

The New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc.



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YORK

state

NO. 3 VOL. 62

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THE
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RETIRED EDUCATORS, THEIR
FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES.

Fall 2014

President's Message; Judie Byndas

At this time, I am pleased to announce the Presidents' Fund campaign currently totals over \$66,000. Thank you to all who contributed and to those who still intend to contribute. This is about \$10,000 less than last year and is an important part of our annual budget. It is never too late to send a donation! You have been generous with your contributions in the past few years and have helped the Association continue to pursue agendas and provide services for our members. **BY OUR MEMBERS---FOR OUR MEMBERS!**

I would like to reply to concerns expressed by 3 or 4 members in notes sent to the office, with or without donations. They were from some of our senior members (2 admitted to the age of 89) with concerns about pensions and retroactive reinstatements. These concerns are probably shared by other members who have given up on action by our state legislatures to use the funds available from the Teachers Retirement System to provide a higher standard of living. These include people who retired after 35 years as an educator at a salary of \$34,000 and another waiting for his credit for the 3 years he served in the Air Force. Another sent a copied editorial about swindling of public pensions. I will address these interests with information I have available.

Each year the TRS asks us to include improvements to pensions as they cannot suggest or promote legislation. For the past many years, the first item on our State Legislation Action agenda has been a "bump-up" pension to increase the minimum pension a retiree before 1980 can receive. We have also included service credits for veterans who retired before armed services credit was added to active teachers pensions. We have been involved with the Mommy's Bill for women whose tier status was changed after pregnancy leaves or employment termination and with today's active teachers enjoying these benefits, it appears there is no reason to deny the same to retired teachers who were in the wrong phase of their career at the wrong time.

David Keefe, a NYSRTA member and our retiree representative on the TRS board, assures us NYS Teachers Retirement funds are safe despite the shortfalls in other states. We are ranked as one of the top 5 best funded and managed systems in the country, both public and private. It appears our government officials would like to have maximum funds available if they are able to raid them. Under current Constitutional text, we are protected from this. As a non-political Association, we need to take individual steps

to help our senior ex-educators. See your local Congressmen and Assemblymen and ask them these questions. Why are they not responding to requests to help some of the poverty level constituents? Would they support bills in the Senate and Assembly to add some benefits to educators? If they say "YES" and vote No, you can choose not to vote for them.

I remind you also that the DeCormier Fund will support requests from NYSRTA members for assistance with a large personal expense (new roof, new furnace, emergencies, etc). Applications are available through your Zone Friendly Service chairs.

Finally, on a sad note, we lost two past NYSRTA presidents who passed away in 2013-2014: **Charlotte Huff *CR, LIZ, and Glenn Clark *CR, CZ.**



Legislative Action; Mary Johnson, Vice President for Legislative Action

A lot goes into the decision-making regarding which federal bills to support and which issues to address. First, research is done to see if there are current bills that relate to NYSRTA resolutions. Once the bills are found, we have to assess their relevance, the possibility of passage and level of importance to our members. We also check to see if other groups are showing interest in the topic. Working in collaboration with other coalitions helps to achieve support for passage.

As you can see it takes the work of many, starting with the Zones who propose the resolutions. The research is time-consuming but interesting work, handled ably by Janice Mullins, EZ. It then takes a meeting and several conference calls to finalize our legislative program. Thankfully NYSRTA has a hard-working Legislative Action Committee to do all of this for our members. Below you will find our 2014 Legislative Priorities:

Observation vs. inpatient for coverage under Medicare

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S•569 Brown H.R.•1179 Courtney

Accessing Hearing Health Services - Medicare

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiaries coordinated care and greater choice with regard to accessing hearing health services and benefits.

S•2046 Brown H.R.•4035 McDermott

Great schools have strong leaders who create learning environments where the best educators want to stay (Teaching Matters, 2010).

Great schools serve all students, not just those who are college bound (Morse, 2014).

Great schools keep students safe.

NYSRTA supports legislation that:

- *Strengthens principal and teacher preparation programs*
- *Maintains and enhances school based programs in literacy education, vocational preparation, technical training, art and music*
- *Protects our youth in elementary and secondary schools from any and all bullying, harassment, and violence.*

Nominations; Emily Castine, Chair

All current NYSRTA officers have indicated that they plan to run for re-election in their respective positions. The following will be presented for re-election at the Annual Meeting:

- **Judie Byndas *CR** for President
- **Angelo Grande *CR** for Senior Vice President
- **Mary Ella Moeller *CR** for Vice President for Friendly Service
- **Mary Johnson** for Vice President of Legislative Action
- **Salvatore Sedita** for Vice President for Membership
- **Nancy Roberts** for Secretary
- **President Emeritus Terry Trudeau *CR** for Treasurer

Nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting if someone wants to oppose any of the above officers.

Insurance Trust; George Forbes, Chair

After many years of previous chairs attempting to bring the bylaws of the Insurance Trust up to date, they have finally been done. The Executive Board at the March Meeting unanimously adopted them. Now the Annual Meeting must adopt them.

