



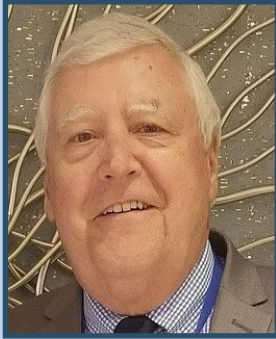
RENY
RETIRED EDUCATORS OF NY

YORK STATE

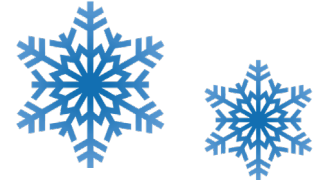
Winter 2021

Volume 71, Issue 4

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



Dr. James Newell, PhD



A Message From Our President...

Returning from our abbreviated Annual Meeting and Convention at the Desmond Hotel, I am coming to the realization that it will be up to me to lead this great Association forward for the next three years. It is a daunting yet at the same time, gratifying prospect.

My previous experience as Zone President for North Central will be helpful as I begin. I also have the valuable assistance of a smart, sensible and understanding wife who will be my best supporter and occasional critic as I begin this journey. In addition, Immediate Past Presidents **Kevin Mulligan*CR** and **Angelo Grande*CR** have assured me of their support, assistance, and expertise. Our newly elected Senior Vice-President, **Gayla LePage**, Treasurer, **Leigh Powell*CR**, and Secretary, **Mary Lou Wood**, and VP for Membership **Dell Ford Jordan** will also lend their support and assistance. In addition, **Kathi Bassett** and **Kristen Cecala** will be of immense help to me as I begin my duties as President. They have deep institutional knowledge, are very computer literate, hard-working, efficient and responsive. I marvel at the many things they can accomplish as a two-person team.

Leading an organization of some 12,000 members is a much bigger challenge than leading one RENY zone. The North Central Zone consists of two counties, Jefferson and Lewis. It is a small zone but is very active, dynamic and forward thinking. I will be looking to see if some of the programs and initiatives that have been successful at North Central can be applied to other zones and the Association at large.

I see some of the challenges we face in coming years and will outline and comment on them below. Similarly, we have many opportunities to improve the lives of retired educators, influence our schools and communities, and affect positive change across this great state. Working together I am confident that we will rise to the challenges ahead and overcome them. I am also confident that working as one Association, we can make the best of the many opportunities before us.

Challenge #1. We need to grow our **membership**. Our membership has been declining for several years. We need to reverse that decline in order to stabilize our numbers. Several initiatives are currently in place to encourage membership. We need to continue to provide incentives for retired educators to join in order to grow membership.

Challenge #2. We need to monitor our **budget** carefully and work to match our income to our expenses. Progress has been made in recent years. We need to build on this progress by increasing our income, spending judiciously, and limiting unnecessary expenses.



[See more from Dr. Newell on page 2](#)

President's Message, continued...

Opportunity # 1 We need to be good stewards of our **endowment** funds. Unlike many associations, we have a significant endowment. Our endowment is approximately 1.6 million dollars. It has come to my attention that RENY has no policy to guide the investment of these funds. One of my first initiatives as President will be to develop an investment policy to guide the management of our endowment.

Opportunity #2 **Ad Hoc Health Insurance Information Committee**. Under the leadership of **Kevin Mulligan*CR**, we have collaborated with a nationally recognized health insurance company to offer a Medicare Advantage Program to RENY members. An Ad Hoc Committee will be set up to develop, communicate, and to help market this insurance program to interested RENY members. It is expected to be offered during the next Medicare enrollment period, October 1 to December 15, 2022.

Opportunity # 3 **Web site**. At the October BOD meeting, Finance and Budget member, **Marilyn Dominick**, spoke about the importance of a top notch, easy to navigate website being the most visible presence of an association or business. Working with AARP, we have received a small grant for this purpose. Continual improvement of our website will be a top priority. We will be setting up a small working group for this purpose. An email soliciting members with expertise and interest in websites and social media will be sent out to the membership soon. Please look for this email.

Opportunity # 4 **Continuing Education**. Collaborating with other agencies and associations, we will begin to offer webinars on topics of interest to our members. In some cases, the webinar might be a taped presentation of a workshop presented at one of our annual conventions. In other cases, it may be a subject involving medical information, nutrition, hobbies, or travel, and provided by an outside organization or business.

It is clear that our Association faces some challenges. Yet, we also have many opportunities. We will need the active involvement and support of many to overcome our challenges and make good on our opportunities. Hard work, effort, and strong leadership will be necessary. Rest assured that your newly elected President will involve members in important decisions, delegate responsibilities to those most equipped to handle them, provide strong leadership and give his best effort for all his many duties.

NYSRTA has had a storied past. Let's all do our part to assure that RENY will have an even brighter future!

Respectfully,
Dr. James Newell, PhD



Membership Report: Dell Ford Jordan, Vice President for Membership

things when "we" work together for the good of the organization.

Education is my 3rd career. I began in the business world working in corporate America, General Electric and Becton Dickinson, as an Employee Relations Specialist and Equal Opportunity Representative. In addition to being a part of making work ethics better for women and minorities in terms of equal hiring and equal pay, I got a chance to travel. With the need to travel America on my own and traveling for work, I have visited 48 of the 50 states. Can anyone guess which two have not held my footsteps?

