



Vol 72, Issue 3

YORK STATE

Fall 2022

Presidents Message



As I sit down to write this message, I am reminded of all the productive, exciting, and interesting years we spent in school. I recall many days when we saw the faces of our students light up when solving a problem or reading a passage with confidence. We also remember those occasional days when parents thanked us for teaching their children and keeping them safe.

Today was the first day of school for many districts, and the school buses were out and rolling early. I know that for many school districts across this great state, students are returning to full time in-person learning. Students, parents, and teachers have struggled through the best part of two school years dealing with COVID and virtual learning. They are happy and grateful that they can once again resume learning in school. The recent results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress have confirmed what many of us believed; most children do

not learn as well on Zoom as they do in school with teachers and classmates.

Our Association is also returning to hosting business meetings, breakfasts, and luncheons once again. We have missed seeing colleagues and friends in person. We want to socialize once again, enjoy some entertainment, and hear from various speakers on topics of interest.

Our Association has been busy working on those initiatives important to our members. In July 2022, the Board of Directors reviewed the Medicare Advantage Insurance survey emailed to 6560 of our members. The results of this survey indicated that a high percentage of those responding had no interest in RENY offering a Medicare Advantage Insurance Plan. Based upon this data, the Board decided not to offer this plan.

A large debt of gratitude is due **Kevin Mulligan*CR** and members of the Ad Hoc Healthcare Committee for their extensive work on this project. Our Association learned many things about the healthcare insurance needs of our members and the existing supplemental health insurance coverage our members have at the present time. The Ad Hoc Healthcare Committee will continue to monitor supplemental health insurance coverage provided our members and to closely follow any changes made by the school districts or state legislation.

Although not well known to RENY members, our Association has an endowment fund of one million, six hundred thousand dollars that has been managed by Manning & Napier since 2007. The Board was informed that there were problems with the asset allocation with the portfolio in July 2021. This problem has existed since 2007. Because of this "upside down" asset allocation, investment returns have been unsatisfactory. In addition, investment management fees were too high at 1.10 percent of the total assets. Accordingly, an investment policy was written, discussed, communicated, and adopted by the Board of Directors on March 15, 2022.

At the BOD meeting in July 2022, directors gave the Finance and Budget Committee tacit approval to solicit bids for investment advisory services. A request for proposals were sent to five investment firms with knowledge and experience advising non-profits. Three firms prepared and returned bids.

Representatives from the top two firms were interviewed on August 11, 2022 by the Finance and Budget Committee. Following these interviews, the Finance and Budget Committee discussed and rated the two firms.

A Microsoft Teams meeting was held on August 30, 2022 to consider the recommendation of the Finance and Budget Committee.



Continued on the next page...

President's Message, Continued

High Probability Advisors was selected as the firm best suited to manage RENY's investment portfolio. The Board of Directors approved this selection unanimously. As President I sent a formal letter advising the successful bidder of their selection. The two other firms were sent letters thanking them for submitting bids and wishing them well.



Diane Bonenfant, Finance and Budget Chair; **Leigh Powell*CR**, Treasurer; **Bob Joyce*CR**, Insurance Trust; **Marilyn Dominick**, **Donna Harness**, and Kathi Bassett did an exceptionally fine job reviewing the applications of the bidders and recommending the successful bidder. Please thank them for their excellent work on this important project

The next project officers and Board of Directors will focus on is to improve and refresh the RENY website. If you have knowledge and experience with website development, please contact Kathi Bassett, **Marilyn Dominick**, or me.

As we prepare for the Annual Meeting and Convention, we have made a change in the RENY Nominations Committee. **Judy Farmer*CR** from the Western Zone has been appointed and will take office immediately. She is replacing **Rae Louise Tate** who served in this position for approximately five years. We wish Judy well in this critical position and thank Rae Louise for her years of service.

The 2022-23 year is shaping up as an exciting and rewarding one. The participation and involvement of RENY members is what sets us apart from many other organizations. I thank you for it and ask that you continue your commitment to this great Association. Feel free to email or call me with your thoughts, ideas, or concerns.



NOVEMBER 13, 2022

Health Care Committee Report

By **Mary Ella Moeller*CR**, Chairperson

Living Better through KINDNESS

After almost three years of pandemic living, it seems like we have forgotten about being kind. November 13th is World Kindness Day. Let's remember that surprising numbers are still suffering from the effects of COVID, others are hungry, many are living in war torn countries, and most people are concerned about the climate crisis.

At this time, we need to be grateful to frontline workers who have been risking their lives every day to care for the sick, feed the hungry, and teach people of all ages. Research has shown that helping others causes the brain to release hormones which lower stress and anxiety levels. So here is the bottom line: doing good is good for you. Let's make KINDNESS part of your daily life!

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Robert R DeCormier Memorial Trust Report

By Dick Brogowski - Trustee

As the newest DeCormier Memorial Trustee, and someone who is preparing his initial newsletter contribution, I would like to use this column to introduce myself.

I am Richard "Dick" Brogowski. My wife, Connie, and I graduated from SUNY Cortland in, 1962, as physical education teachers. She retired in 1998, as an elementary guidance counselor, from Beekmantown Central School. I followed a year later, 1999, after 22 years as the Director of Physical Education and Athletics, at AuSable Valley Central School. I have been a member of the NYSRTA/RENY ever since.

I have been on the Northeastern Zone Executive Committee as the zone historian. **Kevin Mulligan*CR** (NE Zone), then state president, asked me if I would be willing to join a state committee, and I agreed. I had never heard of the DeCormier Memorial Trust Committee, and I am sure that there are still quite a few members who have not.

