

## Member Newsletter Volume III, Issue 3 February 2019

*John Kozlowski, President*  
*Joe DiTucci, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*  
*Jennifer Ott, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*  
*Joe DiTucci, Professional Advancement Chair*  
*Jacquelyn Lanpher, Secretary*  
*Cheri Hall, Treasurer*

### Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

The value of union membership has never been more evident than it is today! One only needs to look at places around the country like Los Angeles, Oakland, and Denver where teachers are finally uniting and even striking to improve their working conditions and the educational experience of their students. These teachers aren't earning a living wage, so many of them are working second jobs or even renting their apartments on websites like VRBO to help pay their rent. They are teaching classes with 40 plus students, planning their lessons on their own time, and buying all of their students' supplies with their own money. A lot of these issues arose because of union complacency. The good news is that they have finally had enough! They are rebuilding the strength and capacity of their unions in ways we have not seen in 50 plus years. Now, their demands aren't only being met, but more importantly, they are learning once again about the power that comes when they're united and unionized!

We are beyond blessed to have strong and powerful unions at both the state and local level. NYSUT has made huge legislative strides in fixing our broken evaluation system, advocating for and winning proper funding for our schools, and protecting our collective bargaining rights. As a result of legislation championed by NYSUT and the NYS AFL-CIO, union members in New York can deduct their union dues from their state taxes if they itemize. While not a dollar for dollar deduction for your overall union dues, this deduction will offset your taxable income if you itemize your New York State income taxes. Please consult with your personal tax preparer to confirm your own situation. The STA has and will continue to focus on negotiating fair contracts that provide raises that exceed inflation, maintain our health care benefits, and provide proper stipends for work conducted outside the workday.

All of these victories require members who are actively involved in their unions. Members who are willing to send faxes, emails, and other correspondence to our elected officials. Members who always stick together when the going gets tough! In fact, there has never been more STA members involved not only in the governance of our union, but more and more are participating in the many events we continue to hold in the community. Whether it's book giveaways or coat, hat, and mitten drives, we have seen a marked increase in involvement. These events help us build positive relationships with our Board of Education and our community. We are seeing more of our

newer members getting involved too. This is extremely important because these members are the future of the STA!

The days of passive unionism are long over! We must learn from other unions around the country that became complacent. In the end, complacency is our biggest enemy! If we are going to have the capacity to fight off attacks that are sure to come in the future, we will need every member to be an active participant in our union.

In solidarity,

John

*John Kozlowski, President*

## **PAC Chair Message**

A Conference day is scheduled for April 12, 2019. As you know, the STA and the district were able to work out a creative way to fulfill the conference day. During the year, members were able to attend various Professional Development opportunities, equaling 6 hours, in lieu of attendance on April 12. With over 50 sessions offered, mostly taught by STA members, roughly 75% of our members were able to take advantage of this opportunity. This one year agreement met the needs of both the district and our members and is an example of how communication between the STA and the district continues in non-negotiations years. John and I have been in regular communication with the district and are having preliminary conversations about continuing this practice in future years. We have heard from many members who were not able to take advantage of this opportunity, but please feel free to reach out to John or myself with any additional feedback.



Another area where we work with the district is the school calendar. Article 10 of our contract covers our Work Year. In that article, it states that STA members can work up to 188 days and these days shall begin after Labor Day and end on the Friday of Regents week, unless the STA and the district agree to work one day the week before Labor Day due to the calendar. For the 2019-2020 school year, STA members will be working 187 days starting with a Conference Day on September 3 and ending on June 26, 2020. Please take a look at the calendar that was sent out February 13 for specifics.

In Solidarity,

Joe

*Joe DiTucci, Professional Advancement Committee Chair*

# Keeping the Community Warm

SCSOPA and STA have again worked collaboratively to collect coats, hats and mittens to distribute during the FoodLink Food Pantry held at the Cosgrove Cafeteria throughout the school year. January 9<sup>th</sup> was another success, with many teachers and students assisting with setting up and displaying the items.

