



RENY  
RETIRED EDUCATORS OF NY

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Summer 2022

YORK  
STATE



## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE from Dr. James Newell, PhD**

As the sunny weather and warm temperatures appear, I am wondering when the Coronavirus pandemic will be officially declared, "Done and dusted!". The World Health Organization declared the beginning of the pandemic. Maybe it's time for it to say "Terminado".

The RENY zones across the state are once again getting together and having luncheon and breakfast meetings. All of us are excited and grateful to meet again in person! You can read more about these events in this issue of *York State*. My wife, Pat, and I will resume our visits to the Zones in September. **Janice Mullins** from the

Eastern Zone extended an invitation to us, and we have accepted it. We will join the Eastern Zone for their luncheon meeting on September 22, 2022.

With the pandemic in decline, we are planning to resume our regular Annual Meeting and Convention at Turning Stone in October 2022. As you know, we had to cancel the 2020 Convention and hold a scaled down version of the Convention and Annual Meeting in 2021. This issue of *York State* contains detailed information about the 2022 Convention. It has been two years in the making, and we expect that it will be a great one!

The Board of Directors approved an investment policy at its March 15, 2022 meeting. This policy will give our investment advisors guidance about investing the endowment dollars RENY has. To compliment this new investment policy, we have asked for proposals to provide investment advisory services. We have done this in order to obtain better returns and to lower the fees we pay. We expect to receive proposals from at least three reputable firms experienced in providing these services to non-profits. The Finance and Budget Committee will review these bids and recommend one firm to the full Board of Directors.

A decision will be made in July regarding whether to offer a Medicare Advantage Health Insurance plan to our members. Members of the zones have been surveyed about their potential interest in this insurance. This data will be used to inform the Board of Directors' decision.

This year promising to be a happy and healthy one. We look forward to seeing current members and meeting new ones!

## **PRESIDENT'S APPEAL**

The President's Appeal was launched in February 2022 with a letter mailed to more than 12,000 of our members across this great state. We are making good progress in meeting the goal we set when developing the RENY budget. As we sit down to write this article, the office has received \$45,833 in gifts. Accordingly, we are 50.9% of the way toward our goal.

If you have yet to make a contribution, please consider doing so. Every gift is important regardless of its size. You can contribute by writing a check and mailing it to RENY at P.O. Box 490, Amsterdam, New York 12010 or you can pay with a credit card. Visit our website at [www.retirededucatorsny.org](http://www.retirededucatorsny.org) and click on the "membership" tab. Select "make a contribution" in the drop down menu. Fill in the requested information.

Thanks ever so much for your continuing generosity and support.

Yours truly,  
James Newell, Ph.D.  
RENY President



**ROBERT R. DECORMIER MEMORIAL TRUST REPORT**  
**by Beth Green, Secretary, DeCormier Memorial Trust**

The DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund was established to assist retired educators facing financial challenges. The Fund provides both monthly stipends to retirees who are struggling to meet their regular expenses and special grants for one-time expenses that are beyond the means of the retiree. Any RENE member who has been a member for at least the previous three years, is at least 55 years of age, and was employed (or their spouse was) a minimum of 15 years as a New York State school employee, is eligible to apply for a stipend or a special grant.

One example of a recent grant that was awarded was one used to help pay to rebuild a foundation wall in a member's home that had caved in and another was used to pay off credit cards that were maxed out in trying to cover co-pays resulting from a major health crisis. If you, or someone you know, is in need of financial assistance, please contact **Anne Flansburg\*CR**, Chair, at 716-863-3631 or [anneflanswz@aol.com](mailto:anneflanswz@aol.com). She will be happy to help you with the application process.

The DeCormier Fund relies on donations from zones, units, and individuals to be able to continue to help our former colleagues in need. Donations to the fund may be tax deductible, depending upon your tax situation. **Donations, in any amount, can be sent to Mary Lou Davis, Treasurer, 125 Andrews Road, LaGrangeville, NY 12540. Please make checks payable to the DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund.**

**HEALTH CARE REPORT**  
**by Mary Ella Moeller\*CR, Committee Chair**

Participating In Activities As You Age

There are many things you can do to help boost your health as you age, including making healthy food choices and not smoking. But, did you know in participating in social and other activities you enjoy can also help support healthy aging?

