Member Newsletter
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June 2017

John Kozlowski, President
Lisa Cutten, 1st Vice President
Jennifer Ott, 2nd Vice President
Joe DiTucci, Professional Advancement Chair
Jacquelyn Lanpher, Secretary
Deb Yeara, Treasurer

Message from the President

Congratulations on another successful school year! I am extremely proud of the increased involvement by many of our STA members! The STA has participated in several community service events. In October, over 40 members raised funds for breast cancer research in the *Making Strides* walk, and in December, we sponsored a First Book event at the *Christmas by the Canal* community event where we gave out over 1,000 free books to kids in our community. Then, the STA, in collaboration with SCSOPA, organized a *Hat and Coat Drive* where we provided over 200 coats, hats, and gloves to local families in need. A *Faculty & Student Basketball Fundraiser* at the high school took place in March, which netted over $500.00 for the Ogden Farmers' Library Summer Programs. The teachers in our district come together every time they are asked to help in so many different ways. This is something we can all celebrate.

Your STA officers worked hard this year to improve your working conditions. Never forget: teachers' working conditions are our students' learning conditions. This year, no teacher wasted hours of his or her time assembling a binder of evidence to prove his or her effectiveness. We successfully negotiated our APPR so that your year-end meetings with building administration consisted of a conversation about your future growth objectives for the following school year. Some of you chose to attend voluntary Power Hours held from 4 to 5 PM. Your union believes you should be compensated for your time and expertise, so teachers who sign up to attend these after-school professional development opportunities now earn ¼ in-service credit for every four Power Hours attended. Additionally, we negotiated a 2017-2018 school calendar in which we do not start before Labor Day *and* do not work the day before Thanksgiving. For far too long, we were one of the few districts in Monroe County working on this day.

The STA continues to advocate for students by supporting the Opt-Out movement. We thank our teachers and community members who placed the STA-endorsed Opt-Out signs in their yards. Until the 3-8 assessments are developmentally appropriate, independently reviewed for validity and reliability, and no longer used as a weapon to privatize public education, we will not support them. We also worked hard this year to endorse three outstanding Board of Education members who we believe understand the tools teachers need to help meet their students' needs each and every day. STA members volunteered their time to call NYSUT members who live in the district to ask for their support in approving the school budget and in electing our endorsed candidates. Thanks to our efforts, the district budget passed with the largest approval margin ever,

and our endorsed Board of Education candidates won all three seats. Together, we made 1403 phone calls, with Jennifer Ott winning the first-place prize for most calls at 255!

It is important to note that NYSUT and the STA will face a host of challenges in the next year or two. Our pensions and profession are under attack like never before! We stand to lose many of the rights and protections we won long ago. If we stay unified, we will eventually win, but if we do not, the teaching profession will be unrecognizable in just a few years! We need to work together to win this battle against the reformers who have the singular goal of privatizing public education.

Finally, I would like to thank our newest retirees for their dedication and service to our profession and our union. You can read a bit about each retiree later in this newsletter. While I wish them a long and well-deserved retirement, I would also like to challenge and encourage them to continue advocating for public education and the teaching profession. Have a wonderful summer!

John Kozlowski, President

The Constitutional Convention

What is it? When will it happen? What do I need to know?

Like many states, New York State has its own Constitution. Our Constitution provides protections and guarantees for our citizens. For example, our beautiful state parks are protected from special interests that might otherwise seek to develop or exploit them, and our Constitution also guarantees each child a free public education.

Every twenty years, voters can vote YES or NO in a ballot referendum to open up the constitition and rewrite it. When you vote this November, the ballot will include a simple question: Should New York hold a Constitutional Convention? Voters will select YES or NO.

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, it 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 collasol.

On page four of this newsletter, please read the interview with Jason Carter, a fourth grade teacher and NYSUT Vote-Cope Coordinator. Jason's remarks help to emphasize the serious ramifications of the Constitutional Convention and how important it is that New York citizens vote it down with a resounding NO, led by the 600,000 members of NYSUT.

Emmy Thevanesan, Cosgrove Building Representative & Political Action Co-Chair

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!

STA FEATURED INTERVIEW:
Jason Carter, NYSUT VOTE-COPE Coordinator

STA: Can you please explain your position with NYSUT?

