

Member Newsletter
Volume IV, Issue 4
April 2020

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

Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families healthy and safe! I have always counted it an honor and a privilege to serve as president of the Spencerport Teachers' Association. The faith and confidence you have shown in my leadership over the last fourteen years has been both reassuring and humbling. However, I have never felt more supported and appreciated like I have the last seven weeks. Your emails, phone calls, and text messages of appreciation and encouragement have not only touched my heart, but they have reminded me how blessed I am to represent the most talented and dedicated group of professionals in the world.

The true character, goals, and motives of people rise to the surface during times of great challenge. I have been both proud and amazed at how all of you have stepped up during this unprecedented crisis! Together, we have effectively built a new way to teach, counsel, and communicate with our students and parents. Your input, feedback, and support during this most difficult time has been instrumental in making this a reality. Please continue to provide us with feedback and share any questions or concerns you may have.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) we entered into with the district on March 27, 2020 was negotiated and implemented in a spirit of collaboration and flexibility with the district. Together, with your input and feedback, we were able craft an agreement that was equitable while maintaining the integrity of our contract.

Lastly, in response to the stress and trauma many of us have or are experiencing right now, our state affiliate, the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), has compiled a tool kit with an assortment of resources to help you during this crisis. It can be found at: <https://www.nysut.org/news/2020/march/managing-covid-19-anxiety>

As this crisis continues, please take care of yourselves and your families. The health, safety, and well-being of you and your family are what's most important.

In Solidarity,
John Kozlowski

PAC Chair Message

Strange Days Indeed. The lyrics from the John Lennon song “Nobody Told Me” keep playing over in my head these days.

“Nobody told me there’d be days like these
Nobody told me there’d be days like these
Strange days indeed
Strange days indeed”

As our personal and professional lives have been overturned due to the Corona Virus, we have been trying to make sense of what it means. From an STA perspective, that has meant trying to navigate: an MOA that focuses on the changing conditions of our work life; trying to decide who should be engaged in PD; what should we do when the governor says that we have to work during Spring break; what do we do with stipends for Spring coaches, club advisors and other stipend position; answering questions concerning sick days, personal days, etc.. John and I have been in communication with each other and with the district working through these and other unique situations. I encourage you to continue to reach out to members of our executive council as issues come up.

We also have not lost touch with the fact that this is a negotiations year. We were slated to begin negotiations in earnest when the crisis hit. Two negotiations sessions have been pushed back but we are committed to work with the district to come up with a plan moving forward. We will keep you updated.

As we continue to navigate the unknown world of Corona Virus we understand it can be difficult. I have heard many stories of teachers struggling to take care of young children or family members who need extra support, while trying to figure out how to deliver remote lessons and fulfil their professional duties. There is a new piece of Federal Legislation that some may want to explore called the CARES law that may provide some relief. An excellent summary can be found in Diane Ravitch’s blog at this link: <https://dianeravitch.net/2020/04/11/what-public-school-employees-need-to-know-about-the-cares-law/>.

There are also many reasons to be grateful and smile. The stories I have heard of teachers reaching out to students is truly inspiring. My neighbors’ children chalking up the street with inspirational quotes and drawings certainly made my day last week. “Get ready for some love” was the first one that greeted you as you entered the street. “Bring it on” was my response. And nature, nature seems oblivious to the Corona Virus. Trees are budding, grass is growing and this nest that I came across while trimming some branches provide me with comfort that the world goes on and we will get through this.



In Solidarity,
Joe DiTucci

Celebrations



Kate and Mike Kellogg, and big sister Paige, welcomed Reid Hanno Kellogg on March 11th. He was 9 pounds, 10 oz. Kate is a Speech-Language Pathologist Canal View.