As you grow older, you may find yourself spending more time at home alone. Being lonely or socially isolated is not good for your overall health. It can increase feelings of depression or anxiety, which can have a negative impact on many other aspects of your health. If you find yourself spending a lot of time alone, try participating in activities you find meaningful. Those that create a sense of purpose in your daily life may help to maintain your well being and independence as you age. Research has shown that older adults with an active lifestyle:

- ⇒ Are less likely to develop certain diseases
- ⇒ Have longer life spans
- ⇒ Are happier and less depressed
- ⇒ Are better prepared to cope
- ⇒ May be able to improve their thinking abilities

Finding the right balance is very important. Everyone has different amounts of time they can spend on activities. What is perfect for one person, may be too much for another. Participating in activities you enjoy should be fun, not stressful.

**FRIENDLY SERVICE REPORT**  
**by Judith Corigliano, VP for Friendly Service**

Thank you for being a Friend! ....with Service

What did we learn....the last 2 or was it 3 years has been tough? It has left some of us scratching our heads about the current state of everything. We have mourned, bemoaned, wearied, rejoiced at freedom from isolation and masked meetings and witnessed unbelievable changes, witnessed brutality of man...hatred and yet incredible brotherly love. I am reminded of an old poster of a chimpanzee hanging from one arm ....with the words "Just hang it there". Corny, I know, but RENE statewide is lucky to have dedicated members spread around the state that have done just that ....they hung in there and continued their volunteer job (s).

Continued on page 3

**FRIENDLY SERVICE REPORT - CONTINUED**  
**by Judith Corigliano, VP for Friendly Service**

Your Friendly Service workers, from zone chairs, Unit and Key Workers have been calling, sending mail, celebrating milestone birthdays, and guiding people to help find specific needs ( health /financial). They have given service in years that range from one year to a few years to over twenty ++ years.

Thank you to all Zone Chairs for their past and hopefully continued service as leaders of the workers: **Kathy Caron-NEZ, Debbi Deats-SZ, Donna Harness- SEZ, Linda Holley-NCZ, Dell Ford Jorden-CZ , Marjorie Leibowitz-EZ, Thomas Giambra-WZ, Barbara Rosencrans-CWS, Ellen Smith- NZ, Dee McKinnon and Alicia Winowsky, LIZ.**

We admire them for their continued service and hope that newer retirees will see the value in furthering the card greetings and assistance that Friendly Service provides. Step up, if it appeals to your volunteer gene. A helping hand works only if you know who needs assistance. And if you've been on the recruiting end you know it's tough selling the job, you're only offered no pay, but stamps, maybe cards , but at least you make your own hours, the perfect work from home volunteer job and the pay is the gratitude of many.

# PLEASE...GO AWAY!!!

## UPCOMING TRIPS OFFERED BY COLLETTE TOURS

(800) 581-8942



**Spotlight on South Dakota**  
**featuring Mt. Rushmore and The Badlands**  
**September 08 — September 14, 2023**



**Spectacular Scandinavia**  
**May 18 — May 31, 2023**



**Italy: Amalfi Coast to Puglia**  
**June 22 — July 05, 2023**



**Iceland's Northern Lights**  
**November 3 — November 9, 2023**



**Wednesday, October 12, 2022**

**2:00pm - 5:00pm**

Registration and Welcome Reception  
Coffee, Tea, Danish Pastry  
Basket Raffles on Sale

**6:00pm Dinner - Mohawk Room**

**Following Dinner: Special Recognition Award and  
Keynote Speaker, Noel Gish Long Island Historian**

**Thursday, October 13, 2022**

**7:30am Breakfast Buffet**

**10:30 -11:30am Registration**

**9:00am - 10:00am**

**Session 1 Workshops**

**10:30am - 11:30am**

**Session 2 Workshops**

**Noon - Lunch**

**1:30pm - 5:00pm**

**Annual Meeting Session 1**

**5:00pm**

**Cocktail Party Mohawk Room (cash bar)**

*Glam yourself up with sparkly sunglasses and apparel.  
Let's make this a shiny and bright evening!*