Jason: *I am the VOTE-COPE Coordinator for the Rochester Region that encompasses the counties of Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, and Livingston. It is a part –time position through NYSUT's VOTE-COPE. My main task involves assisting locals in running their VOTE-COPE drives. In addition to being the VC coordinator, I am currently a 4th grade teacher at Wayne Central.*

STA: What does the average teacher need to know about VOTE-COPE?

Jason: *People often ask if I pay dues, why should I also contribute to VOTE-COPE? NYSUT does not use dues money toward political action campaigns due to various IRS (tax) and political contribution laws and regulations. Without voluntary VOTE-COPE donations, NYSUT's ability to engage in political action would be very limited. NYSUT has achieved numerous victories over the years, from large things like collective bargaining rights, to next year being able to claim dues as a deduction when filing your state taxes (you could already do this on your Federal filing).*

STA: At a recent ED 5/6 meeting, you presented important information about the Constitutional Convention and the ways a "YES" vote by the citizens of New York could trigger changes that would lead to diminished public employee pensions. Can you please share this information with our association?

Jason: *The ED 5/6 meeting is a monthly meeting of local associations in our area of the state. At this meeting, I spoke about the reforms and new legislation affecting teacher compensation of the past several years in Michigan and Wisconsin, and I provided some examples of what similar legislation could look like in New York State and the financial impact it would have on teachers.*

If voters approve a Constitutional Convention, it opens the possibility that the constitution will be modified to no longer protect or guarantee our public pensions. It would not shock us if the first change, an immediate change, is that everyone pays into their retirement for their full career, and everyone pays more. Right now, if you are Tier 4 for at least 10 years, you are done paying into the retirement system, so your contribution could potentially go from 0% to maybe 3%. That would be like getting a 3% pay cut every year going forward. If you are a Tier 5 or 6 employee (or Tier IV who hasn't reached 10 years), you very well could be looking at an additional 3% above what you already pay now.

STA: A teacher making $50,000 and currently paying 3%, or $1500 annually, might be required to pay 7% or $3500.

Jason: *Yes; and the reason I say this legislation would not shock us is because if you remember, Tier 3, which NYSUT was able to change using VOTE-COPE contributions, required teachers to pay higher percentages into the pension system for their entire careers. Therefore, that legal language to diminish our pensions already existed in the past and currently exists now in the newest tiers. New York's original Tier 3 actually looks a lot like the pension reform that is now in place in Michigan. The current New York State Constitution says that no public pension can be diminished, but it can be improved, which is what we were able to do with Tiers 3 & 4.*

STA: So a vote to open the Constitution followed by amendments that no longer protect public pensions will likely result in immediate legislation requiring increased pension system contributions. What about pension payments? Could these be affected, and for whom?

Jason: *Anything could happen. Currently, after working for 30 years, teachers in Tier IV receive 2% of their final average salaries per year. What if this 2% was reduced to 1.5%? To keep the math simple, imagine a teacher retiring at a salary of $75,000. 2% per year for 30 years would be an annual pension of $45,000. 1.5% per year for 30 years would be an annual pension of $33,750. That's an annual difference of $11,250. If that teacher lived for 30 years in retirement, he or she would lose $337,500 in promised compensation. The concern here is that lawmakers could easily say they only want to reduce the pension multiplier by 1/2 of one percent, no big deal, just a small 1/2 of one percent. But it is a big deal because that 1/2 of one percent is a loss of $337,500 of promised income to a teacher who is about to retire at a salary of $75,000.*

STA: So, you are saying it is imperative that we educate ourselves, our close friends and family, and vote NO on November 7th to a Constitutional Convention, correct?

Jason: *Yes, because the Constitutional Convention is actually just the first of two very big battles our union will fight next year. The United State Supreme Court will begin hearing arguments on a Right-to-Work case that will likely turn all states to Right-to-Work states. This decision will most likely be made in June of 2018, based on past Supreme Court decision timelines. The strength of our union and our ability to fight any legislation that is meant to diminish our pay and make us weaker as a union will depend on the involvement of every member.*

We have to look at the fallout of Act 10 in Wisconsin. First, Act 10 limited wage increases for public employees to a cap based on the Consumer Price Index. Contracts are limited to one year, and wages are frozen until new contracts are settled. In Wisconsin, Act 10 has cost mid-career teachers hundreds of thousands of dollars in earning and benefits. The majority of teachers in Wisconsin with 10-25 years' experience have had their salaries frozen at their 2011 earnings. Most have not had any salary increases, let alone increases to keep up with inflation. Most mid-career teachers' take-home pay is still 10-15% lower in the 2016-17 school year than before Governor Walker passed Act 10.

