



CTA SNIPPETS

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

CORNING TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

March/April 2015 Volume 12 Issue 5

Election



Edition

2015-16 Candidates

President	Leslie Varga
Vice-President	David Rich
Treasurer	Ben Bowers and Paul Spear
Executive Secretary	Martha Marks
Recording Secretary	Sharon Kendrick
NYSUT Representative	Erin Merrill and Leslie Varga
NYSUT Alternate	David Rich

Vote May 7 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

From Leslie Varga

A single bracelet does not jingle....

It has been a sincere honor to represent you as president of the Corning Teachers' Association. I assure you that the strength of our union is because your elected officers and building representatives have shown the value and merit of working together as a **TEAM**. Each officer has brought experience, commitment and a sense of integrity to their positions. Your Vice President, **Dave Rich**, has been invaluable to me in my first year as president. His unwavering dedication to unionism and CTA, strong work ethic, and reliability has shone through in every decision and action-step made this year. He communicates ideas, gives direction and reminds me daily of the importance of integrity and transparency.

I truly appreciate the time and energy that **Sharon Kendrick, Martha Marks, Scott Shaddock and Kathy Rapisarda** have given to their positions. They faithfully attend officer and executive council meetings, collaborate on issues that affect us, and provide direction and meaningful feedback. Our team is reliable. Our team works in the spirit of collaboration. I am proud of the accomplishments we have made in just one year, and look forward to a continued strong relationship.

I appreciate the **elected building representatives** who attend executive council meetings, provide meaningful feedback to your executive council, and provide our members with accurate minutes and communication. YOU are the critical piece of this CTA puzzle—THANK YOU for your service to our members.

As VP Dave Rich says at our meetings "Your Union Begins with U". THANK YOU for your dedication to this challenging profession of teaching. Thank you for making CTA 470 *strong*

From David Rich

Strength in Numbers

President Leslie Varga recognizes the collective strength in numbers of our membership. As a result, CTA has been governed by its rightful owner---the members. Leslie is the chief spokesperson, but the directing body of the Corning Teachers' Association is the Executive Council.

Transparency has been maintained throughout her administration as she perpetually initiated meaningful dialogue with members and the elected representatives. Her communication has not only kept us informed, but routinely sought the involvement of the membership.

Union begins with U....and Leslie Varga has not forgotten that. As a result of her leadership style, I believe CTA is stronger than ever.

STATE of the UNION

As the leadership of your CTA reflects back on the accomplishments of the year, we have cause to celebrate. Together, the officers of your Corning Teachers' Association and the Building Representatives of the Executive Council have:

- Increased fiduciary responsibility by creating a policy that requires the Executive Council to approve all spending (including budgeted items).
- Placed a moratorium on CTA donations this year and created a donation request policy for future use.
- Created a CTA Travel Policy that caps spending allowances and requires approval for the type of transportation used.
- Maintained a perpetual line of communication between the Members, Executive Council, and the APPR Committee.
- Increased communication with members via home email contact, CTA Facebook page, and weekly updates.
- Increased connections with parents via the PTA Council by having teachers present the great things they do in class at their meetings.
- Helped organize the Forum for Public Education
- Organized the Common Cork social for members.
- Officers meet regularly and are working closely together to advise the President on every issue.
- Executive Council has been restored as the decision makers for our Association.










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 Committee on Political Education—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' ASSOCIATION BALLOT
2015-2016
OFFICERS AND DELEGATES
SAMPLE BALLOT

CTA ELECTION DAY

*****May 7, 2015*****

PRESIDENT (Vote for one)

_____ Leslie Varga

VICE-PRESIDENT (Vote for one)

_____ David Rich

TREASURER (Vote for one)

_____ Ben Bowers

_____ Paul Spear

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (Vote for one)

_____ Martha Marks

RECORDING SECRETARY (Vote for one)

_____ Sharon L. Kendrick

**NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS
DELEGATE 2015-2017** (Vote for one)

_____ Erin Merrill

_____ Leslie Varga

**NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS
DELEGATE ALTERNATE 2015-2017** (Vote for one)

_____ David Rich

Candidate Info

Ben Bowers, High School

Candidate for CTA Treasurer

Thank you for reading the election edition of Snippets. Being an informed voter is the most responsible thing any union member can do. I would also like to thank the teachers of the high school for trusting me as their Senior Building Representative for the past three years.

