

Central Zone Newsletter

Spring - 2016

Co-Presidents' Message Florence Barnett and Barbara Finley

It's a new year with new Central Zone OFFICERS. Thank you to Bill Tenity for his leadership over the past few years.

In the years ahead we face the on-going problem of membership.

- As our membership goes down, so does our lobbying power in Albany.
- We work hard for you.
- When you get a COLA increase, you can thank this organization.
- If you were reinstated on Tier I, you can thank this organization.
- The list goes on.
- Get involved.



What exactly is Central Zone?

NYSRTA (New York State Retired Teachers' Association) is the state organization. The state is then divided into 10 zones. We are Central Zone. Each zone is made up of county units. Central zone includes Cayuga, Chenango, Madison, Oneida/Herkimer, Onondaga, and Oswego.

All Committee Day is Thursday, April 21, 2016 at the Rusty Rail in Canastota, NY. Meet and Greet at 9:30 AM with the business meeting beginning at 10 AM. All unit elected and appointed officers are to attend.

If each person receiving this letter attends one local luncheon and invites a fellow retiree to come along, that would be the first step in increasing membership. If you have friends who are about to retire, let them know about us, and encourage them to join. Even better, attend the state convention held each year in October to see what we do there. It will be held at Turning Stone.

"Knowing is not enough; we must apply.

Willing is not enough; we must do."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Central Zone Springs into Action

Central Zone units were undaunted by a long, brutal winter. Each county continued activities to carry on the mission of service not only to members but also to the community. Food pantries, shelters, schools, the elderly,



the home-bound and many groups received their support. Committees have met to plan spring meetings and to revitalize efforts to solicit new members.

New Co-Presidents Florence Barnett and Barbara Finley begin their tenure with strong emphasis on recruiting and retaining members. They have planned an All-Committee Day for April 21, at the Rusty Rail in Canastota. Membership will no

doubt be a major topic of concern at this event. This special meeting provides an opportunity for county leaders to meet in small groups. Sharing common problems and especially sharing successful solutions make this annual gathering a worthwhile effort to maintain our organization as a vital, important entity in the service to retired educators in New York State.

In the Zone - Honor Roll

The following items are a celebration of the loyal members who serve as officers and committee heads.

THEY PLAN MEETINGS, MENUS, PROGRAMS, NOTICES, LEGISLATIVE ACTION, COMMUNITY SERVICE, PUBLICITY.

THE GREATEST REWARDS ARE SERVING WITH A WONDERFUL GROUP OF COLLEAGUES WITH COMMON GOALS.

POSITIONS MARKED "OPEN" ARE JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO VOLUNTEER!

Madison — Jane Hicks

Officers for this year were elected in the fall.

President: Gwynne Bodle

VP & Secretary: Jane Hicks

Membership: Jackie Moller

Treasurer: Stella King

Friendly Service: Liz VanWie

Community Service: Janice Hedglon

Legislation: Mike Hayduk

Members are walking and keeping track of miles and reporting totals to Gwynn Bodle as a means of staying healthy while supporting worthy causes.



Oswego — Michell Lonergan, Ginny Ruf

The annual spring luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 26 at Springside at Seneca Hill in Minetto. Coffee, tea, pastries and registration at 10:00 AM followed by a business meeting. A varied and plentiful buffet will be served at noon with a musical presentation by Dick Drake & Denise Knight to cap off the day.

Officers for 2016-2017:

President-Michelle Lonergan

Past President - Darlene Jarvis

Co-Senior VPs - Lynn Grandjean

Lorraine Lighthall

Secretary - RoseAnn Myers

Treasurer - Cindy Jay

VP Friendly Service - Karen

Marzynski

VP Membership, County

Director - Evelyn Davis

VP Federal Legislation - Bill Spreter

VP State legislation - Pat Kush

Publicity Chair - Ginny Ruf

Teacher Center Rep. - Martha Sturtz

Health Coordinator - Helena Harbert



Onondaga — Co-Presidents - Marilyn Dominick, Dell

Ford Jordan

Co-VPS – Judy Carpenter, V. Gene Clark

Friendly Service – Catherine Margrey

Legislation – Ruby Beal

Membership, Treasurer – Evelyn Davis

Secretary – Susan Lang

Assistant Treasurer – Jill Skarodie-

Mental Health Coordinator – Ellen

Donigan

Scholarship- Kathleen Hawthorne

Newsletter Editor – JoAnn Wallace

Immediate Past President – Mary Buske



Oneida-Herkimer - Johnnie Jones

At our winter meeting, members contributed gifts and monetary donations to Toys for Tots program. Legislative Advocates reported on their meeting with US Congressman Richard Hanna. The calendar dates for 2016 follow:

Executive Board meetings: Monday, April 4th – Monday,

August 1st – Monday, November 7th.

