

The New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc.

YORK state

Highlights

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Working together to support and strengthen the quality of life for all retired educators, their families, and communities.



Angelo Grande *CR
President's Message

Membership is the life blood of our organization!

It's hard to believe that the summer is almost over and we will be starting another school year. At this

point many of your former colleagues have entered the wonderful world of retirement. All of you probably know some of the people who retired from your district. New members bring new ideas and leadership talent to our Association. Our failure to recruit these retirees represents a loss to our Association. It also represents a loss of new ideas. There is nothing like personal contact. Tell them about the opportunities available in NYSRTA, such as Friendly Service, Legislative Action, Membership and Community Service. **YOU ARE THE BEST RECRUITMENT TOOL!** Only YOU can make it happen. You know how great this Association is. You are the greatest salesperson for our organization.

Call one new Retiree today.

I would like to thank Senior Vice President and Chair of the Workshop Committee Kevin Mulligan and the Co-Chairs of the Central Western Zone, Jane Behnk and Sandy Kushner. They have done excellent work by obtaining our keynote speaker, Eleanor Stearns, who will represent the character of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. In addition to a wonderful keynote speaker, they have also created five excellent workshops that deal with the theme of Wine, Women and Waterways. The other members of the Workshop Committee are; Gwynne Bodle, Alice Galvin, Pat Newell, and **Diane Hahn*CR**.

As you all probably know by now, we are scheduled to vote on a Constitutional Convention in November, 2017. I would like all of you to vote NO on having this convention. This convention can have dire consequences for

our state pensions, as well as those of other state employees. There is a possibility that our pensions will be attacked.

Listed below are some of the other issues that may be brought up at the Convention.

- There is talk that they want to tax our pensions.
- Most likely our benefits will not be changed. Our Pensions are protected by both our State and Federal Constitutions. If our Pension benefits are challenged, there would be lawsuits arguing that there are contractual agreements stated in both Constitutions that cannot be broken
- Do away with Collective Bargaining.
- There may be a threat to Public Education by issuing School Vouchers and State Aid to religious schools.
- The cost of running this Convention could be as high as 150 million dollars.
- Your support of the environment may be under attack. The "Forever Wild" provision in the State Constitution would be under assault.



Eleanor Stearns as Elizabeth Cady Stanton

WINE, WOMEN AND WATERWAYS



NYSRTA'S 66th WORKSHOP SCHEDULE and ANNUAL MEETING

TURNING STONE RESORT & CASINO, VERONA, NEW YORK HOSTED BY THE CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE
OCTOBER 26 thru OCTOBER 28

Constitutional Convention 2017 Update

Kevin Mulligan, Senior Vice President

In November 2017, voters in New York State will be asked to vote on a referendum that will read as follows: "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same" -YES or NO. A majority of YES votes will allow the legislative wheels of New York State to begin the preparation for a Constitutional Convention to take place likely, in 2019. A majority of NO votes will close the issue of a Constitutional Convention for another twenty (20) years.

Scheduling that vote in 2017 poses a real concern for the democratic process taking place for this referendum. Elections in 2017 are generally for local elections (town supervisor, councilman, town or village justices etc.). Generally, less people vote in those elections. With the new ballot process that uses a "bubble" sheet, the referendum vote will be on the back of that sheet; which could cause voters to ignore or forget to vote for the constitution convention referendum. Low voter turnout and an uninformed electorate could lead to approval for this referendum.

This set of circumstances creates the "Perfect Storm" for Governor Andrew Cuomo. Governor Cuomo has expressed his complete disdain for

public pensions. He does not approve of the State Comptroller's Office being the sole manager of the public pensions in New York State as he would like the Governor's Office to have access to public pension funds. He also would like to see additional State tax dollars generated from those receiving public pensions. Currently, public pensioners in New York State do not pay state income tax on their pension funding. A constitutional convention could amend a change to any, or all of the aforementioned.

We are all too familiar with Governor Cuomo's acts of deception and self-centered politics. He will likely use the precept of a constitutional convention to provide ethics reform for State governance in Albany. He may also use the venue of a Constitutional Convention to limit the authority of the State Education Department and the Board of Regents, especially with the restraints placed on Charter Education. He certainly will not be forthcoming with the potential cost (\$50 million - \$200 Million) for a constitutional convention. Nor will he be forthright in the delegate selection process. Many delegates will be the same state legislators that have no sincere desire to impose ethics reform on themselves. They will also

have the authority to appoint convention delegates (the "good old boy system").

