



# CTA SNIPPETS

<http://corningta.ny.aft.org/>

CORNING TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

March/April 2016 Volume 13 Issue 4

# Election



# Edition

## 2016-17 Candidates

President

**Leslie Varga**

Vice-President

**David Rich**

Treasurer

**Ben Bowers**

Executive Secretary

**Martha Marks**

Recording Secretary

**Sharon Kendrick**

AFT Representative

**Kathy Rapisarda**

AFT Alternate

**No candidate**

## **Vote May 5 in your buildings!**

**Ready to be more involved with your Teachers' Association?**

**Here are some options available to YOU:**

- Let your Building Representative(s) know that you are willing to be a substitute at CTA Executive Council meetings as needed. (You would vote as a Building Representative).
- If there is an OPEN position in your building, contact CTA Office and inquire about process—we will hold an election in your building before the end of this year. Consult your Building Representatives for more information.
- Attend any CTA Executive Council meeting—CTA Members are welcome to attend our meetings--always. (Contact CTA Office for a list of dates/times/location.)
- Next year, watch for information on the Annual Election of CTA Officers & Delegates—and request a petition to run for a position.

# STATE of the UNION

*Leslie Varga, CTA President*

## ***What does a leader do?***

An effective leader does not control people, she rallies them. She rallies them to realize and bring about a vision of a better future. A leader sees where the organization is.....and has the vision to move the organization forward.

As the leadership of your CTA reflects back on the accomplishments of the year, it is evident in the work that was accomplished fulfilled the vision that we created for the 2015-16 school year.

Together we:

- ✓ Maintained a perpetual line of communication between the Members, Executive Council, and the APPR Committee. Your CTA created desk cards to clarify APPR timelines and components of the observation. YOU had a voice at the table for every APPR Committee Meeting—and your feedback regarding the evaluation process was used to move forward.
- ✓ Communicated with members through posting articles relevant to our profession on the CTA Facebook page.
- ✓ Communicated via weekly updates reminded members of contract benefits and deadlines for taking advantage of them.
- ✓ Created a ***Through the Decades*** booklet that highlights the gains the negotiations team has made through the years. This booklet was shared with several area locals as an exemplar contribution to unionism.
- ✓ Created the #IAmPublicEd poster campaign to increase awareness of importance of public education in our community.
- ✓ Continued connections with parents via the PTA Council by having teachers present the great things they do in class at their meetings.

# STATE of the UNION

(Continued)

- ✓ Met regularly as officers and worked closely together to advise the President on every issue.
- ✓ Executive Council continue to be the decision makers for our Association.
- ✓ Promptly addressed individual member questions and concerns. Members are ALWAYS represented at meetings with administration.
- ✓ Represented CTA at Board of Education meetings throughout the year.

Moving forward, your leadership will continue to foster relationships between members and all of stakeholders in our District. We continue to operate under the umbrella of solution-based unionism, and our proactive approach has served us well. Utilizing our individual strengths creates our strong collective.

**I look forward to the opportunity to serve you. I look forward to realizing our vision together.**



# CTA Retirement Workshop

**Hear what your colleagues are saying.....**

CTA sponsored a Retirement Workshop to help members plan for the next chapter of their lives. In addition to Pat Overstrom and Bridget Frelove, two retired CPP teachers, Billie Gammara (former CTA President) and Mary Franklin (current BOE member) provided a first-hand account of their transition.

Even if you are not near retirement, it never hurts to plan ahead and learn about the process and your options. ***The workshop was well attended and full of positive feedback:***

*“The organization and thoroughness of the workshop is so good! They cover everything and it's really nice to have two retired teachers with very different perspectives to give their viewpoints.” Elisabeth Hanley, Middle School*

*I was happy that Bridgette had so much information copied and into a folder. Pat and Bridgette did a nice job explaining the insurance. Kay Keeney, Carder*

*I really appreciated everyone who presented at the Retirement Workshop. They were all extremely knowledgeable and informative. I learned a lot about retiree health insurance, district procedures and general issues that come up after retiring. Audrey Carr, HS*

*Many thanks to our Union President Leslie Varga for setting up the informative retirement workshop! It was great fun to look around the room at all the smiles on our retiring faces! I'm most excited about getting far away from the cold weather and sleeping in... or at least not feeling rushed around in the morning! I'm ready to put my toes in the sand...and leave them there, for as long as I want! Cheers to all my colleagues and see you soon, on the other side! Debbi Mitchell, HS*

*The panel was knowledgeable and reassuring. This workshop should definitely happen every year. Scott Shaddock, HS*

# CTA's #IamPublicEd Campaign

*Look for these around town!*

Karen Whitman  
Shawn Finan  
Winfield Elementary

"Public education uses all resources available to provide high quality instruction and opportunity for students. Over the years, our tub has been used to motivate students to read and to teach philanthropy."










