

**President**

Jeffrey Keummel

**Vice President**

Elayn Higgins



October 2019

**THE VOICE**

of the Cheektowaga Central Teachers' Association

**Treasurer**

Dave Guzzino

**Secretary**

Lynnae Kwilas

**Breast Cancer Walk**

A donation on behalf of Cheektowaga Central was made to the American Cancer Society on Saturday morning October 12th for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. Thank you to all that came out for the walk and to those who donated to a great cause. A special thank you to Kate Barbati who continues to make this event a success.

**GET THE VOTE OUT!**

It is that time of year where the television is full of debates and political advertisements. NYSUT has a committee in place where they research candidates and only endorse those who support or have a record of voting for public education. For this year's

midterm election there are many news stories and articles regarding the possible shifts based on Election Day and the impact on education, taxes, health care and more. NYSUT, in addition to West Seneca, has organized phone banks that are outlined below and in the October Representative Review. Please consider spending even just an hour helping out with this annual endeavor that reaches out only to NYSUT members. In addition, please research your local endorsed candidate and exercise the right to vote for education. Pictured to the right are members of the CCTA and local elected officials showing support for Joe Cantafio.

**Do you know about the changes in the contract for CTLE?**

Language in the recently ratified contract clearly states that the district must provide, on an annual basis, the opportunity for 15% of the required CTLE hours for professional certification. Opportunities missed for personal days or personal illness days are the members' responsibility. Any CTLE professional development certificates must be provided to members upon completion for members' records. Members are responsible to maintain an accurate record of their hours and possess the certificates for verification if ever audited. It is not the districts responsibility to keep the records, just provide the appropriate documentation for members. Members are encouraged to keep a log and their certificates in a safe place.



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**General Membership Meeting**

The General Membership meeting was held on the second Professional Development Day of the year. At the meeting, the Executive Board for the 2019-2020 school years was introduced. President Jeff Kuemmel addressed current issues. Dave Guzzino gave a Treasurer's Report and Lynnae Kwilas assisted Jeff Kuemmel and recognized the following members who received service awards. At that time tenure appointments were not available but are listed with recognition below:

**30 Years**

Joe Chojancki

**25 Years**

Jeremy Lee, Jeffrey Kuemmel, Sunny Leeper

**20 Years**

Michael Accurso, Martin Skierczynski, Dennis McCann, Jason Krasinski, Scott Zajdel, Michelle Dantonio, Elizabeth Ernst, Shannon Sosnowski, Gary Kopacz, Victor Styn, Jillian Oswald

**Tenure Appointments**

Elizabeth Franklin

Kyle Lackie, Joe Mondo

**2019-2020 Executive Board Members include the following:**

Jeff Keummel – President (HS) Elayn Higgins – Vice (HS) , Lynnae Kwilas – Secretary (MS) Dave Guzzino – Treasurer (MS), Shonda McKenzie – NYSUT (HS) Eric Lewandowski – AFT (MS), UE Representatives –R. Struzik, S. Sosnowski, M. Szpylman K. Yotter, M. Setzer, Middle School –L. Silliman, K. Barbati, M. Buscaglia, K. Crumlish, & J. McGill. High School – J. Marcussen, J. Chojnacki, K. Fitzgerald, M. Hout, G. Orgek.

**Calendar of Events****November –**

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Unity Shirt Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> – No School and ELECTION DAY
- 11<sup>th</sup> – No School Veteran's Day Observed
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Executive Board Meeting
- 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Break

**December –**

- 11<sup>th</sup> – Executive Board
- 21<sup>st</sup> Last Day of Classes Before  
Holiday Break

**January –**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day Holiday
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Executive Board Meeting
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King Day



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## CCTA Social

Over 60 members gathered at 33 Speakeasy on a Friday in September. Members are encouraged to attend CCTA sponsored events and socials to stay connected. The next social will take place before the Winter Recess Break.

## Unity Shirt Days

In September the CCTA held the first Unity Shirt Day of the year which was the day members were showing support for the members of General Motors on strike. The next Unity Shirt Day is November 4<sup>th</sup>, which is the day before Election Day, to remind members about their pledge to vote. On these days, please wear a CCTA shirt and if you do not have a shirt wear the color of labor, which is navy blue. There will be another shirt drive in January.

