



RENY
 RETIRED EDUCATORS OF NY

Winter
 2022
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 Issue 4

YORK STATE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is only November, but the North Country and Western New York are digging out from an epic, 50-year snowstorm. This storm hit on Friday, November 18 and dumped several feet of heavy, wet snow. We did a lot of snow blowing over the weekend but still had to hire help to clear the end of our driveway. It was clogged with a six-foot wall of heavy, packed snow left by the plow. This snow felt more like rocks than snow. We finally got dug out on Sunday morning, but we are still trying to locate our mailbox! Well enough of our weather woes! Spring is only 122 days (about 4 months) away!

The 2022 RENY Convention and Annual Meeting held at Turning Stone was a singular success. Convention goers were delighted to see each other in person again and get back to having a regular, full-fledged convention. Our hosts, the Long Island Zone, did a wonderful job putting everything together. Noel Gish, the keynote speaker, was a knowledgeable, articulate, and entertaining speaker. One of the first questions he asked was how many people had visited Long Island. Surprisingly, only a few hands went up. As he continued his address, our members learned many interesting and eye-opening facts. After listening to his presentation, we were reminded about how much we can learn about the Empire State and all its many regions by attending RENY Conventions.

There were several other interesting workshops of a general nature and some just highlighting the host zone. Richard Young, Chief Actuary, and a panel from the NYS Retirement System updated members about the operation of the pension system and how it continues to be nearly 100% funded. There was a good Q and A portion as well. Our members left the session with a more complete understanding of the pension system. David Keefe, President of the NYSTRS Board was present and introduced the New York State Retired System presentation. At the luncheon, following the presentation, I asked members to support David Keefe for re-election as he was being challenged by another retired teacher. Members were asked to mark ballots and mail them back no later than October 31.

During the Annual Meeting, **Judy Corigliano**, Vice-President for Friendly Service, and **Rod Driscoll**, Vice-President for Legislative Action were recognized and presented with gifts for their service to RENY. **Lois Thornberg**, Long Island Zone, was nominated from the floor at the Convention and was elected as Vice-President for Friendly Service. There were no nominees for the Vice-President for Legislative Action.

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You Don't Want To Miss...

- New and exciting Collette Tours
- Annual Meeting 2022 News
- Legislative Action Update
- Updated Directory
- New Budget 2023
- Recent veto of retiree health insurance bills
- Catch up on your Zones News

President's Message, Cont'd

Following the Convention, **Mary Johnson**, Southern Zone, was appointed Vice-President for Legislative Action. She and **Jan Mullins**, Eastern Zone, will share the work with Mary being responsible for Federal Legislation and Jan responsible for State Legislation. Both women are knowledgeable and experienced. We know they will do great work for RENY. Please thank them for their willingness to lead and give them your full cooperation and support.

All our state elected positions have now been filled. However, there is still a vacancy in one of our appointed positions. We still need a State Chair for Resolutions. Yours truly will need to serve as Interim Chair unless a Resolutions Committee member agrees to serve as Chair or another RENY member steps forward.

Turning Stone personnel videotaped several workshop sessions including the NYSTRS session, a session on health insurance by our very own, **Kevin Mulligan,*CR**, The Great Backyard Bird Count and Once Upon a Tyme, Barbershop Quartet with **Fred Conway*CR**. These presentations are available for viewing on our website, retirededucatorsny.org. I would encourage you to check them out!

Speaking of our website, we have assembled a working group composed of five members, **Marilyn Dominick, Lois Thornberg, David Schryver, Terry Satterley**, and yours truly. Our charge is to improve the website by making it more user-friendly and current. Our first order of business will be to compose a survey to be sent to a random sample of RENY members. The survey will be emailed using the Survey Monkey platform. In the event you are part of the random sample, please complete the survey.

Beginning with the new year, our investment advisor will be High Probability Advisors, Pittsford, New York. This firm offers lower management fees, a more sensible asset allocation, and the prospect of better returns. We have offered them a three-year contract. We will be providing more information about this important change during the upcoming year.

As I wind up my message, I ask that you invite a friend, acquaintance or former colleague to join RENY. We need to grow our membership. All of us are the key to making that happen. We also need to improve our financial picture in the coming year and we will be exploring ways to do just that.