Money has always been a passion so I entered my second career getting involved in Money Management, Financial Planning, and Investments. This business required a lot of my time (now done part-time), so with the advice of a good friend, I decided to pursue a career in education. I got my first educating position at an alternative school in SCSD, my certification in business and sciences; I spent two years in what my alternative cohorts gave the name of a "real school". I retired after 2-years.

Now here I am, your newly elected RENY VP for Membership with the following Zone Membership Chairs to help me to help you. CZ; **Dell Ford Jordan**, Interim, CWZ; **Jane Crosby**, EZ; **Rosalind Carron**, LIZ; **Fred Conway*CR**, NCZ; **Jackie Maloney**, NEZ; **Sandra Lashua**, NZ; **Gayla LePage/Cathy Devins**, SEZ; TBA, SZ: **Vince Smith*CR**, WZ; **Karen Gembar**.

Thank you so much for your support and all that you do for the Retired Educators of New York.

HAVE A BLESSED YEAR!



Resolutions Report: Gayla LePage, Chair

Since this is my last resolution as state chair, I want to thank all for helping this job be manageable. I had the best committee, thank you. Kathi and Kristen, I thank you for all of your help. You are a great team, and the organization is fortunate to have the two of you.

At the 2021 Annual Meeting three regular resolutions and one emergency resolution were presented, discussed and voted upon. The three regular resolutions passed, and the emergency resolution was defeated. The following resolutions were passed by a majority vote of the membership in attendance.

Resolution C-21: Disability Residences (Central Western Zone)

WHEREAS, New York State has over 200,000 people with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, many of them reside at home with aging parents ;and

WHEREAS, senior citizens cannot provide care forever; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing waiting list of people to enter facilities that provide services for intellectual and other developmental disabilities, now

Be IT RESOLVED, that RENY supports New York State legislators to adequately finance and increase the number of these residential options.



Resolution D-29: Civics Education (Central Western Zone)

WHEREAS, voting challenges have been widespread in recent elections; and

WHEREAS, 40 states in the USA are changing voting laws; and

WHEREAS, our country has seen many peaceful and violent protests this year; and

WHEREAS, it appears we must improve the strength of our democracy; now

Be IT RESOLVED, that the RENY support a decision that the NYS Department of Education improve the Social Studies curriculum to increase time spent on Civics education to help students increase their knowledge of rights, responsibilities, and privileges as adult citizens involved in our government.



Resolution C-22: A resolution in support of greater assistance to senior citizens in their effort to get the appropriate Covid-19 vaccinations and future related matters (Central Zone)

WHEREAS, State and Federal guidelines request that all adults receive the Covid-19 vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, the process for scheduling a vaccination appointment is done by electronic or telephone; and

WHEREAS, this process has proven to be extremely difficult for elderly individuals, many of whom do not have computers or computer skills to do this; and

WHEREAS, the ability to schedule an appointment by telephone is proving to be nearly impossible; and

WHEREAS, information regarding how to deal with the safety and use of Vaccination Card and the possible need for future booster vaccinations is unclear; now

Be IT RESOLVED, the RENY supports future legislation and initiatives to assist senior citizens need, to complete the process of scheduling vaccination appointments for both Covid-19 and similar health issues, and be further, RESOLVED, that the state and federal governments provide accurate and up to date information regarding matters as soon as possible and communicate the process through as many media outlets that are available.



How do you get a good price on a sled? "You have toboggan"



Certificate of Recognition: Carol Lord, Chair



Eileen Holmes - in recognition of her work on the Association, Zone, and Unit levels. She served both as Association and Zone Community Service Chair for two years. As Vice-President of the Long Island Zone, she has organized luncheons, planned speakers and received the distinguished Zone award. Active on many levels, she gives her time and energy to all she does and manages to combine local civic duties with daily living.



Pictured Left to Right: Anne Flansburg*CR, Eileen Holmes*CR, Immediate Past President Kevin Mulligan*CR, Nancy Roberts*CR And Committee Chair, Carol Lord*CR

Nancy Roberts - in recognition of her outstanding service for both the State for North Central Zone. She was diligent and precise in her duty as the State Secretary from 2012-2015. Her service on the Zone Public Relations and Friendly Service Committees have been far reaching and she extends this to her Church and community. Nancy, with her gentle and kind nature, is truly a woman who has far reaching influence.

Kevin Mulligan - in recognition of his unfaltering dedication and service to the State and Northeastern Zone, and a special recognition for leading RENY members during a time of national crisis. As Vice-President and President of the State, he has advocated for the health benefits and increased security for retirees. Kevin was the driving force behind the DBA RENY and the new logo. He was also responsible for bringing Units and Zones closer together. Kevin is a gentleman who goes above and beyond the call of duty and always goes the extra mile.



RENY Senior Vice President Report: Gayla LePage

This is my first report as your Senior Vice President. My goal is to successfully fulfill this position as you have entrusted me to do by electing me at the annual convention. I will keep this report brief as we are regrouping and beginning to plan for the 2022 convention hosted by LIZ on October 12-14-2022. **Eileen Holmes*CR** and I have spoken and plan to begin teleconferences in January. The zone plans to reach out to presenters who were scheduled for the 2020 convention and see who would be available in 2022. I also plan to look into making clothing available which sports the RENY acronym and logo.