The need for the changes included the fact that they were totally out of date. The original bylaws, adopted in 1963, stated that NYSRTA sold insurance to its members. This has not been true for many years. The company in the original bylaws was a Chicago Company, Continental Casualty, which went bankrupt.

The President and Vice-president of NYSRTA were designated members of the Insurance Trust Board of Directors. This was changed several years ago as it was deemed conflict of interest. A number of other items were updated to present practices.

The revised bylaws are an amendment since the original document as written can never be changed. It can only be amended. An Attorney was hired to legally provide this amendment.

Group Hospital and Home Care recovery Insurance is available to members by Pearl Carroll. Information can be obtained by calling 1-866-478-8907.

Long Term care, Life and Fixed Annuities are available for members from New York Long-Term care Brokers, LTD. Call 1-800-695-8224 ext. 154 and ask for Brian Johnson.

To view all the discounts and services that NYSRTA offers, visit www.nysrta.org.

Friendly Service; Mary Ella Moeller Vice President for Friendly Service

The Annual Convention this year has a new format in an effort to consolidate the meeting. The Friendly Service Committee will be presenting a workshop “MAKE FRIENDLY SERVICE PART OF YOUR LIFE” on the day of registration. This is a new time frame for workshops. How would you like to find that every morning in your bank account there was deposited \$86,400 and you had to use it all in one day? What would you do? Come to the Friendly Service Workshop from 4 - 5 p.m. on October 7th to find out. Each Zone will be part of this fun and inspiring workshop. You will not want to miss it! The Friendly Service Committee looks forward to seeing you there!



The Friendly Service Committee is sorry that **Ann Karl**, Eastern Zone FS Chair, has decided to retire this year having served Friendly Service for over 20 years. I asked Ann's zone president, **Rosalie Oliver**, about Ann and this is what she wrote: “Ann was Eastern Zone's Friendly Service VP for 20+ years. I say ‘plus’ because our records don't go back farther than that and even she doesn't know how much longer it was. I also say ‘plus’ because she always went the ‘extra mile’ needed for a friendly ‘Friendly Service.’ Friendly didn't mean she was a pushover, however. Units were reminded when reports were due and her report reflected her tenacity in getting these done. Ann was also a delegate to NYSRTA's conventions during those years. She worked diligently at the job at hand but knew when to relax and enjoy the ‘fun’ times. I, as president of Eastern Zone will miss her.” I know that each of the Friendly Service Committee members will miss Ann's smiling face and words of wisdom in our meetings and wish for her the very best in the future. Ann personifies the spirit and virtues of Friendly Service and we thank her!

Membership; Salvatore Sedita Vice President for Membership

Zones and units across the state have begun this year's recruitment program by contacting superintendents of districts and heads of private and charter schools to obtain the names and addresses of the 2013-14 school year retirees.

We know that recruitment of new members is a big job that cannot be done by a membership chair alone or a small committee; is relatively easy and can be accomplished well if a larger number of members in a unit become involved.

To be successful, the membership chairs of each unit need the help and support of a large number of their current members. They need members who will assist in the recruitment of new members. That assistance is not a big job, but it is an essential one. The first responsibility of the member who is working with the membership chair is to make contact with a single retiree - either a new retiree or one that retired some time ago but has neglected to join the unit, the zone, and NYSRTA.

That first contact should be a note or letter introducing the member to the retiree and wishing the retiree well upon his/her retirement. A second contact should follow. It should be a short phone call to the retiree inviting him/her to an event that has been planned by the unit to welcome new retirees. An offer to give the retiree a ride to the event is a good idea.

Once the member gets the retiree to the event, the task is then to show interest in him/her and make him/her feel welcome. The program of the event planned by the membership chair and/or unit president should provide the retiree with information about the unit, the zone, and NYSRTA. Part of the program should include the opportunity for the retiree to join right then and there.

Whether the retiree decides to join immediately or not, a follow-up phone call should be made by the member. Letting the retiree know that you are happy that he/she was able to attend the event and that you enjoyed his/her company at the event should be part of the conversation. A gentle reminder that it is not too late, and that the retiree can still join the unit, zone, and NYSRTA should also be part of the conversation.

Throughout the process, the member should talk to the retiree about the advantages of joining NYSRTA. A thorough presentation of these is available on the web site, www.nysrta.org. Units and zones that involve a large number of their members in the recruitment of new retirees and in the retention of their members find their unit (zone) growing regularly both in size and organizational health.

As a member of a zone or unit, if you are willing to “help out” in this year's recruitment campaign, please get in contact with your zone or unit membership chair, and let him/her know that you are willing to be a part of this year's effort. The more members that are involved in recruitment, the easier the task for each member and the greater the success.



Bylaws; Burt Phillips, Chair

Three propositions to amend the Bylaws were approved by the Executive Board in March. Of them, one—Proposition RCAM 2014--makes a substantive, and appropriate, change in the way Resolutions are dealt with at the Annual Meeting. The others are more a matter of necessary tweaking. The propositions have been posted on the website and have been sent to the zones for consideration. A summary was published in the spring 2014 edition of *YORK STATE*. That summary, as well as the entire text of each proposition, may be read on the website at www.nysrta.org. We expect to deal with the propositions at the Annual Meeting using a consent agenda.