A big thank you for renewing your RENY membership and continuing to commit your time and energy for the benefit of this worthwhile association. "Stay positive and test negative!".



Heart Month **By Mary Ella Moeller*CR** **RENY Health Care Chair**

February is the month we think of Valentines and hearts. It is also American Heart Month. Sadly, more than 600,000 Americans die from heart disease each year. It affects all ages, genders, and ethnicities. Some heart attacks are sudden and intense, but most of them start slowly with mild pain or discomfort. Below are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening.

1. Chest discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the chest that lasts more than a few minutes or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
2. Discomfort in other areas of the upper body. Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach.
3. Shortness of breath. This feeling often comes along with chest discomfort, it can also occur without discomfort.
4. Other signs may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

If you or someone you are with has one or more of these signs, call 911 immediately. Prompt medical attention could save a life.



Membership Report

by Dell Ford Jordan, Vice President for Membership

Coretta Scott King once said that “**The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members**”. I don’t think she would mind if we borrowed her quote and change the word “community” to “RENY retirees” to say, “**The greatness of RENY retirees is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members**”.

We appreciate and we applaud the **11,941** active retirees (as of October 31, 2022) who chose to continue their compassionate actions of support to remain active with RENY. But our work is not done; as compassionate retirees, we must rekindle, stir up that compassion in the **960** retirees who for whatever reason, chose not to remain active. To keep the compassion for education alive we must reach out and reclaim these educators – re-engage them in activities of the units and zones and encourage them to help in promoting our scholarships and grants programs, etc.

Being a member of RENY, the Zone, and the Unit has its benefits. You should contact your unit Membership Chair or your Zone Membership Chair for a list of those benefits. **Reminder:** *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.*

Other important stats to share are: RENY enrolled **108** new members this year, many taking advantage of the discounted 3-Year membership rate of \$75.00; however, we mourned the loss of **581** co-workers, friends, and family members. The number of delinquent members increased from **573** to **960**. We have **803** 90-year-olds (up from **784**) and our 100-year-old category is holding steady at **119**.

The RENY Membership Team met twice during the year to brainstorm options to increase our declining membership. On October 13, 2022 we had our third meeting at our NYS Annual Meeting and Convention to discuss what’s working, what’s not working, and ways to get units and zones to work. It was a good discussion, and some good ideas were shared. More information to follow. The 3-Year Membership with the discounted rate of \$75.00 by the Insurance Trust Fund is **no longer** available. All retirees, new, renewing, and delinquent will now have to pay the \$30 annual membership fee, effective January 1, 2023.

In the Spotlight

The **Spotlight** was focused on the **Northeastern Zone** for their compassion for strengthening our organization, a total of thirty-five (35) new members joined **RENY** during October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. Also, in the **Spotlight** were two (2) runner ups, **Western Zone** adding sixteen (16) and **Central Zone** adding fourteen (14) new members to the roster. At the 2022 NYS Convention **NEZ** was presented with a check for their outstanding job in recruitment; Honorable Mention was given to **WZ** and **CZ** for their accomplishments. **Congratulations NEZ, WZ, and CZ.**

To the members of **RENY** for your initiative, compassion, and commitment in recruiting **108** new members – **WE THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE!**

Community Service Report by Eileen Holmes*CR, Chair



As Spring approaches we look back at all the assistance and comfort that our RENY members have provided through our Community Service efforts. Food donations, warm coats, scarves, hats and mittens, clothing, toys, toiletries and monetary contributions for needy families, veterans, seniors and animal rescue facilities have all helped make the holidays and winter months better for so many New Yorkers. Sincere appreciation to our Community Service Zone Chairs: **Alice Galvin, Angelo Grande*CR, Anne Marie Wik, Art Menard, Cheryl Fischer, Joan Handfield, Joyce Notarnicola, Mary Suffern and Patty Corey** for all their time and efforts!

At the 2022 RENY Convention the host zone (Long Island) set up a collection box to gather non-perishable foods donated by convention delegates. The food collection was 'passed on' to next year's host zone (North Central) for distribution to their local food banks. **MANY THANKS** for the food donations and hopefully this will become an annual convention event, with the host zone collecting and passing on the food enabling our group of retirees to help in spreading food to the needy in our 10 zones around the state!