We must all be cognizant that a state constitutional convention could impact more than our public employee pensions. It could open the door to greater commercialized development and lumbering of the Adirondack Park (Article XIV - Conservation). Education- Article XI, could be restructured to include use of public money for religious denomination schools (Voucher System). And the issue of fracking could rear its' ugly head at a Constitutional Convention.

Realize that there are many well organized and wealthy groups out there that favor a Constitutional Convention for their own interests. It is for this reason that I applaud the initiatives sought by NYSRTA President Angelo Grande and Legislative Action Vice President Brian Sherman to forge collaborative efforts with organizations representing educators, law enforcement and firefighters across New York State. As retired educators it is time for us to educate the voters of New York State to the deceptive tactics and pitfalls of a Constitutional Convention in 2017. In essence, it is time for you to teach better than you ever taught before.

Planning a move?

Please include us in the moving plan!



Call us at (518) 482-3509 to update your address. Returned mail results in additional costs to the Association. Plus, you miss out on **YORK STATE** magazine!

YORK STATE

Published quarterly by The New York State Retired Teachers' Association, 8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110-6414. 1-518-482-3509. Fax : 518-482-0970.

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



Nominations Committee

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Flachbart Castine *CR, Nominations Chair

As there were no applications received by the May 31st deadline for the open position of Vice-President for Membership, the Nominations Committee of NYSRTA did not have to meet in Utica on Monday, July 11, 2016. Instead, Nominations Chair Emily Castine gave a report to the Board of Directors on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at their Executive Meeting.

Our Bylaws provide solutions to the problem of having no candidate for an open position in the following ways:

1.) Article VIII - Elections, Section 3, p. 13, lines 389-390:
“Nominations for officers may be made from the floor” at the 2016 Convention.

2.) Article VIII - Elections, Section 5, p.13, lines 402-405:
“The term for an elected officer shall begin November 1st and end on October 31st of the following year, except the officer shall continue until a successor is elected for that office.”



WE WANT YOU
for VP of
MEMBERSHIP



Have you changed your email address recently?

As a group, overall, NYSRTA members have a very high change-of-email-address rate. Who knew we had so many progressive computer users! We try to keep up with those changes by adding a request for email address updates to renewals and to The President's Appeal. However, we are finding that members change their email addresses more frequently than those correspondences keep pace with.

The best way to insure that you continue to receive email correspondence from us is to contact the office at 518-482-3509 whenever you change your address.



A Dental HMO for the Members of NYSRTA

NYSRTA Dental Insurance
Underwritten by Cigna Dental

This NYSRTA Sponsored Dental program is a Dental HMO that lets you pick a network dentist who provides you with most routine services at no charge to you (exams, x-rays, and cleanings).

There are no waiting periods, deductibles, or annual dollar maximums.

Cigna's network of participating dentists focus on the preventive aspects of dental care. Your network general dentist will manage your overall dental care, and provide referrals for more complex procedures requiring a dental specialist.

All network dentists are required to meet Cigna Dental's quality program criteria. They have been evaluated for professional credentials and compliance with government health standards. Offices are visited periodically to verify that all standards are being met, providing an ongoing endorsement of quality.

To enroll or request more information, contact an insurance representative at 1-866-478-8907.

Or visit us online at pearlcarroll.com/nysrta



The Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund *Anne Flansburg *CR, Chair*

Let's "Give 'em a Brake"? by David Mapes, Treasurer

This very recognizable message is seen all around our state as a reminder to slow down at construction sites in order that the workers there have a greater chance of safety while repairing our roadways. This theme can also be employed while thinking of our former friends and colleagues that have need of our help financially. Many of our members who retired or are on disability retirement from the late '80s are finding that inflation and low pensions have put them in a situation where they need a helping hand. The Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund, named for our first President, is literally a lifesaver for some of our members to give 'em a brake!

This past year we have helped members with home improvement projects, hearing aids, medical payments and a host of other expenses that they would not have been able to meet if it were not for

the generosity and caring of our members like you. Each month we receive donations from members all over this state and country to maintain the DeCormier Fund. Unfortunately the donations do not cover the stipends that we provide to our other members.

Last year we expended over \$50,000 to some of our members in need and we gratefully received about \$12,000 in donations and about \$13,000 in interest income. To keep our fund going, your support is crucial and your thoughtfulness has helped us immeasurably to help others. If it were possible for each of our NYSRTA members to give just \$50 a year, less than \$1 per week our fund would be healthy enough to continue its mission of providing assistance to members in need.

Each month I am lucky enough to be in touch with our members who have accepted our help and their letters are full of

the wonderful things they say about our organization and how, through our support, they continue to lead lives full of hope and even continue their concern for community and family. It is a blessing for me to open your gifts to the DeCormier Fund and to put them to the use you have designated. As we are a recognized charity your donations are tax deductible and your generosity will be repaid to you over and over again. A special thank you from the Trustees of the DeCormier Fund to all of our members who support us!