**6:00pm**

**Buffet Dinner Oneida Room**

**Entertainment after Dinner Mohawk Room**

**Barbershop Quartet "Once Upon a Tyme"**

**A 40-50 minute concert featuring Fred Conway\*CR  
Long Island Zone as Lead.**

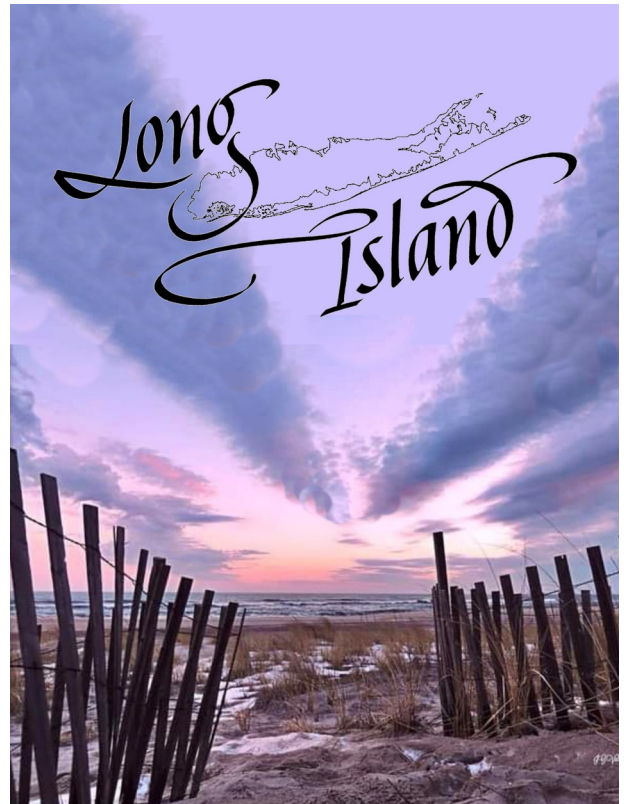


Photo by Jo Ann Valenti  
Calligraphy by Jo Anne Powell

**"Did You Know This About Long Island"**

*Introduced by Eileen Holmes\*CR*

Noel Gish presents a light-hearted look at the rich history of Long Island through an examination of the men and women who have lived and worked there. From the island the Native Americans called "Paumanauk" and the English renamed "Long," we will realize how the island fits into the fabric of the nation's history as we learn about historic people who influenced America's journey to freedom and greatness over the past 500 years.

Noel Gish has been lecturing on topics related to Long Island history since 1973. After graduating from SUNY Stony Brook with a degree in history and earning an MA degree in History/Education at Long Island University at CW Post, he taught 9-12 grade history, including advanced placement, Long Island history, and Alternative School for 35 years in the Hauppague Public School District. He was also an instructor in Long Island history at Suffolk County Community College and the College of St. Rose. One of the many honors bestowed on him was in 2015 the dedication of the newest exhibition wing to him for his 25 years of service on the Board of Trustees.



## Session One - 9:00 - 10:00am (Choose 1 of the Following)

### 1) Attracting Butterflies with Native Plants:

***Presented by Ron Broughton, Master Gardener Volunteer***

The presentation will cover how to attract butterflies to a garden using native plants. Learn about various native plants, from bloom time to their flower shapes. Also, learn about the bees and butterflies that are attracted to them for their nectars.

**About Presenter:** Ron Broughton has been involved in the Master Gardener Volunteer program for 14 years. He has done many talks on butterflies to roses. **Introduced by Lynn Hunkovic**

### 2) A Penny Postcard View of Long Island

***Presented by Noel Gish***

First introduced by the US government in 1893, postcards can tell us much about the past. Postcards examine nostalgic images, historic moments, and the changing Long Island landscape. They are invaluable photographic research tool for generations to come. **Introduced by Alicia Winowsky**

### 3) Health Insurance - A Benefit to Know and Cherish

***Presented by Kevin Mulligan\*CR***

This presentation will be a discussion of terminology and the trending patterns of employer provided health insurance for retired educators.