Chris Beh's transition class played an extremely important role, with students coming to SCSOPA President MJ McQuilkin's office each day to pick up donations and help with washing and sorting coats. It was a lot of work, but the students always wore smiles!



## #RedforEd Pop-Up Sale

For a couple of years, teachers in our district have been sporting awesome tee-shirts designed by Cosgrove Info Tech teacher Liz Roth! Liz has created some fabulous new designs for her next shirt sale, and for each item ordered, the STA will make \$1 to put toward our holiday book-give away events! In the past, the STA has relied on grant money to purchase our books, but we are now transitioning to supporting events that benefit our community through fundraising. The designs for this pop-up sale are below. Please consider buying a shirt or hoodie to show your support for public education while reinforcing the fact that we're all part of one team. Plus, going "Red for Public Ed" on Wednesdays is a great excuse to wear jeans!

#BeALifter  
"We rise by lifting others"

teach  
→ Love →  
INSPIRE

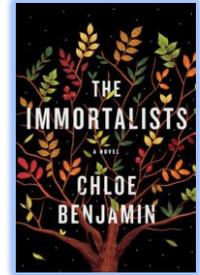
SHE BELIEVED SHE COULD  
change the WORLD,  
SO SHE BECAME A  
teacher

HE BELIEVED HE COULD  
**CHANGE THE WORLD,**  
SO HE BECAME A  
**TEACHER**

# Building News

## Cosgrove Book Club

The Cosgrove Book Club had their first meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> at Rohrbach's. Those in attendance had read *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty, and they discussed the book while enjoying food and drink. The book for March is *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin, and the group will meet on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Beth Bellinger's barn! Please bring a snack/dish to pass and your own beverage.



## Rangers Rock the Polar Plunge!

Congratulations to the Rangers Rock Polar Plunge team, organized by Bernabi teacher Dena Olson. With a team comprised of teachers, administrators and students, we raised \$10,447 for the Special Olympics. Leading up to the icy escapade, each building raised money through different events like dress-down days, hat days, lemonade sales, Jar Wars and chili cook-offs. For the second year in a row, team "Rangers Rock" won the "Fly Your Color School Challenge," and we won opportunity to have our district name on the back of the sweatshirts for next year, which is the 20th year anniversary of this awesome event!



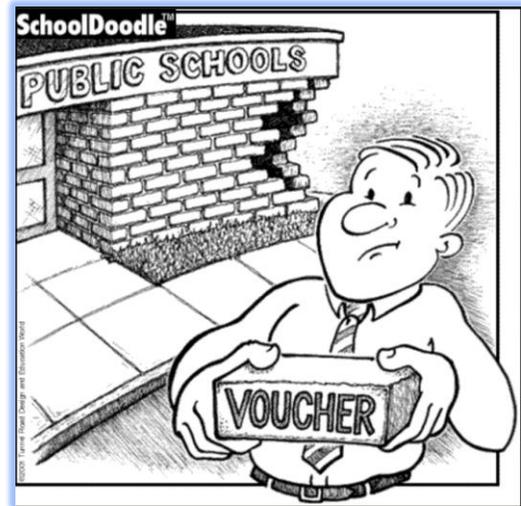
## National News

On Tuesday February 19<sup>th</sup>, West Virginia teachers went on strike for the second time in less than a year. Lawmakers introduced a series of anti-public education measures that educators viewed as “retaliation” for their successful nine-day strike last spring. West Virginia legislators keep trying to bring charter schools to the state and are seeking the creation of “education savings accounts,” which are basically vouchers. It took two days for their state legislators to take these appalling measures off the table.