**If you would like to donate, please send a check payable to the Robert DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund, to:
David Mapes, 6163 Vista Hill,
Dansville, NY 14437-9675**

Long-Term Care Insurance Program

The NYS Retired Teachers' Association has approved a discounted Long Term Care Insurance Program to be offered to its members and their family members.

This program is designed to help protect you, your family and your retirement security. Protection is available should you need care at home, in an assisted living facility, or nursing home.

This program offers special discounts not available to the general public for you and your family members including:
spouse / partner • children • parents • grandparents

Please feel free to forward this to a family member.

**To request information on this program
visit www.nyltcb.com/nysrta/ or call (800) 695-8224, ext. 154.**

**Brian M. Johnson, CLTC , NYLTCB • bjohnson@nyltcb.com
11 Executive Park Dr., Clifton Park, NY 12065**

Central Zone

Mary Radloff, Public Relations

The last of summer and early fall have been a busy time for Central Zone with preparations under way for both the zone Annual Meeting in September and the state Annual Convention in October.

Led by Oneida-Herkimer RTA President Johnnie Jones, the zone Annual Meeting was held at Hart's Hill Inn in Whitesboro, NY on September 12. A delicious luncheon was followed by an informative program, "The History of Fort Stanwix."

Membership continues to be a major issue with all county units. All members are being challenged to take an active part in retention and recruitment by personally making contact with retirees. Meeting plans are revised to change agendas, shorten the business meeting portion, provide appealing programs, change meeting times and menus, and share successes and failures with other units.

We are still in need of a Friendly Service Chair. All other officers and committee leaders have agreed to serve another term.

When walking to raise funds for other service groups, members are encouraged to wear NYSRTA shirts or carry signs to increase public awareness of our organization. According to Community Service advocate Janice Hedglon, shirts will soon be available for order on line. Continuing the walking theme, Health Coordinator Gwynne Bodle asks members to tally and report number of hours walking every month as part of a daily activity that is a real health booster.

Central Zone has an enthusiastic group of Convention Delegates ready and eager to serve in October.

Central Western Zone

Phyllis Dunlap, Public Relations

Sue Moses reports, "Our Livingston County Spring luncheon was held on May 5th at Brian's USA Diner, Mt. Morris. We recognized the service years of past president, Joan Irwin, and past secretary, David W. Parish. After a meeting led by new president, Vicki Universal, and then a lunch, we enjoyed a presentation by David Bojanowski. David is a land conservationist for Genesee Valley Conservancy. He spoke about how the Conservancy was formed in 1990 with a goal to protect the habitat, farmland and open space of the Genesee Valley. The fertile soils of the Genesee Valley are the most productive grounds in N.Y. State. These soils are the foundation of our agricultural economy. At the end of his talk, he encouraged us to be a part of the efforts to protect the beautiful landscapes of the Genesee Valley."

Orleans County President, Frank Berger, reported that Georgia Thomas discussed maple syrup products on April 26th. Native Americans made pure maple syrup before Europeans arrived in North America. It takes about 40 gallons of maple tree sap to make 1 gallon of pure maple syrup. There is no scientific research that shows that pure maple syrup is any healthier than granulated white sugar, but because pure maple syrup is less refined, it contains minerals and antioxidants not found in granulated white sugar. New York State Maple Producers welcome you to the annual Maple Weekend in March and April 2017.



On the left is Jane Behnk and on the right is Sandra Kushner, co-presidents. Be sure to look for them, co-chairs for the convention, and say hello.

At their June 15th meeting they learned from Mary Lee Knight about OCALS-Orleans County Adult Learning Services. The volunteer organization started 10 years ago in Albion. To become an OCALS volunteer tutor, an individual must first attend the Tutor Training Workshops. There is never any charge for workshops or training materials. Techniques are presented by an experienced tutor trainer in a classroom setting or on an individual basis.

At their August 18th meeting, Nancy Walker talked about the Internment of Japanese of Japanese during WWII.