**Morgan and Mike Montagno welcomed a baby boy, Owen, on December 29th.
Morgan teaches 2nd grade at Bernabi.**



**Nicole and Ben Hamelin, and big sister Noelle, welcomed Danielle Nicole on April 2nd.
Danielle was 8 lb, 11 oz. Nicole is a Special Education teacher at Canal View.**



**Dan and Kim Cleveland welcomed a new baby girl, Rori Ann, on April 2nd.
Dan teaches Technology at Cosgrove.**



Jackie and Matt Nentarz welcomed their third daughter, Emily Charlotte, on November 9th. Big sisters Natalie, 6, and Norah, 4, are the best big sisters and sure do love their baby sister! Jackie teaches Physical Education at the high school and Matt teaches Physical Education at Munn.



Malena and Joseph Guadagnino welcomed a baby boy, Luca, in August. He is now eight months old and loves Baby Shark and trying new foods, like sweet potatoes. Malena is a Reading teacher at the high school.

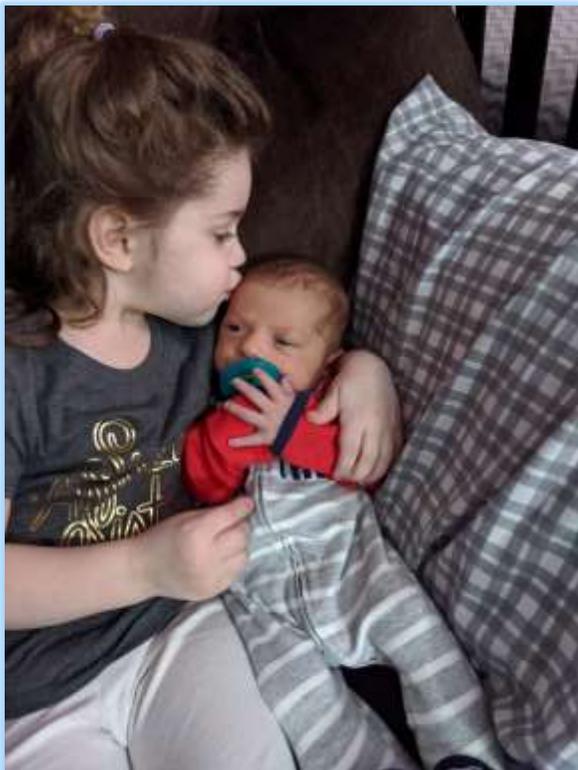


Alicia and Nihat Barut are expecting their first baby in October. Alicia teaches 5th grade at Munn.



Deborah Ingerick and her husband attended a wedding on May 2nd. Their friends, Andrea and Josh, were married in a park and had their guests attend through Zoom.

Deb teaches Art at the High School.



Kim and Chris Epeira welcomed a baby boy, Thomas, on April 8th. He is adored by big sister Emilie.

Kim is a School Media Specialist (LTS) at Munn.



Lindsey and Cory Pindroh welcomed their first child, a baby boy named Corbin Gerard, on December 30th. Lindsey teaches Physical Education at Bernabi.



Alexis and EJ Wiedemer are welcoming their first baby in August. Alexis teaches 1st grade at Munn.



CLASS OF 2020



Jarr Briggs will be graduating this year from Spencerport High School. He will be attending SUNY Alfred next year on a full academic scholarship and majoring in computer science.

Ginger Briggs teaches 6th grade at Cosgrove.



Maddie Shaw is a senior at Spencerport High School. She is headed to SUNY Geneseo in the fall for Early Childhood Education.

Heather Shaw teaches kindergarten at Canal View.



Braeden Zimmerman is a senior at Byron-Bergen High School. He will attend Morrisville to earn a degree in Auto Body.

Tracy Zimmerman teaches 4th grade at Taylor.



James Frisa is a senior at Spencerport High School and will attend Syracuse University on a full scholarship this fall. He will be a member of the Army ROTC and will major in political science and pre-law. James also plans to join the Syracuse Running Club.

Kara Frisa teaches 4th grade at Bernabi.