In January, the teachers of Los Angeles, a district with roughly 30,000 teachers and 500,000 students, walked the picket line for higher salaries, more support staff and smaller class sizes. According to *The New York Times*, the deal reached as a result of the strike “includes caps on class sizes, and hiring full-time nurses for every school, as well as a librarian for every middle and high school in the district by the fall of 2020.”

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, the teachers in Oakland, California entered their third day of striking. Like their colleagues in Los Angeles, the teachers in Oakland want more nurses and counselors in their schools; however, they are also asking for a salary that allows them to afford to live where they teach! Home ownership is not a possibility for teachers in California’s Bay Area.

You may be interested in reading the referenced article above that explains the “wage penalty” for teachers: that we earn less than our peers with similar levels of education. “...female teachers make 15.6% less than comparably educated women and that male teachers make 26.8% less than comparably educated men. It is true that teachers in most places get better benefits than many other workers, but benefits make up a larger portion of their compensation than for other workers and are no longer enough to offset their lower wages. The five states with the largest wage penalties for teachers, ... -- Arizona, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Colorado and Virginia -- all experienced protests or strikes in 2018.”



*How many bricks can you take away before the public school system crumbles?*

### **Why teacher strikes are touching every part of America**

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/23/politics/teacher-strikes-politics/index.html>



# Celebrations



Joe Condoluci is auditioning late this month at Cincinnati University for a Master's Degree in Conducting. Joe is a LTS at Canal View. Good luck, Joe!

Julie Gabriel's son, Justin, was recently inducted into the National Honor Society at Hilton. Julie is a consultant teacher at Canal View.



Dan Brust's daughter, Haley Brust, was named Empire 8 Athlete of the week in February for her success in the high jump and long jump for the St. John Fisher college Track and field team. Dan teaches Physical Education at Canal View.

Katie Southard had a baby girl named Lucy Grace on February 2nd, 2019. Lucy Grace was 6 lbs, 12 oz, and 20 inches long. Katie teaches music at Canal View.



Beth and Troy Ward are set to close on their first house in March! It's in East Henrietta, and they are thrilled to almost be first-time home owners. Below is a picture of the house. Beth is an Occupational Therapist at Taylor.



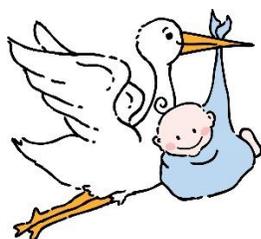
Becky DiNatale's son Matt has been accepted into Daemen College's DPT program and will be going in there in the fall. Becky is a counselor at the High School.

Lorri Fousse's niece Ashira Wachspres-Fischer has been selected as Valedictorian of her Senior Class at the School of the Arts in Rochester. Lorri is a special education teacher at Taylor.

John English married Alicia Moore on Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup>. It was a fun wedding with lots of friends and family in attendance. Many Cosgrove colleagues have met Alicia at happy hours and wine tours. Congratulations, John and Alicia! John is a technology teacher at Cosgrove.



*As you celebrate milestones and achievements in your personal life this school year, send a quick email to one of these STA members so your happy news can be shared with your colleagues in the next issue of the STA Newsletter!*



Bernabi- Bri Eason  
Canal View- Sue Chatterton  
Munn- Stacy Lonardo  
Taylor- Danielle Blossom  
Cosgrove- Frank Cafarella  
High School- Jackie Lanpher