My name is Benjamin Bowers and I am completing my seventh year teaching Physics and Chemistry. For the past couple of years the topic of budget has come up many times at Executive Council meetings. The current system makes it difficult to decide where we should cut money if needed and whether or not to vote to spend money. In order for us to make good decisions I feel the Executive Council needs to know where the money has been going. The current Treasurer has taken steps to inform Executive Council by including checks that were written in each report. If I am voted in as Treasurer I will continue Scott Shaddock's initiative of informing the Executive Council. I will create detailed reports at regular intervals so our association can better monitor spending. In doing so, Executive Council will have better information to make prudent financial decisions.

The responsibilities of the treasurer are to make deposits, payments, and keep records of all transactions. I feel the biggest part is keeping good records. This is something that any good teacher does regularly. Aside from my teaching experience, my time as an aircraft electrician and avionics supervisor in the military has prepared me for keeping accurate records whatever they may be.

Along with these qualifications, I feel that active service to our members is just as critical to the success of the position. This position should be filled by someone who has actively served the union especially in these politically hard times. Since I began representing the High School staff I have helped with the Heart-to-Heart collection every year and recently volunteered at our Advocates for Public Education forum. I have also served our members by keeping them informed of other items of interest that they may be able to take advantage of such as: Student Loan Forgiveness and Veterans Tax Exemptions. I have been a part of passing new policies for CTA; the most recent being the travel policy. Lastly, I have attended almost every single meeting and have voiced the concerns of the high school staff at these meetings. You can confirm my involvement at meetings by contacting the recording secretary and seeing that my name is mentioned several times in member comments in our association minutes.

I thank you for your time and ask for the privilege to continue to serve you in a bigger capacity as the Treasurer of the Corning Teacher's Association.



Candidate Info, cont.

Leslie Varga -- Candidate for NYSUT Delegate

As your elected NYSUT delegate for the term of 2013-15, you entrusted me as your voice and vote for resolutions that directly affect the policies of NYSUT at the Representative Assembly in NYC in April of 2014. As your delegate, not only did I attend the Representative Assembly last April, I also attended 100% of Election District 46 meetings, reported back from those meetings to our Executive Council, and have maintained an awareness of and communicated to our members issues and NYSUT plans of action that affect our profession. As your delegate, I was instrumental in bringing ideas and organization to our regional forum: Advocates for Public Education, that was hosted by NYSUT *in our district* in March.

The direction and continued democracy of NYSUT depend on the participation of the elected delegates to set NYSUT policy for the upcoming year. **If elected, I promise to continue my involvement and commitment to your CTA as your voice to NYSUT.** I vow to keep the momentum alive in our efforts to protect public education in New York State.

ADOPT -A -HIGHWAY

Date: Saturday, May 23rd [Rain or Shine!]

Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am—a “tailgate” bagel/donut/coffee gathering before clean-up will be held in the parking lot! [The more people we have the less time it will take!]

Meeting Place: The old Ames Parking Lot near Firestone.

Our Adopt-A-Highway section is the on and off ramps of Exit 43.

It is time once again to clean up our roadways! Bring a friend/ spouse. **Closed toed shoes or boots and gloves are required.**

It's a fun time and a great community service!



FINANCIAL RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to launch its newly created online Financial Planning Center to assist NYSUT members & their families with making a variety of important financial decisions.



Whether you have questions about retirement planning, saving for college or considering purchasing a home, the Financial Planning Center offers valuable tools & resources to assist you. Take the time to check out everything this new section of our website has to offer and remember to bookmark it as we will continue to offer new items on a regular basis.

**This unique resource provides
NYSUT members with free access to the following:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial calculators• An interactive planning module• Customized Kiplinger's retirement newsletter | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kiplinger's Annual Retirement Guide• 403(b) Field Guide• Preventive Law Guides• And more to come |
|---|---|

To access the NYSUT Member Benefits Financial Planning Center, visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org and click on "Financial Planning Center."