In Act 10, public employees must also pay more for health insurance and saw legislation that further stripped away employment protections and due process rights. With Wisconsin unions having diminished collective bargaining power for salaries or health care, and employment and due process protections, membership has plummeted 40%.

STA: Okay—let's go back to the first question! In addition to teaching 4th grade, you assist locals in their VOTE-COPE drives! It sounds like perhaps more than ever before, NYSUT members need to take an active role in defending their profession. After all this sobering information, can you let us know what each of us can do to make a difference?

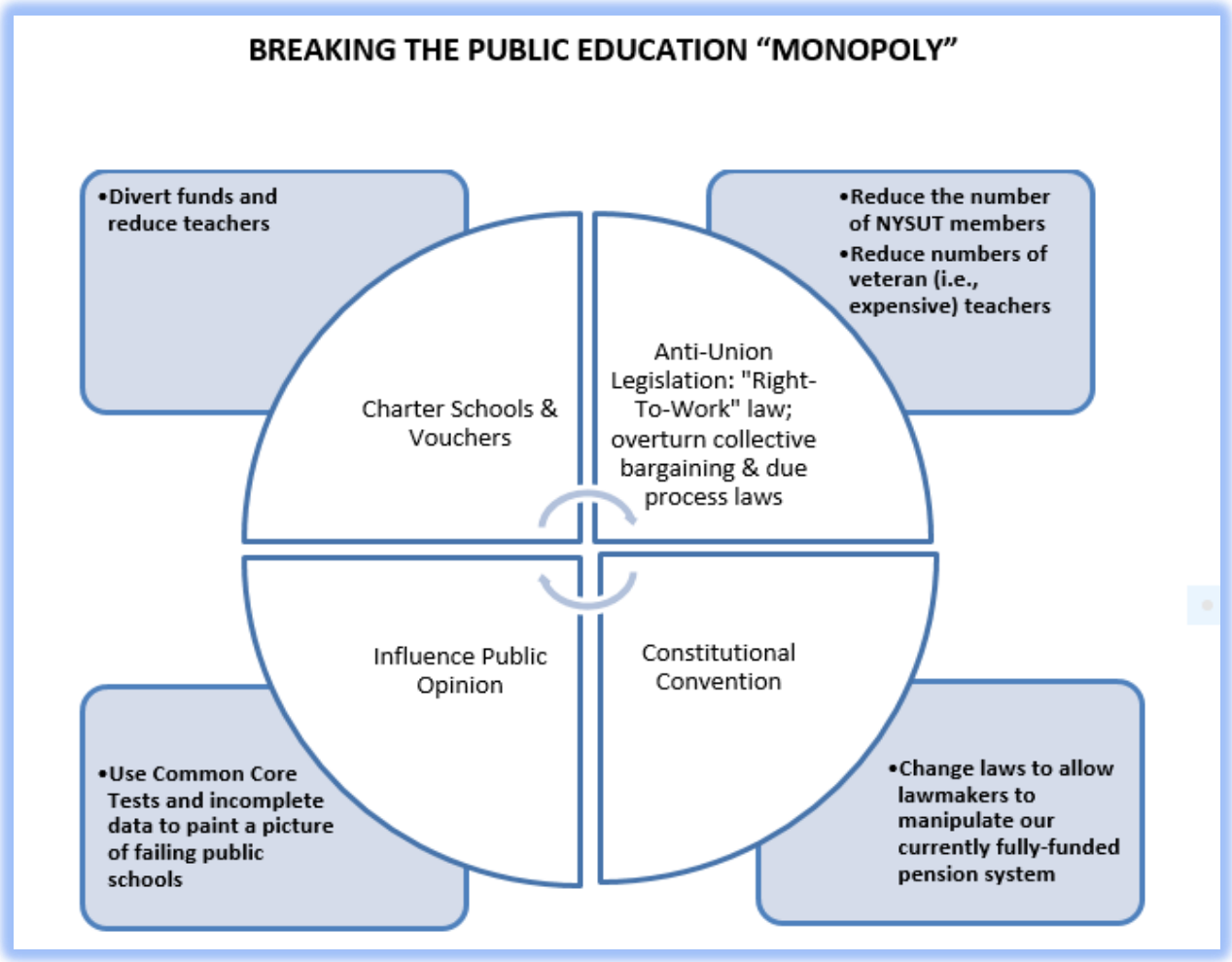
Jason: *The very first thing you can do is sign up for VOTE-COPE through payroll deduction during your local association's annual Vote-Cope drive. If you are already donating, increase the amount you donate per paycheck. Once you are signed up, your donations will continue while you are still actively working in Spencerport. This is a quick easy way to make a difference. While the vote on November 7th, 2017 regarding the Constitutional Convention is still months away it is important to educate yourself on why a "No" vote is so important. Current political polls show that residents of New York State are in favor of having a convention. We need to educate the public as to why this is not such a great idea. While I focused in this interview on a few of the financial impacts that could affect our members, there are a number of additional ways that opening our constitution could negatively impact our students, public schools, environment, etc. NYSUT, along with a coalition of other organizations, will be actively campaigning for a "No" vote. This will ramp up as the November 7th date approaches. While I spent most of this interview discussing state-wide issues, it is also important to note that a portion of your VOTE-COPE donation is rebated back to the local, and your local successfully used this money in the budget vote and BOE elections that just occurred.*