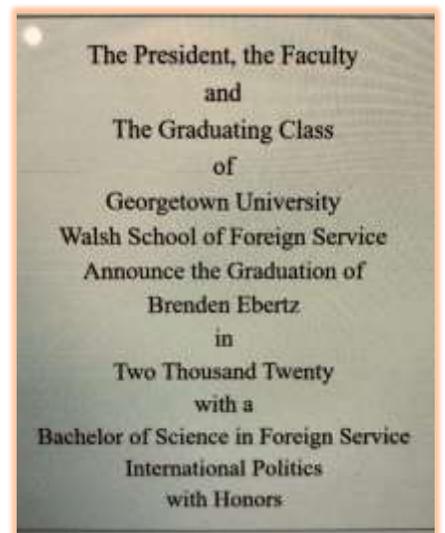
Nolan Demitrovic is graduating from Churchville-Chili High School. He will be attending St. Bonaventure in the fall, where he will major in Finance.

Christine Demitrovic teaches 3rd grade at Canal View.



Brenden Ebertz is graduating from Georgetown University.

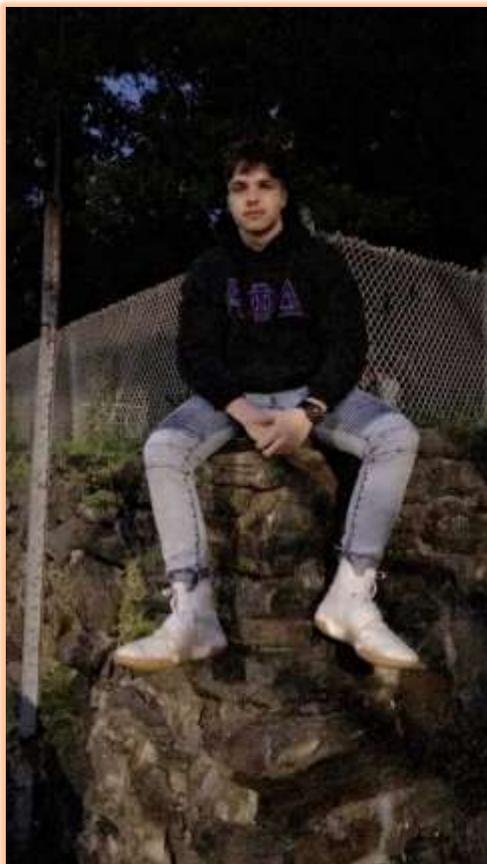
Cheryl Ebertz is a TA at Taylor.





Janeen and Chris Henry are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter, Marissa Henry. Marissa will graduate from Churchville-Chili at the end of June. She is planning to attend SUNY Brockport in the fall to study nursing.

Janeen is a Special Education teacher at Cosgrove.



Ben Morton is graduating from Utica College with a B.S. in Health Studies. Ben has always been interested in service to others. He was a member of the Boy Scouts from 1st grade through high school. He was also a member of the Explorers program with the Pittsford Fire Department, and he plans to join as a volunteer fireman after graduation from college. He is member of the Alpha Phi Delta fraternity on campus. He enjoys cooking and weight lifting. Ben plans to work as a patient care technician this summer, with the goal of expanding his career in the health field.

Suellan Morton teaches math at Cosgrove.



