



*Our mission is to promote the needs of retired educators.*

## President's Article



Hello everybody, welcome to spring. Well, as I'm writing this address, we're still in winter and we are expecting a size able snowstorm. Anyway, spring is not to far away. EERTA had an excellent year in 2015, what with five town luncheons, two EERTA sponsored luncheons, and three Executive Board

Meetings (thank you Suffolk County Federal Savings Bank and Carol Joynes). The average attendance for our luncheons was over 50 and our guest speakers excelled in their deliveries. After our four executive officers, the board includes eight town directors and 19 committee chair members. This is an incredibly strong, dedicated and functioning unit of the Long Island Zone of the NYSRTA.

Liz's Angelo Grande was elected President of NYSRTA and serves with the LIZ President, Katherine Grande, on the state's board of directors. Leigh Powell ( site ) and Lois Thornberg ( strategic action planning) are committee chairs. Evelyn Paola (WERTA) and yours truly (EERTA) are the Unit Chairs). Long Island Zone Chairmen from EERTA include: Mary Ella Moeller and JoAnne Powell (Awards), Leigh Powell (Budget & Finance), Dee Mckinnon and Alicia Winowsky (Friendly Service), Penny Coyle (Health), Jola Marcario (Nominations), Eileen Holmes (Public Relations), and Fred Conway (Resolutions), Dominick LiCausi is the

LIZ Treasurer. Eileen was, also, appointed LIZ Community Service when Angelo was elected President of NYSRTA.

The 2016 ambitious calendar, along with the LIZ and NYSRTA events, and all of our luncheons and executive meetings are included in this newsletter. The Directory of all of our officials and chairpersons is, likewise, listed on page two. For your convenience, if you have any questions, thoughts, comments, or suggestions please feel free to call, write or e-mail anyone on our listing. You will find up dates and further announcements from our committees in this issue.

A tremendous appreciation for Alice Hokkanen for updating the separate files related to Friendly Service.

In closing, I would like to recommend our association to all friends and fellow retirees of our members to join us at any of our luncheons for informative, goodwill and outstanding social happenings. The fellowship is undeniably rewarding. So come on down and find out what's really going on in our teacher retirement.

I want to thank Rosemary Schulenburg and Joan Troyan for being the Riverhead Town Co-Directors, and hopefully they will continue to be active members of EERTA particularly with the Friendly Services Committee.

I remain yours in the interests of the East End Retired Teachers Association, Fred Conway - President.

## 2016 CALENDAR



- April 13 Wed. EERTA Executive BOD meeting**  
10:00am @SCNB, Riverhead
- May 11 Wed. East Hampton/Montauk Luncheon**  
11:30am @PAGE 63  
Main St., Sag Harbor
- June 15 Wed. EERTA BOD's Annual Flag Day**  
11:30 AM@4 Doors-Mattituck
- Aug. 8 Mon. EERTA Newsletter Deadline**
- 24 Wed. EERTA Executive BOD**  
11:30am @ Carol Joynes'  
Museum, Riverhead
- Sept. 7 Wed. Riverhead Luncheon**  
11:30am @Vineyards  
(Back To School), Aquebogue

- Oct. 25-27 NYSRTA Annual Meeting and Convention**  
@Turning Stone, Verona, B.Y.
- LIZ CALENDAR**
- March 31 Thurs. LIZ officers & exec board meeting**  
10:00am @Hauppauge Diner
- April 1 Fri. LIZ Newsletter deadline**
- May 12 Thurs. LIZ officers & exec board meeting**  
10:00 am @Hauppauge Diner
- 25 Wed. LIZ Luncheon**  
11:30am @Lombardi's by  
the Bay, Patchogue



# DIRECTORY

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## *Of Interest...*

### **RESOLUTIONS**

All of the 2015 Resolutions recommended by the NYSRTA Resolutions Committee were voted on and passed at the NYSRTA Annual Convention and Meeting last October 27-29.