**About Presenter:** Immediate Past President of RENY, Kevin is currently the chairperson for the AdHoc committee on Health Insurance. For NEZ, he is the Health Care Committee chairperson and a member of the CEWW Consortium Advisory Board in the Plattsburgh area. **Introduced by Gayla LePage**

### 4) Calligraphy for Beginners Part 1

***Presented by Jo Anne Powell***

Learn the basics of Italic calligraphy in this part one workshop. Materials will be provided. (If you attend this workshop, you should take the afternoon session as it is a continuation.)

**About Presenter:** Since 1978, Jo Anne has taught this class to thousands of successful public students, for art associations and quilt guilds, and at international calligraphy conferences. She has created numerous calligraphic quilts, earning her many ribbons. Her work can be seen in numerous journals and magazines and five books. **Introduced by Mary Ella Moeller\*CR**

### 5) The 12 Rules of Attention

***Presented by Dr. Joseph Cardillo, PhD***

Good attention is the most necessary skill for success, whether your goal is to improve your work, health, academics, relationships, creativity for simply to experience more satisfied living. By the end of this presentation, you will not only understand how your brain's attention system works, but you will learn trailblazing tricks to achieve quick, high quality focus in your life.

**About Presenter:** Dr. Joseph Cardillo, PhD, is a national leader in holistic healthcare. He holds a doctorate in holistic psychology and in mind-body medicine. He is the best-selling author of numerous books in the field of health, mind-body-spirit, and psychology. [www.josephcardillo.com](http://www.josephcardillo.com) He is an expert in Attention Training and creative thinking and has taught his methods to over 20,000 students in various colleges, universities, and institutes.

**Introduced by Pat Newell**

## Session Two - 10:30 - 11:30am (Choose 1 of the Following)

### 1) Calligraphy Continued, presented by Jo Anne Powell

This is a continuation of the workshop in session one. See write up under Section One, #4 in the previous column.

### 2) A Way With Words

***Presented by Rosemary McKinley***

Rosemary has written three books about Long Island history. She began writing all about her life for her children and this morphed into books about Long Island.

**About Presenter:** Rosemary McKinley is a retired history and writing teacher who never thought about becoming an author until she retired. Since her retirement, she has written three books: 101 Glimpses of the North Fork and Islands, The Wampum Exchange, and Captain Henry Green, a Whaler. Her research spurred a deep interest into the North Fork of Long Island.

**Introduced by Agnes Dansereau\*CR**

### 3) The Great Bird Count 101

***Presented by Becca Rodomsky-Bish***

For 25 years the Great American Bird Count has spent four days in February collecting sightings of birds and uniting birdwatchers from across North America and the world. Becca specializes in how to create habitat to better support birds. Come learn more about this easy, fun, and important citizen-scientist project. You will learn how "GBBC" evolved over time and the impact it is having on our knowledge of bird populations.

**About Presenter:** Becca Rodomsky-Bish is the Project Leader of the Great Backyard Bird Count. She has a BA in Anthropology and Biology and a Masters in Environmental Science. **Introduced by Gayla LePage**

### 4) History of Barbershop Quartet

***Presented by Fred Conway\*CR and the "Once Upon A Tyme Quartet"***

This presentation will give you the history of Barbershop Music, and its importance in American history. It will feature the quartet with demonstrations and optional participation.

**About Presenters:** The quartet consists of Fred Conway (lead), David Lance (tenor), Raymond Ludwicki (bass) and Gary Wilson (baritone). These presenters have more than 125 years of combined individual Barbershop singing experience. The professional quartet "Once Upon a Tyme" from the Harbormen Chorus of Stony Brook, LI, has sung at several venues recently including NY State Long Island Veterans' Home, the Davis House, Coram, for Valentine's Day, for weddings, and other special events. Their varied repertoire includes love songs, pop and show tunes, Doo-Wop, ballads and patriotic songs, and both traditional and contemporary songs. They always sing with a song in their hearts, thrilling audiences with their unique four-part A Capella harmony.

**Introduced by Lois Thornberg**

### 5) TRS

***Presented by David Keefe and the TRS Team***

As in past years, representatives from TRS will provide information about the current status of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System.

**Introduced by Angelo Grande\*CR**

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# ZONE NEWS



## CENTRAL ZONE

**By Ray Pitcher, President**

The zone has two upcoming meetings. The first is on July 19<sup>th</sup>. The second will be the general membership on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Both meetings are open to all retirees and will be held at Theodore's in Canastota.