As you are all aware, COVID has really put a damper on face-to face gatherings. I have only personally met a couple of the long-standing DeCormier committee members, and that was at the last, toned-down, annual RENY meeting in Albany. The committee has been corresponding via Email. We have had a few occasions to "see" each other during ZOOM meetings.

I can tell you all that my personal observation, in my fairly short stint as a DeCormier Trustee, is that each of us are professional and dedicated to doing the best job for the membership as possible.

If you know of a RENY member who is having difficulty managing their daily living expenses, or is encountering a short-term financial crisis, please let your zone president know. You may also call **Anne Flansburg*CR** , Chair, at (716) 863-3631. **Our only job is to help you.**

Below are 3 photos from "Serenity Garden" here in Peru, NY. The person who put it together and maintains it went to AuSable Valley HS where I retired from. I think it is to memorialize his mother.



Legislative Action Committee Report

By Rod Driscoll - VP for Legislation



I would like to thank the members of the Legislative Action Committee for their hard work advocating for our members this year. Needless to say, it was very difficult connecting with legislators with all of the COVID restrictions, but we made it work with emails, phone calls and, of course: Zoom meetings. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors, the zones and our members for their support of our efforts.

So far, this year has gone well for our legislative agenda.

At the State Level:

- The final NY State budget included record increases in funding for school districts, which is very good for the protection of our retirement benefits like health insurance.
- Home health care and nursing home workers in NY State received an increase in their hourly wages. Not as much as we hoped for, but a good start. This should help with attracting new workers and retaining existing staff.
- There was a lot of interest in finding ways to attract more new teachers into the profession via the “Underrepresented Teachers of Tomorrow Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program”, a follow up to the successful Buffalo “Grow Your Own” pilot program which removed many of the barriers for bringing new people into the teaching profession. This bill has already passed the Senate.
- There is renewed interest in creating an elder abuse registry, particularly with the new Governor indicating she will likely support the measure. Governor Cuomo vetoed bills on this subject previously.
- The state budget also included money to expand rural broadband and repeal the “fiber tax” on new broadband cabling.
- Legislators expressed interest in expanding K-12 civics education.

Bills have been introduced in the Assembly and the Senate to increase the COLA base amount by the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

At the Federal Level:

- The Inflation Reduction Act lowers prescription drug prices for Medicare participants, lowers monthly insulin prescription prices to \$35, allows Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices and caps annual prescription drug co-pays at \$2,000 for Medicare recipients. It also expands health insurance subsidies for those under the Affordable Care Act.
- The infrastructure bill that did pass includes money for rural broadband, road/bridge/school construction & repair.

The Federal government committed \$1.5 billion to increase staffing in the health care sector. American Rescue Plan funding will support over 22,700 providers for these programs such as: doctors, dentists, nurses, and behavioral health providers committed to working in under-served communities during a moment when we need them the most.

We are continuing our advocacy throughout the rest of the state legislative session and the rest of the year at the Federal level.





Membership Report

By Dell Ford Jordan - VP for Membership

“Membership is the life blood of our organization. It must be a movement involving ALL members of RENY. Each one of us should focus on ways to share the RENY experience with past, present, and future retirees.”

– Lois Thornberg

Our Immediate Past VP for Membership, **Lois Thornberg**, has said it many times, and the value in saying it is: it deserves to be repeated. And as educators we know that if we repeat it often, the hearer will hear and act upon it.

Remember: Retaining present and past members is as important as recruiting new members.

The recruitment of new members, the rising number of delinquent members, and the number of deceased members has steadily been decreasing for the last several years. COVID-19 did not help with the isolation imposed on New York State dictating that in-person meetings, luncheons and the 2020 NYS Convention could not take place. In 2021 we did manage to have a few meetings and a mini-NYS Conference to keep us together. Twenty twenty-two has seen a few Units having scaled-back brunch/meetings to keep members active and engaged.

Our August 31, 2022 statistics show that our total membership has dropped to 12,001, that’s 462 fewer members than August 31, 2021 stats. To date, RENY has enrolled 101 new members; however, we have lost 531. The number of delinquent members increased from 573 to 953. We have 796 90-year-olds (down from 829) and 126 100-year-olds (up from 119). The good news here is that our 90+ year-olds are growing *younger* by the day and moving up to a higher category, 100+. Numbers paint the best picture to tell us where we are and where we are going if we can’t turn it around. We have to, we must continue and exceed our efforts in increasing our membership.

A listing of members (new, deceased, and delinquent) are being disseminated quarterly to team members per their request. The information is used to discuss with their Zones and brainstorm ideas on how that Unit and Zone can recruit new retirees and reclaim those who no longer pay their dues. Being a member of RENY, the Zone, and the Unit has its perks/benefits. **New members, as well as non-paying members should be reminded that “anyone who joins RENY, becomes a member of their respective Zone automatically; if you become a member of the local Unit only, you are not a member of the Zone or RENY. Becoming a Unit member does not allow an individual the benefits of RENY; you cannot hold an office, attend the Annual Meeting as a delegate, or vote at Zone meetings.”**

The 3-Year Membership with the discounted rate of \$75.00 will end December 31, 2022. The Insurance Trust Fund was gracious enough to extend it for 2022 but can not carry it over to 2023. New and delinquent members will have to pay the \$30 annual membership fee.

The **Northeastern Zone** takes the **Spotlight** at **No. 1** for new members from October 2021 to August 31, 2022 with thirty-three (33) new members. The **No. 2 Spotlight** goes to **Western Zone** with sixteen (16) new members and the **No. 3 Spotlight** goes to **Central Zone** with thirteen (13) new members. **Congratulations NEZ, WZ, and CZ** for doing your part in **Recruiting for RENY**. The Membership Team thanks you for your accomplishments.



