Message from the President

Happy New Year Colleagues!

The end of 2019 was a whirlwind for the STA! We held two book giveaways in December. Our Christmas on the Canal event was a huge success. We gave away hundreds of books to children from all over the county. Teachers from every school and Board of Education members helped the event run smoothly and made the event very special. The event at Crerand Circle was extra special as teachers wrapped books for parents and students, so they could give them away as presents to their family members. We also gave away hundreds of coats, hats, and mittens at our annual drive on December 12th. I want to thank Mr. Beh and his students for their help! Every year, Mr. Beh and his students wash all of the articles we give away in preparation for the drive.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend one of the upcoming STA Happy Hours. So far, they have been very well attended. These events allow teachers from different schools to get to know each other while helping to support our local fire department. Gather a group from your school and join us at the Spencerport Exempts Hall for one or more of these monthly gatherings.

As you know, our Professional Advancement Committee (PAC) has been preparing for this year’s negotiations since October. We have reviewed all of your surveys, done a financial analysis of the district, and reviewed the contracts of comparable districts around the county. We will be ready to start negotiating a successor agreement in February. Joe DiTucci and I will keep you informed with respect to our progress as we move through the negotiating process.

In Solidarity,

John
Chris Beh’s class at the high school washes all of the coats, hats, mittens and gloves given away at FoodLink. STA officers Rob Allen, John Kozlowski and Joe Ditucci and SCSOPA President MJ McQuilkin thanked the students and brought them some donuts!

PAC Chair Message

There are a few topics I’d like to discuss in this newsletter.

1. **Negotiations Update** – The end of 2019 was certainly a busy time for the Professional Advancement Team (PAC). We met to look at the negotiations survey we have used in the past and decided to use an on-line version for the first time. With NYSUT’s support, we were able to send it out and were pleased with the response from our members. The on-line version helped with collating all the information and we received a comprehensive summary of the surveys. In December the team met several times to review the results and this work will continue in January. We take this process seriously and spend quite a bit of time discussing all the topics you bring forward. So, Thank You to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. If there is something you think we should know as we move forward with negotiations, please let me know and we can get together to discuss.

2. **Checking paychecks.** In the past month we have heard about a few discrepancies in paychecks. I strongly encourage you to check your paychecks and make sure they are correct. This goes for your base salary but also any extracurricular stipends or hourly pay. Checking your account balances of sick days, personal days and Family days would also be prudent.

3. **Planning Time** – Planning time belongs to you. You have a right to that time and meetings should not be scheduled during that time. Please let your building reps know should you run into any issues.

As we move into 2020, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year! With negotiations it will certainly be a busy one for your PAC team. As always, we are grateful for your support. We know we can count on all of you.

In Solidarity,

Joe
Christmas on the Canal
Submitted by Rob Allen

Christmas on the Canal is a fun event held on Union Street every December. This year’s event was Sunday December 8th. Families come out to watch local musicians and dancers perform, take horse-drawn hay rides, eat delicious food, buy local crafts and gifts, and spread holiday cheer.

This year, the bitter winter winds didn’t prevent crowds of young readers from flocking to our STA tent as we gave out several hundred, high-quality books for the fourth year in a row! It was a truly amazing event, and if you’ve never volunteered to help pass out books at the event, we hope you will consider doing so next year!
Crerand Circle
Holiday Book Give-Away

On Friday evening, December 13th, the STA held our 3rd annual book give-away in the Elmgrove Place Community Room located at 200 Crerand Circle.

The event has drawn more and more families from our district each year. The event is open to all Spencerport families. In addition to the fantastic books we purchase from Scholastic with money made from fundraising, we have tables set up for gift wrapping, cookies made by our members, and hot cocoa. We estimate about 30 families benefited from this event this year. Some in attendance chose just a few books, while others selected a dozen or even more.
Cosgrove Gets in the Spirit!

In December, Cosgrove teachers and staff gave generously to families in our community through a Giving Tree in the faculty lounge. Nearly 100 students came down to the counseling office conference room to “shop” for Christmas gifts: clothes, toys, fidgets, craft supplies, room décor, and bath/beauty products.

Cosgrove counselor Jackquelyn Woodard wrote to staff in an email, “I wish I could have captured images of students as they lit up being allowed to choose something special for themselves. Even more wonderful, though, being able to grab a gift for mom, dad, sibling or a family member.”

Some of the items donated by Cosgrove faculty and staff are in the pictures below.
Canal View Social Committee at Ronald McDonald House

The Social Committee at Canal View is building gratitude by giving back to others! A group of CV teachers volunteered at the RMDH on December 8th and made breakfast for over 45 people staying in the house.