Spring Building Meeting Recap

The unpredictable weather led to several scheduling changes, and about 50% of STA members were able to attend one of the of 6 building meeings scheduled in March and early April. The meetings consisted of an important presentation divided into three parts:

- The threats to public education
- "Silver linings"
- How we take action

One of the handouts shared contained the infographic below, which summarizes how different groups seek to privatize public education. With education spending at approximately 3% of the federal budget, that is a lot of "guaranteed money"—hundreds of millions—every year for charter chains, voucher advocates, ed tech companies, and test and curriculum companies. With teacher salaries and compensation making up 70-80% of an average public school's budget, the obvious way to maximize profits in education is to make teachers less expenesive.



Those who attended the meetings filled out three index cards committing to three different actions, GREEN actions being the easiest, YELLOW a bit more involved, and RED actions requiring the most commitment.

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.

Green	Yellow	Red
✓ VOTE! ✓ Wear your STA t-shirt ✓ Wear RED on Wednesdays ✓ Call each of your lawmakers once ✓ Write an email to each of your lawmakers ✓ Call your local Regents once ✓ Share pro-public education posts on social media; share and like from the STA Facebook & Twitter pages ✓ Share the good things happening in public schools with family and friends ✓ Read & share the articles on the STA Website (News) ✓ Complete the actions the NYSUT MAC AP sends out on Tuesdays ✓ Sign up to receive alerts and information from the Network for Public Education: http://networkforpubliceducation.org/become-a-member/ ✓ Watch a documentary like *Backpack Full of Cash* or *Education, Inc.* to learn even more ✓ Donate to VOTE-COPE ✓ Wherever/whenever possible, set the record straight on the failing school myth	✓ Call a lawmaker per week ✓ Call a Regent per week ✓ Write a letter or email per week ✓ Organize a letter writing event with colleagues/friends/families to lawmakers ✓ Attend your local school board meeting and introduce yourself to BOE and administration ✓ Attend a Spencerport BOE meeting ✓ Donate to VOTE-COPE ✓ Wherever/whenever possible, set the record straight on the failing school myth	✓ Call a lawmaker per day ✓ Call a Regent per day ✓ Write a letter or email per day ✓ Sign up to speak at your local school board meeting ✓ Hand deliver letters and articles to local lawmakers ✓ Put together a group of "stakeholders" and request a meeting with a local lawmaker ✓ Put together a packet of information on public education with a cover letter, and hand-deliver with a group ✓ Hold a demonstration outside a lawmaker's office (Robach & Lawrence support charters) ✓ Host a "house party" watching a film like *Education, Inc.* ✓ Invite lawmakers to visit your classroom ✓ Donate to VOTE-COPE ✓ Wherever/whenever possible, set the record straight on the failing school myth

When calling lawmakers or members of the Board of Regents, consider using these talking points:

Topics for Communication:

- ✓ 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; 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
- ✓ Invite lawmakers to visit your classroom or a unique program
- ✓ Contact members of the Board of Regents and share issues/topics that you believe should be their focus and priority

NYSUT RA 2017 UPDATE

On April 7-8, STA's NYSUT Delegates John Kozlowski, Joe DiTucci, Lisa Cutten, and Gretchen Breon attended the NYSUT Representative Assembly 2017 in NYC. From the NYSUT website, "The RA is the union's highest policy-making body, except for a membership referendum. All NYSUT members are welcome to attend the annual Representative Assembly, but only duly elected and reported delegates may debate and vote on proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, proposed resolutions and other business that might be brought before the Representative Assembly according to NYSUT Constitution and Bylaws provisions or policy." An amazing event to attend, locals from across the state send delegates to consider and vote on resolutions and, this year, to elect the new NYSUT officers.