Let’s continue to excel in the **T.R.Y.** Method:

Talk to non-members; Tell them about our benefits; Try - it gets easier the more you do it.

Recruit, it’s a *one-for-all, all-for-one* initiative - everyone can be a winner.

You are the _____ to RENY’s success!



On behalf of RENY, we thank all the members of the Membership Team, the Unit Chairs, and the Zones for your continued support, your efforts, and your time. To the members of RENY for your initiative and commitment to recruit 101 new members – **WE THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE!**

Community Service Report

By Judith Corigliano - VP for Friendly Service



Continuing with a Purposeful Life

"Learn to get in touch with silence within yourself and know that everything in this life has a purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences; all events are blessings given to us to learn from. There is no need to go to India or anywhere else to find peace. You will find that deep place of silence right in your room, your garden or even your bathtub." Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross on finding yourself:

There is a time for getting out of the bathtub and giving back to your community. Okay, you say you have given a lot already and now you are ready to do very little in retirement or post retirement. As the year has moved from fall into Winter/ holiday time and of course soon afterwards the ending of 2022 into a new year, **where are you in retirement?** Are you newly retired and enjoying the past summer that was somewhat free of commitments....and have relaxed into the beginning of a new school year with no worrying about lessons or the excitement of a new academic year? Or have you been retired for a couple of years and maybe you worked a part time job, maybe you've traveled, or you just had a great time, learned a new skill, a hobby, honed an older passion, become at peace with yourself and ready for challenge post COVID ?

Consider stepping up and filling a position on a committee in one of RENY's zones, units/county groups. Are you on the fence about taking on responsibilities, time and possible deadlines? Are you ready to engage with old colleagues, meet new retirees? There is a job out there for all of us. Yes, this is a recruiting plea. It is not a revelation that we have empty seats in a lot of organizations as well as in classrooms, but you may have been personally reminded of the problem attending a zone luncheon, reading a newsletter or maybe working within another education related group.

Membership participation or the lack there of is not getting better in any organization, including our own. Zones have elected, installed new and returning officers and welcomed newer retirees, but it is apparent that there are more than a few committees missing one or more of their officer/committee leaders. In many zones I have been witness to leaders doing double duties!

Consider this, could you do something small for RENY, for your zone, unit/county group.....volunteer for Friendly Service, urge a colleague to join RENY, renew their delinquent membership, offer to help a leader, volunteer for hosting and greeting at luncheons, or just join in on an activity, donate time, make calls, send cards, guide a needy colleague in the direction of solving a personal, health or financial problem...friendly Service and the Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust are two viable sources for help. And of course, if possible, donating money to support small or bigger projects.

There are no age limits, and there is job for all ages, abilities and mobility. Just ask, and please don't say no if you can step higher and become a leader/co leader. We are not all born into leadership, but we grow into those roles as we did when we were active educators. We were leaders; managers in our own classrooms. In return you can receive the gratitude of others and satisfaction of doing, learning and moving forward the mission of serving and benefitting current and future retirees.

You can only soak so long in the bath/shower... lest you get shriveled all over...whither and fade. Get out, towel off and move. If you get the call... **Get going and keep growing! Ask what can I do.... Volunteer to be a returning member/new leader.**



We are excited to offer some new trips for the 2022/2023 travelling season both domestic and abroad!

It's time we all got away!

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CENTRAL ZONE
BY RAY PITCHER, ZONE PRESIDENT
Rpitcher1@twcny.rr.com

The Hudson-Kramer Grant was awarded on September the 1st in Central Zone this year. This award was selected by **Darlene Jarvis, Chris Granan** and **Maryann Dec**. They chose the winning project from seven applications. It was a very competitive application process this year. This year the winning project was by Ms. Carol Janice at the Minetto Elementary School in the Oswego Central School District. The project was to help fund a new inclusive playground for grades PreK to sixth. They are expecting to break ground in the spring of 2023. Special thank you to Ms. Jennifer Sullivan the building Principal for allowing us to present the funds at her opening day faculty meeting.



Picture: Left to Right: Carol Janice, Colette Astoria President Oswego Retired Teachers Association, Darlene Jarvis, Member of the Scholarship Committee, Ms. Jennifer Sullivan Building Principal.

Our next zone meeting will be in April at Theodore's in Canastota. We still have many appointed committees needing people to serve. If you are interested, please contact me. Have a safe winter.

ONONDAGA COUNTY – Dell Ford Jordan

Community Service Article

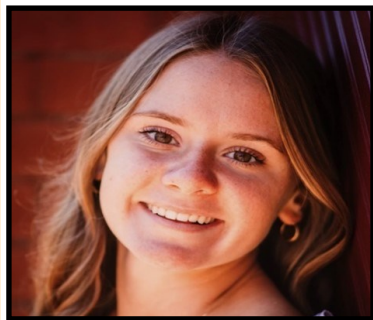
The RENY/Onondaga County had our first Unit Luncheon on May 24, 2022, at Tony's Family Restaurant in Syracuse. Retirees dined sufficiently on a family-style and were entertained by a presentation on Travel-Day Trips. Our Community Service Project for this luncheon was to support the Ukraine Relief Program. Retirees donated to World Central Kitchen, a 4-star Charity Navigator along with a 100% rating for both Accountability and Finances. World Central Kitchen serves food to communities in need and provides food to Ukraine communities and to refugee centers accepting Ukrainian refugees in Poland, Hungary, and other European countries. If other units wish to donate, please visit the website: <https://donate.wck.org/>

Scholarship

This year, the Onondaga County Retired Teachers' Association gave two (2) Scholarships to high school students who will seek college degrees in education; each recipient will receive \$2,000.00. A brief summary from each is on the next page.