The Canal View Social Committee is a group of people working to improve the climate and culture at Canal View. They plan many activities throughout the year. Their next evening of giving back is January 15th, when they will serve dinner at REACH Homeless Shelter.

Pinked Out in Spencerport

The STA is holding monthly Happy Hours at the Spencerport Fireman’s Exempt Hall, 75 S Union Street. Please consider joining us at one or all of these social events!

Happy Hour Dates:

- January 10
- February 7
- March 6
- April 17
- May 1
- June 5

STA Calendar of Events

January 16th – Executive Council Meeting, Cosgrove, Room 626, 4:00 PM

February 13th – Executive Council Meeting, Cosgrove, Room 626, 4:00 PM

February 9th – Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics

March 19th – Executive Council Meeting, Cosgrove, Room 626, 4:00 PM

March TBD – STA Euchre Tournament

April 16th – Executive Council Meeting, Cosgrove, Room 626, 4:00 PM

May 21st – Executive Council Meeting, Cosgrove, Room 626, 4:00 PM

June 4th – Fireman’s Carnival Kiddie Parade/Book Give-Away
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.

**BREAKING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION “MONOPOLY”**

- Divert funds and reduce teachers
- Reduce the number of NYSUT members
- Reduce numbers of veteran (i.e., expensive) teachers
- Charter Schools & Vouchers: Anti-Union Legislation: “Right-To-Work” law; overturn collective bargaining & due process laws
- Influence Public Opinion
- Constitutional Convention
- Use Common Core Tests and incomplete data to paint a picture of failing public schools
- Change laws to allow lawmakers to manipulate our currently fully-funded pension system
- October 2017 SUNY Regulation allowing some of the state’s largest charter chains to “certify” their own teachers in 5 weeks

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:

- 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, 2019-2020

Officers
John Kozlowski, President*
Joe DiTucci, 1st Vice President*
Rob Allen, 2nd Vice President*
Joe DiTucci, PAC Chair*
Jacquelyn Lanpher, Secretary*
Cheri Hall, Treasurer*

Nurses’ Representative*
Stephanie Botelho

Teaching Assistant President*

Munn Building Reps
Matt Fink
Scott Schwind

Bernabi Building Reps*
Bri Eason*
Jennifer Ott*

Canal View Building Reps*
Sue Chatterton*
Laura Gannon*

NYSUT At-Large Delegate*
Laurie Palmateer

LAP Coordinator^*
Rob Allen

Social Media Coordinator^*
Gretchen Breon

Political Action Coordinator^*

BPT Representatives
Laurie Scutella, Bernabi
Sue Chatterton, Canal View
Stacy Lonardo, Munn
Danielle Blossom, Taylor
Rob Allen, Cosgrove
Jacquelyn Lanpher, Wilson

Cosgrove Building Reps*
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Suellam Morton
Pam Robinson
Teresa Trujillo

Wilson Building Reps*
Kristin Cocchiara
Bridgeette Hermann
Becky DiNatale
Steve Kelley
Amanda Van Huben

Taylor Building Reps*
Danielle Blossom
Kenneth Rhodes

PAC Representatives
Laurie Palmeteer, Bernabi
Sue Chatterton, Canal View
Stacy Lonardo, Munn
Danielle Blossom, Taylor
Rob Allen, Cosgrove
Jacquelyn Lanpher, Wilson

LAP Coordinator^*
Rob Allen

Webmaster^*
Bryan Swanson

Newsletter Editor^*
Emmy Thevanesan

*Denotes this position has a vote on Executive Council
^Denotes position is an Executive Council appointment
NEW Endorsed Program

Get ready to Access ... big savings!

NYSUT Member Benefits is pleased to announce the launch of our newest endorsed program -- Member Benefits Discounts & Deals provided by Access Development!

This money-saving benefit is available exclusively to NYSUT members and features the nation’s largest private discount network.

These deals can be accessed either online or from the palm of your hand through Access Development’s MB Deals mobile app. Visit mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com to learn more.

Register your account on the Access website with your NYSUT ID number using the URL above. You will then be able to enjoy exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on shopping, restaurants, movie tickets & entertainment, travel, oil changes & vehicle maintenance, and much more.

Have a favorite local business?
One of the best features of the MB Discounts & Deals program is the ability to recommend your favorite local business, restaurant, coffee shop, etc. to potentially join the Access Development network.

Register your account on the Access website by March 31, 2020 to be eligible to win prizes -- visit the Member Benefits website for more information!

Learn more by calling 800-626-8101 or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.

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