I am extremely proud of Agnes Dansereau and Bernie Creedon for submitting their resolutions proposals for acceptance by LIZ. The Common Core resolution was unanimously passed at the convention and will be submitted to the Legislation Action Committee to be passed on for consideration by the State. As you know this is a continuing hot bed issue for all citizens in the state. I'm proud that Long Island and, more specifically EERTA and LIZ, for spear heading this much discussed and timely topic of civic and educational importance. All the aspects of this Common Core Resolution appear in the Fall Edition of the York State edition. Congratulations Agnes and Bernie for their time consuming work and dedication. Please remember that it is in everyone's interest to submit any idea for a potential resolution. The deadline for resolution submission is June 1st. FRED

### **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

Mary Ella Moeller

What would you do if you suddenly found that you won a contest and the prize is that each morning in your personal bank account a deposit of \$86,400 was made and you had to spend it all in one day. **WHAT WOULD YOU DO???** Would you buy everything you wanted? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love? Even for people you did not know, because you could not possibly spend it all on yourself? Would you try to spend every penny, because you knew it would be replenished every day?

Did you realize that each one of us is in possession of this PRIZE? Yes, the "prize" is TIME! Every morning we each receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life. What we have not used up that day is lost forever! SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?

In life, we need to treasure every moment that we have and treasure it more because of sharing it with someone special. This is what FRIENDLY SERVICE is all about as each friendly service key worker and area chair extends that special touch to many older and

shut-in members. If you would like to use some of your 86,400 seconds helping to bring a smile to someone in EERTA let the EERTA President know you want to become part of Friendly Service Team and become part of the "heart" of EERTA.

### **LEGISLATIVE IN-ACTION**

#### **Bernie Creedon-- Legislative Action Committee**

This year the NEW York State Retired Teachers Association legislative package included three bills that if enacted would have been of great benefit to retired teachers and others with very little cost to the state budget. Those three bills were the following:

1. **MINIMUM PENSION BUMP UP.** This bill would have provided an increase to \$550 per year for retirees who retired prior to July 1, 1980. There are approximately 850 teachers state wide living in or out of the state who would qualify for this benefit.
2. **IMPROVE PENSION COLA.** This bill would raise the base amount upon which COLA is computed from \$18,000 to \$20,000 for the New York Public Retirement System.
3. **ELDER ABUSE.** An act to amend the penal law in relation to endangering the welfare of a vulnerable elderly person, or an incompetent physically disabled person.

It should be emphasized that these three legislative actions would have had very little fiscal implications to the state budget at a time when the retirement funds are recording record surpluses. Both the Pension Bump up bill and the Elder Abuse bill never made it to the floor for an up or down vote. The legislative action to improve the Cola also met with a similar fate.

When speaking to the aides in the offices of Assemblymen Fred Thiele and Assemblymen Anthony Palumbo I was assured that they were supportive of our legislative priorities. Yet none of our legislative priorities made it to the floor for a vote. This is unsatisfactory from the view point of NYSRTA and I encourage our members to actively campaign for the passage of our legislative priorities,

#### **Legislative Phone Numbers**

Senator Ken LaValle---631-473-1461

Assemblymen Fred Theile--631-537-2583

Assemblymen Anthony Palumbo--631-727-0204

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

EERTA Community Service Chair Robert Svoboda visited William Floyd HS and presented a check to John Bilotti, President of the High School Student Body to be used to help a needy student or family. Jarrod Mullally, VP of the Student Body, Kevin Coster and Kathleen Keane, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, High School Principal Barbara Butler and James Montalto, Director of Public Relations for William Floyd also attended this presentation.

In prior years, Robert has represented EERTA at Riverhead, Greenport and Hampton Bays high schools with our donations to service clubs and organizations.

## SILVER TRAY AWARD WINNER!

Congratulations to John Ruggiero! At the LIZ fall luncheon, John was awarded the prestigious 2015 Silver Tray Award for his many years of outstanding service to the New York State Teachers Retirement Association, the Long Island Zone and our own EastEnd unit. John has been EERTA's popular and esteemed treasurer for many years and the entire Zone admires and appreciates the work he has done for LIZ and EERTA!

## Scholarship Luncheon



Our scholarship chair, Larry Strickland and our Scholarship recipient Robyn Webster.

At our annual Holiday party at Alure restaurant in early December, the East End Retired Teachers Association granted our 2015 scholarship to Robyn Webster. Our winner resides in Bellport with her husband and two young daughters. A former nurse assistant, she has been student teaching pursuing a Master's degree in Childhood Education at Long Island University. She says it is "rewarding to care for children." She looks forward to teaching her own class.

Larry Strickland

The members of EERTA and the scholarship committee, are pleased to have met Robyn at our luncheon. Her speech was an inspiration to all. We wish her the best of luck.