## STA Calendar of Events

**February 27<sup>th</sup>** – STA Charity Basketball Game

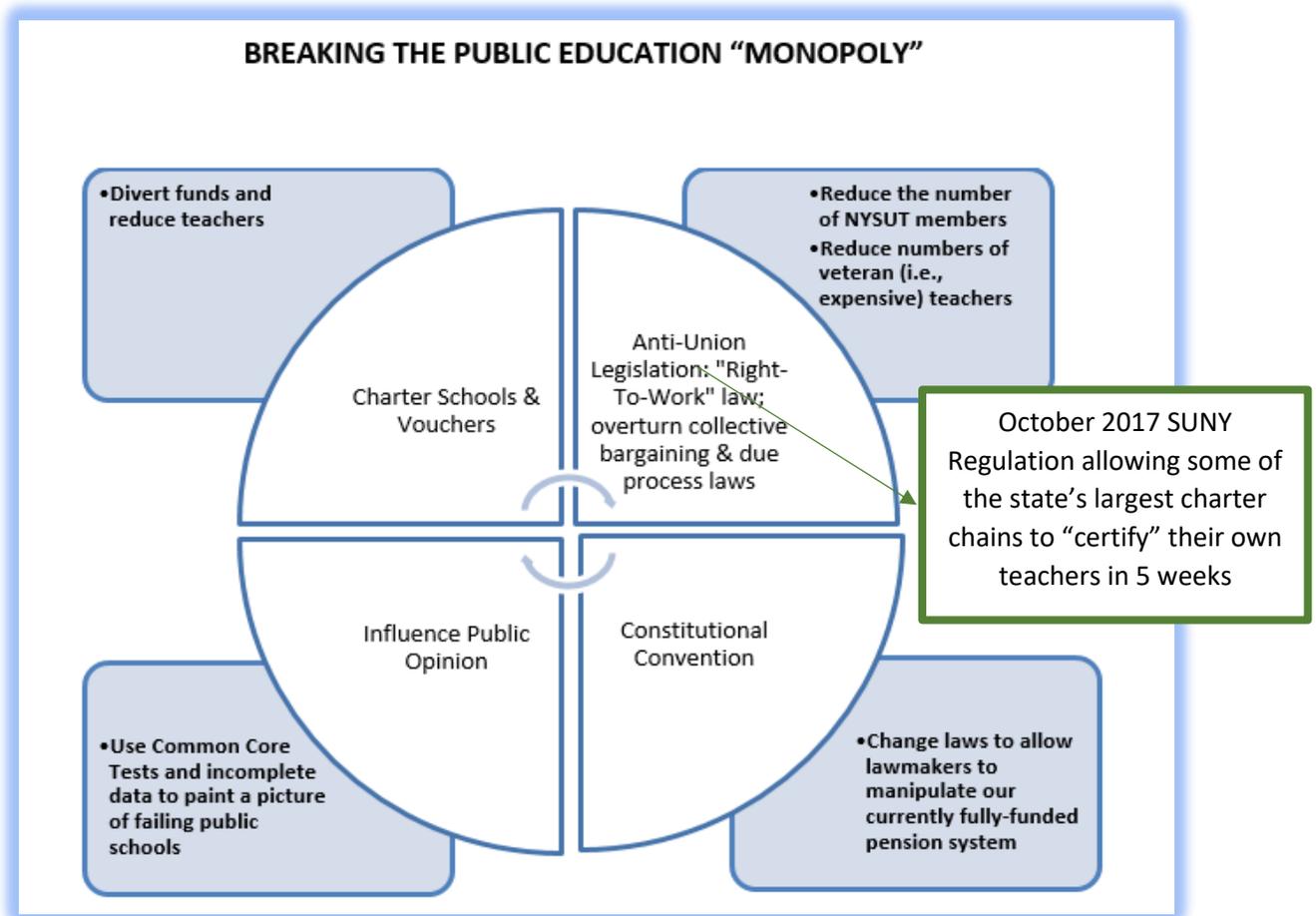
**March 14<sup>th</sup>** – Mobile Food Pantry/FoodLink at Cosgrove

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** – Executive Council Meeting; 4:00 PM; Cosgrove Room 626

**April 25<sup>th</sup>** – Executive Council Meeting; 4:00 PM; Cosgrove Room 626

**May 16<sup>th</sup>** – Executive Council Meeting; 4:00 PM; Cosgrove Room 626

Our newsletter includes this infographic each issue to remind members about the organized attack to deprofessionalize public education across the country and how we can take action.