Elections will be held at the September meeting. Contact to **Bill Cline** if you are interested in becoming an officer on the Zone board. This year it was Central Zone's honor to award the Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant. The winner will be awarded in September. Key issues facing both the zone and individual units is the lack of people to serve as officers and serve on standing committees.

### RENY Chenango By: **Bill Cline**

This year we donated to "Roots & Wings" - the Chenango County Food Bank. Last year the project was the Child Advocacy Center. We also donated to the DeCormier Fund.

Our spring luncheon meeting was held at the Chenango County Historical Society. Some of our members volunteer there. Our student scholarship was awarded to Keona Courtright of Unadilla Valley Central School in the amount of \$1000.

### RENY-Oneida-Herkimer County Retried Teachers Assoc By: **Ray Pitcher**

RENY-Oneida-Herkimer County Retried Teachers Assoc. will have an executive board meeting at the Basloe Library in August. We will be having a general membership meeting at the end of September or beginning of October. Both are open to all members. This may be the last unit meeting for the 2022 calendar year.

At the fall meeting we will need to elect officers. Currently we have many open elected and appointed positions. Our unit will not survive past October unless we get people to agree to serve.

Key agenda items for both of our meetings will be consolidation, merger, or disbanding of this unit.

### RENY-Oswego By: **Colette Astoria**



RENY of Oswego had their first Luncheon since 2019 at LaParilla on the Water in Oswego. Four aspiring teachers were presented scholarships, see picture to right. Over \$1000 was collected to support the SAVE THE CHILDREN Ukraine and \$86 for Blessings in a Backpack, see picture on left. Cam Caruso serenaded us while we dined.



## EASTERN ZONE

**By Pamela Love, Public Relations Chair**

**Joan Mattson**, President of the RENY/Columbia County Unit said that they held their first meeting of 2022 on June 2nd. Past President, **Jane Miller**, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her years of service as president and for her continued support of the unit. Those in attendance voted to make a donation for UNICEF to support of the children of Ukraine.

**Pat Reynolds**, President of RENY/Delaware County Unit said that their meeting was held in early June and for the first time, they raised money to support their local Head Start Program in Walton. The unit donated \$300 to buy books for children to read.

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# ZONE NEWS



## EASTERN ZONE CONTINUED



Picture at RENY/EASTERN ZONE MEETING held at Turf Tavern, Scotia  
May 24, 2022 - L-R Marge Leibowitz, Rosalie Oliver, Pam Love,  
Patricia DeWeese, Jack DeWeese \*CR and Diane Hahn\*CR)

**Marge Leibowitz**, President of RENY/Retired Educators of the Capital Region (RCRTA) Unit said that they had their luncheon meeting on June 8th and collected money to help homeless animals.

Mary Ellen Caporta, Education Scholarship Chairperson, said that this year's \$1,000 Education Scholarship Winner was Thomas Rice, the 2022 Hoosic Valley Valedictorian who will be attending SUNY Cortland in the fall and be majoring in Health and Physical Education K-12. In addition, a \$100 one-time grant will be awarded to Angelina Davis who plans to pursue an Elementary Education degree.

**Ken Bollerud**, President of the RENY/Saratoga County Unit, said the speaker of their June meeting talked about needing volunteers to help with English language as a second language for those working at The Saratoga Race Track this summer. Their unit is giving \$600 to the DeCormier Fund.



## LONG ISLAND ZONE By Eileen Holmes\*CR, President

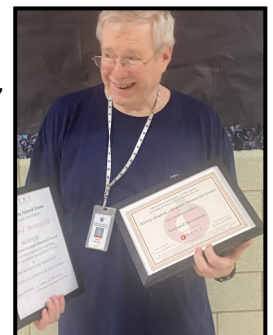
It's Summer 2022 and the Long Island Zone is finally getting back in the swing after the pandemic. On May 22nd, the Zone hosted a Spring Luncheon at the Bellport Country Club. LIZ Vice President **Val Stype** was in charge of arrangements and entertainment was provided by **Fred Conway\*CR** and the Once Upon a Tyme Barbershop Quartet.