Senior VP Report by Gayla LePage, Senior Vice President

First, I want to congratulate the Long Island Zone for a great convention. Noel Gish, the keynote, was fabulous, and there was a great variety of workshops. Great job, LIZ!

Now, we plan for next year. The convention committee met after breakfast on the last day to start planning for next year. The dates of the convention are October 11 - 13, 2023 at Turning Stone. The host will be North Central Zone. They had already done a great deal of work.

The convention committee and the NCZ representatives had a Google meet on December 14. The theme will be "Beauty, Bounty, & Bravery". The zone has made contact and have five confirmed workshops: "Fort Drum/10th Mountain Division Museum," "Hopenhagan Lavender Farm," "Lost Villages of Fort Drum" (still needs officer clearance), "Important Things Seniors Need to Know from Head to Toe," and "Save the River". The State has four confirmed with the last in the works. They are "TRS", High Probability, " Holly Chorba presents her guide on grief in "It's Okay.....Scream in the Shower," and a presentation by Cornell Cooperative Extension. Also, trivia is back for Thursday night. What a great line-up!

As Senior VP working on this convention is so exciting. RENY is a great organization that works hard for its members.



To get more information on any of these trips, call Collette at 1-877-256-0194 and refer to the **Booking Number** that's next to the picture

Maritimes Coastal Wonders
featuring the Cabot Trail

August 13 — August 23, 2023 • 11 Days • 16 Meals

Booking# 1102602



Alaska: America's Last Frontier

July 13 — July 21, 2023 • 9 Days • 13 Meals

Booking #1102583



NEW LOOK, NEW TOURS, NEW SEASON!

Welcome to season 105. Collette has 17 brand new tours and one brand new look. It's time to embrace the stunning hues of the world at it's best; the deep blue see, a cloudless sky, the energy of the sun and lush verdant jungles.

Don't wait. Because today is a new day. It's your day.



Ad Hoc Health Insurance Committee for RENY

By Kevin Mulligan*CR Chair
Immediate Past President



Relevance of Recently Vetoed Retiree Health Insurance Bills

On December 14, 2022, RENY sent out an Email Blast to all ten zones informing members of a Legislative Bill, vetoed by Governor Hochul on December 12, 2022.

This bill was an attempt to preempt the prospect of a court or bargaining unit voiding retirement health insurance clauses. In so doing it would have **reaffirmed** the 1983 Federal Court decision known as The Yardman “Inference”, and the NY State Moratorium Clause/Provision.

The Legislative Bill served to Governor Hochul represented the Assembly bill A10425 and Senate bill S09347. These bills were finally approved by both legislative houses on December 2, 2022. In June, 2022, after both houses independently approved their respective bills, Interim Governor Hochul stated she would support the legislated bill when sent for her to act on. The “combined” legislated bill was sent to her on 12/2/22 to act on in ten days. She vetoed it ten days later on 12/12/2022.

The 1983 Yardman “Inference” established the precedent that both parties in collective bargaining intend to vest retirees’ health insurance for life, as stated in the respective contract they retired with. The 2013 NYS Court of Appeals affirmed the provision of the Moratorium Law. That law states the understanding that state retired employees (public school employees included) are entitled to the same or better health benefits they retired with. **UNLESS** the active (non-retired) employees change, remove or diminish the same health benefits to themselves.

To the best of my knowledge and research, there has been only one instance where the Moratorium Provision was possibly violated, and that would be with Bay Shore UFSD on Long Island in 2018/19. The 1983 Yardman Inference may have been ignored by some of the school districts in western New York who negotiated out supplemental health insurance for retirees, especially Medicare eligible retirees post 1983.

Both Assemblyman Jones and Senator Stec supported this legislation. I encourage each and every one of you to contact your respective state assembly representative and senator to draw up, approve, and send a new bill similar to A10425/S09347 to Governor Hochul. I also suggest that you contact Governor Hochul to positively act on such a bill in 2023. You may want to remind her that aging retirees are organized and committed to support retiree health insurance. **We also VOTE !!!!**

Letters can be mailed to :
Hon. Kathleen C Hochul
NYS State Capital Building
Albany, NY 12224