Additionally—following a guideline from our Parliamentarian--unless any member of the Executive Board or unless any Zone objects, the following three editorial changes will take place without going through the amendment process. The changes will provide consistency and improve sentence structure. (The line citations are from the 2014 Bylaws, which are available on the website.)

Seen on a Tee shirt

**TIME TO EAT GRANDMA
TIME TO EAT, GRANDMA**

~ *COMMAS SAVE LIVES* ~

- (1) Add the word “to” after the word “or” in line 38. “Honorary members shall not pay dues and shall not be entitled to vote or **to** hold office.”
- (2) “Appointed Positions” in line 189 is replaced by “assigned” positions” to provide consistency with the same change that was made to other bylaws in 2010. “...the members holding **Appointed Positions assigned positions,**”
- (3) Capitalize “Chair” in line 802 for consistency (with the wording in line 811.) “The **chair Chair** of the Board of Trustees...”

Picky, picky, picky! But--according to our parliamentary authority, *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly revised (Eleventh Edition)*--that’s the nature of properly written bylaws.

Western Zone Irine Zinter, Public Relations

Western Zone/NYSRTA announces the opportunity for schools in your area (Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee & Niagara Counties) to compete for cash grants being offered to provide funding assistance for teacher-generated classroom related learning activities and an out-of-classroom cultural presentation by students.

The competition is open to public, private and parochial schools (elementary through secondary) for activities to be planned for the 2014 - 2015 academic year.

More information and application forms may be obtained by e-mail addressed to ronanza@gmail.com.

All applications must be submitted by Friday, October 17, 2014. Announcement of winning grant recipients will take place no later than November 14, 2014."



2014 *YORK STATE* Article Due Dates

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YORK STATE

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For a complete listing of NYSRTA contacts, please visit our website at www.nysrta.org.

Resolutions; Doris Kirsch, Chair

The following seven resolutions were submitted for consideration and vote at the upcoming Annual Meeting/Convention. Appreciation is extended to the five zones that authored the proposals. The six proposals that have been recommended by the Resolutions Committee will be brought before the delegates at the October convention. The one that is not being recommended can be brought forth if a request is made and two-thirds of the delegates vote in favor of its consideration. Zones and individual delegates are asked to carefully review these prior to the Annual Meeting. These proposals can also be found on the NYSRTA website.

Resolution C-14-1: Improving Funding for Alzheimer's Research (Southern Zone)

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's is a neuro-degenerative disease that afflicts 5.2 million Americans; and
WHEREAS, the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center concludes that deaths attributable to Alzheimer's could be as high as 500,000 yearly; and
WHEREAS, the longer we live the higher the risk for developing Alzheimer's; and
WHEREAS, the cost of this disease is now higher than cancer or heart disease due to the duration of the disease; and
WHEREAS, there is not a single drug that halts or slows the progression of Alzheimer's; and
WHEREAS, each year Congress invests almost \$6 billion in cancer research, \$2 billion in cardiovascular disease, and only \$550 million in Alzheimer's research;
Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that NYSRTA support federal legislative action that will increase funding for Alzheimer's research.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II – Objectives 3 & 5

The Resolutions Committee voted to “Not Recommend” C-14-1 for consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting. (Duplication of Resolution C-12)

Resolution D-14-1: CPR Training for High School Students (Western Zone)

WHEREAS, people of all ages have had cardiac episodes at unexpected times; and
WHEREAS, 5,920 children, 18 years and under, suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrest each year from all causes – including trauma, cardiovascular and sudden infant death syndrome; and
WHEREAS, a lack of knowledge may keep someone from trying to help a person experiencing such an episode; and
WHEREAS, effective bystander CPR, provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest, can double or triple a victim's chance of survival; and
WHEREAS, adolescents as well as adults can be taught how to respond in such situations; and
WHEREAS, all high school students are required to take health and physical education; and
WHEREAS, the Health or Physical Education classes would be the best time to teach hands-only CPR training; and
WHEREAS, Senator Mark Grisanti, Buffalo, has introduced a bill (S7096-2014) requiring that basic CPR training be mandatory for all high school graduates; and
WHEREAS, there is a companion bill in the Assembly (A9298-2014) introduced by Assemblyman Weisenberg, Nassau County; and
WHEREAS, currently CPR may be offered as a voluntary addition to the health curriculum; and
WHEREAS, the American Heart Association recommends that hands-only CPR training be a requirement for graduation;
Therefore be it RESOLVED, that The New York State Retired Teachers' Association support the requirement that CPR training be provided for all high school students;
And be it further RESOLVED that The New York State Teachers' Association support the passage of any bill that will mandate the instruction of CPR Training for High School Students.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II Objective 4.

The Resolutions Committee voted to “Recommend” D-14-1 for consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting.



