outstanding job! When Deb first began teaching, the president of the union talked to the new teachers and made sure they understood how important it was to be part of the union and what they got from their membership. When the Secretary was retiring, the president sought her out and asked if Deb would be interested stepping into an officer role. Realizing it was important to be involved as much as possible, she accepted the position. Later, she became Treasurer. That was over 30 years ago! The STA is also excited to share that Cheri Hall, Cosgrove French teacher, will serve as the new Treasurer of our organization.

STA Upcoming Events

September 14 – Executive Council Meeting, 4:00 PM in Cosgrove Room 626
October 15 – Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk: Please join the STA and SCSOPA for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. A tee-shirt order will be placed, and Lisa Cutten will be emailing more information. Find our team by searching for us at this link: www.makingstrides.org/rochester.
October 19 – Executive Council Meeting, 4:00 PM in Cosgrove Room 626
November – Hat & Coat Collection: Stay tuned for information on where to drop off clean, gently-used hats and coats for the STA and SCSOPA to donate to community members at the December 20th FoodLink distribution in the Cosgrove cafeteria.
November 16 – Executive Council Meeting, 4:00 PM in Cosgrove Room 626
December 3 – Christmas on the Canal/First Book Give-Away: Join the STA in passing out free books to members of our community! Stay tuned for more information!
December 20 – Coat and Hat Drive at Cosgrove Middle School FoodLink Event: Be on the lookout for emails about the 2nd STA/SCSOPA Coat & Hat drive! Last year, we collected hundreds of coats for members of our community to select during the November and December Foodlink pick-ups at the Cosgrove Cafeteria.
December 21 – Executive Council Meeting, 4:00 PM in Cosgrove Room 626
January 18 – Executive Council Meeting, 4:00 PM in Cosgrove Room 626
January – TBD—Retirement Seminar
February 15- Executive Council Meeting, 4:00 PM in Cosgrove Room 626
March – TBD- STA District Basketball Game & Fundraiser
March – TBD- Benefits Fair
April 12- Executive Council Meeting, 4:00 PM in Cosgrove Room 626
May 17 – Executive Council Meeting, 4:00 PM in Cosgrove Room 626
June 7 – Spencerport Fireman’s Carnival/First Book distribution
STA Leadership

Officers
John Kozlowski, President*
Lisa Cutten, 1st Vice President*
Jennifer Ott, 2nd Vice President*
Joe DiTucci, PAC Chair*
Jacquelyn Lanpher, Secretary*
Cheri Hall, Treasurer*

Nurses’ Representative
Beth Hoben*

Teaching Assistant President
Laurie Wood*

Munn Building Reps
Matt Fink*
Scott Schwind*

Taylor Building Reps
Danielle Blossom*
Medea Bonny*

Bernabi Building Reps
Ryan Ewanow*
Laurie Scutella*

Canal View Building Reps
Sue Chatterton*
Laura Gannon*

Cosgrove Building Reps
Rob Allen*
Janeen Henry (alternate)*
Doug Lennon*
Emmy Thevanesan*
Teresa Trujillo*

Wilson Building Reps
Kristin Cocchiara*
Becky DiNatale*
Steve Kelley*
Amanda Van Huben*
Jody Wyant*

NYSUT At-Large Delegate
Gretchen Breon*

Political Action Coordinators
Ryan Ewanow
Emmy Thevanesan

PAC Representatives
Ryan Ewanow, Bernabi
Sue Chatterton, Canal View
Stacy Lonardo, Munn
Danielle Blossom, Taylor
Doug Lennon, Cosgrove
Jacquelyn Lanpher, Wilson

Social Media Coordinator
Gretchen Breon

Webmaster
Bryan Swanson

Newsletter Editor
Emmy Thevanesan

BPT Representatives
Ryan Ewanow, Bernabi
Sue Chatterton, Canal View
Stacy Lonardo, Munn
Danielle Blossom, Taylor
Doug Lennon, Cosgrove
Kristin Cocchiara, Wilson

*Denotes Executive Council vote
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 and click on “Financial Planning Center.”

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.