CENTRAL ZONE *CONTINUED*
BY RAY PITCHER, ZONE PRESIDENT



Madison Moen, a graduate of Bishop Ludden, has been accepted to Saint Bonaventure University and hopes to become an elementary school inclusive teacher. During her leisure time she enjoys playing sports and working at Lourdes Camp, a summer camp for children. She loves working with children and young adults and hopes to make an impact on and in their lives. Madison says she greatly appreciates this great honor in getting this award as it will help her reach her ultimate goal of being a teacher. She thanks OCRTA for helping her to do that.



Anna Taylor, a graduate of Charles W. Baker, has been accepted at SUNY Geneseo to study Elementary and Special Education. She was active in the school's marching band and traveled across the country with them performing and making music. She was in the National Honor Society and kept a rigorous course load. During the summer she was a camp counselor at her local YMCA. She credits her teachers, every single one of them that shaped her into the woman she is and will be; she is excited to start this journey for the next generation and thanks OCRTA for making her dream happen.

CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE
BY MARY BETH TYNDALL, ZONE PRESIDENT



The Central Western Zone has been moving ahead with lots of activities!

Allegany County has had a volunteer to be our contact person. **Jerry McGlynn**, the most recent president is sharing his knowledge and files so that this unit can get back on the map!

Livingston County held the spring luncheon meeting at Brian's USA Diner in Mt. Morris on June 8th. President, **Mary Corey** convened.

Monroe County also met on June 8th at the Shadow Lake Golf Club in Penfield. Ron Herman, RTO member, provided entertainment and team building with his rendition of "Name That Tune!" In addition, the hiking, bicycling, bird watching, gardening, recorder music, card making, and book review activity groups are meeting again. See picture on right.





CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE *CONTINUED*
BY MARY BETH TYNDALL, ZONE PRESIDENT

Ontario County had their spring luncheon on May 12th at Warfield's Restaurant in Clifton Springs. There were about 35 attendees.

Orleans County had their first meeting on September 22nd at Knowlesville Fellowship Hall. Community Service Chair, **Barb Filipiak**, invited a speaker from Camp Rainbow.



Seneca County had their spring luncheon on May 19th at Killian's Events in Waterloo. A milestone birthday was recognized. **Clarisse Coggins**, pictured at left, celebrated her 100th with a beautiful strawberry cake. The guest speaker, Jeffery Hoffman, was inspirational while encouraging each of us to write "Our Story"---family history is always fascinating. Also of interest is the new SCRTA Facebook page. Pictured at right is **Carol Westlake**, SCRTA President.



Steuben County gathered on August 22nd at the Sunrise Restaurant in Dansville. Ten members had a lengthy discussion about their future as an active organization. Joanne Bennett convened the meeting and set up a tour of the American Red Cross Museum.

Wayne County held their spring luncheon on June 7th at the Young Sommer Winery in Williamson. **Les Buell** provided a program highlighting the events planned for Wayne County Bicentennial Celebration in 2023.

Wyoming County gathered on May 17th in Varysburg at the Byrnclyff Golf Resort with 35 members. The guest speaker was from the Charlotte House Comfort Care Home in the village of North Java.



Yates County met for their spring luncheon on June 6th at the Moose Lodge in Penn Yan. The Keuka Comfort Care Home was featured in the presentation.

Not only are the CWZ county units generous to their local charities but they have also been supporting the Ukrainian relief efforts as well. Pictured to the left are the cookies that supported the relief efforts.



ZONE NEWS

EASTERN ZONE

BY PAMELA LOVE, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

RENY/Eastern Zone's Annual Meeting was held on September 22nd, 2022 at the Turf Tavern in Scotia, NY. Dr. James Newell, President of RENY, and his wife were special guests at this meeting.



Pictured on left: Eastern Zone members getting the mailings ready for the July meeting. Members, from L-R include **Marjorie Leibowitz, Lisa Devaren, Mary Boice, Carolyn Bovee, Warren Burton, Janice Mullins and Rosalie Oliver.**

RENY/Amsterdam Unit President, **Ann Marie Dufresne**, said that their unit met for the first time since the fall of 2019 at the end of June. They had about 50 members attend and they honored the newly retired from 2020 - 2022. Their next meeting will be in October and they plan to pay tribute to the members who have died since the summer of 2019. Sadly, they have lost around 30 of their friends and colleagues.

RENY/Columbia Unit President, **Joan Mattson**, said that their unit enjoyed visiting with everyone at a summer luncheon held on August 18th at The Greens, the restaurant at the Copake Country Club. They recently had their first business meeting since the pandemic started on June 2nd of this year. Their fall meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th. This is a change in the day of the meetings to accommodate additional members. They are working on updating their database of communication contacts, planning for future projects, researching possible donation opportunities and making decisions on speakers and programs for upcoming meetings.

RENY/Delaware Unit President, **Pat Reynolds**, said that their unit had their fall meeting on October 7th with a special speaker. They plan on donating money for the school food packs given to elementary children.

RENY/Fulton Unit President, **William Naple**, said his unit had their meeting on October 5th and were looking for new officers to continue the leadership of this unit.

RENY/Otsego Unit President, **Penny Bellinger**, said that they held their annual "not going back to school" Golf Tournament on August 24th. They raised \$1500 during this event this year and plan to use the money to send kids to programs offered by the local YMCA. The unit will be holding a fall business meeting in October.

