

# Central Zone Newsletter

Fall – 2017 Volume 12 NO. 2

## President's Message - Barb Finley

### Seniors are being targeted more than ever!

The top scams are:

IRS scams

sweepstakes scams

robo dialed/unwanted calls

tech support scams

relative/friend in trouble scams

credit card/bank scams

beneficiary scams



**NEVER give out any personal information over the phone, in an email or text message**

If you feel you have been a victim of a scam, contact the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) at <http://ftccomplaintassist.gov>

Be aware of legislation that will affect you by going to [nysrta.org](http://nysrta.org) for the latest news. While there, check out the many programs offered to members. Click on the "membership" tab. Also explore the entire site.

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Please support your local county/unit organization by attending a business meeting/luncheon or event. Every officer in this organization is working for you. Let them know you appreciate it. Saying please and thank you, showing appreciation, lending a helping hand and giving a smile will never go out of style.

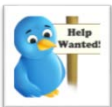
*"When you practice gratefulness there is a sense of respect toward others."*

*Dalai Lama*

## Friendly Service – Barb Finley

♥ Friendly Service is a major part of NYSRTA. In Central Zone there are six county units with Chairs who oversee all the Friendly Service activities in their area. To help and assist, they have Key Workers. Central Zone has 58 volunteers who assist with sending cards, visits, phone calls, emails and birthday celebrations for our 90+ year olds. This also includes those in nursing homes or are shut-ins at home. This year these volunteers made: 21 visits and 53 phone calls, sent 407 emails and 881 cards, and gave 14 birthday parties/gifts to our members. **A huge thank you to these caring individuals for all they do.**

**Editor's Note:** Please note that President Barb Finley is serving you in two offices, both as Zone President and Zone Chair of Service. Time is now for a caring individual to come to the rescue and take on the responsibility of Friendly Service. The main job of the FS Zone Chair is to compile the reports of the six county chairs and update the monthly changes received from them or Albany. Will you be the lady or gentleman to answer the call? Volunteer now! Join the friendly Executive Committee to enrich your life! MR



## Treasurer's Report – Stella King

We ended the fiscal year with enough income to cover all expenses and have a \$680 surplus in our accounts. NYSRTA'S fiscal year has changed to Jan. 1 to December 31. We need to get our budget cycle the same as the state. The proposed budget is for the remainder of this calendar year and will be brought before the executive meeting in July to be discussed and adopted. A 2018 budget is being developed and will be presented at the annual meeting in September.

### Proposed Budget

Budget balancer	2,825
Dues	7,200
Interest	75
Friendly Service	400
Other Income	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,500</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Central Zone Ex Meeting	700

Convention	4,500
DeCormier Trust	1,000
Newsletter	1,200
Membership	500
Health Coordinator	100
Friendly Service	1,800
Contingency Fund	200
Memorial Award	200
Office	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,500</b>

**NYSTRA-CENTRAL ZONE FINANCE REPORT 2016-2017**  
7/1/2016 through 6/30/2017 Using CZ Proposed Budget 2016-2017

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Category	7/1/2016 Actual	- Budget	6/30/2017 Difference
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>11,930.66</b>	<b>16,950.00</b>	<b>-5,019.34</b>
Budget Balancer MM	0.00	4,820.00	4,820.00
Donations	25.00	100.00	-75.00
Dues	10,852.00	11,000.00	-148.00
Friendly Service Receipts	800.00	800.00	0.00
Interest	72.66	80.00	-7.34
Other Income	181.00	150.00	31.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>11,250.17</b>	<b>16,950.00</b>	<b>5,699.83</b>
90 Year-Old Dues @ 1.50	252.00	500.00	248.00
C-Zone Ex Meetings	1,318.95	2,250.00	931.05
Contingency Funds	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Contributions	0.00	100.00	100.00
Convention	4,151.58	6,300.00	2,148.42
County Membership Mailings	353.31	700.00	346.69
DeCormier Trust	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Friendly Service	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00
Health Coordinator	0.00	100.00	100.00
Memorial Award	200.00	200.00	0.00
Newsletter	1,711.64	2,000.00	288.36
Office	462.69	700.00	237.31
Website	0.00	300.00	300.00
<b>Net Difference:</b>	<b>680.49</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>680.49</b>

**Net Worth - As of 6/30/2017**  
(Includes unrealized gains)

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Account	6/30/2017 Balance
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	
CD 110812	13,150.61
CHLCKING ONE	612.86
Money Market account	13,547.25
<b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>27,310.52</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>27,310.52</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
	0.00
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>27,310.52</b>

## Legislation, Tom Parsnick, Ray Pitcher

**Tom:** Good news: Central Zone has a new and very capable VP for Legislative Action –

**Ray Pitcher.** Ray hails from Ilion and has held positions in his school unit, NYSUT and has been on the Oneida/Herkimer Legislative Action Team. Quite possibly, if you provide him with an adult beverage, he'll provide you with all you need to know about windmills. I want to thank all those Central Zone advocates, who over the past 15 or more years, have served to convey NYSRTA's legislative agenda to our legislators. During that time Central Zone has had one of the best legislative campaigns in NYSRTA – huzzah! Keep up the good work; make Ray's job as easy and pleasurable as you made it for me.