Business/Luncheon meetings: Thursday, May 12th – Thursday, September 15th –

Thursday, December 8th.

Again this year we will focus on increasing membership and keeping members aware of issues important to our organization and all seniors.

Officers: President Johnnie Jones

VP – Judith Schad,

Friendly Service – Annette Shaffer

Legislation – Ray Pitcher

Membership --Cheryl Ridley

Secretary – OPEN

Treasurer – Joyce Patterson UNTIL FILLED



Cayuga – Mary Radloff

We are trying something new for our spring meeting! The luncheon meeting will be replaced by a reception at 4:00-6:00 PM. at the Springside Inn in Auburn. Recent retirees who have not yet joined the organization will be our guests. Current members will welcome, greet, meet and share the many advantages of membership in both state and local groups. Fruit punch, wine punch and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Officers: President -Mary Radloff, VP-Vera Wolczek, Treasurer-Daryl Zarpentine, Secretary – Maryann Dec, Legislation and Scholarship – Patti Nunno, Membership – Peg Reding, Friendly Service,- Eleanor Pittroff, Health Coordinator – Joan Sigona, Historian and Public Service – OPEN

Chenango – Bill Cline

Current Officers: President: Bill Cline

Vice-President: Roberta Knoll

Recording Secretary: Liz Cline, Corresponding Secretary:

Chris Granan

Treasurer: Jean Kohler

Membership: Mark Granan

Scholarship: Steve Runion

Historian: Roberta Knoll

Friendly Service: Carol

Niederer

Health: Roberta Knoll

Parliamentarian: Myron Phillips

Auditing: Mary Drachler

Members at large: Barb Finley,

Michael McCollough, Carolee Wright

Publicity, Legislation, Community Service OPEN



Central Zone Directory

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Friendly Service

Open

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IN REMEMBRANCE

JOHN RUF

AUGUST 21, 1941 – DECEMBER 2, 2015

WE PAY TRIBUTE TO JOHN RUF,

HUSBAND, FATHER, LOYAL

MEMBER OF OSWEGO COUNTY RETIRED

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

AND CENTRAL ZONE

His many years of loyal service and skillful leadership will be long remembered. We will miss his warm friendship and kindly manner that enriched our lives. We mourn this loss with his wife Ginny and family.

Help Save Your Pension!

Your Pension is now protected by both the New York State and Federal Constitutions. It may not be reduced or infringed. If a Constitutional Convention were held, that protection could disappear. You will be asked to vote on November 7, 2017, to determine if we should hold this Convention.

!! VOTE NO!!

- Your pension is now free of NYS tax, but at a convention they may vote to tax your pension.
- The Convention could also do away with Collective Bargaining.
- Convention they may vote to tax your Pension.
- If there is a YES vote to hold this Convention, it could last until November, 2019.
- This Convention could cost as much as \$138 Million Dollars.

!! VOTE NO!!

Legislative Action Needed!

Members Urged to Support Bill

The NYSRTA legislative advocates have been meeting for several years with our NYS Representatives in the Assembly and Senate to encourage support and passage of **Bill S06746/A06867-A.**

This legislation would increase the pension of members who retired prior to July 1, 1980 to a maximum of \$1,750 per year.

With an average retirement salary between \$15,000 and \$16,000 in 1980, these retirees do not have enough to meet the

basic standard of living in our State which is ranked second on the list of States where seniors cannot afford to live. These seniors face higher medical expenses, deflated home values, high utilities, increasing Medicare and supplemental insurance premiums, and Social Security insecurity.



You have an opportunity to protect the welfare and dignity of these oldest retired educators as

the Bill has been reintroduced by Assemblyman Peter Abbate and Senator Hugh Farley.

Support this effort by contacting your representatives in Albany by May 15, 2016. Urge your state senator and representative to sign on to this Bill, do what it takes to move it out of committee, bring it to the floor, vote yes and move it to the Governor's desk. Find the representative for your District by going to the NYS Legislative website and inserting your zip code

William Tenity, whose leadership as zone president served us well, continues his contribution to the organization. We are pleased that he will continue to serve on the NYSRTA Executive Board as Chair of the By-Laws Committee. As Immediate Past President, he will remain on the zone Executive Committee.



Membership Reminder: Have you checked your membership lists lately? It's time to remind local members of the importance of membership at the state level!