THE FOLLOWING EDUCATORS RECEIVED 2016 BARRIE FLEEGEL MEMORIAL ACTIVE EDUCATOR GRANTS

Allegany County

Mariah Kramer

Monroe County

Christine Green
(2nd time recipient)
Brittany Phillips
Tom Mallaber
Rachael Sanguinetti

Ontario County

Cary Burke
Michelle Walpole
(2nd time recipient)

Orleans County

Jana Penders

Seneca County

Sherri Monell

Steuben County

Christopher Allen

Wayne County

Monica Stadler

Yates County

Caroline Menaguale



**CWZ IS SO HAPPY TO BE
HOSTING THE NYSRTA
CONVENTION AND HOPE TO
SEE YOU THERE.**



10 Good Health Reasons to Walk

- Gives you **ENERGY**
- Improves your **STRENGTH**
- Increases your **METABOLISM**
- Improves your **HEALTH**
- Can change your **MOOD**
- Can increase **IMMUNE SYSTEM**
- Improves **CONCENTRATION**
- Can boost your **CONFIDENCE.**
- Helps manage **STRESS**
- Can improve your **SOCIAL LIFE**

Eastern Zone

Pamela Love, Public Relations

Talking with Eastern Zone President, Rosalie Oliver, it was decided that I would concentrate on two units in Eastern Zone per *YORK STATE* issue. For this issue, I will be concentrating on the Columbia Unit and the Fulton Unit.

The Columbia Unit has undergone recent changes in leadership and is now headed by new president, Jane Miller who is a very energetic, very busy and very civic minded retired teacher. She is involved in various community projects and wants kids to profit from her involvement. So far, she has some committed officers for the Columbia Unit and the unit has two general meetings a year in two different areas of their county to attract retired teachers to the meetings. They have been working on by-laws for their unit and are interested in having speakers at their meetings that might be interesting for the members on topics including health issues, and local historical or interest venues. Jane would like a committee to brainstorm a community project that the Columbia Unit could do that would benefit local children such as a reading program, environmental program or other. This unit has a membership of around 100 and had 20 members attend the luncheon meeting in June. Their next luncheon meeting will be held November 3rd.

The Fulton Unit's president is Irene Hauser. This Unit has been very successful in getting local members to join the NYSRTA. They have been very active in outreach activities including providing books for kids to pick up at local doctor's offices and other places like the Y's,



giving cash to local food banks which seem to have good returns for the money invested, and providing supplies and money to animal shelters. The unit also is giving \$500 in December to an area teacher or substitute teacher pursuing a permanent certification with no strings attached. The Fulton Unit meets twice a year. They will be meeting September 28th, and have invited 27 new retirees as guests to this luncheon meeting. At the meeting, they will be discussing the upcoming Constitutional Convention and registration concerning the Teach website. Their main speaker for this meeting will be Tor Shekerjian, Grandson of Robert R. DeCormier. For the fall meeting, they usually have between 70 to 80 retirees attend.

Long Island Zone

Eileen Holmes, Public Relations

WERTA held their annual Spring luncheon at Guy Anthony's in North-Merrick on June 8th. They were pleased to introduce Alexis Madej as their 2016 Scholarship winner. Ms. Madej is a student at Adelphi University's Ruth S. Ammon School of Education. She



Alexis Madej, Evelyn Paola and Candy Misner

is enrolled in the 5-year STEP program which will lead to a Master's degree in education. The dean of the Ammon School Jane Ashdown, STEP Director

Carolyn Phillips and Ms. Madej's parents were all in attendance at WERTA's festive luncheon.

Out East, EERTA held a spring luncheon at Page 63 Restaurant, located in the old time whaling village of Sag Harbor. East Hampton's co-director Jola Macario arranged for a local writer/historian Hugh King to stop in on his lunch break and give a very entertaining talk about the whaling captains,

merchants, robber barons and other folks who 'founded' East Hampton and Sag Harbor. It was interesting to hear how a \$500 donation from Wm J Ryson in 1785 was given to East Hampton to "earn interest to be used for a scholarship fund" and it's still in existence, giving scholarships to East Hampton students!



Local/Writer Historian Hugh King

On June 15th, the EERTA board sponsored a Flag Day luncheon at 4 Doors Down Restaurant in Mattituck. EERTA's Co-Vice President Agnes Dansereau invited local author Lauren Grant to speak about her newest book "The End is the Beginning".

Ms. Grant spoke about the effects of alcoholism on families and her own experiences that led her to write this book. Her other area of expertise is changing careers in later life. She has published a book on this subject and talked about her own problems with being down-sized and 'pink-slipped' after many years with a company.



EERTA members at Flag Day luncheon in Mattituck

After a busy spring, LIZ activities go on vacation for the hot, humid days of summer and start up again in September. However, Community Relations Chair Eileen Homes is still collecting clipped coupons to be sent to military families at bases overseas. *Special thanks to LIZ member June Torns who has been clipping and mailing coupons to Eileen for the troops!*



WAY TO GO COLUMBIA AND FULTON COUNTIES!