RENY/Retired Educators of the Capital Region (RCRTA) President, **Majorie Leibowitz**, said that her unit held a business luncheon meeting on September 14th. They went over all the plans for the coming year.

RENY/Saratoga Unit President, Kenneth Bollerud, said that they held a planning meeting in August to discuss the monthly meetings which will be held every month (September - June). They have plans to contribute to a food bank which is involved with after school programs and back packs for kids as well as after school programs. They also plan to donate money to **Karen Flewelling** for her ongoing projects in Africa.



EASTERN ZONE *CONTINUED*
BY PAMELA LOVE, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

RENY/Upper Montgomery Unit President, **Rosalind Carron**, said that they held a fall meeting on September 14th. This meeting was held at the Holiday Inn, Johnstown and was hosted by Canajoharie Retired Teachers.

RENY/Eastern Zone Community Services Representative, **Joyce Notarnicola**, said that our zone continues to support the Food Bank of Northeastern NY with a Volunteer day held on October 18th and also with quarterly monetary donations. In addition, personal products are collected at each meeting and donated to organizations within our zone.

LONG ISLAND ZONE
BY EILEEN HOLMES*CR, ZONE PRESIDENT

"God blows on the leaves, they turn to gold, and we call it Autumn." Joyce Rachelle

After an unusually hot and drought-like summer, the Long Island Zone is ready to enjoy milder weather and the well-known signs of fall. The farmstands and fields are full of orange pumpkins, red apples, corn husks, mums, and the last of fresh tomatoes, zucchini and all kinds of fruits and veggies. Now we need a season free from hurricanes or Nor'easters and we will all set to welcome winter when it arrives!

In spite of the oppressive heat, it was a busy summer for LIZ. Finishing up the last-minute details for the RENY convention was the biggest task. In August, we were filling raffle baskets, ordering table decorations, and finalizing room accommodations. **Jo Anne Powell** hosted a group to ice dye our convention shirts.

In other LIZ business, **Eileen Holmes*CR** and **Lillie Brown** delivered a food donation to Helping Makes U Happy for the end-of-summer/back-to-school program for needy families and LIZ vice president **Val Stype** was busy organizing the LIZ Annual Fall meeting to be held at The Irish Coffee Pub in Islip, NY.

The East End unit of LIZ (EERTA) announced a new slate of officers for the 2022-23 year. **Fred Conway*CR** will serve as president; **Robert Svoboda**, vice president; **Susan LiCausi**, secretary and **Eileen Holmes*CR**, treasurer. Eileen is taking over for **John Ruggiero** who has served as EERTA treasurer since 1995! He is now 94 years 'young' and has decided to retire from the EERTA board. **Robert Svoboda** also serves as EERTA's Community Service chair and announced the holiday donation for a needy family will be going to the Longwood School district.

"What do you use to mend a damaged jack-o-lantern?" A Pumpkin Patch!!





NORTH CENTRAL ZONE

BY NANCY ROBERTS*CR & PATRICIA NEWELL, PUBLIC RELATIONS CO-CHAIRS

With beautiful summer weather, NCZ members have been traveling. Even with rising flight and gas prices, NCZ members have literally hit the road to visit family and to view this great country.



Some of our members have been on trips to Kansas, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia, etc. Our NCZ Healthcare Chair, **Toni Gigliotti**, wins the prize in this contest. Toni and her husband, **Dennis Gigliotti**, went on a nine day trip to Hawaii. It was the very last state that they needed to visit in order to reach their goal of visiting all 50 of the US states. To celebrate this achievement, they invited their children and grandchildren to accompany them. They traveled in style with imprinted matching shirts. In Toni's words, "It was the trip of a lifetime!" One of the highlights was visiting the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii which honors our brave fallen servicemen.

David Schryver, NCZ Travel and Leisure Chair, designed summer outings for our members. The trips varied from a waterfall hiking excursion to a tour of the 1,000 Islands on a glass bottom boat. NCZ also offered a luncheon boat cruise on Skaneateles Lake and a trip to the Merry Go Round Theatre in Auburn to see "State Fair." There was a trip tailored for everyone for summertime fun!

NCZ Community Service worker, **Pat Dietrich**, oversees the "Love Your Public Library" program. This project which supports libraries and literacy is very dear to Pat's heart. At the June 14th NCZ Scholarship Luncheon, raffle tickets were drawn. The Lowville Free Library and the Lyme Free Library were the lucky winners. In fact, the Lowville Library won twice!! On June 23rd, NCZ Bylaws Chair **Jannet Seelman**, who purchased the winning ticket, presented a \$100 award to Lowville Library Director, Meghan Haney. Ms. Haney is very appreciative of these funds. Many thanks to our public libraries who promote and encourage reading for students over the summer months.



NCZ is proud to introduce its very own website...www.renyncz.org. **David Schryver** has devoted time and energy to this worthwhile project. He has posted photos of our officers and scholarship winners. There are also articles on NCZ activities and topics of interest. The website will have sections for all of the NCZ committees. There is also a link to the State website. This is a valuable addition to PR and hopefully will encourage membership. Thank you, David, for breaking this new ground!



NCZ celebrated its 70th anniversary at the Fall Business Luncheon on September 20th, 2022 at the Ramada Inn in Watertown. Our new RENY banner made by NCZ quilter **Ann Anderson**, pictured at left, was proudly on display. "Oldies but Goodies" tunes were playing during the coffee/social time. The Turning Point Chorus, a barbershop quartet, under the direction of **Brad Lundquist** was the featured entertainment. This was an enjoyable and memorable event.