Robert R. DeCormier Trust: Anne Flansburg, Chairperson



For some of our members, the past two years of “pandemic” solitude and stress have been strewn with anxiety and uncertainty. Additionally, the loss of family members and friends have impacted the lives of many. The **Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund** has, thanks to the generosity of its members, once again answered the call to assist those in need.

From July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 a total of **\$29,425** was given to recipients of **Monthly Stipend Grants**. This stipend, determined by the needs of the individual, is sent each month for as long as the recipient shows it is essential for his/her well being. In the same timeframe, **\$10,853.20** was awarded in response to requests for **Special Grants**. These are one-time grants, which assist members who experience an unforeseen or unplanned expense that would be difficult to cover. The Trust awards stipends for special needs, and has helped members of RENY by covering dental, hearing aid, car, and home repair payments, as well as purchasing a chairlift for assistance with mobility, and providing other necessities. Money is available for any member who has a need. If you, or someone you know, is experiencing financial difficulties, please have them contact Chair Anne Flansburg at 716-863-3631 or via email at anneflanswz@aol.com.

The DeCormier Trustees, namely **Richard Brogowski, Mary Lou Davis, Anne Flansburg*CR, Beth Green, Imogene McKendrick*CR** and **Joe Russo** are asking each member, unit, and zone to consider making a donation in the upcoming year. A donation of any amount is sincerely appreciated and may be tax-deductible. **YOUR** support is needed so that the DeCormier Trust Fund can continue to assist our retired colleagues in financial need. Please make the check payable to the Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund and send to: Mary Lou Davis, Treasurer, 125 Andrews Road, LaGrangeville, NY 12540.



Friendly Service Report: Judith Corigliano, VP For Friendly Service

Friendly Service: Asking and Giving Help.... Together we are stronger and wealthier in spirit.

Holidays are over, winter is settling in wherever you live this time of the year. The climate dictates our activities, our thoughts may dwell on the past year or move to the what will this new year bring. When volunteering (working) in service to retirees of RENY, some of us do wonder about those who have fallen through the cracks of life. Who are they, do they have needs that we can assist with. Is more needed beyond just personal phone calls, emails, cards, visits, honoring those with milestone birthdays' 80, 85, 90, and beyond ? For some retirees modern social media is non-existent, a landline and USPS may be their only lifeline to the outside world. Could we be their lifeline? Friendly Service workers know that they may and can serve that way. But all of US can be of help. Our networks are vast, but sometimes seem small.

Do you know an older retiree, do you know their concerns? More often than not they are not going to reach out with a need. Chances are their neighbors or their members places of worship may know more about their needs. We know the cost of everything has risen; retirement dollars don't stretch and savings that was faithfully put away dwindles quickly when a person has to hire, pay for service that could once so for themselves, driving, gardening, home repairs. Harder still when their friends who once were their lifelines pass away or become incapable of helping others.

If people need help.... why don't they ask for help? Is it pride, shyness or the self-reliance, embarrassment ? I am reminded recently by a 90-yr. old that they were once the generation that gave help and volunteered now find themselves needing those very amenities.

Recently I read an interview of a University professor (business administration) whose book was dealing with why people are reluctant to ask for help. His compilation of research revealed 5 myths that represent old thinking and compared it with a newer way of thinking . Strange as it seems not just the older generation, but many in the younger generation with less mobility (income) are also experiencing this same issue. People are people, uncomfortable, overwhelmed with negotiating the world of new tech, need for feeling inadequate to the new developments.... to even ask for help it could be just learning something new and foreignthe tangle of understanding the new language and manipulation of a computer, smart phone, smart TV or a navigation systems.

Briefly the myths "old thinking" and (real life thinking)

"I should be Self-reliant." (We all need different perspectives or a different solutions that we haven't been able to discover or decipher for yourselves. Reading manuals today often need a second person to translate. Ask to be shown, taught or assisted in solving a problem. Finding that learning style.)

"I'll look lazy". (Not lazy ,but think resourceful to seek assistance. Seeking reasonable and specific request for help. Could you help me with learning how to.....? Simple need, focused and clear in its request.)

"I don't know who can help me" (But someone else may know of a person or source for assistance.)

"People don't want to be bothered" (Studies have shown that most people want to help other people. But timing is important and may be helping a person clearly articulate an immediate need or problem needing a solution.)

"I'll be indebted." (Being thankful and possibly paying it forward to someone else in the future with something thoughtful is enough and in other cases , a simple thank you for making life easier is enough and a reward to the helper.)

How can one assist? Armed with knowledge of old thinking and the reality of life skills is a step towards understanding the problem. Of course, knowing that problems have solutions and the personal knowledge of the retirees in our own zones is a start. Your Friendly Service people are a good source for knowing retirees, but in our interaction with others we may hear the needs through our network of friends especially in smaller communities getting to know another retiree...introducing yourself, or noticing that a person is not attending our luncheons any longer. Rethinking the old ways to reach people...Zone newsletters can list sources that retirees can access without the internet...how younger retirees can help with the use of portable devices...is it connecting to a visually impaired person with the radio station that will read to them, give them transportation issues, tax help, health insurance questions? We have a wealth of people who can teach or know of someone who can and is willing to help. Better yet, be of service, volunteer yourself to the Friendly Service, Member Services or Health Care issues. We need to educate ourselves so that we may educate and help others.

For financial assistance there is the **Robert R. DeCormier** Memorial trust information / application forms are available on the RENY website and physical copies and revised brochures have been made available to all Zones. More can be sourced through the zone officers. Get to know that source of special grants for immediate one-time need as well as monthly stipends.