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

SuzAnne and Frank Jessup  
Membership chairs

We are now on Facebook. You will be able to see the current news letter, EERTA news, and registration forms for our luncheons. You can print the registration forms in case you lose your news letter. To access, all you have to do is go on Facebook and type in "EAST END RETIRED TEACHERS". You can reach Frank and I at [jessup@eniinternet.com](mailto:jessup@eniinternet.com) if you put EERTA in the subject line. We would love to hear from you if you have more information that you would like to see on Facebook.

We would also like to remind you to let us know if your address or email address has changed. As we get new phones and contact information, we do not always remember that EERTA needs this information. We may need to contact you for cancellations and other last minute changes.

We hope you are having a safe and healthy winter and are looking forward to seeing you in the Spring.



## Holiday Happenings

### Christmas Party

Left: Virginia Schultz and friends as she hosts our Christmas Party at her Shelter Island home

### From our Holiday Luncheon in Southold

Left: President Fred Conway and Dee McKinnon kickoff our festivities. Right: A little music



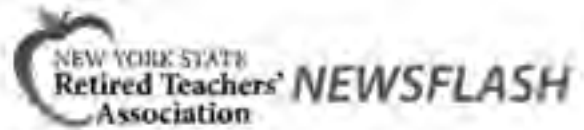
## PUBLIC RELATIONS

Eileen Holmes

EERTA sponsored 6 luncheons in 2015 and looking back, it was an ambitious and successful undertaking. In May we met at the Cooperage in Baiting Hollow and had a good time welcoming back the 'snowbirds'. In June, we gathered at the Publick House in Southampton and enjoyed EERTA member Joel Reitman discuss his published book, "B is for Brooklyn, D is for Dog". September found us at the Vineyard in Aquebogue for our annual Back to School luncheon and featured a visit from Senator Ken LaValle and a presentation from local author Rosemary McKinley about her book "The Wampum Exchange".

November had us returning to the Publick House for a great Election Day luncheon organized by Larry Strickland and the Southampton town unit. EERTA's Jim and Diana Davies played guitars and led the group in a fun-filled sing-along. December 2nd took us a new venue, A Lure in Southold. After a great deal of worries and extra work because of the unexpected closing of Sound View, Agnes Danserau arranged a terrific luncheon. We had a record number of guests (60), Larry Strickland presented the EERTA \$1000 scholarship to Robyn Webster (see article) and everyone enjoyed all the holiday traditions of a sing-along, grab bag gifts and wine basket/door prize raffle. Then on December 9th EERTA finished a great year of socializing with Virginia Schultz hosting a lovely Shelter Island Christmas luncheon. Guests enjoyed a delightful afternoon with a delicious covered dish lunch, Virginia's famous home-made desserts and friendly socializing.

The EERTA Board is busy setting up the luncheon schedule for 2016. Please plan on attending; everyone is welcome and encouraged to come. Join the camaraderie, keep up with NYSRTA news and enjoy some time with your fellow retirees!



Angelo I. Grande, NYSRTA, President  
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Mary Kathleen (Kathi) Bassett, EOM, 8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110  
www.nysrta.org

Dear NYSRTA Members:

On January 5th I attended a meeting with NYSUT President, Karen Magee and her staff. In attendance with me at the meeting were NYSRTA members: Kevin Mulligan (NEZ), Senior Vice President; Janice Mullins (EZ), State Legislative Chair; Brian Sherman (NCZ) Vice-President for Legislative Action and Rod Sherman (NEZ). I was very proud of my fellow colleagues, who attended the meeting. They were true professionals. We had a very successful meeting and were able to get a better understanding of how both of our organizations work. This meeting was a great beginning.

We discussed the issue of the 2017 Constitutional Convention vote and its implications. I told her that I am forming a coalition to stop the Constitutional Convention. She said, "I will bring up the possibility of NYSUT joining the coalition with my Executive Board". The current coalition consists of NYSRTA, SAANYS - School Administrators Association of New York State, RPEA -Retired Public Employees Association and the Alliance of Public Employees of New York State. We also discussed the Common Core and Student Testing in New York State. We all agreed that there will be a change in Student Testing.

We also agreed to continue this dialogue in the future. I look forward to serving you as President of NYSRTA.