Or send her a message at: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>

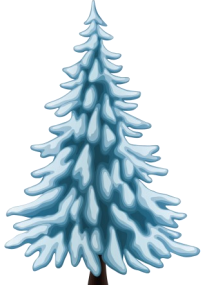


NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION					
BUDGET CODE	REVENUES	2021 ACTUAL	2022 PROPOSED	2022 Revised BUDGET	2023 PROPOSED
140	Dues-Annual	\$ 153,552.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
140A	Refund To Zones Annual Dues	\$ (51,184.00)	\$ (66,666.66)	\$ (66,666.66)	\$ (66,666.66)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 102,368.00	\$ 133,333.34	\$ 133,333.34	\$ 133,333.34
142	Dues-Life	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
142A	Refund To Zones Life Dues	\$ (1,800.00)	\$ (1,666.66)	\$ (1,666.66)	\$ (1,666.66)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,333.34	\$ 3,333.34	\$ 3,333.34
139 & 153	Convention & Exhibitor Revenue	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
133	Dues-90yr.Olds	\$ 2,170.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
143	General Contributions	\$ 653.52	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
144	President Appeal Letter	\$ 69,932.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
143A	Insurance Trust	\$ 41,120.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
154	Misc. Revenue	\$ 1,522.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
156	Travel & Misc.	\$ 2,046.40	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
206	Advertising Revenue	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 239,161.92	\$ 278,666.68	\$ 278,666.68	\$ 243,666.68
EXPENSES		2021 ACTUAL	2022 PROPOSED	2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET
	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>				
159	Rent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
160	Office Operating	\$ 15,292.24	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 17,500.00
161	Office Equipment	\$ 1,855.37	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
162-145	Supplies,Print,Postage	\$ 8,144.94	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
164	Salaries	\$ 126,001.82	\$ 121,000.00	\$ 121,000.00	\$ 129,000.00
164A	Stipends	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
165-167, 179	Payroll Taxes	\$ 9,977.31	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,500.00
178	Auditing	\$ 10,300.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
178A	Legal	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
180	Insurance / Ins. Disability	\$ 5,657.90	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
180A	Employee Health Insurance	\$ 25,097.08	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 22,500.00
180B	Employee Life Insurance	\$ 1,433.39	\$ 755.20	\$ 755.20	\$ 800.00
181	Employee Pension	\$ 19,927.52	\$ 12,980.00	\$ 12,980.00	\$ 16,770.00
185	Contingency	\$ 538.13	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
186	President's Appeal Mailing	\$ 8,412.43	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
187	Credit Card Fees	\$ 2,035.94	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
189	Membership Project Expense	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
191	Computer	\$ 14,028.78	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
193	Telephones and Equipment	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
197	Website	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00
	TOTAL	\$ 253,422.85	\$ 220,685.20	\$ 220,685.20	\$ 242,020.00
		2021 ACTUAL	2022 PROPOSED	2022 BUDGET	2023 BUDGET

		OFFICERS			
183	President's Travel	\$ 217.97	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,000.00
184	Other Officer's Travel	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
182	President's Fund Outlay	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL		\$ 217.97	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,000.00
		MEETINGS			
169	Executive Committee	\$ 13,642.08	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
173A	Annual Workshop Expense	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
172	Annual Convention Expense	\$ 29,447.08	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
TOTAL		\$ 43,089.16	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 31,000.00
		NEWSLETTER			
163	York State	\$ 20,374.09	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
TOTAL		\$ 20,374.09	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
		<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2022 REVISED</i>	<i>2023 PROPOSED</i>
EXPENSES		<i>ACTUAL</i>	<i>PROPOSED</i>	<i>BUDGET</i>	<i>BUDGET</i>
		COMMITTEES			
170	Legislative Action	\$ 850.94	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
171	Friendly Service	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
173	Annual Workshop Committee	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Bylaws	\$ 592.63	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
174	Certificate of Recognition	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Community Service	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Finance & Budget	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Personnel Committee	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
174	Credentials	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
174	Historian	\$ 52.30	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
174	Membership	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
174	Nominations	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
174	Public Relations	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Resolutions	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Site	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
192	Health Care	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
185A	Adhoc UHC	\$ 181.09	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
TOTAL		\$ 1,676.96	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 8,800.00
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 318,781.03	\$ 278,585.20	\$ 278,585.20	\$ 300,820.00
NET INCOME/DEFICIT		\$ (79,619.11)	\$ 81.48	\$ 81.48	\$ (57,153.32)

Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund Report

by Anne Flansburg*CR, Chair



It has been said before, that the **Robert R DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund** is the “soul” of RENY (NYSRTA), offering a “lifeline” to some of our colleagues who may be experiencing temporary or long-term financial difficulties.