North Central Zone

Nancy Roberts & Patricia Newell,
Public Relations Co-Chairs

It's still summertime weather, but NCZ members are accomplishing important pieces of business. At our June luncheon, Diane Wright, Jeff-Lewis BOCES certification specialist, reviewed the SED requirements for teacher re-registration. Retired teachers were invited to create a TEACH account at the Glenfield BOCES in Lewis County on July 27th and the Jeff-Lewis BOCES in Watertown on July 28th. A number of our members took advantage of this opportunity to begin the process of re-registration.

It has been a summer celebration for NYSRTA Walkers and a great summer for outdoor

activities. Local and State Community Service Chair, Patricia Dietrich, together with NCZ Healthcare Chair, Mary Lee O'Brien, have encouraged everyone to walk, to have fun, and to enjoy a healthy lifestyle. They have added many additional sports to the roster.

As far as accumulating minutes/miles, anything goes! Just keep moving!! The sweet sound of harmony will be in the air at our fall luncheon at the Ramada Inn in Watertown on September 20th. The "For Heaven's Sake" Quartet from the Northern Blend Chorus will be the featured entertainment. These four talented ladies are known for their outstanding voices and their spirit of fun. With this quality entertainment, we hope to again have an impressive turnout of members and guests.

The fall luncheon will support the Coats for Families community service project. NCZ members

will be asked to bring gently used winter wear to donate to this worthy cause. The winter goods will be distributed



in October in Lewis County under the leadership of Pat Dietrich and her husband, Doug Dietrich, NCZ President.

We are looking forward to the 2016 NYSRTA Convention in Verona. We are proud to have one of our NCZ members presenting once again. You will definitely want to catch Diane Ferrucci's workshop on "Creating a Sacred Success Strategy in Mind, Body, & Spirit to Fully Enjoy Retirement."



Diane is a dynamic presenter who always energizes her audience.

Important Dates:

*NCZ Fall Annual Meeting & Luncheon, September 20th, 2016, Ramada Inn, Watertown

*2016 NYSRTA Convention, October 26-28, 2016, Verona



Northeastern Zone Mary Martin, Public Relations

With considerable enthusiasm, membership Chair Sandy Lashua reported that the NEZ now has 630 members. In June of 2016, 45 teachers retired from local area schools. Since increasing membership is our primary goal, the committee is encouraging active members to reach out to former colleagues to recruit and mentor them. Sending a letter to teachers who have retired in the past 3-4 years to reintroduce them to NEZ and NYSRTA has been discussed. The reasoning behind it is to explain our organization's purpose on a bookmark listing the top ten reasons to join. It will also include information about dues and an application.

Friendly Service Chair Judy Corigliano gratefully acknowledged the work done by her committee members' caring activities; sending notes and cards, making phone calls and visits, planning and attending birthday celebrations, and sadly, consoling family members after a death. She encourag-

es members to join and if you know of anyone who should be a recipient please contact Judy.

The Community Service committee scheduled the annual events that community members have come to anticipate. The annual Food Drive was held in three locations and collected 710 pounds of food and \$208 which was donated to the local food pantries in the communities, where it was gratefully accepted. NEZ works hard to keep the stretch of scenic Route 9 South along Lake Champlain where three road clean-ups are held in the summer, free of trash. With several cycling events taking place, maintaining the beauty of our area and safety are paramount concerns. Personal care products donated at our three membership meetings have been distributed to local organizations.

The Legislative committee has had scheduling difficulties arranging meeting dates with our local State and Congressional representatives. With the election looming, and the changes that will come with Assemblywoman Janet Duprey's retirement, it has been decided to wait until after November to schedule dates with her successor and with the winner of the 21st Congressional Seat. It is imperative that our representatives are aware of and understand the concerns of retirees.

The Northeastern Zone of the New York State Retired Teachers Association would like to announce the winners of the Dr. Karl R. and Ruth Kramer Education Scholarship for June 2016. The award in Clinton County is to Brady Terry who will be graduating from Peru High School and attending St. Lawrence University in the fall. The award in Essex County is to Samantha Barney who will be graduating from Lake Placid High School. She will be attending Endicott College in the fall. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to each of these students based on their academic transcript, extra-curricular activities, community service activities and interest in education as a future career goal.

~submitted by Diane Haight~

Northern Zone

Linda Crosby, Public Relations

The Northern Zone Executive Board is gearing up for another productive year after a relatively quiet (but hot!) summer. As usual, we want all NZ members to know that they are very welcome to attend all our executive board meetings. We will need extra help this year as we move forward with plans and preparations for hosting the fall 2017 NYSRTA State Convention. Please consider lending a hand.