# #IAmPublicEd

# Election Procedures Reminder, David Rich

With the CTA Officer and Delegate Elections nearing, I wanted to take the opportunity to remind all members of the process we, as a union, approved. In a nutshell, there are three CTA members who volunteered and were approved by the Executive Council to oversee the process. **Thanks to Shawn Finan (WN), Doreen Bonomo (WN), and Cathy Nagle (GR) for volunteering!**

The CTA Constitution is available in its entirety on the home page of the CTA website. However, you can also refer to the chart below for the duties of the election committee and the President. The process prohibits candidates from collecting and counting ballots.

**Election Committee:** This committee shall oversee all aspects of the Officer/Delegate Election and ensure the following duties are conducted, per the chart below:

Duty	CTA President	Election Committee
Election date notification to all members, per the Landrum-Griffin Act		
Create Candidate Petition Forms		
Provide Candidate Petitions to interested parties		
Collect and Verify Petitions		
Create the Ballot		
Provide Senior Building Representatives with Ballots for each voting site		
Establish a time and place in which ballots are *returned to the Committee for counting. (*Ballots are not to be collected by or returned to any candidate).		

Furthermore, results are not valid until approved by a majority vote of the Executive Council and should not be revealed until said time. Committee members may not be candidates or current CTA officers or appointees. The committee will consist of a Chairperson elected by its membership and two other members. Members must be either a building representative or be nominated by their building representative and approved by the Executive Council.

# VOTE COPE

Dear Colleagues:

The Corning Teachers' Association is conducting its 2015 VOTE-COPE campaign.

VOTE-COPE is the **C**ommittee **o**n **P**olitical **E**ducation—a non-partisan political action arm of NYSUT.

Through voluntary contributions, VOTE-COPE supports NYSUT endorsed candidates (on both sides of the aisle) and helps strengthen political action programs on all levels—national, state, and local.

*The future of your job, your retirement and your health care hinges on decisions made in Albany and Washington. A donation to VOTE-COPE, your union's political action fund, helps ensure your voice will be heard on issues, large and small, that affect your life.*

40% of contributions by our CTA members can be used locally for political activities such as supporting locally endorsed candidates for the school board, and supporting the CTA-PTA School Board Candidates' Forum.

Contributions can be made by check (payable to VOTE/COPE) or by payroll deduction. Payroll deductions are easier—less paperwork and handling of checks and cash.

A payroll deduction of \$1 or \$2 per paycheck would be a very reasonable contribution amount that will seem “less painful”.

\$1-2 per paycheck is just a suggestion. You can contribute more or less.

**NOTE:** You have the right not to contribute without any reprisal and will not be favored or disadvantaged because you have exercised this right.

To those of you who decide to make an annual VOTE-COPE contribution:

***THANK YOU. Contributions to VOTE-COPE can help to protect our own profession and improve public education. Thank you for taking an active part in the political process.***

Take time to read the information that will soon be distributed by a CTA member in your building. If you have questions, please call the CTA Office at 654-2728.

--Leslie Varga





CORNING TEACHERS

## **“ADOPT A HIGHWAY”**

**A FUN TIME – GREAT COMMUNITY SERVICE!**

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**MAY 21, 2016**

**9:00 AM – 11:00 AM** (THE MORE PEOPLE THE LESS TIME IT WILL TAKE!)

**A “TAILGATE” BAGEL/DONUT/COFFEE GATHERING WILL BE HELD BEFORE CLEAN UP IN THE PARKING LOT!**

THE OLD AMES PLAZA PARKING LOT NEAR FIRESTONE  
OUR **“ADOPT A HIGHWAY”** SECTION IS THE ON AND OFF RAMPS OF **EXIT 43**.

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It is time once again to clean up our roadways! Bring a friend/spouse. For safety reasons, children are not invited.

**CLOSED TOED SHOES OR BOOTS AND GLOVES ARE REQUIRED.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: TDREW @CPPMAIL.COM OR 962-1514

# The Value of NYSUT Membership

You may not be aware that your NYSUT membership allows you to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality, competitive insurance plans.

Member Benefits strives to provide the highest-quality programs for NYSUT members and closely scrutinizes all proposals from reputable vendors before any endorsements are given.

While we work continuously to maintain quality benefit programs at competitive prices, you are encouraged to shop and compare before making any purchasing decisions.

## MetLife Auto & Home®



Call MetLife Auto & Home to learn about the special savings and discounts you may be eligible for.

**1-866-NYSUT-22**

If you are looking for potential savings on your auto or homeowners insurance, consider enrolling in the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed MetLife Auto & Home Insurance Program.

This program offers special group rates on personal property and liability coverage not available to individual MetLife policyholders. NYSUT members can choose from a variety of coverages that include auto, homeowners, boat, renter's, and much more.

Policyholders can earn extra discounts for good driving, multiple policies and anti-theft devices. MetLife Auto & Home recently raised the multi-policy discount on its homeowners insurance with auto from 7% to 15%. The multi-policy/multi-product discount on auto insurance with home remains at 8%.

Visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call 800-626-8101 for specific details about this program or other Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services.

MetLife Auto & Home is a NYSUT Member Benefits Trust (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 5.5% of total premiums for this program. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.