## United Way Drive

The CCTA alone raised over \$1300.00 in last years' drive. This year, Eric Lewandowski has a list of local services that are funded by the United Way for members to really see the impact on our students and their families. This is a wonderful cause and members are encouraged to donate. Thank you to everyone who plans to participate in this year's drive. If anyone wishes to donate but has misplaced the forms, please contact Eric Lewandowski (MS) who is our new AFT representative.

## Welcome to your new position with the CCTA!

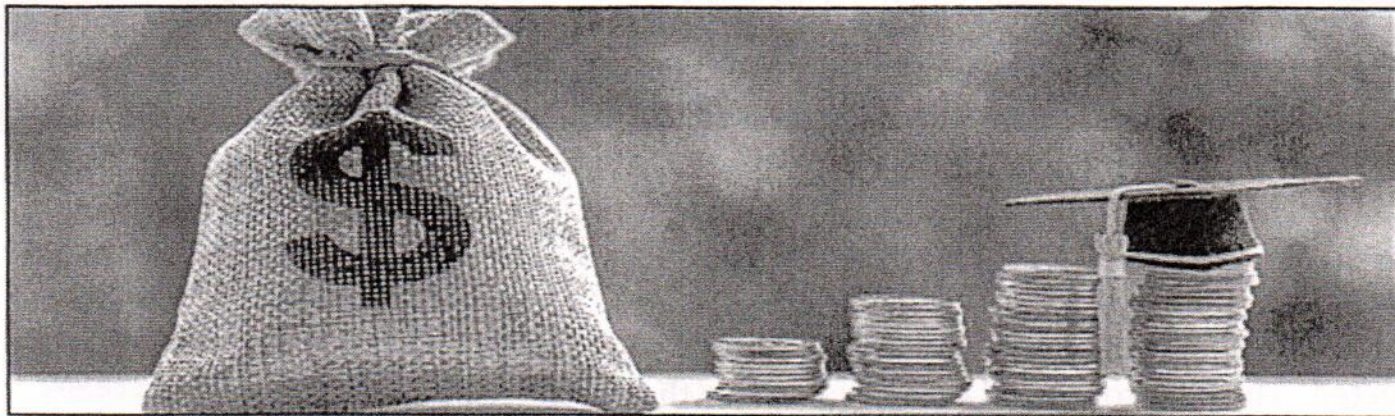
This year the CCSD made many changes regarding staff. They hired new, brought back positions, and transferred members from different buildings. Below is a list of teachers and their placements for 2019-2020: Courtney Wall (HS), Christine Grzekowiak (HS), Jessica Murphy (LTS HS), Dana Andrews (LTS HS), Brianne Corigliano (MS UE), Shawn Christman (Recall MS), Katherine MacVittie (Recall MS), Stephanie Schwartz (Recall Reading), Aimee Murcin (Recall MS), Phil Enser (LTS), Claire Godinho (Recall), Ryan Blunt (UE), Sarah Kucharski (UE), Courtney Guidie (UE), and Laure Feind (UE)

## Highway Clean Up!

It is fall and along with that comes the opportunity to help beautify Union Rpad before winter sets in. The CCTA held the semi-annual cleanup of Union Road on many days throughout September. On the right is a picture of those who participated this fall on one of the Saturdays. Please watch for emails from Gerry Orgek in the spring for the next clean up.







## Your Union-Endorsed Benefits: Debt Consolidation & Mortgage Savings

*NYSUT Member Benefits understands the challenges that the hardworking women and men of this labor union face when it comes to financial issues such as student loan re-payment options, credit card consolidation or debt management, or saving on purchasing or refinancing a home.*

### **Student Loan & Debt Counseling Program**

Your union membership allows you to receive a no-obligation debt and/or student loan consultation at no cost with a certified counselor through the Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **Cambridge Credit Counseling** program. Cambridge provides individualized student loan counseling along with a unique web portal available at a reduced rate to help explain the various options when paying student debt; debt relief services are also offered.

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### **UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program**

The Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program** presented by **Mid-Island Mortgage Corp.** offers union members and their families savings of up to \$2,700 on lender fees and closing costs. Your union membership also entitles you to no application or processing fees; no commitment fees; no underwriting fees; no lender or broker fees; and reduced attorney and title fees.

## *The Power of the Union*

Regardless of whether you are participating in either of the programs mentioned above; one of our endorsed insurance, financial or legal programs; or our many shopping, entertainment or travel offerings, NYSUT members receive a quality product and enjoy the **"Power of the Union"** behind them. Unlike when purchasing products available to the general public, Member Benefits is here as your advocate if you ever have any issues or concerns with our endorsed programs.

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs, 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.