Resolutions, Continued

Resolution D-14-2: Funding for Education (Western Zone)

WHEREAS, the inequities of the Gap Elimination Adjustment Act (GEA) and size of cuts to schools has overwhelmed school districts across New York State and has made it more difficult for them to properly serve students and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, 90% of all New York State school districts received less aid in 2013-14 than in 2008-9; and

WHEREAS, low-wealth school districts and high-need urban school districts in New York State received GEA restoration of less than 10%; and

WHEREAS, low household incomes in low-wealth school districts hinder the ability to raise revenue needed to fund sound education; and

WHEREAS, state aid is one of the critical sources of funding for schools; and

WHEREAS, school districts seek to keep taxpayer levies under the tax cap; and

WHEREAS, the loss of educational funding has caused school closings, reductions in staff, increased class size, and over-crowding of schools; and

WHEREAS, a State-wide School Finance Consortium of nearly 360 New York State public school districts seeks revision to the state aid formula to insure that it is adequate and sound for all school districts; and

WHEREAS, litigation is pending against Governor Cuomo, the State Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education (New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights) over inadequate and inequitable school funding; and

WHEREAS, the New York State School Boards Association has entered a law suit seeking revisions to the state aid formula;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that The New York State Retired Teachers' Association support local and state-wide organizations which seek to gain equitable funding for all New York State schools.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objective 4.

The Resolutions Committee voted to "Recommend" D-14-2 for consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Resolution D-14-3: Full Disbursement of All CFE Funding (Northeastern Zone)

WHEREAS, State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli stated in April, 2014 that the economic/fiscal health of New York State is doing well; and

WHEREAS, Comptroller DiNapoli found the state aid for public schools to be misleading, in that a very large portion went to New York City, and the increased funding represents only partial restoration of massive decreases a few years ago; and

WHEREAS, the continued Gap Elimination reductions in public school's state aid were designed to help in times of fiscal crisis, yet those reductions continue at a time when the state is not in financial crisis; and

WHEREAS, a court order in 2005 called the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) Settlement to begin in 2007 with \$5.5 billion in funding, to be distributed equitably thorough out New York State public schools by 2011; and

WHEREAS, a total of \$2.2 billion was distributed through Foundation Aid in 2007 and 2008 and fully curtailed in 2010 and 2011, creating the Gap Elimination Adjustment; and

WHEREAS, the state resumed a partial restoration of CFE funding in 2012, reducing the Gap Elimination Adjustment to just under \$700 million in the 2014-2015 State Budget;

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that members and the leadership of NYSRTA urge the Legislature and the Governor to fully compensate public schools, in an equitable fashion, all monies promised them in the CFE settlement of 2005.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws: Article II, Objective 4,

The Resolutions Committee voted to "Recommend" D-14-3 for consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Resolution E-14-1: Elder Poverty (Western Zone)

WHEREAS, after retirement, many seniors feel more acutely the impact of high medical bills, prescription costs, and other expenditures for health care; and

WHEREAS, many seniors are experiencing the effects of uncertain real estate, stock market, and investment values, as well as soaring fuel and food prices; and

WHEREAS, the elder poverty rate is now increasing; and

WHEREAS, if Social Security and Supplemental Security income benefits did not exist, an estimated 44 percent of the elderly would be considered poor today; and

Continued on next page 7

WHEREAS, nearly one in five – 19 percent of single, divorced, or widowed women over the age of 65 – is poor and the risk of poverty for older women increases as they age; and

WHEREAS, over 1.3 million women ages 75 and up are poor; and

WHEREAS, the primary factors contributing to elder poverty are: reduced income after retirement, health care, utilities, food and transportation costs, and predatory lending; and

WHEREAS, some Congressional members seek to increase the Medicare co-pay/deductions for hospitalization, medical and prescription drug coverage, an added cost that would further increase the number of elderly living below the poverty level;

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that The New York State Retired Teachers' Association support efforts to oppose any increase in the co-pays/deductions for Medicare hospitalization, medical care and prescription drug coverage;

And be it further RESOLVED, that The New York State Retired Teachers' Association support legislation that will reduce elder poverty in both the nation and state.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws: Article II, Objectives 1, 3 & 5

The Resolutions Committee voted to "Recommend" E-14-1 for consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Resolution F-14-1: Review of Resolutions (Northern Zone)

WHEREAS, resolutions are formal expressions of opinion or intended actions adopted by the Delegates at the NYSRTA Annual Meetings; and

WHEREAS, resolutions that have not been rescinded or amended since their adoption remain in effect as originally adopted at the NYSRTA Annual Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the passage of time may change the relevance and significance of the adopted resolutions;

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that The NYSRTA Resolutions Committee be made responsible for annually reviewing all resolutions currently in effect that are at least six years old;

And be it further RESOLVED, that recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for necessary amendments or rescission of currently active resolutions older than six years be made at each Annual Meeting.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws: Article II, Objective 2.