Legislative Action Committee Report: Rod Driscoll VP for Legislative Action

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. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors, the zones and our members for their support of our efforts.

Last year was a very successful one for legislation beneficial to our members. The Biden Administration's \$1.9 Trillion COVID relief bill brought \$100 billion into the NY State budget, solving the massive budget shortfall for schools which could have threatened retiree benefits.

At the state level measures were passed to deal with: reintroduction of the "Millionaires Tax", safe staffing levels for hospitals and nursing homes, and, just recently, regulation of pharmacy benefit manager fees and prices charged by pharmaceutical companies for prescription medications.

Items from 2021 that are likely to be part of advocacy this year.

◇ Federal:

Supporting the Build Back Better bill proposed by the Biden administration, or, if it doesn't pass, supporting individual bills containing the programs in BBB that would benefit our members, such as:

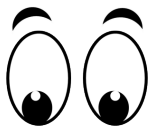
- increased funding for home care
- lowering Affordable Care Act premiums
- expanding benefits and eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid.
- lowering prescription drug costs ("Lower Drug Costs Now Act")
- supporting reintroducing the "Protection & Preserving Social Security Act"



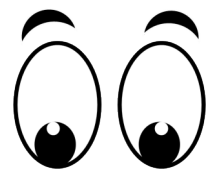
◇ State:

- support increasing the base amount for COLA from \$18,000 to \$21,000
- support Covid related health mandates in schools
- support creation of mandated reporting of elder abuse. NY is one of very few states who don't have mandated reporting of elder abuse
- support expanding civics education in schools

LAC has already begun our advocacy for the 2022 legislative year.



Health Care Report: Mary Ella Moeller*CR, Chairperson **Importance of Yearly Eye Exam for Seniors**



As seniors, we often underestimate the importance of having an annual vision check up. If the prescription for your glasses seems to be OK, you might feel the yearly exam is unnecessary. The yearly exam includes more than just a vision test. As we age, eye problems increase. Routine screening can detect problems both vision-wise and health-wise. Below are health conditions that can be identified by a yearly visit to an ophthalmologist.

Cataracts: Age is a risk factor for cataracts. Untreated cataracts can lead to vision loss. This condition can be corrected with surgery.

Glaucoma: While there may be no early symptoms or pain, it is especially important to have a yearly vision exam for catching it in the early stages. Untreated, glaucoma can lead to peripheral vision loss or complete loss of vision.

Diabetic retinopathy: A leading cause of blindness in adults, diabetic retinopathy has no early-warning symptoms. During a yearly vision exam your doctor will dilate your eyes to look for signs of this disease.

Hypertensive retinopathy: Many people are unaware they have high blood pressure. If untreated, it can cause damage to your vision. Having a yearly vision exam gives your doctor a chance to diagnose and intervene early on.

Dry macular degeneration: This is a common eye disorder among people over 50. It causes blurred or reduced central vision due to thinning of the macula - the part of the retina responsible for clear vision in your direct line of sight.

Cognitive decline: Research suggests a link between mild signs of retinal vascular changes and cognitive decline. Scientists believe an annual check up can help detect changes in the earliest stages, when symptom management may help slow the progression of the illness.

NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION					
BUDGET CODE	REVENUES	2020 ACTUAL	2021 PROPOSED	2021 Revised BUDGET	2022 PROPOSED
140	Dues-Annual	\$ 180,366.00	\$212,000.00	\$ 212,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
140A	Refund To Zones Annual Dues	\$ (60,122.00)	(\$70,666.66)	\$ (70,666.66)	\$ (66,666.66)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 120,244.00	\$141,333.34	\$ 141,333.34	\$ 133,333.34
142	Dues-Life	\$ 9,900.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
142A	Refund To Zones Life Dues	\$ (3,300.00)	\$ (1,666.66)	\$ (1,666.66)	\$ (1,666.66)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 3,333.34	\$ 3,333.34	\$ 3,333.34
139 & 153	Convention & Exhibitor Revenue	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
133	Dues-90yr.Olds	\$ 2,459.49	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
143	General Contributions	\$ 3,244.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
144	President Appeal Letter	\$ 66,049.20	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
143A	Insurance Trust	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
154	Misc. Revenue	\$ 2,666.06	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
156	Travel & Misc.	\$ 3,390.40	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
206	Advertising Revenue	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES		\$ 247,653.15	\$ 261,166.68	\$ 261,166.68	\$ 278,666.68
EXPENSES		2020 ACTUAL	2021 PROPOSED	2021 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET
	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>				
159	Rent	\$ 13,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
160	Office Operating	\$ 19,691.46	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 17,500.00
161	Office Equipment	\$ 809.07	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00
162-145	Supplies,Print,Postage	\$ 8,247.26	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
164	Salaries	\$ 163,454.40	\$ 128,532.50	\$ 128,532.50	\$ 121,000.00
164A	Stipends	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
165-167, 179	Payroll Taxes	\$ 13,075.58	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
178	Auditing	\$ 10,850.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
178A	Legal	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
180	Insurance / Ins. Disability	\$ 4,438.71	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
180A	Employee Health Insurance	\$ 34,134.39	\$ 26,100.00	\$ 26,100.00	\$ 20,000.00
180B	Employee Life Insurance	\$ 996.00	\$ 1,046.00	\$ 1,046.00	\$ 755.20
181	Employee Pension	\$ 18,338.06	\$ 14,408.25	\$ 14,408.25	\$ 12,980.00
185	Contingency	\$ 806.14	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
186	President's Appeal Mailing	\$ 10,076.91	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
187	Credit Card Fees	\$ 2,066.05	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
189	Membership Project Expense	\$ 1,593.38	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
191	Computer	\$ 11,758.63	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
193	Telephones and Equipment	\$ 8,626.08	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
197	Website	\$ 2,992.41	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00
TOTAL		\$ 326,554.53	\$ 247,436.75	\$ 247,436.75	\$ 220,685.20