NZ Executive Board Members: Alice Galvin, Ron Frank, Gayla LePage, Agnes Hudson, Jean Theobald, Rae Louise Tate, Joe Russo, Roxann Finley, Linda Crosby, Terry Trudeau

I spent a week this summer volunteering my painting skills to help finish details on a 204' by 17' mural on a building near the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Malone. The painting was started in June by a group of local artists/teachers and some other local retired teachers and artists helped throughout the summer. The fair "Through Children's Eyes" was the theme of the mural; we used local children's drawings done during the 2015-2016 school year in art classes for the images in the mural. This was a wonderful project that brought together many community members including many businesses who donated materials to supplement the grant from the Adirondack For Kids Fund.

Our NZ 2016 Ross C. Hudson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship was awarded in St. Lawrence County to Potsdam Central School graduate, Clare Brownell, who will attend Nazareth College to study elementary education. From Franklin County, Waylon Square, a Salmon River Central School graduate, received the Janet P. Dana Memorial Scholarship. He will begin a major in education at St. Lawrence University.

In St. Lawrence County, Potsdam Central School District has honored former physical education teacher, guidance counselor and long time track and field coach, William J. Lloyd Lewis, in a May ceremony that dedicated the school track to him with his name and coaching philosophy engraved on a sandstone plaque. In his eleven years of coaching Potsdam Sandstoners track and field, Bill's teams posted 107 wins, 3 defeats, and 9 Section IX championship titles while his student athletes always benefited from his wise guidance on and off the track. The dedication ceremony was attended by many former athletes who celebrated their coach's outstanding commitment and inspirational service to the area's children. Bill is a St. Lawrence University graduate. After retirement, Bill continued to volunteer coach with the Potsdam teams and remains involved in community and church activities with his wife, Trish, who is also a NZ NYSRTA member. They have raised two successful daughters, Carrie (a teacher) and Krisanne (an occupational therapist). Congratulations, Coach!

Photos from the NZ's June membership meeting



NZ Joe Russo discusses Star Lake history- St. Lawrence Co. - at June membership meeting



NZ members prepare to board motorized rafts from the dock at The Haven, Star Lake, NY after the June membership meeting

Southern Zone

Mary Lou Wood, Public Relations

I think those hot, dry summer days are behind us. I'm sure the fish are happy for the rain! However, another season down and autumn will be arriving soon: fresh air, beautifully colored leaves, cooler nights, and shorter days.

The units in the Southern Zone are preparing for their membership drive to recruit new retirees. It's always nice to welcome new members and to celebrate another year of retirement. Our units will be celebrating our 90+ birthdays and remembering those who have passed on.

Our zone has completed our yearly audit and has updated all pertinent information needed for the zone to function smoothly. All active and inactive retirees have been notified about getting signed up on the TEACH system located on the NYSED website.



The audit committee consists of (front row) Vince Smith, SZ President, Nancy Spaulding, EARTA Pres., Lois Cutton, SZ Treasurer, (back row) Mary Lou Wood, SZ VP of Public Relations, Don Cutton, SZ Scholarship

The Southern Zone will be having their annual meeting hosted by the Eastern Broome Branch. Our meeting/luncheon/program was held at the Holiday Inn in Binghamton on September 21, 2016.

Hope you have an enjoyable autumn. Keep moving, keep healthy, and keep in touch with family and friends. Take time to check out the spectacular changes in nature. With the sun closer to the earth, our flowers are popping out of the ground, birds are chirping loudly, and we are outside walking—or should be. Enjoy the fresh air and start moving.

Western Zone

Michelle Claus, Public Relations

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

You already have by being an active member of Western Zone and NYSRTA. We need your help. The more members we have, the better we can support the objectives of our statewide organization, NYSRTA, for the benefit of retired teachers.

Did you know that everyone is not a member of our organization? We are the only organization that works solely on behalf of retired educators.

We need all of our members to be Ambassadors of Membership for Western Zone and NYSRTA. You can go on facebook and ask retired colleagues to join Western Zone. They can email me or call, joeclaus@msn.com or 716-649-3844. I will send them the forms to join. If facebook is not for you, the phone works just as well. Look in your address book or where you keep phone numbers, and call them. Give them my phone number.

Or if you live in a community, spend an afternoon, under the umbrella, sipping lemonade, touting the benefits of NYSRTA and Western Zone.

A few ideas to focus on when talking to fellow retired educators are:

- Want a retiree job? Go to our website, www.nysrta.org, and check out our connections to public and private employers hiring retirees. Also, if you want to hire retirees, there is free ad space on the website.

