



Middletown Teachers' Association

# MTA News

## A Message From Your MTA President Christopher White

### MTA News

Middletown Teachers' Association

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As we are completing our end of the year tasks and shifting our focus to summer mode, I want to take this time to say thank you! This is the end of my first term as your president, and it has been an interesting two years. I have always felt that working in Middletown provides us so much experience, that one year equates to seven! That speaks volumes to who we are as a staff. There is nothing we can not handle.

I also want to thank you for electing me to another two years. I will do everything in my power to make sure our union has a voice in all levels of representation- ranging from the district to the state. As we spend the summer traveling, relaxing, and enjoying our families, please know that the union never stops. We will be preparing for the upcoming year and the constitutional convention!

Even so, we will come back to a brand new school year filled with promise! I want to thank all those that helped make our union stronger and visible within our community. I look forward to another great year!

Enjoy your summer!

## New or New to You

### Newsletter Submissions

Newsletter submissions can be

sent to Jennifer Sitko at

[jennsitko@yahoo.com](mailto:jennsitko@yahoo.com) and copied

to Kerry Luba at

[klubamta@gmail.com](mailto:klubamta@gmail.com)

Please use private emails for

newsletter articles.

- Stacey Atlas

In preparing for the upcoming school year I am reaching out to you to see what topics you would like to see in the MTA Newsletter.

Please email [stacey.atlas@ecsdms.org](mailto:stacey.atlas@ecsdms.org) or call 326-1317 to share topics.

*I look forward to writing about your interests :-)*

# Just Vote #NoConCon

- Robbyn McCauley

As we are heading into the final stretch of our academic year, I am so encouraged by the increased involvement of our membership within the activities of the union. I am proud to share that we have a core group of reps from each building that have stepped up and are willing to bring the message of **Just Vote #NOCONCON** back to their buildings. Be on the lookout for fall activities that will continue with this message. Until then, I'd like to share a few more details here.

In our last newsletter, I focused on the detrimental effects that a Constitutional Convention could have on public employee pensions. Let's focus on our rights as employees to organize and collectively bargain in this one. Article 1, Section 17 of the NYS Constitution reads, "Employees shall have the right to organize and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing." Simply put, we have the right to form and join a union. This right was guaranteed to us in the NYS Bill of Rights in 1938.

NYSUT's Andy Pallotta, President and head of the union's legislative and political operation had this to say while he was still our Executive Vice President: "We all know labor unions — the rights to organize and bargain collectively — are under attack. The 'right-to-work' types who swept into Congress and the White House in November would love nothing more than to eviscerate labor laws all over the country. Well, I say, NOT in NEW YORK! The best way to protect the rights of working people in this state is to defeat the referendum on the constitutional convention next November. Do not let politically connected delegates, backed by anti-union billionaires, rewrite the document that guarantees your most basic rights. Vote NO and urge your friends and families to do the same."

Our negotiated contract ensures that we work 187 days (p.7), have a half day before Thanksgiving (p.7), can take up to three uncharged days of leave for a death within our immediate family (p.32), and are provided health insurance (p.48), just to name a few. Think about what could happen if our ability to negotiate is taken away. Think about the rights and benefits that we have now and what will be taken away. That's what is at risk if we allow this NYS Constitutional Convention to occur.

For more information, you can go to YouTube and search "Why you must vote 'no' to a NYS Constitutional Convention on November 17, 2017," or, enter this into your web browser:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWps1pCTOho&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWps1pCTOho&feature=em-share_video_user)

Being stronger TOGETHER, we will be able to get the NO vote out this November!

## Submissions

If you would like to submit an article for upcoming newsletters, please submit your writing (as either a Google or Word Document) to Jenn Sitko at [jennsitko@yahoo.com](mailto:jennsitko@yahoo.com), or to our MTA officers. The newsletter will be published bimonthly, and a calendar of submission deadlines will appear in the first fall issue.

Have a wonderful summer!

# Congratulations Retirees!

The MTA gathered to honor our retirees in thanks for their years of service to our schools and the Middletown community. While we will miss working alongside our colleagues each day, we send them off with congratulations and best wishes in all future endeavors!

## 2017 Retirees

**Middletown High School** - Rhonda Perrett, Denise Knebel

**Monhagen** - Julie Powers, Vickie Schweitzer, Barbara Vandervoort

**Presidential** - Nancy Healy

**Carter** - Linda Goerke, Linda Blosser, Roberta Monkash (PPE)

**Maple Hill** - Shelley Burr



L-R Linda Blosser, Shelley Burr, Rhonda Perrett, Denise Knebel, Linda Goerke, Roberta Monkash

# We Made It!

~ Stacey Atlas

*We do not learn from experience...we learn from reflecting on experience.*

*-John Dewey*

As we say goodbye to our students, box the last items from the classroom, grade the last papers of the year...don't forget to look back on the year. As you reflect on the year, think about where you were at the beginning and where you are now. What went well? What will you tweak for the future? How will your students remember you? How will you make a lasting impression on them next year?

Think about the students who crossed our path, staff members who lent a hand, and the people who had a lasting impression throughout the year. Remember that "people are sent into our lives to teach us things that we need to learn about ourselves" (Mandy Hale). What did I learn from 'this' student, teacher, TA...? Through every moment there is a lesson to be learned: what have you learned? And what lesson have you taught?

The summer is our time as educators to take time for ourselves. Whatever you do this summer, stop to smell the flowers...because this is the one time of the year we have time to slow down!

REST, REFLECT, REJUVENATE

## Orange Classic



Members of the MTA volunteer at the Orange Classic water stop.