		<i>2020 ACTUAL</i>	<i>2021 PROPOSED</i>	<i>2021 BUDGET</i>	<i>2022 BUDGET</i>
	<u>OFFICERS</u>				
183	President's Travel	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 100.00
184	Other Officer's Travel	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
182	President's Fund Outlay	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 100.00
	<u>MEETINGS</u>				
169	Executive Committee	\$ 2,330.83	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
173A	Annual Workshop Expense	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
172	Annual Convention Expense	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 4,330.83	\$ 38,500.00	\$ 38,500.00	\$ 31,000.00
	<u>NEWSLETTER</u>				
163	York State	\$ 18,516.69	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 18,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 18,516.69	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 18,000.00
		<i>2020 ACTUAL</i>	<i>2021 PROPOSED</i>	<i>2021 REVISED BUDGET</i>	<i>2022 PROPOSED BUDGET</i>
	<u>EXPENSES</u>				
	<u>COMMITTEES</u>				
170	Legislative Action	\$ 858.29	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
171	Friendly Service	\$ 49.10	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
173	Annual Workshop Committee	\$ 152.44	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Bylaws	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 800.00
174	Certificate of Recognition	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 100.00
174	Community Service	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00
174	Finance & Budget	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Personnel Committee	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00
174	Credentials	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
174	Historian	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00
174	Membership	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
174	Nominations	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
174	Public Relations	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00
174	Resolutions	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Site	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 50.00
192	Health Care	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00
185A	Adhoc	\$ 311.33	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00
	TOTAL	\$ 1,371.16	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 8,800.00
	GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 350,773.21	\$ 320,936.75	\$ 320,936.75	\$ 278,585.20
	NET INCOME/DEFICIT	\$ (103,120.06)	\$ (59,770.07)	\$ (59,770.07)	\$ 81.48



CENTRAL ZONE by Ray Pitcher, President



The Central Zone sent the following to the Annual meeting: **Seated:** L-R Dell Ford Jordan, Ray Pitcher, Colette Astoria and Judy Shad **Standing:** Stella King, Lynn Grandjean, Marilyn Dominick, Elizabeth Cline, Bill Cline and Bill Tenity. The number of representatives that each zone could send was based upon one for every 200 members.

The Central Zone is looking for a membership chair. Dell has done a great job and is now moving to be the membership chair for RENY. We wish her all the best in this new challenge. Likewise many of our senior leaders are not seeking reelection or appointments to committees within the Zone and within your local units. It is time for recent retirees to step up and help our organization to grow.



Oswego County-Colette Astoria-President

Lynn Grandjean, RENY of Oswego's treasurer presents \$632.00 donation to Blessings in a Backpack. This was collected from member donations and given to Beth Hallinan, a retired teacher who volunteers with Blessings in a Backpack.



CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE

by Phyllis Dunlap Public Relations Chair assisted by Lynn Hefferon

Linda Snyder, Yates County President

Members of our Yates County unit were finally able to meet on October 4th for the first time in two years. About 50 retired educators, including some new retirees from both 2020 and 2021 happily gathered and caught up with old friends. **Elaine Gleason**, our Friendly Service chair created a lovely Memory Board with the names of members whom we sadly lost in the last couple years. Attendees were given the opportunity to share special memories of those who have touched their lives. We also elected our 2022-24 slate of officers. One of our unit's recent accomplishments was creating a scholarship for a high school senior who plans to enter education. A fund was established, and the first scholarship was presented in June 2021. Our unit members have also continued their community service with many agencies in Yates County.

Sandy Kushner, Wyoming County President

Wyoming County Retired Teachers' Fall "NOT BACK TO SCHOOL" Luncheon was held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at the Glenn Iris Inn, Letchworth State Park. There were 55 in attendance, including **Janice Weitz** who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. The Community Service projects for the meeting were donations to a local food pantry, hand knitted scarves and hats for Operation Gratitude, and school supplies for Angel Action. The speaker was Loren Penman, one of the women responsible for building the Autism Nature Trail that opened October 1, 2021, in Letchworth State Park. The organization presented a check for \$150.00 to Loren for the Autism Nature Trail, also known as the ANT. Meetings have been set for May and September 2022.

We are sad to have lost **Donald R. Echenhofer** on Friday, October 1, 2021, in Waterloo, Seneca County. He taught at Boonville Middle School. Then he served in the US Army 1966-1968 in Vietnam. Afterwards he was a librarian at North Rose-Wolcott Middle School. He is survived by his wife, **Margaret Echenhofer** who was Director of NYRT's choir at several conventions. Don also sang in the choir. We miss you, Don!

Lynn Hefferon was presented a certificate of Appreciation in recognition of Valuable Contribution and Outstanding Service to the Central Western Zone at the CWZ luncheon.