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Delegates work in committees on resolutions that are presented to the entire group (over 2,000 delegates) for ratification. Those committees produce meaningful resolutions that, once voted and approved, become the issues NYSUT officials work on with legislators and other governing bodies. This is how NYSUT members direct the efforts of our state officers. Committee work and voting lasted until 9:30 Friday evening, making for an interesting and quite exhausting day!

RA Delegates approved an impressive set of resolutions that included critical issues the teaching profession is dealing with daily. The entire list of resolutions is available at this link:
http://www.nysut.org/~/media/files/nysut/resources/2016/september/2016finalresolutionsandspecialordersofbusiness.pdf?la=en

Please take some time to view the resolutions NYSUT will be working on this year. It is gratifying to know that the new slate of officers from the Unity Caucus will be working on our most serious education issues. Those new officers elected on Saturday April 8 at the RA are: President- Andrew Pallotta, Executive Vice President- Jolene T. DiBrango, 1st Vice President- J. Philippe Abraham , 2nd Vice President-Paul Pecorale, Secretary Treasurer-Martin Messner. The NYSUT RA always concludes with delegates singing, "Solidarity Forever." In solidarity, NYSUT officers and members continue to fight for what is right for students and the teaching profession.

Gretchen Breon, Cosgrove Building Representative, STA NYSUT at Large RA Delegate, Social Media Chair

The STA congratulates the members retiring in June 2017!

Carol Lennon Cosgrove

What year did you start teaching? Fall of 1984
What grade levels did you teach/work with? I started in Bernabi as a Remedial Math Specialist filling in for 2 years. I then worked as an elementary school teacher (grades 5 and 6) for 3 years on Long Island. In August of 1989, I came to work at Cosgrove, teaching small classes of math and English for students who had low skills in those areas. This position changed into a reading specialist position. I have worked at both 7th and 8th grades.
What you'll miss: The people-both the teachers I work with and working with the students. I will miss the camaraderie of my colleagues. I will miss listening to students' ideas and opinions and watching their faces light up when they get it.
Funny memory: I was wearing a yellow skirt one day. One of my 5th graders came up to me and commented, "Mrs. Lennon, you look like a GREAT GIANT sun!" I chuckled and repeated, "So, I look like a GREAT BIG SUN." The little girl smiled sheepishly and said, 'I didn't mean that."
Favorite memory: A student gave me a very heavy Christmas present that was rectangular. She said, "I hope you like fruitcake, Mrs. Lennon." In my mind, I was thinking, "Great, how do I show delight and appreciation for the dreaded fruitcake?" When I opened the gift, it was an adorable doorstop. I had to tell the girl that she had gotten me.
Advice to new teachers: I would advise them to keep a journal. I really wish I had done that. I would also advise them to think through the purpose of an assignment or rule. What do you want students to accomplish/learn?

Amy Heiler Bernabi

What year did you start teaching? I started here at Bernabi in 1996.
What grade levels did you teach/ work with? I have taught Kindergarten most of my years. I went to Second Grade for a few years.
What you'll miss: What I will miss most is watching my five year olds grow and make such an amazing change from September to June! They are like little caterpillars that you get to watch turn into beautiful butterflies!!! I will also miss my Bernabi family. They have been a wonderful group of people (friends) to work with, and I couldn't have asked for a better career.
Favorite memory: I have a BOOK of memories that I have kept over the years!! I would have to say, years ago I had a student who was a selective mute. I tried so hard all year to try to get him to talk to me. On the last day of school, he came up to me and said, "Thank You."
Advice to new teachers: My advice to any new teacher is: Don't sweat the small stuff! Take one thing at a time and get good at it. It's easy to get overwhelmed. Focus on what's best for the kids.

