



West End News

Summer 2016

West End Retired Teachers Association

From the President

Evelyn Paola, WERTA President



Emily Caristo, WERTA Vice President; Guest Speaker, Marion Rizzo; and Evelyn Paola, WERTA President

...”Spring: graceful, playful child of Creation, you never walk; you always leap, skip, or dance. You rush in with baskets full of life, giving us all Spring fever.....Teach us the steps to your dance.... Share with us your virtues of joy and hope.....May the brokenness of our world be healed by your contagious spirit and energy!”

Sometimes quotes arrive in the mail, or appear on calendars...and seem to have special meanings that fit the situation. Spring is a season of rebirth. Nature “springs” open bringing color to the landscape and joy to the observer. Hopefully, the days to come will fulfill the words of the author.

The last two WERTA meetings were gratifying. The November 10, 2015 meeting honored WW 11 Veterans, and celebrated the 240th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps. We were fortunate to have as our speaker Lawrence M. Pinto, a decorated WW 11 U.S.M.C. Veteran.

On March 8, 2016, WERTA members gathered at “Carlyle-on-the Green,” where Marion Rizzo, a licensed antique dealer, addressed the membership. She shared with us the current market value of gold, silver, and desirable antiques. Ms. Rizzo also appraised the “treasures” brought to the meeting by several of the members.

Wednesday, June 8, 2016 is our Annual Scholarship Luncheon, to be held at Guy Anthony’s Restaurant. This will be our “last” meeting for the year. WERTA is pleased to award a scholarship to a student from Adelphi University, preparing for a career in Education. We hope to see you there. Bring a retired teacher friend with you. We shall conclude our events for the year with the September 14, 2016 trip to the “Gillette Castle.”

As is my custom in this final Newsletter, I wish to thank the officers of WERTA, the Executive Board, Committee Chairs, Newsletter Editor-Lois Thornberg- for their invaluable assistance and commitment throughout the year. As usual, a special “Thank You” to the members who faithfully attend our meetings. Your support, input, and suggestions are most valuable to us!

Enjoy the Summer.....We will look for you in the Fall.

WERTA 2016 CALENDAR
Save the dates!

NEWSLETTER Deadlines:
September 1, 2016.

EXECUTIVE BOARD Meetings:
September 29, 2016

WERTA MEETINGS/LUNCHEONS:
June 8, 2016...November 1, 2016

ANNUAL CONFERENCE:
October 26-28, 2016... Turning Stone Casino

Fall Spectacular Event

Emily Caristo

Tour the Gillette Castle and Florence Griswold's Museum, Dine at the Old Lyme Inn



Save the Date – September 14, 2016



Welcome to WERTA's Fall Spectacular Event featuring the well-known home of actor William Gillette of Sherlock Holmes fame. On Wednesday, September 14, 2016, WERTA will be presenting a day of interest and intrigue at Lyme, Connecticut. The trip will include a guided tour of the *Gillette Castle*, also known as the "Seventh Sister", which was built in 1919. Next, we will enjoy a delightful culinary experience at the *Old Lyme Inn* with house Chefs acclaimed by critics. Additional enjoyment will be had at the *Florence Griswold Museum* with a self-guided tour of American Impressionist paintings. The bus trip will be sponsored by Prime Time Travel for a cost of \$117.00, which includes a \$5.00 donation to our Scholarship Fund. There is an optional \$17.00 Medical Insurance fee for those who request it. Pick up points will be provided from Suffolk County to New Hyde Park. Reservations will be made on a first come, first serve basis. Checks should be made payable to Prime Time Travel and can be brought to our June meeting or mailed to Emily Caristo, 158 Berkeley Place, Massapequa, New York 11758. Direct your questions to Emily at (516) 721-7036 or (516) 882-0401.

Report to WERTA

Angelo Grande, NYSRTA President

The last five months as President of NYSRTA have been very exciting. I started off my term of office by making contact with NYSUT President, Karen Magee. In early November a team of NYSRTA members and I met with Karen Magee to discuss our common interests. It was a good meeting and we got to know our organizations better. Recently Brian Sherman and Janice Mullins from our Legislative Action Committee met with NYSUT's Legislative Staff to discuss common issues. We are still trying to get NYSUT to be part of a coalition to stop the 2017 Constitutional Convention.

With the cooperation of NYSUT and SAANY we were able to maintain our Medicare Reimbursement in this year's budget.

Don't forget to vote **NO** in regard to having a 2017 Constitutional Convention. This Convention may try to tax our Pensions, do away with Collective Bargaining and try to tamper with our Pensions. The cost of the Constitutional Convention could be millions of dollars. This convention will affect all those with a state pension, not only teachers.