The Resolutions Committee voted to "Recommend" F-14-1 for consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Resolution F-14-2: YORK STATE Article (Southeastern Zone)

WHEREAS, articles submitted to *YORK STATE* contain plans, ideas, and activities of the contributing Zone; and

WHEREAS, information in these articles is intended to be shared with the members of NYSRTA; and

WHEREAS, these articles may be subject to change in length or content;

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that in the event a submitted article requires a substantive change, that said article be returned to the original author for notification of the changes or withdrawal.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws: Article II, Objective 2

The Resolutions Committee voted to "Recommend" F-14-2 for consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

The Resolutions Committee has completed its review of all resolutions adopted since 1994. Several of these have been accomplished or are no longer timely or relevant. Following is a list of those resolutions which are being recommended for rescission. This list will be acted upon, using a consent agenda, at the Annual Meeting. It is extremely important that all delegates review these before the vote. The full text of the "Be It Resolved..." document can be accessed on the NYSRTA website. There will be an opportunity to have your questions and concerns answered at a special Resolutions Committee meeting to be held Tuesday (10/7) afternoon. Check the convention schedule for time and location. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU LOOK BEYOND THE TITLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY A PARTICULAR RESOLUTION IS BEING RECOMMENDED FOR DELETION. For example: A-1 COLA is on the list because it calls for the establishment of a COLA. That has been accomplished. The resolution to enhance the COLA is retained.

The Resolutions Committee has worked very hard on this review process. We welcome your comments, questions and input. Feel free to contact your Zone Resolutions Chair or the State Chair, Doris Kirsch.

The NYSRTA Resolutions Committee recommends the rescission of the following from the "Be It Resolved..." Document of active resolutions:

Continued on next page 8

Resolutions, Continued

The NYSRTA Resolutions Committee recommends the rescission of the following from the “Be It Resolved...” Document of active resolutions:

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|--|
| A-1 | COLA (1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000) | D-6 | Tax Exemption for Higher Education (2002) |
| A-3 | Final Pension Checks of Deceased Members (1995) | D-10 | Preschool Handicapped Programs (2006) |
| A-7 | Minimum Employer Annual Contribution Rate (2004, 2006) | E-5 | Balanced Budget Act (1998) |
| C-2 | Health Insurance for State and Retired State Employees (1994, 1996) | E-6 | Speed Limit Enforcement on the NYS Thruway (1998) |
| C-3 | Family Health Care Decision (1996) | E-9 | Consumer Loss of Down Payments for Utilities (2001) |
| C-4 | Health Insurance Moratorium (1998) | E-10 | Veterans (2001) |
| C-5 | Patient Access Care Act (1998, 1999) | E-11 | Public Broadcasting (1995) |
| C-6 | Access to Emergency Medical Services Act (1998, 1999, 2000) | E-13 | Border Access for United States Citizens (2006) |
| C-8 | Health Insurance Rights Act (1998, 1999, 2000) | E-14 | Change Current Cell Phone Marketing Procedures (2007) |
| C-9 | Patients’ Bill of Rights (1999) | F-1 | Unified Membership (1995, 2000) |
| C-10 | Prescription Drug Prices (paragraphs 1 and 6) (2000, 2004) | F-2 | Membership Dues (1999) |
| C-11 | Supplemental Medical Insurers (2002) | F-4 | The Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Fund – Amendment to the “Agreement and Declaration of Trust” (1998) |
| C-15 | Corrections to Medicare Law (paragraph 1) (2006) | F-6 | Move the Annual Workshop back to the Summer (2004) |
| C-26 | Medication Safety and Disposal (2010) | F-7 | York State Manor Monies (1997) |
| D-2 | “At Risk Children” (1999) | F-8 | Resolution of Thanks (2010) |
| D-5 | Charter Schools (2001) | | |

Southern Zone – Mary Lou Wood, Public Relations Chair

It’s already time to put away the shorts and bring out the slacks and sweaters. We enjoyed sitting back, smelling the flowers and seeing green trees. Now we will be sitting back, looking at the autumn mums and the green trees turn to a beautiful array of colors. With the fall season arriving we start recruiting new members, visiting with old friends, and getting back to business.

The Southern Zone annual meeting will be hosted by Schuyler County Retired Teachers' Association. It will be held at the Harbor Hotel in Watkins Glen located by Seneca Lake on Sept. 17th. The Registration time is 9:00 a.m. The theme will be on retired teachers being good citizens by helping others. At our annual meeting, a special recognition award will be given to one or more retired teachers who demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership, responsibility, and dedication.

The highlight of events for our units is to celebrate our 85 and 90 year old and older retired teachers. Of this group in the Southern Zone there are 116 members who hold membership in NYSRTA, and many more who are members of their local units. We enjoyed listening to their life stories, singing songs, and socializing with our friends and colleagues. Our units are filled with a wealth of knowledge and several years of experience. Happy Birthday to all of you.

Exciting programs have been and are being planned for our unit meetings. One important program was where Joel Robinson, Executive Director of the Greater Steuben & Sullivan Trail Chapters of the Red Cross, discussed the importance of volunteers and most importantly, making a Readiness Kit, especially for our seniors. Sheets containing how to make these preparedness kits and making a family disaster plan were passed out. Supplies included in these kits were food, water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, medical items, first aid kit, copies of personal documents, and many more items were discussed. This sheet and many more important articles are on their website at redcross.org.