Congratulations, NCZ! Happy 70th Anniversary!!



NORTHEASTERN ZONE
BY TRACEY HOWARD, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

The Northeastern Zone is pleased to announce our co-presidents, **Cheryl Dodds** and **Connie Lalonde**. Our organization is privileged to welcome them to their new positions.



Cheryl, pictured at left, is a retired Peru Central School ELA Academic Intervention Specialist and Title I District Coordinator. While at Peru, she served as president of Peru Association of Teachers for several years and coordinated many staff development workshops.

Cheryl was also employed as a Literacy Adjunct at SUNY Plattsburgh and facilitated many workshops for NCTRC.

Currently, Cheryl works part time as the ELA/Literacy Facilitator at Champlain Valley Educational Services. In her role, she serves on the Regional Spelling Bee Committee and on the statewide ELA Professional Development Frameworks Committee.

In her spare time, Cheryl enjoys researching family history and genealogy and golfing. She volunteers at the St. Joseph's Clothing Store and Chairs the annual St. Alexander's Golf Tournament.

Connie, pictured at right, was also an educator in the Peru Central School District for 25 years teaching and counseling elementary students. She served on many committees and was very involved in the Peru Association of Teachers serving as Vice President, a contract negotiator, and attending several national conventions. As a member of RENY/NEZ, she was chair of the Community Service Committee.



Since retirement Connie has volunteered in her granddaughter's classroom, at our local hospital, and currently serves on the board of trustees at the Kent-Delord House Museum. She enjoys spending time with my family and friends, gardening, traveling and doing community service work.



The Dr. Karl R. and Ruth Kramer Northeastern Zone Retired Educators of New York Education Scholarship for 2022 has been awarded to Mallorie Douglas. She graduated from AuSable Valley High School and will be attending SUNY Plattsburgh. In high school Mallorie took advantage of the high school classes which would also award college credit. She achieved high honor roll throughout high school.

Mallorie was influenced to study in the field of education by her mother, a current teacher. For the past two years Mallorie has been employed at a grocery store to support herself now as well as save for her college costs. She has participated in sports and community service which is especially meaningful to her. In January 2023 Mallorie will receive \$500 to assist her in paying the costs of college. Congratulations, Malorie!



NORTHERN ZONE

BY LINDA CROSBY, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

While visiting relatives in August in the Northern Catskills/Hudson Valley area where I grew up, I was so dismayed to see the dry very crunchy brown grass, wilting plants, and somewhat desperate wildlife all thirsting for a drink of precious water. The bears in the Catskills are making nocturnal and daytime visits to some of my family's streets where they are not usually seen. Even the insects have been weirdly attentive to any source of moisture (including human blood) or oddly absent.

Although my lawn in the North Country has been nicely green all summer (I do not water it), there are signs of stress creeping into our area, too. My most fervent wish right now is for some good steady rain showers to gently caress all N.Y.S. fields, mountains and valleys! Here's hoping all the severely parched areas of the United States get some relief soon.

On August 1, the NZ BOD met; highlights of the meeting were discussions about membership, the need for a new membership committee chairperson (please, could anyone help us?), reminders about overdue membership renewals, scholarship winners, ideas for community service projects, Friendly Service cards changes, convention business, committee reports, and plans for the fall membership meeting. Convention delegates were named: **Tom Cook, Betty Cook, Phil LePage, Gayla LePage, Ted Tate, and Rae Louise Tate**. NZ President **Gayla LePage** said she would donate the two baskets for the convention raffle ticket sales and asked for donations to fill the baskets. The BOD voted to make a \$100 donation to the RENY DeCormier Fund. Also, at the BOD meeting, Meetings and Programs Chair **Alice Galvin** announced that NZ member **Holly Chorba** will be the guest speaker at our fall meeting on September 21, at Casablanca Restaurant in Gouverneur, N.Y. Holly has published a new book, "It's Ok...Scream in the Shower!" after much reflection and writing about her grief and recovery experiences since the sudden death of her husband. She will have copies of the book to sell at cost. A detailed invitation was planned. The BOD met again on September 2 to prepare for the fall membership meeting.

This past summer NZ members **Pat Hooker** and **Gayla LePage** worked at the Franklin County Fair; Pat volunteered at the Franklin County House of History exhibit which NEZ member **Diane Bonenfant** (she lives in Franklin Co.) worked hard to put together. Gayla served as Director of the Vegetable Hall.



NZ Scholarship Chair Gayla LePage announced that our 2022 Janet P. Dana Memorial Scholarship (\$400) was awarded to Rylee Andrews, pictured at left, daughter of Michael and Jodi Andrews of Malone, N.Y. Rylee graduated from Franklin Academy in the Malone Central School District with a 93.50 average. She was very active in high school, participating in the National Honor Society, Spanish Club, and Epsilon Club, while playing on the JV/Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Cheerleading, and JV/Varsity Softball teams. She has volunteered at Nelson's Flower Shop, Saint Augustine's and Saint Mary's Parishes, the annual Bangor Fire Dept. Haunted Trail and local youth basketball leagues, while also working part time as a patient advocate at the Kinney Drugs pharmacy. Rylee is attending SUNY Potsdam this fall majoring in Early Childhood Elementary Education. Rylee strongly believes in the value of education and stated, "I want to be able to teach kids how to open up their minds to their abilities, see the world around them, and most importantly, to dream big."