On June 14th, the East End unit EERTA hosted a Flag Day luncheon at The Birchwood Restaurant in Riverhead. EERTA's Vice President **Agnes Dansereau\*CR** scheduled this well-attended event and RENY member **Joel Reitman** presented a slide show highlighting Long Island tourism, with photos taken by **Val Stype** and Billy Joel music for background. Pictured to left is door prize winner **Bill Keenan** with **Agnes Dansereau\*CR**, **Eileen Holmes\*CR** and **Alicia Winowsky**.

On July 20th, a combination LIZ/EERTA board meeting/luncheon was held poolside at **Fred and Lesley Conway's** home in Miller Place. RENY news, convention details, setting a calendar for 2022-33, nominating slates of officers for 2023 and planning the LIZ Annual Fall meeting were all on the agenda.

The Long Island Zone announced the winner of the 2022 Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant: Richard Rosenfeld, pictured at right, a gifted/talented teacher in Valley Stream #13 School District. He will use the grant money for purchasing Gravitrax, a marble-based science system that can be used to teach STEM curriculum. Mr. Rosenfeld reaches many students; he works in all four elementary schools that feed into the Valley Stream #13 school district. He does a pull-out program for gifted and talented students, works in all fourth grades as a peer-assistant science teacher and teaches science in an 8-1 self-contained classroom. A wonderful surprise presentation was made on June 17th in one of Mr. Rosenfeld's classes with his supervisor Ms. Fabayo McIntosh and his students looking on.





# ZONE NEWS



## NORTH CENTRAL ZONE

By Patricia Newell and Nancy Roberts\*CR, Public Relations Co-Chairs

Flag Day was a day of celebration for NCZ, and it all started with our new banner! NCZ member **Ann Anderson** designed and created a quilted RENY/NCZ banner. It was displayed for the first time at our Spring Scholarship Luncheon on June 14, 2022 at the Ramada Inn in Watertown. Ann was recognized for this creative achievement with a certificate and a donation to the scholarship fund in her honor.

The celebration continued with **John Gaffney**, Scholarship Chair, and Mary Perrine, Northern New York Community Foundation, awarding two \$1,000 awards to our Future Educator winners: Zoey Anderson, a graduating senior from Carthage Central, plans on majoring in secondary education in math at the University of Buffalo. Rayne Peterson, a graduating senior from Sackets Harbor Central, plans to attend Nazareth College and major in elementary special education. Congratulations to these two outstanding students! Pictured on right from left to right: **Elwood Lyndaker**, NCZ President; Zoey Anderson, Rayne Peterson, Mary Perrine, NNYCF Photo credit: Ken Eysaman, NNYCF



This was a day dedicated to teaching and learning. Our 2022 recipients of the Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant for Educational Professionals were also honored. The award was presented by NCZ President, **Elwood Lyndaker**, and RENY President, **Dr. Jim Newell**. Shelly Peck and Deanna Henry from LaFargeville Central School received the \$1,000 grant. They will use the money to implement a Blue -Bots class into their elementary curriculum. These simple robots will help create a foundation for students to learn about coding. What an ingenious idea! Pictured on left from L to R; **Dr. Newell**, RENY President; Shelly Peck, Deanna Henry, **Elwood Lyndaker**, NCZ President.

After a luncheon buffet was enjoyed, Erika Flint from the Ft. Drum Regional Health Planning Organization presented on the Safe Schools Endeavor. This is a timely and crucially important program. Mrs. Flint spoke on the mission of SSE which is "To empower and support students, parents and faculty in creating the safest school possible". She was presented with a donation from NCZ to support this worthy endeavor.

Forty-three NCZ members and guests enjoyed this Scholarship Luncheon dedicated to honoring and supporting the teaching profession. It was truly an inspiring day!