The NYSRTA 2017 State Legislative Priorities were: Minimum Pension Bump Up, COLA and ethics reform. The Minimum Pension bump Up would have helped the remaining 562 retirees who retired before July 1, 1980 and whose ages probably range from about 92 to over 102. It would have raised their maximum pension from \$17,500 to \$19,250. The COLA legislation would have raised the base benefit upon which the COLA is computed from \$18,000 to \$25,000. This base has not changed since 2000. Finally, we will support legislation that will enact meaningful ethics reform. Convicted legislators former Majority Leader Dean Skelos and former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver will still receive their full pensions.

We are planning to advocate state legislators not only in the Spring but also in the Fall.

Vote No on the Constitutional Convention. Two facets of NYS retired teachers' pensions would be extremely vulnerable. We could lose the COLA. Also, our pensions are not state taxed and that could be negated, which could reduce our pensions by about 4 – 6.5%.

Our 2017 Federal Legislative Priorities are: Negotiation of Medicare Part D Covered Drugs, Strengthening Social Security & Medicare Trust Fund and allow outpatient observation to be equivalent to inpatient hospitalization in order to qualify for Medicare coverage. Negotiation of Part D Drugs would allow the Secretary of Health & Human Services to negotiate drug prices, just like the Veterans Administration is capable of doing. Strengthen Social Security & Medicare by adopting a COLA that reflects the increased expenses for the elderly, and oppose any cuts in Medicare. Apparently problems still exist in qualifying for Medicare coverage due to the use of the descriptions: outpatient observation and inpatient hospitalization. .

**Ray: Thank you, Tom, for your years of service to the zone**

## Mark Granan - Zone and Chenango County Membership

The June Stats show a loss of three people from May to June. New members- we have added just two people. Active membership shows a decline of nine people.

I sent a letter to all the members in Chenango County that were delinquent with paying their dues to N.Y.S.R.T.A. for 16 months and 28 months. I had two contacts. Both were positive, but I haven't heard from them since their call. I suggest that all my other team leaders or chair people do the same thing. If nothing else it may help get rid of the deadwood from our lists.

Chenango County had a good spring meeting. Low in numbers (around 40), but we have a good group or core of people that we can count on. Chenango County also has people that belong to N.Y.S.R.T.A., but not our Chenango County Unit. I also suggest that my chair people do the same thing if they can. The State Membership team has had many teleconferences to stay in touch with each other and to develop strategy to promote more membership. They have been doing this since the convention. They have developed "7 MAJOR POINTS" that N.Y.S.R.T.A. promotes for retired educators. The hope is that an elevator speech can be drawn from these 7 major points. The bottom line is to try to increase our membership on a State wide basis.

My personal thoughts are that the personal contact with recently retired and older retirees must be done one on one. The only reason for people to join us is because a friend or acquaintance brings them along. If you have any ideas or suggestions please pass them on to Bill, Barb or me.



## Honor Roll – We recognize Chenango County and President Bill Cline for striving to energize the local unit with new procedures!

“The Spring Luncheon was held at the Old Mill Restaurant in Mt. Upton on May 17. Over forty people attended and were entertained by Hans and Carol Niederer, our Friendly Service chair for the past twenty years. We enjoyed singing along as Carol played the keyboard and Hans masterfully played his accordion. Among other business items the attendees decided to increase membership dues to \$10 a year. We also discussed state versus unit dues and when they are due. We remain vigilant concerning the Constitutional Convention and the Health Care issue. Our scholarship winners' names were already available and announced. Each winner receives a \$300 scholarship. We are seeking new blood for officer positions and planning our fall luncheon. We would like to try a late afternoon meeting to attract more participation. Let's continue to speak up for retirees – present and future.”

## Secretary-Mary Radloff

Minutes April 27, 2017 9:30 (Condensed)

**10:00 Greeting and Call to Order** by President Barbara Finley was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Communication, Cooperation, Coordination were stressed as hallmarks of a successful organization. NYSRTA is well and strong. The 2017 Annual Convention will be held at Turning Stone October 30, 31 and November 1. Members cancelling after the date indicated on the reservation form will



be billed for meals and changes per room occupancy numbers will be billed as originally reserved. The Site Committee is looking into other site possibilities for next year including the new casino in Schenectady. Cards with information concerning the Constitutional Convention are available on the front table. Relations between NYSUT and NYSRTA are improving. Please notify the Albany Office of any change in email address and mailing address. There is a post office charge for each mailing returned due to an outdated address. Central Zone is one of the best functioning zones in the state. A hard copy of the state Executive Committee meeting is available. Serving as Friendly Service Chair in addition to the presidency is too much of a job and Barb is still looking for someone take on that responsibility. There have been significant changes in how and when Friendly Service funds are distributed and Albany has failed to communicate those changes to new FS chairs or to include them in the President's Handbook.

Minutes were accepted as presented after Call to Order time was changed to 10:00.