Marie Campanaro
Cosgrove

What year did you start teaching? I started in 1979; ELA 6, 7 & 8. I came to Spencerport in 1986 as an ELA teacher and moved to Spanish in 1989 with the (then) new state mandate for world language education.
What grade levels did you teach/ work with? I now teach 7th & 8th grade Spanish.
What you'll miss: Having fun with the students; getting to work with many interesting and talented colleagues.
Favorite memory/funny story: Teachers dread having April Fools' Day on a school day! One year I arrived early to find my teacher desk, chair and file cabinets gone! (No computers back then.) I had an overturned crate for a seat and an overturned garbage pail for a desk (with a small plastic flower vase with flower). I protested – but never got my furniture back until the next day! I played like nothing was wrong and taught throughout the day – not an easy task with middle school students coming in each period! From that day forward, I always came prepared to play my April Fools' joke first!
Advice to new teachers: Pick a few curricular items and do them well. Each year improve and add. Don't attempt to "do it all" at once!

Aileen Sousa
Canal View

What year did you start teaching? My total number of years teaching is 31 years. I started teaching in 1976 in Sidney, NY. The following 5 years were spent at Holy Childhood School. I was home for a few years raising my own children, then taught preschool for 6 years.
What grade levels did you teach/ work with? In 1995, I was hired in Spencerport as a teaching assistant in the Reading Center at Taylor School. In 1997, I began my 20-year stint as a Special Education teacher in Spencerport. I have worked in every grade level, K-6 at Munn, Taylor, and Canal View.
What you'll miss: What I will miss most is "the kids." They always brought joy to my days!
Advice to new teachers: Never lose sight of why you wanted to be a teacher in the first place. It is that passion to help young people learn and grow that will help you through the rough times, and the overwhelming times. Let the students into your heart, and you will not be disappointed!

Eileen Melinis
Nurse

What year did you become a school nurse? I became a Spencerport school nurse in 2007. That was after spending 10 years in the Greece schools.
What grade levels did you work with? I went to all the schools subbing for the nurses and assisting them with their many tasks. My intent was to just work in the schools for a little while. The hours were great, and they gave me the gift of time with my husband, three children and aging parents. All the grade levels come with their own set of issues.
What you'll miss: My heart belongs to the little ones who start out so innocent and adorable. Then I get to watch them and their parents grow older and wiser as they proceed right on up to graduation. I am a hugger, and when I see the kids at Cosgrove, it takes all I have to not give a bear hug.
Favorite memory/funny story: I have many funny stories but will keep them to myself. Beware parents, there are no secrets in the nurse's office, especially with the little ones. You never know what will come out of their mouths. Laughter truly is the best medicine.
Advice to new teachers: For new nurses, just be respectful and kind, always!

Judy Smith Bernabi

What year did you start teaching? In 1976, I received my first teaching certificate, and I accomplished a dream that I had since I was nine years old.
What grade levels did you teach/ work with? Over the years, I have taught reading, Reading Recovery, and various classroom positions from nursery school through eighth grade. I was also very lucky to have been able to stay home for several years to help raise my children.
What you'll miss: The hardest thing that I will miss about the profession is the children. It is wonderful to share their excitement for learning and their smiles.
Favorite memory/funny story: I have many funny stories, but I couple of them stand out. One day when I was teaching second grade and a little girl from my class came into the classroom all excited and she said, "Mrs. Smith I am going to make my first appendix!" I said, "Do you mean that you are going to make your first penance?" and she said yes. Earlier in my career, I taught reading in a parochial school in the city. One day I met a student and his name was Matthew. I asked him if I could call him Matt and he said that would be fine. A few years later his third-grade teacher had her class write a story about how they got their name, and Matt wrote about how I named him. After the writing task was complete and was sent home, Matt's mother came into school with his upcoming kindergarten brother. Matt's mother came to see me that day and she said, "Hi Mrs. Smith this is ANDREW." I got the message!
Advice to new teachers: The advice that I would give to new teachers is to find something that continues to excite you about your job and that will help you to keep your passion. Remember to be supportive of your peers and share what you learned or created with them. One thing that I always meant to keep was a "chuckle" journal about all the things that the children said; unfortunately, I didn't complete it. Those chuckles often bring smiles to those days that seem to be very taxing. The job is demanding, but very rewarding.