**Dates to Remember:** NCZ Executive Council Meeting -August 16, 2022, NNYCF 10:00am NCZ Fall Business Luncheon September 20, 2022 - Ramada Inn, Watertown

## NORTHEASTERN ZONE

By Tracey Howard, Public Relations Chair



The Northeastern Zone celebrated our 70th anniversary on June 9th with a memorable gala highlighted by 70's attire, trivia, a nostalgic slideshow, and music. A penny social with items donated from our members brought in nearly \$300 for our scholarship fund. **Kevin Mulligan\*CR** guided us in a look back at our organization and its accomplishments over the years. A huge thank you goes to the planning committee for their hard work and attention to detail from table decorations to souvenir goodie bags. Attendance was beyond our expectations, and no one walked away disappointed.

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# ZONE NEWS



## NORTHEASTERN ZONE CONTINUED



The Educator Awards Committee is pleased to announce the winner of the 2022 NEZ Kramer Educator Award of \$500. Tricia Thurber, of Peru Middle School, is this year's recipient. Ms. Thurber will use the award money for her proposal, 'The Nighthawk Cultivation Project', to purchase equipment including Mini Greenhouses, that will enable 6th grade students to plant and grow vegetables in school during the 2022-2023 school year. Her eventual hope is to involve local businesses and individuals for a community garden. The award was presented to Ms. Thurber and her principal, James Manchester, by NEZ president, **Glenda Rowe**, and Committee Co-Chair, **Alison Brown**.

A final shout out goes to our NEZ Food drive volunteers who brought in more than \$400 and 400 pounds of food for our local food shelf during the month of June. Your dedication to our community is a source of pride to our organization.



## NORTHERN ZONE By Linda Crosby, Public Relations Chair



On May 25, Northern Zone members took more than a few steps back in time when they arrived at the Wilder Farm (Burke, N.Y.), the 19th century childhood home of Almanzo Wilder, husband of author Laura Ingalls Wilder, who illuminated Almanzo's life on the farm in her book, *Farmer Boy*. Pictured to left are NZ members visit the Wilder Family dining room.

At the business meeting, President Gayla LePage asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the children and adults lost in the Uvalde, Texas shooting tragedy. Members made voluntary donations for a total of \$200 to the World Central Kitchen, which currently has cooperating kitchens in Ukraine. Members made a total donation of \$190 to the Wilder Farm and donations to our scholarship fund.

After officers' reports, committee reports and other business, we were escorted by knowledgeable Wilder Farm museum docents on an engaging, educational tour of the farm's buildings and property. Many improvements and additional treasures have been added to the farm every year.

Later, we journeyed to nearby Malone for a delicious lunch at "As We Like It Cafe" where we gathered for a group photo, picture to right. Many thanks to Alice Galvin for organizing the whole day and for her photographs.

Alice Galvin recently visited RENY President Emerita Agnes Hudson, who was delighted to return home in late May after three months in the hospital. At 96, she is well and looking forward to joining us at our fall meeting.



BOD members are planning a meeting for July 27 and the Clifton-Fine Unit is planning their annual summer meeting on August 17 at Twin Lakes Hotel; as always, all members and guests are welcome to attend.



# ZONE NEWS



## SOUTHEASTERN ZONE

By Maureen Coffey, Public Relations Chair



MARTA awarded a \$3,000 scholarship to each of the following four students at their annual scholarship breakfast.

Alana Muriel graduated from Middletown HS and will attend the University of Albany. She plans to study Human Development and Mathematics. Alana hopes to begin her career teaching kindergarten and providing her students with life long experiences. When she's ready for a new challenge, she'd like to teach HS math.

Carly Weinberger graduated from Chester/BOCES and will attend SUNY Oneonta to study Early Childhood Education. Carly loves working with children and wants to make a difference in

their lives. During her junior and senior years, Carly earned her CTEC in Cosmetology from BOCES so she'd have a career to help her through college.

Erin Batzel graduated from Port Jervis HS and will attend SUNY Cortland to study Physical Education. Sports played an important role in Erin's life and she wants her students to learn lessons sports can teach them: loyalty, sportsmanship, respect and self-discipline.

Miranda Frisbee graduated from Washingtonville HS and will attend SUNY Orange to study Reading Education. Miranda shared that her dyslexia and the kindness and expertise shown by her AIS teacher, Mrs. Cano, have influenced her decision. Miranda has a strong foundation of solid teaching qualities from her Dad, who was a math teacher and her elementary school teacher Mom.