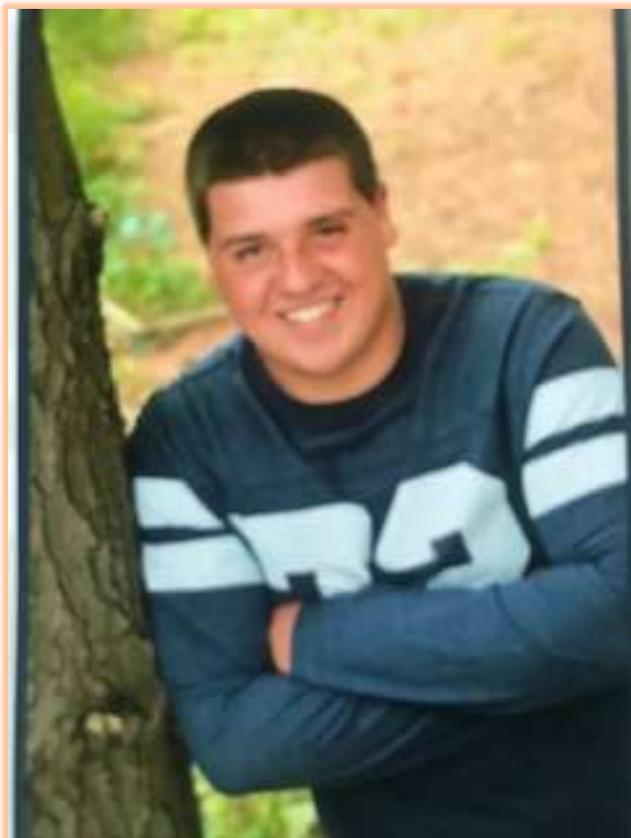
Colleen and Elizabeth Hathaway are graduating from Greece Athena High School. Colleen (on the left) will be attending Fordham University for English/Writing. Elizabeth (right) is excited to start at SUNY Albany for Biology/Forensics. A big shout out to all of our graduating seniors of 2020!

Erin Hathaway is an Art teacher at the High School.



Ben and Ryan Reding are both graduates this year!

Ben is graduating from Spencerport High School. He played both soccer and basketball. He is attending Alfred State where he will play on the basketball team. He is majoring in Sports Marketing and would like to be a basketball coach when he graduates.



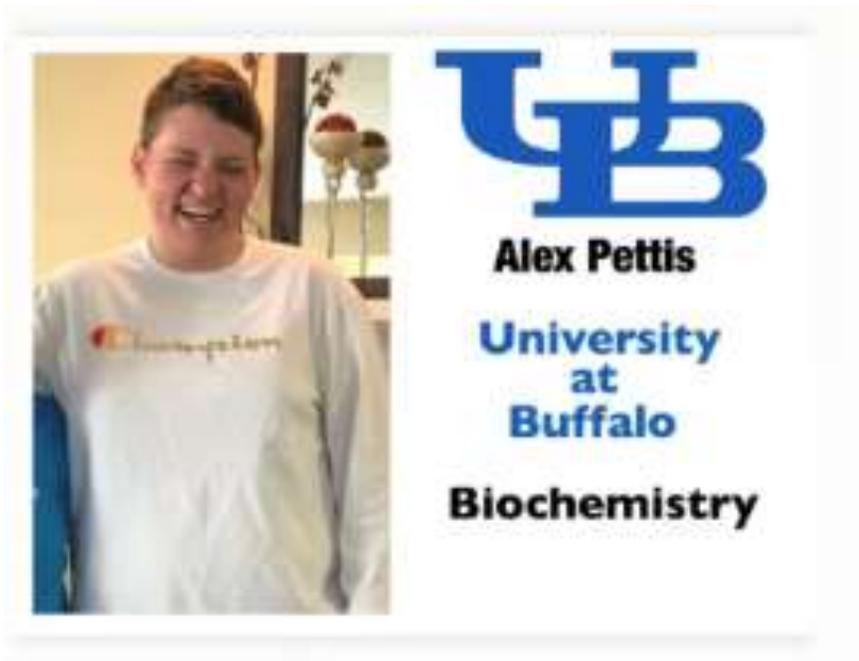
Ryan, a Spencerport alumn, is graduating from Mercyhurst College. He majored in Intelligence Studies and earned his Bachelor's Degree. He is looking forward to working for the federal government once he graduates.

Erin Reding is a Reading TA at Cosgrove.



David Nundy, son of Jill and Randy Nundy, is graduating from the University at Albany with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Financial Market Regulation. He plans to pursue a Masters in Forensic Accounting at U Albany in the fall.