Workshop; Angelo Grande, Senior Vice President

NYSRTA – 64th ANNUAL WORKSHOP AND ANNUAL MEETING TURNING STONE RESORT AND CASINO, VERONA, NEW YORK HOSTED BY THE CENTRAL ZONE

Tuesday, October 7th

Registration and Vendor Exhibits - 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Welcome Reception - Coffee, Tea and Danish Pastry

Theme: “The Heart of New York”

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. NYSRTA Workshops:

- ❖ **Membership; Salvatore Sedita, Vice President for Membership**
- ❖ **Community Service; Pat Dietrich, Chair**
- ❖ **Friendly Service; Mary Ella Moeller *CR, Vice President for Friendly Service**
- ❖ **Resolutions; Doris Kirsch, Chair**

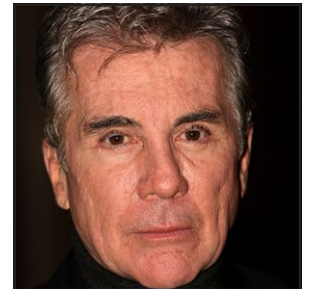
5:30 p.m. New Delegate Workshop; Angelo Grande *CR, NYSRTA Senior Vice President, Burt Phillips *CR, NYSRTA Bylaws Committee Chair, and Doris Kirsch, NYSRTA Resolutions Chair will present a workshop on the duties and responsibilities of Delegates to The NYSRTA Annual Meeting. If you are a **new Delegate or Alternate to The NYSRTA Annual Meeting, this is your chance to get oriented to what will go on and to get your questions answered before your delegation goes to the floor of The Annual Meeting.**

6:30 p.m. Dinner

8:15 p.m. Certificate of Recognition

(Immediately Following Certificate of Recognition)

**Keynote Speaker – John Walsh, Activist, Philanthropist,
Television Personality**



Born on December 26, 1945, in Auburn, New York, John Walsh was the weekly host of “*America's Most Wanted*”, the TV show through which Walsh has helped put over a thousand of the nation's worst criminals behind bars. During this past summer, John hosted a new show, *The Hunt with John Walsh* on CNN. In 1981, Walsh's six-year-old son, Adam, was abducted and later found murdered. Walsh has since dedicated his life to victims' rights and capturing fugitive criminals, helping pass the Missing Children's Act of 1982 and the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1984. The latter bill founded the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which maintains a toll-free hotline number (1-800-THE-LOST) to report a missing child or the sighting of one. John Walsh lives in Washington, D.C. and spends his summers in Skaneateles, NY, with his wife and their three children.

Wednesday, October 8th

Breakfast Buffet – 7:30 a.m.

Session 1- 9:00 a. m. – 10:00 a.m.

Choose one of the six offerings.

1. Erie Canal Museum

Introducer: Mary Buske

Presenter: Dan Ward, Curator

Description: This workshop will present the ways you can use oral history to understand the history of the Erie Canal.



2. The Great New York State Fair: Past, Present & Future

Introducer: William Tenity

Presenter: Mary Ellen “Mel” Chesbro, Agriculture Manager

Description: This presentation will explore the Great New York State Fair from its earliest beginnings, to the present. It will also look at what the future has in store for the Fair.



3. Musical Theatre Festival – Broadway in the Finger Lakes

Introducer: Virginia Ruff

Presenter: Multiple presenters

Description: This presentation will acquaint the audience with the Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival in Auburn, NY, including the development of the festival, selection of shows and its Youth Theater Program.



4. Retirement Planning – Make the Rest of Your Life the Best of Your Life

Presenter – Rosalie Oliver & Marjorie Leibowitz

(This is a round table discussion. We are asking each zone to send one representative.)

The emphasis of the workshop is to spread the program to different school districts.

Description: This is a program to help prepare educators for their pending retirement.

The participants will be given checklists that cover activities for 24 months prior to retirement through the final preparation. The second goal is to provide a seamless transition from active working to membership in retirement.



5. Waterfalls of New York State

Introducer: Shirley Parker

Presenter: David J. Schryver

Description: Mr. Schryver will explain how his hobby and passion for Waterfalls came to be and how the book *Waterfalls of New York* was created.



6. Your TRS Pension – 2014

Introducer: Mary Johnson

Presenters: Richard Young, TRS Actuary; Sheila Gardella, Director of Member Relations; Joseph Indelicato, General Council

Description: This workshop replaces the Annual Report made by TRS Personnel in the past during the regular session of the Convention itself. You will be brought up to date on such issues as projected Pension Funding, Investment Performance and Projected Employee Contribution Rates, Recent Legislation and Retiree Member Services.

Note: Members having questions and concerns regarding any TRS matter should plan to attend this session as no other presentation by TRS Personnel will be made during the NYSRTA Annual Meeting on Thursday. Those wishing to ask questions regarding their personal TRS accounts should bring a copy of their “TRS Retired Member Profile”. This workshop is recommended for additional leadership training for those interested in Pension and State Legislative issues.

Session 2– 10:15 a. m. – 11:15 a.m.

