## **April 2022****THE VOICE**of the Cheektowaga Central Teachers’ Association**ccta****ccta**PresidentLuke SillimanVice PresidentElayn HigginsTreasurerMichelle SetzerSecretaryLynnae Kwilas

**Time to Nominate and Celebrate**

 This year it is time to celebrate our members. For the past two years, due to the pandemic, the entire CCTA received the CCTA Member of the Year award. Please take the time to reflect on those you work with or have heard and seen them go above and beyond for our students. Mike Buscaglia has emailed the nomination forms this past week.

 The award ceremony will take place at the End of the Year Celebration, which will also honor and recognize the following retirees: Jeff Kuemmel, Joe Chojnacki, Colleen Goodwin, and Mary Ann Kellick.

This years’ celebration will take place on Wednesday June 15th at Como Park. The CSEA members and past retirees have all been included in the celebration.

**Do you know when and why the district can offer pay that does not align with the contract and when a MOA must be signed?**

 Last year extended summer program hourly rates exceeded the contract pay per hour. Since the language for hourly rates, such as summer work, are in the contract an MOA had to be written. The MOA, in cases such as this, MUST sunset since the funding came from federal grants or the government and must be spent on certain things. The rate is not sustainable in the budget when the grants are not there.

 If there is a grant that can provide incentives to teachers for professional learning opportunities not outlined in the contract the district has the ability to offer workshops in whatever parameters they choose Due to this, it is understood that the compensation and learning hours attached to such workshops must be defined during the registration forms or emails.

**Committee of 100**

 Throughout March, the Political Action Committee (PAC) and newly appointed Shonda McKenzie created and attended a virtual Committee of 100, which is really a Committee of over 1000. This year any member was welcome to attend the virtual meetings to show support in numbers for public education. Attendees were asking for the following: increase in education funding, elimination of the Gap Elimination Adjustment, increase in funding for SUNY, CUNY and their community colleges, restore funding to Teacher Centers, retention and recruitment of teachers.

This is the first year in a long time that the meetings were mainly positive as funding for public education is on the rise.

 The support of our elected officials is witnessed by the bills that have been written, the current budget and increase in foundation aid. The support that the governor has for public education is clear and our voices were recognized.