- Want discount services and programs? Again, go to our website, www.nysrta.org, to see the list of services you can receive or are receiving. Boast how much money you save using some of the services including purchasing hearing aids, a car purchase, dental and vision discounts, and investments to name a few.

- We take care of our members. Our objective is to promote the economic, social, and professional status of retired educators. Want more information about the Constitutional Convention vote in 2017? Want information

on State and Federal issues, including Healthcare? Go to our website, www.nysrta.org.

- Let's travel. A great way to become friends and traveling companions. We have traveling opportunities with family, friends, and fellow educator retirees. A great time for Ambassadors of Membership to encourage retirees to join NYSRTA.

- Do you send get well or thinking of you cards to friends? Why not do this for friends of friends and acquaintances, ask them to join Western Zone/NYSRTA.

The cost is \$30 for 1 year (try us out). It is never too late to join. We need you, as part of the 3400 retirees in Western Zone, to help increase membership one person at a time. Be a buddy, and invite your retired educator friends to a social event. The YORK STATE and Western Currents Newsletters are part of your membership dues. Use the articles to start a conversation about NYSRTA. BRAG, I do!

Contact me, Michelle Claus, 716-649-3844 for information to join.



“I could not have imagined that my future necessitated hearing aids in both ears. I contacted Hear In America, and with their assistance WOW! WOW! WOW! It was smooth sailing through the entire process. It’s a whole new world: my life is better!”

- R.C.

To register for your family’s free hearing benefits including discounts, extra warranties and even free hearing aid batteries, call **Hear In America at 1-800-286-6149.**

Membership—An Update for All Members

Salvatore Sedita, Chair of Membership

Our zone membership chairs in the North Central Zone have been working very hard over the past year to involve every member in the recruiting effort. They reported recently that their efforts appear to be paying off. The number of current members doing one-on-one recruiting of retirees has been increasing. Regular recognition of individuals who bring in new members is part of the program.

Congratulations and thanks to North Central Zone Membership co-chairs Jim Newell and Burt Phillips for their continuing work and dedication on behalf of the organization.

Recently a letter was sent by one of the Vice Presidents of NYSUT raising

concern and causing NYSRTA officials to advise zones to delay contacting district superintendents for retiree information (names and addresses). The letter was a gross misstatement of fact about NYSRTA and an assertion of authority that NYSUT does not possess.

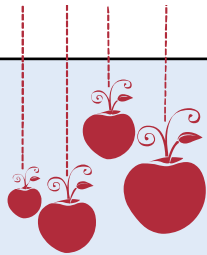
As a result, some zones and units have held off requesting information from districts.

At a membership teleconference on August 25, 2016, zone membership chairs who were present felt that zones and units who have not yet requested retiree information from districts do so as soon as possible. With the time passing, recruitment needs to be done.

However, we learned that NYS Labor Law (203-D) prevents school districts from providing personal identifying information such as address and phone numbers to the public. This adds a dimension of difficulty to recruitment.

For zones and units that have already requested and received this year's retiree information, hopefully your recruitments are in full swing with participation by a great many of our members.

Zone membership chairs are reminded that it is their responsibility to send the list of the current retirees in your zone to Membership Coordinator Debbie Barnes at the NYSRTA office.



Submission Deadlines for YORK STATE

NYSRTA will produce 2 electronic issues and 2 printed issues of *YORK STATE* each year.

The article submission schedule for these will be:

- Spring (electronic) April 30**
- Summer (mailed) .. July 13**
- Fall (electronic) August 25**
- Winter (mailed)..... November 4**

There is no need to sign up for the electronic issues, if you regularly receive emails from NYSRTA, you are already on our list.

As usual, all issues will be available at nysrta.org.



ATTENTION EASTERN ZONE MEMBERS, get great prices on these Proctors Theatre tickets

thanks to Schenectady County Retired Teachers Association

Something Rotten

Jan. 10, 2017, Tuesday, 7:30PM...\$55.40

Final balance is due before Dec.1, 2016

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SCRTA
Contact: Linda Snyder:
518-377-7760, lindiana@nycap.rr.com
Send payment & SASE to:
1536 Unadilla Street
Schenectady, NY 12308

Wicked

March 7, 2017, Tuesday, 7:30PM...\$76.10

Final balance is due before January 1, 2017

Contact Mitzi Flynn:
518-356-2980, mitziflynn@gmail.com
Send payment & SASE to:
419 Danna Joelle Dr.,
Schenectady, NY 12303
MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SCRTA
DIFFERENT INFORMATION FOR WICKED
The deposit for WICKED is 50% of the price.
Therefore the deposit price due NOW is \$40.00/ ticket. FINAL balance must be received by 1-1-17