EASTERN ZONE by Pamela Love, Public Relations Chair

Eastern Zone President, **Janice Mullins**, presided over the November 9th Executive Board Meeting held at the Turf Tavern in Scotia, NY. Representatives from units of Eastern Zone reported on their recent activities, most units having meetings this fall.

Mary Boice, Proxy for the Columbia County Unit, said that their unit has not met in person since the beginning of the pandemic but hopes to have a Spring meeting in 2022 if the members are ready. In May, unit members collected supplies and checks for services given at a domestic violence shelter.

Columbia Unit President, **Joan Mattson**, will be collecting donations from unit members for 'Christmas for the Animals'. These donations will be given to The Columbia Greene Humane Society/SPAC which cares for the pets at the domestic violence shelter.

Ken Bollerud, President of the Saratoga County Unit, said that their unit held their first meeting since the beginning of the pandemic on November 1st. At this meeting, the unit collected donations for the Franklin Community Center Food Bank. They plan on meeting the first Monday of every month during the school year at Longfellows Restaurant in Saratoga. **Karen Flewelling**, a unit member, was still involved during the pandemic with her project 'Drilling for Hope' which provides water systems, wells and other services in Ghana, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.



Ann Stafford and committee of the Retired Educators of the Capital Region (RCRTA) Unit administered the Hudson-Kramer Grant for 2021. Mark Humaiff and Stefanie Graham, full time 5th grade teachers at School 14, Troy Public School District, received the grant for \$1,000. They will use the money to purchase materials that will include non competitive games and cooperative learning structures to build relations and positive learning environment. Pictured are the recipients, the Principal of School 14 and Ann Stafford.



LONG ISLAND ZONE by Eileen Holmes*CR, President



The Long Island Zone was pleased to send ten delegates to Albany for the RENY meeting in October. Carpooling took the place of our usual charter bus and we got to enjoy Fall scenery along the way. It was good to get back to an in-person format with give-and-take discussions, opportunities to debate and explain opinions about by laws and resolutions, listen to an excellent presentation from our Teachers Retirement System. and enjoy the atmosphere and camaraderie of being with fellow retirees. Our zone was very honored to have LIZ president **Eileen Holmes*CR** receive the prestigious Certificate of Recognition, to have **Leigh Powell*CR** be elected to the position of RENY treasurer and to have **Lois Thornberg** and **Angelo Grande*CR** cited for the excellent and extensive work they've done for RENY as Lois concluded her term of office as VP in charge of Membership and Angelo finished serving on the RENY board as Immediate Past President.

It took two full years but finally on November 9, 2021 the Long Island Zone held its first in-person board meeting since the COVID pandemic began. Eleven out of thirteen board members attended this meeting at the Hauppague Diner which provided a separate room for the group. Reviewing the Annual Report prepared by zone officers and chairs (beautifully compiled and printed in color by **Jo Anne Powell**), sharing news from the RENY annual meeting, discussing community service projects, health insurance issues, ways to encourage members to catch up on late dues, and plans for hosting the 2022 RENY Convention were all on the agenda. At the end of the meeting, the group took the opportunity to sign dozens of holiday cards to be distributed in the Veterans Administration's nursing home in Northport, LI. This was such a productive meeting; we are hopeful it has 'broken the ice' and the LIZ Spring Luncheon, planned convention committee meetings and Eastern and Western unit activities can all resume to the 'way it was in the good old days' with in person meetings.



The new LIZ officers: Alicia Winowsky, Secretary, Dom LiCausi, Treasurer, Val Stype, Vice President, Eileen Holmes*CR, President

Long Island Zone delegates that went to the Annual Meeting in October





NORTH CENTRAL ZONE

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

Jefferson and Lewis Counties have enjoyed a fall with warm days and plentiful rain. Farmers have been able to get their corn crops cut, and the summer flowers are still blooming. But as this is being written, our first frost could happen any day now.

Our September annual meeting and luncheon held on September 14th had 45 members in attendance. We enjoyed our meal at the Ramada Inn. We were delighted to welcome Lawrence Kassan from the Rod Serling School of Fine Arts in Binghamton. He presented a program focusing on the life and times of Rod Serling. We enjoyed the many references to the television series "The Twilight Zone" which so many of us remember.



Four new officers were elected at this meeting. They are: President, **Elwood "Woody" Lyndaker**, 1st Vice President, **Rick Morris**, who was appointed at our November 9th Executive Council meeting, 2nd Vice President, **Patricia Newell**, Secretary, **Kathy Allan**, Treasurer, **Barbara Cole-Russell**. The chair of Legislative Action is vacant. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact **Woody Lyndaker**. Pictured below on right is Woody, Barbara, Rick, Kathy and Pat.



Four of our Executive Council and one guest member attended the 2021 RENY Convention at the Desmond in Albany. They were, pictured to left, **Jim and Pat Newell**, **Albert** (missing from picture) **Nancy Roberts*CR** and **Elwood "Woody" Lyndaker**. We are all very proud that our own NCZ past president, **Dr. James Newell**, was elected as the new president of RENY. He has many years of experience in leadership roles working with various groups, is open-minded and a creative thinker. We congratulate you, Jim, and wish you a successful term leading RENY and our ten zones across the state.