**Treasurer Stella King** presented a paper outline the events that led to the scam which robbed the CZ treasury of \$1,500. After a discussion of the information, **Chris Granan** moved the following: "In regards to the scam perpetrated on July, 2016, involving \$1,500 from the money market account, **Stella King** and **Barb Finley** will not be held accountable. This has been investigated by appropriate agencies. The treasury will absorb the cost." The motion was seconded by **Mark Granan** and passed by a unanimous vote. **Barb Finley** reported that the zone website has been taken down. The email addresses of president and treasurer may have been the link that led to the scam and should not be available online. Any zone or unit items can be posted on the NYSRTA website. **She** also reported the formation of a Finance Committee composed of herself, **Mark Granan**, **Dell Ford**, **Jordan** and **Stella King**. Some budget categories such as "Donations" will be revamped. A more detailed report, including By-Laws changes, will be given after group meetings. Copies of several unit newsletters are available on the front table. Legislative Action Committee chair, **Tom Parsnick**, has submitted his resignation. **Ray Pitcher** of Oneida-Herkimer is filling that position.

Members formed small groups to discuss common issues. After a lunch break, reports were given.

**Presidents and Vice Presidents** – **Barb Finley** Friendly Service has changed from its intended purpose and she will take issues to the next State Executive Committee meeting. Not all units do the same things. Changes have been made without sharing the changes with

all zones. There appears to be no uniform service in sending cards, reporting deceased members, nor ages to receive service. The Leadership Manual does not provide all the information needed to function well. The zone by-laws must be brought up to date to comply with those of the state Vice President

**Bill Cline** reported on the difficulty of filling offices linked with falling membership issues for all zones. Solutions considered: combining zones as Oneida-Herkimer did, retirees from one county joining a different unit, or having a zone function without individual units. Dues and scholarships, meeting times and places vary between units and greater travel miles would result. **Barb Finley** noted the ideas expressed are opinions and any action would be considered at the zone meeting in July.

**Treasurer Stella King** reported the 2017 budget will be presented at the July meeting. When the By-Laws are changed the fiscal year will be January 1 – December 31. There are issues with combining unit and state membership dues. State dues are assessed on the date of original membership while unit dues differ in date and amount. **Bill Cline** predicted that requiring membership at both levels could cause the loss of many local members. **Barb Finley** said there would have to be changes in Friendly Service allotments.

**Membership** - **Mark Granan** reported changing meeting times, places or programs may increase attendance at county meetings. The new recruitment poster was shared and is available from Albany at the cost of \$1.50. It can be exhibited anywhere throughout the community. Chenango County sent out hundreds of letters with many not responding. Membership is down in all units.

**Legislative Action** – **Ray Pitcher** reported the state budget is already being discussed in Albany with mainly non-monetary changes approved. The Bump-up Bill for those retiring before 1980 as well as consideration of an increased COLA remain unremoved. The halting of the Constitutional Convention remains our chief effort. It is important to read the ballot when casting a vote as many issues are tacked on to ballot proposals. **READ THE BALLOT when casting your vote**

**Resolutions** – **Johnnie Jones** stated it is too late for Central Zone to present any resolution for the 2017 Convention. We must think ahead to the 2018 Convention. Social Security Numbers on Medicare and Medicaid cards will be replaced with a new ID number by 2019. **Bill Tenity** offered to be on the CZ Resolutions committee.

**By-Laws** – **Bill Tenity** reported that changes in zone by-laws will bring them in line with the state by-laws. Changes in state by-laws are illegal if not approved by all zones after unit support. **Johnnie Jones** and **Annette Shaffer** volunteered to work with **Bill** on this project. Changes will be presented at the CZ meeting in July. **Michelle Lonergan**, historian, reminded units to send in news, invitations, programs and announcements.

**Annette Shaffer** reminded members to insure when entering hospital care to be admitted as a patient in order to be covered by insurance. **Mike Haduk**, stated a new location for the Annual Convention is being actively researched. Turning Stone this year gave NYSRTA bad dates for the meeting.

**Barb Finley** set July 20, for the next zone meeting at the Rusty Rail.

The meeting was adjourned.

***Apples, Apples & More Apples***



***Central NY Zone NYSRTA Fall Meeting***

***September 11, 2017  
Orchard Vali Golf Club  
4693 US Route 20  
LaFayette, NY 13084***

***9:30 a.m. Coffee and Registration***

***10:00 Meeting, followed by LUNCH***

***Lunch: Buffet including Carved Roast Beef, Roasted Chicken, Pasta Alfredo,  
Oven Roasted Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Garden Salad, Rolls and Butter,  
Coffee, Tea and Apple Crisp***

***COST: \$22.00 INCLUDES TAX AND GRATUITY***

***FOLLOWED BY AN "Apple Educator" Program***

***Please Make Checks Payable to OCRTA and Mail Reservations to:  
EVELYN DAVIS, 4747 SALINA STREET, PULASKI, NY 13142***

***DEADLINE: AUGUST 28, 2017***



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***Name*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Phone*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Guests*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Total Amount Enclosed*** \_\_\_\_\_