NORTHERN ZONE
BY LINDA CROSBY, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR



Our Ross C. Hudson Memorial Scholarship(\$400) was awarded to Emma Lalone, daughter of Scott and Kim Lalone of Ogdensburg, N.Y. A graduate of Ogdensburg Free Academy in the Ogdensburg City School District, Emma maintained a 93.88 average while participating in band, soccer, indoor and outdoor track, basketball, yearbook staff, elementary education classroom volunteer, National Junior Honor Society, National Honor Society. She volunteered in her community church youth group, Biddy Basketball, Salvation Army bell ringer, harvest dinners, and Kiwanis Soccer (referee). Currently, Emma is majoring in Early Childhood Elementary Education at SUNY Cortland. While volunteering in a First Grade classroom at her former elementary school, Emma decided to be a teacher and said, "I have gained insight in teaching techniques that will help me in the future." She acknowledged the positive influence of her many teachers in Ogdensburg.



At their 48th annual Summer membership meeting on August 17 at the Clifton-Fine Golf Course Clubhouse in Star Lake, N.Y., the Clifton-Fine-Edwards Retired Teachers Association awarded the P.A. Miranda Scholarship(\$1,500) to Clifton-Fine Central School Senior Karina Benzel, pictured at left, daughter of Will and Judy Benzel of Wanakena, N.Y. Presented by C-F-E Scholarship Chairperson **Sally Capone, on left in picture**, the award will help Karina pursue her major

in business at Clarkson University in Potsdam this fall. Congratulations to Karina! CFE Unit President **Joe Russo** said that the unit gave special recognition at the meeting to the Northern Zone Walking Club which is still recording the miles walked by members. He announced that NZ birthday girl (8/17) **Laurie Reynolds** has walked an average of 10.3 miles per day in the last 3 months; she also plays in a women's softball league. Congratulations, Laurie, on all your accomplishments! After the meeting, CFE members visited the Wanakena History Center for a self-guided tour and the new footbridge.



CFE Unit Summer Meeting-Joe Russo, Sue Dumke, Judy Benzel, Jean Pomerville, Sally Capone, Alice Antwine, Debby Yartz, Laurie Reynolds



Many thanks to NZ Historian **Jean Theobald** for gathering information and taking a gorgeous photo of an amazing RENY/NZ lady from Brasher Falls, N.Y.; **Grace Smith**, pictured at left, will celebrate her 102nd birthday on October 30. In 1942, Grace graduated with the first SUNY Potsdam class to receive four year degrees! Beginning her teaching career that fall, she worked steadily until 1980 when she began a 42+ year retirement! She first taught Kindergarten and First Grade in Conifer, N.Y. before moving with her husband, Tom, to Millbrook, N.Y. where she continued to teach. Moving back to Potsdam, Grace paused her teaching career to raise their four children, while substituting at the elementary school. She was then asked to teach Kindergarten and First Grade at the Hannawa Falls School until, five years later, the school closed and consolidated with the Lawrence Avenue school where she taught Second Grade. Grace also taught Pre-First for 6 years,

as the first teacher of that newly created level. Possessing a sharp wit and a great sense of humor, Grace remains an active, enthusiastic retiree, enjoying hockey games (Go, Clarkson!!), rooting for her beloved Yankees, playing piano for her small church group, playing cards and socializing with friends. She was an avid golfer until her 90's. Thank you, Grace, for supporting our Northern Zone for so many decades! **We wish you a wonderful 102nd birthday!!**



SOUTHEASTERN ZONE
BY MAUREEN COFFEY, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

"And all at once,
Summer collapsed into fall..."
~Oscar Wilde

Beautiful imagery! Beautiful season!

Let's take a look at what's been going on in the Hudson Valley as people are finally beginning to come together.

Donna Harness, President of Southeastern Zone, announces that our annual meeting was held on Wednesday, October 26th at Franco Di Roma's Restaurant in Middletown. Committee reports and a buffet luncheon were followed by speaker Jen Metzger, who was the Democratic candidate for Ulster County Executive.

Once again, the Mid-Hudson Area Retired Teachers Association (MARTA) had activities for everyone, no matter your interests. To kick off the new school year, ice cream socials in various locations took place. New retirees met new friends and seasoned retirees caught up with one another. A Sip 'n' Paint and a leaded glass class provided creative outlets for those of us so inclined. Scenic hikes and an introduction to pickleball provided some fun times to the more adventurous among us. Trips to The Arboretum, The Dia Beacon Museum, and a cemetery walk and talk were popular choices. For our life long learners we had presentations on Investing 101, coordinating health benefits with Medicare, and a glass works presentation. A Fall luncheon and annual meeting was scheduled for October 4th at Delanceys in Goshen. Their holiday party will be on December 7th at Bella Luna in Washingtonville. Don't forget to bring wrapped gifts for children in need. And, if ever you're free on the first Wednesday of the month, stop by Loughrans in Salisbury Mills for lunch with your former colleagues.

The Newburgh Area Retired Teachers Association has also been busy. On September 8th members came together for a Kickoff Breakfast at the Coach Diner in New Windsor. Their Over 85 Luncheon was Thursday, October 6th and their holiday luncheon will be December 8th...both at The Lakeview House in Newburgh. NARTA continues to collect socks for shelters and churches through its Sock It To 'Em program. They also made a donation to The De Cormier fund in honor of their recently deceased members.

The Sullivan County Retired Teachers Association held their annual meeting on September 14th at The White Sulphur Springs Inn. Like so many others, the Sullivan County members were excited to finally be together. COVID sure changed just how we were able to gather, conduct a meeting and share lunch. Getting back to our old way of doing things is exciting!

Stay safe, be well and enjoy your holidays.

'Til next time...