NCZ members are also proud of **Nancy Roberts*CR**. She was awarded a Certificate of Recognition at the RENY Convention on October 13th. By nature, Nancy is a very humble person who does not seek the spotlight. She is very deserving of this award. She has served as the NCZ Secretary for 2002-2013, and has also served as Secretary for NYSRTA/RENY for 2012-2015. Nancy presently co-chairs NCZ Public Relations with **Pat Newell** and is a Friendly Service worker. Nancy is a team player who brings a great deal of common sense and enthusiasm to every project she undertakes. She is actively involved with her church and community. Spending time with family and friends is her greatest joy. She also enjoys reading, quilting, gardening, baking and golfing. Enjoy and celebrate this wonderful achievement, Nancy!



NORTHEASTERN ZONE

by Tracey Howard, Public Relations Chair

The Northeastern Zone is bursting with energy and change as we move into the new year. We recently have had several members step down, and other members join our leadership team.



We are pleased to welcome **Ann Sunderland** as our secretary replacing **Lois Wilson**. Ann worked at Peru Central School for 32 years. She and her husband, Lincoln, have 4 daughters and 7 grandchildren. She is active in the Ladies Guild at Peru Community Church, and volunteered for many years at Babbie Farm and Learning Museum. We are lucky Ann is willing to take an active role in our organization!

Kathleen Fessette will be replacing **Diane Bonenfant** as our treasurer. Kathy taught at Peru Central School for 16 years. She spent 15 years as the director of the NCTRC, and coordinated the NYS Master Teacher program in our area for 9 years. She and her husband have three sons.



Bob Joyce*CR, our Health Committee chair since 1990 has decided to step down. He has also served as a delegate to the State organization for the Northeastern Zone on the Health Committee for many years. **Kevin Mulligan*CR** has agreed to take on his role. **Athena Angelos**, our Community Service chair will also be stepping back from her position. Thanks to **Art Menard**, who will be filling her shoes.

As membership continues to grow, NEZ is busily planning our 70th anniversary with RENY on June 2, 2022. Please share those old photos from the 70's and get ready to celebrate 70's style!



NORTHERN ZONE

by **Linda Crosby, Public Relations Chair**

NZ members enjoyed a Fall membership meeting, lunch and a guided tour of the St. Lawrence Power and Equipment Museum in Madrid, N.Y. on September 9, 2021. The museum, which highlights 19th century buildings and equipment, sprawls out on a picturesque site with many existing buildings open for visitors; some buildings are under construction and some are in the planning stages.



Roger Austin, SLPEM Board member, spoke to us about the history of the museum, future plans, stories of the schoolhouse, and thanked us for the donations our members made to the museum.

The following gathered on the steps of an actual 19th century schoolhouse originally from Evans Mills, N.Y., which was reassembled on the museum grounds: Front Row: **Cheryl Learned, Martha Gardener, Alice Galvin, Rae Louise Tate, Ted Tate, Gayla LePage, Roger Austin.** Back row: **Marjorie McCullough, Roxann Finley, Joe Russo, Linda Crosby, Phil LePage, Tom Cook, Betty Cook.** Also attending the meeting: **Jean and Doug Theobald, Leila and Charles Crabb, and Alice Antwine.**



The recipient of the 2021 NZ RENY Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant is Kate Zientko, who teaches Science at Saranac Lake Middle School. Kate designed "The Gypsy Moth Project" for her seventh grade students who will be involved in Fall field work with gypsy moth egg casings and tree identification, Winter research/design of ways to monitor and limit the invasive species, Spring testing of their research models, and anatomical study of the caterpillars. Kate will use the grant funds to purchase Carson binoculars, Binocular Zoom Stereo Microscopes and other materials. Thanks to grant committee members **Jean Theobald** and **Linda Crosby**.



SOUTHEASTERN ZONE

by **Maureen Coffey, Public Relations Chair**

The following article was submitted on time but was inadvertently omitted by the assistant editor. My apologies went out to Maureen for the error. Here is her article, as written for the fall York State.

As the days get shorter and the nights get cooler, we are once again reminded that Autumn has arrived! And with Fall comes back to school, football games, hot apple cider and election of officers in Southeastern Zone (SEZ).

Many thanks to **Helen Hoering**, our zone secretary, for preparing this info to introduce the candidates from our Sullivan Unit (SCRTA). **Donna Harness** is running for SEZ President, **Joan Schauer** for treasurer, and **Helen Hoering** for secretary.

"**Donna Harness** has been nominated to serve as President. She taught 25 years and retired from Liberty Central School District 5 years ago. She has been Friendly Service Chair for the Sullivan County Unit (SCRTA) for 5 years and SEZ-VP for Friendly Service for 3 years."

"**Joan Schauer** retired after teaching 2 years in a private school, 11 years in New York City Public Schools, and 21 years at Roscoe Central Schools. She continued to keep in touch at Roscoe School by substituting after retirement until COVID closed everything down. She does private tutoring and has served Sullivan BOCES by working with students whose parents are in the Parents 4 Parents program. She became active in the Sullivan Unit and has been serving as Healthcare Coordinator. She has stepped up to serve as Healthcare Coordinator for the zone, as well as Historian."

"**Helen Hoering** taught 30 years and retired from Liberty Central School District. She has been retired 21 years and became active in the Sullivan County Unit immediately when she volunteered to edit the unit's newsletter. She served as Recording Secretary for the unit and has been Zone Recording Secretary since 2005. She also serves on SCRTA Zone and State Bylaws Committees."