Claudia Montecalvo Cosgrove

What year did you start teaching? I did my student teaching here in 1977. I began subbing in Spencerport in 1978.
What grade levels did you teach/ work with? I have taught grades 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th, but most of my career was 7th and 8th grade English at Cosgrove.
What you'll miss: I will miss my friends and family here at school most…my entire adult life has been at school—dating, engagement, going to colleagues' weddings, students' weddings. I met my husband here. Even my mommy playgroup was with Deb Yeara and Cheri Hall… My whole sense of identity is here…This is who I am.
Favorite memory/funny story: My students, who are now in their 20s, painted the mural on the wall near the art room. They put a heart with Mrs. Monte in it near the poem I taught them. I love walking by that each morning.
Advice to new teachers: Louder is not better. Repeating it the same way will not help them to understand the concept any better. Develop a personal connection with your kids, and they just might want to do it for you (even when they don't see the point).

Building News

The STA is looking for one member from each building to gather information to share in the newsletter about exciting events in our members' lives as well as the unique events that are happening in your building. Having an STA newsletter is a great way to connect with each other, and it brings in revenue for our association! Each issue will contain ads from our state and national affiliates, and the STA will receive a check for each issue published.

We anticipate publishing approximately six issues per year, and we need one STA member per building to send reminder emails to gather information about new babies, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, and anything else members would like to celebrate! Please email Gretchen Breon or Emmy Thevanesan if you are interested in being your building's STA Newsletter liaison for the 2017-2018 school year!

Celebrations

At Cosgrove…

Ashley & Chris Somers welcomed Jack Thomas on April 6th.

Lee Ann Cohen & Joe Mulhern were married on April 20th.

Andrea Page published her first book, *Sioux Code Talkers of World War II*. Andrea's great-uncle was a Lakota code talker. Her book can be purchased at Barnes & Noble and on Amazon.

At the High School…

Kelly & Scott Daly's daughter, Leah, was named as the D&C Athlete of the Week when she broke the Brockport High School lacrosse record of 139 goals in the Blue Devil's 17-10 win over Livonia on Thursday, 5/11.

At Munn…

Deb & Keith Nobles had a baby boy, Nathan Hoch, born on October 24th.

Jason & Colette Frantz had a baby boy, Theodore David, was born on January 6th.

Deb Ingerick is celebrating the birth of her first grandchild. Her daughter Danielle (Rob) gave birth to Olivia Noel on June 22, 2016.

First-year teacher Alicia Federico bought her first new house!

At Taylor…

Christine Ernes had a baby boy named Benjamin, born on May 14th.

Judy & Doug Taylor are proud to announce that their daughter Vanessa Corcoran graduated this weekend with her Doctorate Degree from the Catholic University of America.

This summer, Cheryl & Mike Ebertz will celebrate 25 years of marriage!

Kenneth Rhodes' short film "One Time Machine" has been selected to be shown at Roc Con at Kodak on the Ridge in September of 2017. This will be his second presentation to be featured at Roc Con.

At Bernabi…

Lindsey Pindroh was married on October 22nd, 2016.

Elizabeth Yu had a baby boy, Dominic Joseph, on March 29th.

Erica Hurley had a baby girl, Ella Jean, on April 11th.

Terese & Joe Ziemba welcomed a baby boy named Charles Joseph on May 19th!

Laurie Wood's son, Stephen, is getting married on September 8th, 2018.

Amy Heiler's son is getting married on September 14, 2018.

At Canal View…

On July 9th, 2016, Julie & Jeremy Sullivan welcomed a son named Jack.

On December 19th, 2016, Diane & Adam Cummings welcomed a baby girl named Emmalee.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday May 31st @ 3 PM
Reception to Welcome Dan Milgate

Please RSVP to Lanette Cypher by May 26th to attend the reception welcoming Dan Milgate as our new Superintendent of Schools.

Wednesday June 14th @ 6 PM
Retirement Celebration for Supt. Crumb

Please contact Lanette Cypher for details. Please RSVP by June 2nd.

Wednesday June 7th @ 7 PM
Spencerport Firemen's Carnival Kiddie Parade

FREE BOOKS from the AFT/First Books program will be given away at the STA tent to members of our community! The STA received these books thanks to the forms members and district employees filled out earlier this year. Contact John Kozlowski to be part of this amazing event distributing books at the carnival, which is located at the end of the Kiddie Parade route. Line up for the parade is at the Key Bank parking lot in the village, and it ends at the carnival grounds, where we will have our STA tent.

Friday June 23rd @ 7 PM
The SERC at Brockport College

All STA members are invited to attend this exciting, culminating event for our students! If you have questions about attending, please contact Julie Hill at the high school.