SOUTHERN ZONE BY MARY LOU WOOD, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

Another season has greeted us. Our summer flowers are fading and our chrysanthemums are blooming. Colors changing from the vibrant colors of summer to the glorious reds, oranges, and yellow of Autumn. The beautiful foliage seem to spread their warm colors to prepare us for the colors blue and purple. Soon we will wish our snowbirds farewell till next Spring.



The Southern Zone has completed our 2021-2022 audit report. We are ready to start a new 2022-2023 year. Our audit committee, pictured at right is:

Mary Suffern, secretary; **Don Cutton*CR**, scholarship & past president; **Bonnie Stratton**, treasurer; **Lois Cutton**, past treasurer; **Mary Lou Wood**, Public Relations for SZ; **Debbi Deats**, treasurer.

September 22nd we had our SZ Annual Meeting/luncheon at Curly's Chicken House. We enjoyed socializing and carrying on with our RENY and zone business.

CARTA, Corning Area Retired Teachers' Association, has resumed their regular meetings with a new meeting date. They will now be meeting on the fourth Wednesday of every other month which started this past July. They will be meeting and dining at the Chinese restaurant, EnEn's, in Corning.

Other SZ units are struggling to meet. WBET, Western Broome Eastern Tioga Retired Teachers as well as Schuyler Retired Teachers' Association will continue to work on getting together. As are the other units. EARTA, Elmira Retired Teachers enjoyed having their birthday meeting as a great starting point. They will continue to meet in the near future.

Lynne Hunkovic, president of Eastern Broome Branch, and their members were excited to resume their monthly luncheon this past October at a new venue. Their last luncheon was on March 9, 2020.

Today some of us saw this beautiful bright orange full moon. During this past summer the sunsets have been spectacular. Enjoy being outside these next few months before the cool wind blows.





ZONE NEWS

WESTERN ZONE

BY NANCY WHITE AND AUDREY SEIDEL, CO- PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR



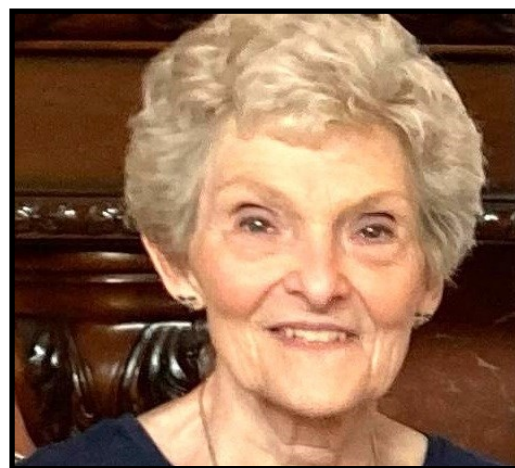
Western Zone’s strength can be found in its individual members and in its eleven units. We would like to highlight two of our units. ENCRTA, Eastern Niagara County Retired Teachers Association, is a very active WZ unit. Its president, **Sandy Kelley**, pictured at left is also a member of WZ Board of Directors. She is WZ Historian and the editor of *Western Currents*, each position requiring Sandy’s conscientiousness to detail. The second WZ unit we would like to showcase is EERTA, Eastern Erie Retired Teachers Association. **Judy Farmer*CR** leads this unit as President. She is also Past President of WZ and past Recording Secretary for RENY, both essential leadership roles. Judy has been President of her unit for 12 years and has devoted much time and energy in working for retired teachers.

ENCRTA is always seeking new members and has been successful in increasing its membership numbers. Presently they have approximately 200 members. Meeting attendance is usually 50 members. They meet 4 times a year and have either a speaker or entertainment at each meeting. They enjoy gathering together, helping others and being informed. They also are very interested in being involved in RENY and contributing each year to the DeCormier Trust Fund. In addition, they contribute to Sister Loretto’s Soup Kitchen, the Lockport Salvation Army, the Lockport YMCA for their Women’s Shelter, the local Lion’s Club, WZ’s “Socktober”, and WZ’s Project Flight.

ENCRTA also provides scholarships, \$3,000 annually \$500 to each deserving high school student pursuing a career in education. These scholarships are available to their 6 area school districts.

ENCRTA welcomes any educator in Niagara County who is not a member of a unit. If interested contact **Sandy Kelley** at rlkelley48@gmail.com or 716-772-7807.

The second WZ unit we would like to showcase is EERTA, Eastern Erie Retired Teachers Association. In 2022, unit meetings were in February, May, and October. **Judy Farmer*CR**, president states that attendance at meetings, averages about 35-40 members. EERTA is another very active unit which has many members who like to be involved and enjoy being an integral part of their communities through donations which include non-perishable food at the winter meeting, toiletries in the spring, and books at the October meeting. Two of the meetings feature an author or a speaker. EERTA gives 4 scholarships of \$700 each to 4 school districts. This unit has contributed over \$50,000 in scholarships through the years. Each recipient must be pursuing a career in education.



EERTA welcomes educators interested in joining this unit. You may contact Judy at jfarmer2@rochester.rr.com for information.



ZONE NEWS

WESTERN ZONE, CONTINUED

BY NANCY WHITE AND AUDREY SEIDEL, CO- PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

Western Zone’s strength is found in its WZ/RENY members from its units. We are fortunate to have such involved and dedicated individuals who care so much about being involved with other retired educators, helping others, promoting an appreciation of education and supporting their communities.

Twenty twenty-two is a special year in Western Zone. We held our first WZ Annual Meeting since COVID began. The annual meeting was held on September 21, 2022 at The Columns Banquets in Elma, NY. This year’s meeting was well attended and newly elected officers were installed. Twenty twenty-two has turned out to be a very goodyear. We are encouraged by our leaders both in our units, our Western Zone officers and our members.

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