

OATA Newsletter

Spring 2014



Dates to Remember:

- Saturday, April 12th:
Walk for a Cure
(12:30pm)
- Saturday, April 19th:
Earth Day Clean Up
(9am-12pm)

Save the date:

- Saturday, October
18th: Making Strides
Breast Cancer Walk

Updates and Reminders:

- Check out our OATA website regularly for updates and upcoming events at <http://oakfieldalabamata.weebly.com/>
- There are still fleece available. Please contact Carrie Miller if you are interested.
- Check out: www.betterlesson.com if you haven't for Common Core lessons

Your Team:

Wendy Bergman
President

Jessica Cramer
Vice President

Cindy Kowalik
Secretary

Amy Sparrow Percy
Treasurer

Mike Keller
MHS Building Rep

Heather Shadle
MHS Building Rep

Lisa Cudney
Elementary Building Rep

Andrea Grazioplene
Elementary Building Rep

Faculty Basketball Game



Faculty and Staff Basketball Game Oakfield-Alabama vs. Byron-Bergen

Thank you to everyone who participated in the game. Thank you, also, to all those who came out to watch and support the game. It was a great time and we look forward to participating again next year.

APPR Evidence Tips:

- Don't forget to continue to collect evidence! This is due to your evaluator on May 9th.

NYSUT Representative Assembly NYC, April 3-6, 2014

Just a few days ago I had the privilege of going to the NYSUT Representative Assembly to represent the ninety-eight members of the OATA as a Delegate. A record number of delegates came to this RA – nearly 3,000 – as we made many crucial decisions about the future of NYSUT. The days were packed with sessions where we discussed proposed resolutions, heard from our NYSUT Executive Committee, and honored educators who have accomplished amazing things this past year. I was able to hear about the challenges we face for the future of education and how our state union is planning on supporting all of its members through this tumultuous time in education.

On Thursday and Friday, I attended the Local Presidents Conference. We had sessions that included updates on legal issues that are currently being fought in court; the outcomes of which will have drastic effects on the future of unions. Another session included the importance of giving to VOTE COPE, which I will share when we prepare for our next fund drive. The last session that I was able to be a part of discussed the future of APPR. At each of these sessions I was not only given ideas on how to support our local union, but I was also able to discuss with other presidents how they deal with similar issues at their school. Lastly, we heard from Tefere Gebre, the Executive Vice President of AFL-CIO. He inspired us to get out and invest in our communities.

At the conclusion of the Local Presidents Conference, the NYSUT Representative Assembly began. Over the next forty-eight hours, many crucial decisions were made. On Friday evening we had our opening session where we paid tribute to Thomas Hobart, Jr., one of our founding presidents of NYSUT. Also honored were members who won the Constituency Awards – their efforts can be viewed on nysut.org. We honored the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the inspirational songs of Pete Seeger. We also heard from our President, Dick Iannuzzi, who motivated us with many quotes and statements including, “enough is enough.” At the end of the session, I attended the Unity Caucus where we debated issues until the wee hours of Saturday morning.

Saturday morning brought a candidate forum, committee meetings amending and accepting proposed resolutions, and more general sessions. During the following two sessions we heard from each member of our executive committee and their efforts throughout the year, honored the Teacher of the Year, talked about social justice, and voted on the proposed resolutions. These resolutions will affect our future and included fighting for better implementation of the Common Core Standards, removing Commissioner King, opposing merit pay for teachers, fighting for full day kindergarten, and fighting against the inclusion of test scores in APPR evaluations. Saturday evening we voted on the Executive Board, Educational District Board Members, and At-Large Representatives. Although I could not stay for Sunday’s session, it was announced that we have several new executive members including a new president, Karen MaGee. Her speech, as well as all of the speeches that I was able to hear throughout the sessions can be seen on nysut.org. I encourage you to go online and listen to our leaders, how they have fought for us to this point, and their plans for the future.

This experience has given me a lot of inspiration and a lot of information on how to best support all of our members here in Oakfield. It has been a true learning experience and one that I am grateful to have been a part of. If you would like to know more about my involvement, please just ask.

-Wendy





Coming Soon:
New endorsed shopping program

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the endorsement of the member shopping program powered by PayCheck Direct for roll-out this spring 2014.

This program – part of the national retail powerhouse Bluestem Brands, Inc. family, which also includes Fingerhut and *Gettington.com* – allows individuals to purchase what they want now and pay interest-free over 12 months.

Through PayCheck Direct, NYSUT members & their families will have access to more than 7,000 name-brand products such as appliances, televisions, computers, electronics, furniture, and much more.

Members would have the option of paying for any items they purchase interest-free over a 12-month period; bi-weekly payments would be made via automatic checking account withdrawals.

PayCheck Direct offers a 30-day in-home trial on many products; flexible return policy; no interest fees, credit checks, down payments, or

finance charges; and toll-free customer service representatives located in the U.S.

As part of this endorsement, PayCheck Direct will mail merchandise catalogs to the NYSUT membership four times per year.

NYSUT members are encouraged to shop and compare prices before making a purchase with this program and consider it as an alternative to using their credit card.

We are excited to be launching this new program in spring 2014! Join our MAP (Member Alert Program) Alert email service to be among the first to learn more about this program (visit the Member Benefits website for sign-up instructions).

You can also visit memberbenefits.nysut.org in the coming weeks for details on how to use this service or call **800-626-8101** with any questions.



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.