## POSSIBLE GROUP TRIPS - JANE SVOBODA

A Jitney Trip with transportation and Theater to see the Lion King in June. The cost is \$195 all inclusive. The next show we could see is the Broadway Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall for \$185 all inclusive. The seats for both are in the orchestra. The Jitney people will transport us to a nice restaurant for dinner. (I left a message today for Fred)

In Sept there is a Jitney trip to Essex ,Conn that includes a steam train and a paddle wheel boat ride. Dinner is at an old colonial mansion. The cost for this trip is \$132 all inclusive. I hope the EERTA members will support one of these trips.

1. Lion King on June 29th (there are 6 seats left) cost \$195.00
2. Spectacular at Radio City Musical hall on July 17 orch. & matinee @ \$175.00  
Show is on July 27th.
3. Essex Conn Steam Train & Railroad-Boat Cruise. July 21 cost \$132.00  
Includes lunch



## EERTA Spring Luncheon

**When:** Wed., May 11  
**Where:** PAGE 63 Restaurant  
 63 Main Street Sag Harbor  
 Atrium Room  
 725-1810  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m.  
**Cost:** \$30 per person



**MENU:**

Choice of:

- Satur Grilled Chicken & Farm Organic Baby Greens
- Mezzi Rigatoni Bolognese [beef, veal, pork, lamb & grana padana cheese]
- Agave & Mustard Glazed Atlantic Salmon (roasted butternut squash-dried cranberry orzo)
- Valrhona Chocolate Brownie with chocolate sauce & whipped cream
- Beverage & Cash Bar

**Guest Speaker:** Hugh King -Topic: Sag Harbor and its Connection to LI and Beyond

**NOTE: PARKING:** Main Street (perpendicular) 2 Hour Large Parking Lot behind stores across street from Page Restaurant (walkways between stores).

### EERTA Spring Luncheon, Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member's Tel. \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Member's Entrée \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member's Tel. \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Guest's Entrée \_\_\_\_\_

Send your registration and \$30 check payable to EERTA by May 11 to  
 John Ruggiero PO Box 517 East Moriches, NY 11940 (631-878-1898) Inc. choice of entree

## EERTA's Flag Day Luncheon

**When:** Wed. June 15  
**Where:** 4 Doors Down  
 0560 Main Road  
 Mattituck, NY (across from the Movie Theater)  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m.  
**Cost:** \$24 per person (inc. tax & gratuity)



**MENU:**

Tossed Salad  
 Choice of:  
 \*Chicken Piccata w. rice and veg.  
 \*Stuffed Flounder w. rice and veg.  
 \*Penne Pasta  
 Assorted Cookies  
 Coffee or Tea

**Guest Speaker:** Lauren Grant - Author "The End is the Beginning"

### EERTA Flag Day Luncheon, Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member's Tel. \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Member's Entrée \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member's Tel. \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Guest's Entrée \_\_\_\_\_

Send your registration and \$24 check payable to EERTA by May 11 to John Ruggiero PO Box 517 East Moriches, NY 11940 (631-878-1898) Inc. choice of entree



*Our mission is to promote the needs of retired educators.*

Please visit our website at [LI-zone.org](http://LI-zone.org)

**Reminder:** For EERTA membership, send name, address, town, zip, telephone, e-mail address and \$20 annual or \$100 for 6 years to:  
**SuzAnne & Frank Jessup**  
23 Maple St., Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

## NYSTRA PRESENTS A TRAVEL PREVIEW

From Fred. Check out our group exclusive, limited time offers below on select group inventory. Reserve at up to \$450 per person off land and air inclusive published rates.

### These tours include:

#### Reflections of Italy

\$3,999\*

September - October 2016

#### Shades of Ireland

\$2,999\*

September - October 2016

#### Hawaiian Adventure

\$4,749\*

October 2016

#### Classic Christmas Markets

\$2,999\*

November - December 2016



#### Spotlight on the French Riviera

\$2,899\*

November 2016

#### Shrines of Italy

\$2,999\*

November 2016 - March 2017

#### Irish Splendor

\$2,299\* November 2016

\$2,499\* March 2017

#### Christmas on the Danube

\$3,399\*

December 2016

Take advantage of this unique opportunity by booking a new group today. **ACT NOW!** Space is filling up. To reserve your group. Call now! Brian Calame 1-866-923-1744 or call me Fred Conway 476-6558