SOUTHEASTERN ZONE, *continued*

Thanks goes out to **Cheryl Fischer** from The Newburgh Area Retired Teacher's Association (NARTA), for sharing her story.

"**Cheryl Fischer** was a speech therapist in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District for 32 years. She has been retired for 22 years and is a member of the Newburgh Area Retired Teacher's Association. She is currently president of the unit. She has served as South-eastern Zone Community Service Chairperson since 2010. Cheryl has been nominated as Vice President for Membership of SEZ." And last, but certainly not least, **Patti De Leo** shared her qualifications to run for Vice President for Legislation.

"**Patti De Leo** hopes to bring her PAC and legislative experience to serve as Vice President for Legislation. Patti has served on many state and local committees advocating for student, teacher and retiree's rights and benefits. She has worked on public policy issues for other groups and maintains active roles in activism."

SEZ elections were scheduled to take place on September 29th at our annual meeting.

On a lighter note, our individual units and zone have been planning activities now that it looks as if we can safely get together again.

The Mid-Area Retired Teacher's Association (MARTA) has walks, hikes, billiards and bowling activities for our more sports minded members; a Sip n Paint, a Headstone Cleaning outing and a stained glass class for the more creative among us; and a museum visit and lectures on ZOOM for our lifelong learners!

SEZ, MARTA and NARTA all have Fall luncheons on their calendars, but SCRTA canceled theirs before this article even went to print. An uptick in new cases in their area made their decision to cancel an easy one.

MARTA, NARTA and SCRTA all have holiday luncheons scheduled. Hopefully, as the dates get closer, local conditions will be favorable for safe gatherings. I know last year we all missed getting together with friends to celebrate and kick off the holiday season! So there you have it! Once again, Southeastern Zone is very busy with plenty of activities. Let's hope and pray that all plans move forward as we stay healthy and safe.

'Til next time...



SOUTHERN ZONE

by Mary Lou Wood, Public Relations Chair

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the Southern Zone annual meeting was scaled down to just the Board members. We met at the Curly's Chicken House in Elmira, NY. Besides conducting RENY business we carried on with our business at hand.

The Southern Zone Special Recognition Award, was presented to **Debbi Deats**. Debbi was and continues to be an active member in both her Unit, CARTA, and the State Organization. She contributes her time and expertise in a multitude of local organizations. We are pleased to present this outstanding award to Debbi.

Other Certificate of Recognition Awards were presented to **Lois** and **Don Cutton*CR**. Lois has been treasurer for RENY/SZ for many years. Keeping our books and money in order along with her duties with the Schuyler Retired Teachers Association. Don has been past RENY/SZ president, head of scholarship, and has held numerous State and local positions. Congratulations to both. Enjoy your retirement.

During our meeting we installed officers for the 2021-2022 year. VP of Public Relations, **Mary Lou Wood**; Friendly Service, **Debbi Deats**; Secretary, **Mary Suffern**; Membership, **Vince Smith*CR**; Treasurer, **Bonnie Stratton**; President, **Jerry Tagliaferri**.



We had a great time socializing and carrying on RENY and Southern Zone business.

We hope all stay healthy, keep safe, and stay warm. Soon the birds will be chirping and flowers blooming.

Front row pictured : Lois Cutton, Imogene McKendrick*CR, Don Cutton*CR, Debbi Deats, Mary Lou Wood **Back row**: Daryl Hartzell, Nancy Spaulding, Vince Smith*CR, Bonnie Stratton, Lynne Hunkovic, Gerardo Tagliaferri

Absent: Mary Suffern



WESTERN ZONE

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

When the Board of Directors met on September 15, 2021, it was so good to be able to see board members' faces and smiles in person, and not virtually. There was much business to attend to and new officers to nominate. It was good, like in many areas of our lives, to return to a bit of normalcy. Our officers for the upcoming term are: President: **Michelle Claus**, First Vice President: **Doris Kirsch*CR**, Second Vice President: **Maria Hagar**, Recording Secretary: **Nancy White**, Corresponding Secretary: **Audrey Seidel**, Treasurer: **Don Lawrence**, and Membership Secretary: **Karen Gembar**. We wish them well in their upcoming positions.

At our meeting, the Board of Directors were informed of the recipient of this year's Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant. The recipient of the award is Todd Hofheins, an Oakfield-Alabama technology teacher and the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Advisor. He was presented with this award by **Ron Czapla**, Western Zone Grant Chair, at a Board of Education meeting on October 19, 2021.

Todd Hofheins' project with the FFA involves purchasing a market steer to provide the Oakfield Community Center/Food Pantry with fresh beef.



The grant funds will be used to purchase a calf that will be raised in the school barn by FFA students. Todd Hofheins' students want to help the local food pantry while also educating the community about the health benefits of using fresh beef. His students have also noticed that there is a high demand from local families for fresher foods. A more complete meal with essential protein will provide for a healthier lifestyle for community recipients. Pictured at left: **Michelle Claus, Elaine DeLisle, Ron Czapla, Maria Hager, Todd Hofheins, and Owen Zeliff (student)**.

Since the Oakfield-Alabama FFA strives to develop student members that are well rounded in agricultural knowledge and involved with various community service opportunities, this project will fulfill this goal. Congratulations to Todd Hofheins, this year's Hudson-Kramer recipient.

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