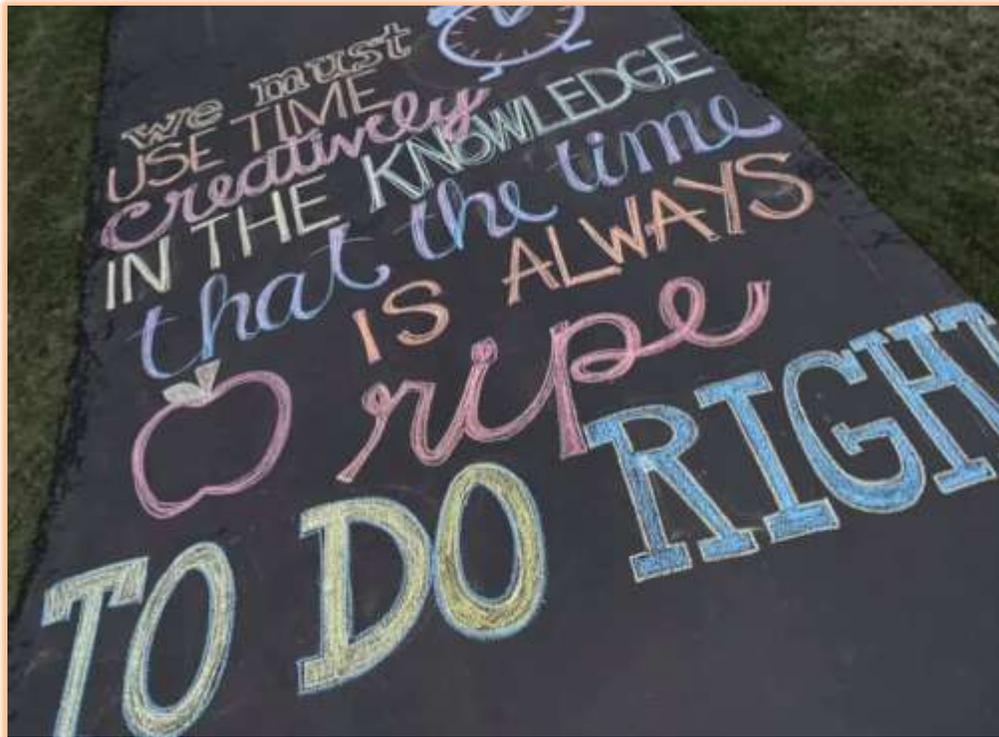
Jill is a Teaching Assistant in the Reading Center at Munn.



Alex Pettis is graduating from McQuaid Jesuit High School. He has been accepted to the University at Buffalo Honors Program for Biochemistry and was awarded a scholarship.

Kristen Pettis teaches 5th grade at Taylor.

Stephanie Prevost has been spreading joy in her neighborhood with her driveway drawings. Stephanie teaches Art (Ceramics, Sculpture, Photography) at the High School.





STA Leadership, 2019-2020

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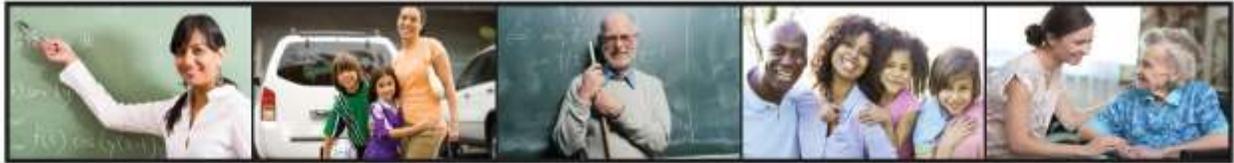
Laurie Palmateer, Bernabi
Sue Chatterton, Canal View
Stacy Lonardo, Munn
Danielle Blossom, Taylor
Rob Allen, Cosgrove
Jacquelyn Lanpher, Wilson

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

**Denotes this position has a vote on Executive Council*

^Denotes position is an Executive Council appointment



Union-endorsed benefits designed for NYSUT members

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

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

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

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

We encourage you to take the time to explore the Member Benefits website by scanning the QR code to the right. Find out all we have to offer NYSUT members!

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.