An excellent resource to stay informed and to get involved is NYSUT's Member Action Center. <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:**

- ✓ Oppose vouchers, and ask for your lawmaker's position
- ✓ Oppose 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; that you believe charter schools and vouchers are an unsustainable drain on resources meant for real public schools
- ✓ Tell your lawmakers 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
- ✓ **Oppose the October 2017 SUNY Charter Regulations allowing certain charter schools—some of the state's largest chains—from certifying their own "teachers" in five weeks of training**

# STA Leadership, 2018-2019

## Officers

John Kozlowski, President\*  
Joe DiTucci, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President\*  
Jennifer Ott, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President\*  
Joe DiTucci, PAC Chair\*  
Jacquelyn Lanpher, Secretary\*  
Cheri Hall, Treasurer\*

### Nurses' Representative

Beth Hoben\*

### Bernabi Building Reps

Bri Eason\*  
Laurie Scutella\*

### Canal View Building Reps

Sue Chatterton\*  
Laura Gannon\*

### Teaching Assistant President

Laurie Wood\*

### Munn Building Reps

Matt Fink\*  
Scott Schwind\*

### Cosgrove Building Reps

Rob Allen\*  
Janeen Henry\*  
Suellan Morton (alternate)  
Pam Robinson\*  
Teresa Trujillo\*

### Wilson Building Reps

Kristin Cocchiara\*  
Bridgette Hermann\*  
Becky DiNatale\*  
Steve Kelley\*  
Amanda Van Huben\*

### Taylor Building Reps

Danielle Blossom\*  
Medea Bonny\*

### NYSUT At-Large Delegate

Gretchen Breon

### Social Media Coordinator

Gretchen Breon

### Political Action Coordinators

Ryan Ewanow  
Emmy Thevanesan

### Webmaster

Bryan Swanson

### PAC Representatives

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

### Newsletter Editor

Emmy Thevanesan

### BPT Representatives

Laurie Scutella, Bernabi  
Sue Chatterton, Canal View  
Stacy Lonardo, Munn  
Danielle Blossom, Taylor  
Doug Lennon, Cosgrove  
Kristin Cocchiara, Wilson

*\*Denotes Executive Council vote*



## Benefits designed exclusively for NYSUT members

NYSUT members and their loved ones have access to dozens of endorsed shopping, travel & personal programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits, including discounts on hotels & vacations; car & truck rentals; international group tours; sports & concert tickets; theme parks & attractions; and more.

Whether you are participating in one of our shopping/entertainment/travel offerings; auto, homeowners or life insurance plans; or financial or legal services, NYSUT members have the "Power of the Union" behind them ready to serve as their advocate.

### **The following is just a sample of the endorsed programs available to NYSUT members:**

**Bose** -- NYSUT members receive special educator pricing on high-end, high-quality electronics such as music systems, headphones and bluetooth speakers. You must contact Bose toll-free at 877-709-2073 and mention "educator pricing" to receive this exclusive pricing.

**Orlando Employee Discounts** -- NYSUT members save up to 30% on unforgettable Orlando, FL excursions to Disney World, Universal Studios and many other attractions.

**Grand Circle Travel** -- NYSUT members can enjoy a number of unique travel deals on international river cruises and other travel opportunities with Grand Circle's small ship cruise tours, river cruises and land tours.

### **Member Appreciation Month is back!**

One of our most popular annual events is set to return this February. The 2019 Member Appreciation Month celebration will be filled with a series of prize drawings for items donated by NYSUT Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers -- including gift cards, iPads, Echo Dots and more!

As a MAP Alert member, you are eligible to win prizes every single day throughout the month of February.

All MAP Alert members are already entered to win; if you have colleagues who would like to be eligible to win, they simply need to sign up for our MAP Alert service on the Member Benefits website. Prize winners will be listed daily on the Member Benefits website.



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.

Jan.Feb. 2019