Choose one of the six offerings.

1. Turning Point in the Mohawk Valley: The Siege of Fort Stanwix and the Battle of Oriskany

Introducer: Shirley Parker

Presenter: Valerie Morgan

Description: The British Campaign of 1777 in New York State was crucial to holding the rebellious Americans as British subjects. Discover how the American victory at Fort Stanwix and the devastating losses at Oriskany forever changed the face of the Mohawk Valley and contributed to the American victory at Saratoga that October.

2. Historical Cayuga County

Introducer: William Tenity

Presenter: Linda C. Frank, Ph. D, Cayuga County Historian

Description: This presentation will introduce the many museums and Historical sites in Cayuga County, including the homes of William H. Seward and Harriet Tubman, and the Tiffany collection at the Willard Chapel.



3. The Chobani Story - Telling the journey of Chobani from the beginning to the present day.

Introducer: Diane Hahn *CR

Presenter: Donald Brown III

Description: Don Brown comes from a small town in Upstate New York. He started his career in public education as a Special Education Teaching Assistant. His 14 year tenure came to an end in October 2011, when an opportunity of a lifetime offer was made to join the Local Events team at Chobani. For the past few years, Don has been traveling to many different types of events within a 3-4 hour radius of the plant. These include 5K Walks and runs, Health Expos, food drives, bike rodeos, volunteer efforts, the Utica Boilermaker Road Race, American Heart Association Heart Run and Walk and many more community related events. In addition to being the Local Events Coordinator, Don has also joined the Chobani Ambassador team and has assisted in many new employee orientation sessions and speaking engagements throughout New York.

4. Safe Haven Museum – an American Refuge for Jews during WW II

Introducers Michelle Lonergan and Darlene Jarvis

Presenter: Judy Coe Rapaport, Board President

Description: This presentation will tell the story of the 982 Jewish refugees who were housed at the Fort Ontario Emergency Shelter in Oswego, NY during World War II that became the Safe Haven Museum.



5. “Feeling Alive Inside” (Helping you win from within)

Introducer: Shirley Parker

Presenter: Diane Ferrucci

Description: A winning lifestyle starts with getting healthy in mind, body and spirit. Diane’s program will allow you to reap the benefits of your retirement in all areas of your life. This is achieved by the application of simple success strategies that are practical, adaptable, and effective. A positive mind set, caring for our bodies and living our true purpose, allows us to fully enjoy our retirement. Learn how to make this chapter of your life an enriching and exciting experience. Diane Ferrucci’s visuals and props reinforce the meaning behind the message. She will teach you how to increase your energy and enthusiasm for living well. Being fully alive inside is where it really matters most.

6. The Continued Demise of Public Education (Common Core)

Introducer: Angelo Grande *CR

Presenter: Kevin Mulligan

Description: The implementation of the Common Core and the roll out of the Common Core Testing, replacing the Regents Exams, coupled with fiscal constraints (Gap Elimination Adjustment) that continue to pose challenges for Public Education in New York State.



11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Vendor Exhibits

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Session I Annual Meeting

**5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Cocktail Party: College Days’
Wear apparel featuring your college!**



7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Dinner

8:15 p.m. Musical Entertainment with William Locke

Thursday – October 9th

7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Annual Workshop Committee Breakfast Meeting

**9:00 a.m. Session II Annual Meeting
Executive Board Meeting**

**11:30 a.m. Box Lunch pick up. Eat at Hotel or take and go.
Annual Meeting Ends**

Eastern Zone

Pamela Love, Public Relations Chair

For this Fall Issue, I will be focusing on Scholarships given by Eastern Zone Units to high school students who graduated in June of 2014 and plan to major in Education.

Co-President, **Margaret King**, said that Albany Area Retired Teachers' Association was able to give **Allyson Johnson** and **Ajan'ee Cade** both from Colonie H.S. \$1,000 each. She also stated that **Mary Ann McNeil**, scholarship chair, does a tremendous job.

Amsterdam Retired Teacher's Association Co-President, **Toni McEvoy**, said that their unit has a scholarship program instituted through a generous donation by retired art teacher, **Sande Zirlin**, in memory of her mother. This year's recipient of \$500 went to Zachery Farina.

Rensselaer County Retired Teachers Scholarship Chair, **Diane Hahn *CR**, said that **Kerry Allen** of Columbia H.S. and **Nicole Cure** of Berlin H.S. each recently received \$300 from our unit.

Schenectady Retired Teachers Co-President, **Barbara McSwain**, said that their unit works closely

with the Guidance Departments at the six public high schools in their county. Each of the schools will have a recipient every six years. This year, **Tiffany Robillard** of Schenectady H.S. will receive a check for \$1,500 after she successfully completes her first semester in college, majoring in Education.

Upper Montgomery County Retired Teachers Association President, **Rosalind Carron**, said that **Skyler Viveros** from Oppenheim Ephratah-St. Johnsville Centrl School received \$500. She stated that they have a raffle every year to raise money for the scholarship and it is well supported. Local businesses provide donations for the raffle.