One last thing ... our granddaughter, Ashley Clemente, a Washingtonville HS graduate, (also a scholarship winner) is on her way to Fordham to study chemistry and neuroscience. Her favorite Broadway play, "Hamilton" inspired the design she created for her graduation cap. It's a mantra to be shared by all.

So kids, chase your dreams because every one of you is worth the wait!



## SOUTHERN ZONE

By Mary Lou Wood, Public Relations Chair



We are half way through 2022. Some of our units are testing the waters to see if they can meet safely. Covid is still lingering and I'm afraid it's going to be with us for quite some time. Guess we'll have to learn to live with it.

EARTA, Elmira Area Retired Teachers' Association, enjoyed each other's company as well as celebrating four young ladies' 90th birthdays. What a festive way to try to return to 'normal'. Pictured from left to right in rear: Norma Doane and **Ruth Wright**, left to right in front: **Marge MacPherson** and **Sylvia Roy**.

CARTA, Corning Area Retired Teachers', had given out \$150 Scholarships to 3 area High School students going into college for teaching. Recipients were: Grace Heath of Corning Painted Post High School who will be attending Alfred University;

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# ZONE NEWS



## SOUTHERN ZONE CONTINUED

Karmela Leasure of Bath Central School who will be attending SUNY Fredonia; and Paige McCann of Campbell-Savona who will be attending SUNY Geneseo. Congratulations.

Schuyler County Retired Teachers, Western Broome Eastern Tioga Retired Teachers, and Eastern Broome Branch Retired Teachers will continue to find safe ways to gather as groups. These units continue to donate and provide services to their communities.

The Southern Zone presented the \$1000 Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant to Sheri Abdullah, a first grade teacher at Palmer Elementary School, Windsor, NY. The grant will be used for math manipulative kits for use in a new Tier 3 intervention program to address an increase in student learning gaps as a result of the Covid pandemic. Superintendent Dr. Jason Andrews was in attendance as SZ President Gerardo Tagliaferri presented the award.



Pictured above is Scholarship Chair **Don Cutton\*CR**, Southern Zone President **Gerardo Tagliaferri**, recipient Sheri Abdullah, **Lois Cutton**, and **Mary Lou Wood**, Public Relations Chair for the SZ. Absent from picture : Scholarship co-chair **Mary Suffern**



## WESTERN ZONE

**By Audrey Seidel and Nancy White, Public Relations Co-Chairs**

Admittedly, we all look forward to living a long, happy life. **Betty Ashley**, a Western Zone member, makes us all proud to join in honoring her on her 101st birthday this year.

Betty was born on June 15, 1921 and attended schools in Kenmore, New York. She enrolled in Buffalo State Teachers College home economics program recalling that to qualify for her first assignment, she was also obliged to endure a six-week prep session and THEN, judge an apple pie contest! If these concerns seem somewhat mundane, consider that Betty lived through World War II and endured many of the hardships on her own while her husband served his country overseas. War often has unforeseen consequences and, at that time one of those was a shortage of elementary teachers. Betty rose to the challenge, returned to college and earned a master's degree in elementary education. Her first assignment was first and second grade in Grand Island.



Please don't conclude that retirement has meant that Betty has been resting on her laurels. When she turned 90, she was determined to complete a 5K run with her son, Carl. They entered the "Gasparilla", a race that is a highlight of the Pirate Festival in Tampa, Florida, and they have been active participants for the last ten years. She so inspired others that last year she was named Grand Marshall of the Gasparilla Parade. Pictured here with her friend Jim Oakley.



Betty will ALWAYS be a teacher. Even in her retirement, Betty has devoted her time to teaching ESL. For the past 15 years she has instructed many second-language students in the intricacies of the English language. She attributes her longevity to good genes, regular exercise, and lots of hugs. Betty believes it's important to "have things that are interesting to do, things to look forward to, and people to love."

Western Zone is proud and happy to honor Betty - a living example for us all and a credit to our profession. Additionally, we honor and acclaim the other twenty-seven members of Western Zone who are also centenarians.

# MOVING???



## Be Sure To Let Us Know!

The New York State  
Retired Teachers' Association  
DBA Retired Educators of New York (RENY)  
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Amsterdam, NY 12010  
PH: (518) 482-3509

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