The Sound of Music

April 8, 2017 Saturday 8PM...\$59.90

Final balance is due before Mar.1, 2017

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SCRTA
Contact Sandi Smith:
518-371-6234, teach2lurn5@yahoo.com
Send payment & SASE to:
1 Easton Dr., Clifton Park, NY 12065

Beautiful (Carol King Story)

April 12, 2017 Wed. 7:30PM...\$66.00

Final balance is due before Mar.1, 2017

Contact Paulette George:
518-399-9388, GSWAGG@aol.com
MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SCRTA
Send payment & SASE to:
509 Swaggertown Rd., Scotia, NY 12302

Cabaret

May 11, 2017 Thursday 8:00PM...\$50.90

Final balance is due before Apr.1, 2017

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SCRTA
Contact Jocelyn Pranis:
518-356-3151, jpranis@gmail.com
Send payment & SASE to:
216 Vincenza Lane, Schenectady, NY 12303

ALL seats are ORCHESTRA SEATS at discount prices. Prices are the same for children and adults. Wheelchair seating is always available.

on Facebook: [NYS Retired Teachers Association](https://www.facebook.com/NYSRTA)



Teachers' Dads Take Honor Flight



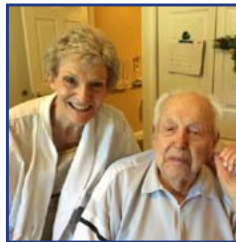
by Patricia Keller, Western Zone Board Member

Honor Flight's inaugural took place in 2005. Since then, thousands of veterans of World War II have been transported to Washington, D.C. to see the World War II monument dedicated to their service for our country. These trips have been given free of charge due to generous contributions from the public, aero clubs, and Southwest Airlines, which have donated thousands of free airline tickets.



Lena & Jerry Priore

Western Zone Teachers' fathers have made the trip. Dennis Priore, Kenmore Retired Teachers' Association President, sent his father on this special flight. Jerry Priore (1917-2000), was a U.S. Army Corporal who served in the Philippines. Upon returning home, Jerry married a teacher and administrator, they had three children: Madonna, Carmel, and Dennis, who all became teachers.



Judy Farmer and Royal Bossman

Judy Farmer, President of Eastern Erie Retired Teachers' Association, and New York State Retired Teachers' Association Secretary, went to Washington, D. C. with her dad. Royal E. Bossman, Judy's father, is 96 years of age, served as an Ensign in the U.S. Merchant Marines from 1943-1946 in the North Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. Ensign Bossman's ship was torpedoed and sunk during his time in the service, luckily other ships arrived and rescued them all. Judy's dad is now a resident of Tennyson Court.

Joe Ann Willson is Patricia Keller's (Western Zone Board Member) niece. Joe Ann taught at East Aurora Middle School. Joe McCormick, her father, is 88 years old and lives independently. Joe served in the Navy from 1946-1948 as a first class ship fitter. He served on the USS New York, USS Iowa, and USS

Columbus, all off the shores of Japan and Hawaii. Joe was on the Honor Flight in June, 2016.

We are proud of these fathers and glad for their opportunity to have taken the Honor Flight. Future flights will carry Korean and Vietnam Veterans. These three highlighted veterans, and all veterans, richly deserve to visit his or her memorial.

Information may be found at: <http://honorflightbuffalo.org> or by calling, 716-254-4376. The next flight is scheduled for September 9, 2016.



Photo by Marty Wagelin

Ready to Board

WWII Veteran Joe McCormick with escort Greg Hunt as they prepare to board a plane heading for Washington D.C. for a day to visit the WWII Monument along with about 40 other local veterans.



NYSRTA Walkers

is a new joint project of the Community Service and Health Care Committees with the objective of promoting the identity of NYSRTA, perhaps improve our own health, and to help others in need by raising awareness and/or funds, for various health causes.

Read more about the project in the Summer 2016 Summer edition of *YORK STATE* [here](#) including information on ordering a t-shirt.



[Click here for T-shirt order form](#)

Our apologies for missing a few members of the SZ Exec committee pictured in the Summer 2016 issue (names presented in green below). Thanks to Imogene for catching the omissions!



The Southern Zone executive committee members in attendance were: Front row: **Don Cutton *CR**, Mildred Rugur, Lynne Hunkovic, Vince Smith, Marie BeGell, Back row: Mary Johnson, Nancy Spaulding, Bonnie Stratton, **Imogene McKendrick *CR**, Linda Moore, Lois Cutton, **Debbi Deats**, **Mary Lou Wood**