Many of our units do community service projects and help current teachers with special projects and I will cover those projects at another time. I do want to acknowledge The Saratoga Retired Teachers. **Ken Bolle-rud**, President of this unit indicated they just forwarded a check to The Robert R. Cormier Fund for \$1,300 which will leave them just enough money to keep going.

Central Zone

Mary Radloff, Public Relations Chair

Central Zone Executive Committee and members, whether gathering for regular meetings or in small groups, are focused on plans and projects to make the NYSRTA Annual Convention an affair to remember.

We pause at this time to remember two deceased members who served with distinction through their tireless efforts and contributions. **President Emeritus Glenn Clark *CR**, a former president of Central Zone, was remembered in the summer issue of *YORK STATE*. We join in the recognition of his accomplishments in both the zone and state.

Pauline Stanley, president of Onondaga Retired Teachers' Association, passed away on June 7. Her colleague, Vice President **Mary Buske**, provides the following tribute to Pauline:

"When I think of Pauline I remember the pride she had for her family. Her son, **Dr. George Stanley**, his wife and her three grandchildren were the center of her life.

She was a dedicated teacher and volunteered for many organizations and was especially proud of her volunteer work with CONTACT. The Crisis Intervention Service plans to name a wing of their building the Pauline Stanley Call Center.

We say "Thank you, Pauline, for your years of service. Rest in Peace."

BJ's has a special Membership offer just for NYSRTA



4 Great Reasons to Join or Renew*

1. **Get \$10 off our \$50** Annual Membership Fee**
(plus NYS tax = \$43.20)
2. **FREE Additional 3 Months of Membership**
3. **FREE Second Membership Card for a household member**
4. **PLUS, BJ's will donate \$5 of your Membership fee to
NYSRTA**

**It doesn't matter when you last renewed,
we will add 15 months to your current expiration date.
This special offer is not valid online or at any BJ's Club location.*

**Completed applications and payment
should be returned to:**

BJ's Rep: Tina Van Buren

No Later Than: September 19th 2014

No cash accepted. Please make checks payable to: **BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc.**

Long Island Zone

Eileen Holmes, *Public Relations Chair*

The Long Island Zone is proud to announce the winners of the 2014 NYSRTA \$1000 Teacher's Grant. Three middle school teachers in the Hampton Bays district won the grant for their project of planting and maintaining an entirely native species garden to attract Monarch butterflies and other beneficial insects. **Rick Nydegger** (Middle School science), **Jim Waring** (Green Tech coordinator) and **Pam Renna** (Special Ed)

will be working with students during the summer and then after school to create a large oasis of local nectar plants to serve as a feeding station



and nursery for Monarch butterflies and other insects that have been severely impacted by herbicides, insecticides, and the loss of local food sources because of land development, lawns, and ornamental plantings.

To see more about this project you can go to hbmspatrol.org and click on 'native habitat'. PATROL is an acronym for "Pupil Achievement Through Real Outdoor Learning" and our funding of the project is acknowledged on the site with the words "This project was made possible by a generous grant from the New York State Retired Teachers' Association".

North Central Zone

Patricia Dietrich and

Nancy Roberts, *Public Relations Co-Chairs*

NCZ would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to **Bev Campany *CR** who has served our zone as president so competently and enthusiastically for the past three years. Bev's leadership was invaluable in helping us host Convention 2012. We also thank her for her time and talents in writing our NC NEWS newsletter. Bev has been instrumental in helping our scholarship program grow since its beginning ten years ago. A job well done, Bev!

As a community service project, NCZ collected over 100 food items at our spring luncheon in June. These items were divided up and delivered to Watertown Urban Mission, Emmanuel Ministries in Carthage, and Town of Brownville Food Pantry in Dexter. We thank everyone who donated.

Community Service is collecting new and gently used coats, in all sizes, for our community service project, Coats for Families. Monetary donations are always welcome. These will be distributed in October in Lewis

**The New York State Retired
Teachers' Association, Inc.
8 Airport Park Boulevard
Latham, NY 12110-6414
Ph: 518-482-3509**

Dated Material—Please Do Not Delay

**If you haven't registered for the
NYSTRA Convention from October 7 to
October 9 held at Turning Stone Resort, Casino
in Verona, NY, why not do so now?**

There is still time!

**Registration Forms were in the summer issue of
YORK STATE and can be found on our website
at www.nystra.org**

**You do not need to be a delegate to attend. Why
not come and join other retirees and have a
great time? We would love to have you with us.**

County under the leadership of Community Service Chair,

Patricia Dietrich, and her husband, **Doug Dietrich**.

Another important accomplishment for this year involves our scholarship funds. **John Gaffney**, Scholarship Chair, invited **Rande Richardson**, Executive Director of The Northern New York Community Foundation, to speak at our April Executive Council meeting concerning the many advantages of combining our scholarship funds with the NNY Community Foundation. The Executive Council voted unanimously to approve the affiliation of our scholarship funds with The NNY Community Foundation. Mr. Richardson has been invited to give a presentation at our Annual Meeting on September 16th, at the Ramada Inn, Watertown. We hope to see some new faces at our fall gathering.