SAVE THE DATE: LIZ Luncheon May 25, 2016 Lombardi's on the Bay
For information contact: June Torns 631-842-4517 jtorns@gmail.com

Long Island Zone News

Kathryn Grande, LIZ President

Membership is the lifeline of our organization. We need to recruit new members to the New York State Retired Teachers' Association. When you join the State, you will automatically become a member of the Long Island Zone (LIZ). WE NEED YOU.

We also need to know if you are a member of the State and are over 90 years of age. If you are receiving the LIZ Newsletter and York State and no longer wish to receive these publications, please call me at (516) 922-6747. If you have any other issues, don't hesitate to call me.

I attended the Executive Board Meeting in Utica in March and voted on several motions. A motion to request a Bylaw change to eliminate lifetime membership- to include a proposal for a 5 and 10 year membership; reduce the mileage reimbursement from \$.37 to \$.25; and eliminate the November meeting. All of these motions were carried. The following motions were defeated: to reduce dues reimbursement to the Zones from 1/3 to 1/4 and reduce the number of delegates from 1 per hundred Zone Members to 1 per 200 Zone Members.

Membership News

Mary Armbruster and Lois Thornberg

As stated in the by-laws of the state organization, New York State Retired Teachers' Association (NYSRTA), members of any unit of NYSRTA must also be a member of NYSRTA itself. Zone Membership chairs have been asked to research how many unit members are not zone/state members. We have reviewed the WERTA membership, comparing it to the state/zone listing. Presently WERTA has approximately 350 members, of which only 263 are NYSRTA members. If you are a WERTA member, and not a member of NYSRTA, you also need to join the state organization. If you receive the state publication, **York State**, you are a member of NYSRTA. If you are not sure, you can contact us.

Applications for the state can be found on the NYSRTA website, www.NYSRTA.org, along with information about the many benefits NYSRTA offers. These benefits include, but are not limited to: insurance, travel, and shopping discounts; financial assistance; retiree business ventures; social activities; friendly services; and possibly most important State and Federal legislative actions to preserve our pensions. You can also contact us and we will send you an application.

Our members are our lifeline, so if you know of a retired educator, please enlighten them about NYSRTA. We are always looking for new and exciting ways to recruit members, so if you have any ideas about how to recruit new members, please share them with us! Remember, we are only as strong as our members, so let's get the advantages of joining out there and help this organization to grow.

WERTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:

Evelyn Paola
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ejp2161@gmail.com

Vice President:

Emily Caristo
516-721-7036
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Secretary:

Josephine Ferranti
516-809-7030

Treasurer:

Candy Misner
516-223-2606

Friendly Service**Co-Chairs:**

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516-483-2469
Virginia Bold
516-248-1546
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Historian:

Manfred Kuehnel
631-957-0674

Legislative Action:

Angelo & Kathy Grande
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aigrande@yahoo.com

Membership Co-Chairs:

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Lois Thornberg
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Save the date!
June 8, 2016
WERTA Luncheon
Guy Anthony's Restaurant

Remember to
bring another retired teacher
to the luncheon to share in the
fun and benefits of NYSRTA
and WERTA!



Scholarship Luncheon

Please join us for our luncheon at *Guy Anthony's*
2208 Jerusalem Avenue, North Merrick, NY (516) 221-5555



Date: June 8, 2016 **Gathering time:** 11:30 A.M. **Cost:** \$30 per person

Appetizer: Zucchini and Mozzarella Sticks and Focaccio Breads

Pasta: Bolognese Sauce, or Oil and Garlic **Salad:** Three Leaf House Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrée Choice of: Sliced Steak with Portobello Mushrooms; Chicken Lasseur; Eggplant Rollatini; or Grilled Salmon with a creamy dill sauce.

Dessert Choice of: Tiramisu; Chocolate Mousse; or Parfait

Beverages: Coffee, Tea, Decaf, and Soda **Cash Bar available**

DIRECTIONS: From the West: Southern State Pkwy to Exit 24-N - Merrick Avenue. Proceed to Jerusalem Avenue. At the light, make a right turn onto Jerusalem Ave.- follow to Guy Anthony's. Turn right onto Powell Ave for the parking lot . **From The East:** Southern State Pkwy to Exit 25 S - Route 106. Proceed to the first light-Jerusalem Avenue. One block past the next light is Guy Anthony's on the left. Turn left onto Powell Ave. for the parking lot.

Please send reservations and check for \$30 per person payable to WERTA to:

Candy Misner, 694 Seaman Avenue, Baldwin N.Y. 11510 by June 1, 2016

Member's name _____

Guest's name _____