The needs of many retirees are great, and financial assistance is available through the Trust Fund. Members can get financial assistance for home repair, medical expenses, food, and any necessities of life. All members of RENY are eligible for these grants, including spousal members. Please alert other members to this service. The monthly stipend and the special grant form are available on the website or by contacting any trustee.

Your donations have helped members purchase needed medicine, pay utility bills, receive medical and dental care, and provide for other basic necessities of life when they otherwise would have been unable to do so. YOU can be the lifeline that will help those in need.

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of **Imogene McKendrick,*CR** who has been a DeCormier Trustee since 2000. In her 22 years of service to the Memorial Trust Fund, she served as trustee, secretary, chair and vice-chair. She has been an inspiration, not only to the trustees who have worked under and with her leadership, but also to many retirees who benefitted from her hard work and dedication. Thank you **Imogene**, for your decades of service to the Robert R DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund! You are an inspiration to us all!



Friendly Service Report

by Lois Thornberg, Vice President for Friendly Service

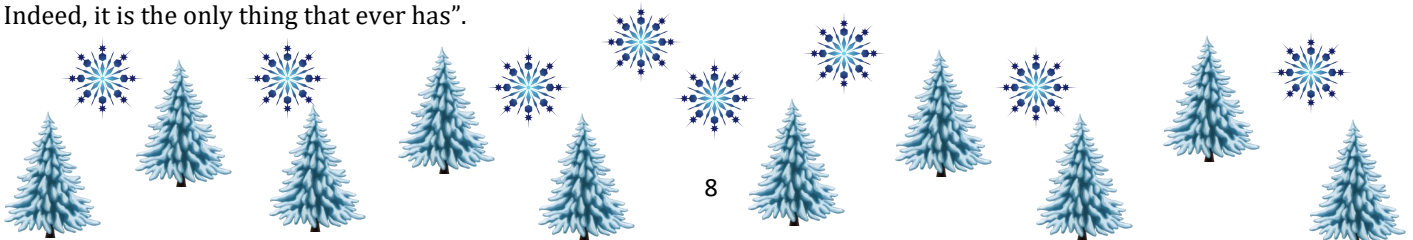
“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around”. ~Leo Buscaglia

As I begin my journey as RENY’S VP for Friendly Service I want to take some time to first thank **Judy Corigliano**, who has successfully served in that position for several years now. Through her leadership, work, efforts, and encouragement during this difficult time of isolation, the Friendly Service Committee members have succeeded in sharing hope and caring for so many of our members in need. Thank you, Judy! I only hope that I will be able to step up and continue the work that Judy has done and be able to guide the committee members on the path of continued success.

RENY offers many services and benefits to the members, however Friendly Service is what distinguishes RENY from similar organizations. The personal and individual display of care to all the members, especially those who are older, in poor health, celebrating special occasions, or loss of family members, through cards and calls is unique to RENY. The dedicated, hardworking, selfless members of the Friendly Service Committee volunteer their time to share a feeling of community and family within RENY and are to be commended for their efforts. Thank you, all.

I look forward to working with everyone as we continue to reach out to all those members who need support and comfort, thus making all our lives better.

In the words of Margaret Meade: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has”.



ZONE NEWS

CENTRAL ZONE BY RAY PITCHER, ZONE PRESIDENT

In October RENY held its annual convention. Our delegates are pictured below. Everyone had a good time .



On April 6th we will hold our first meeting of 2023 at Theodore's Restaurant in Canastota. In the past this has been our all-committees meeting. This year the April meeting will be discussing the future configuration of the Central Zone and the all-committees meeting will be our July meeting.

Currently we are a zone made up of units that basically match the counties. Due to the decline in membership and participation of new members several units are struggling to have enough people to fill offices and do the unit's work.

What are our options? We can keep the current configuration. We could just merge the units that have low member participation. Such as the case of Oneida-Herkimer and Madison. We could eliminate all local units, and R.E.N.Y. members would just have the three zone meetings a year. We could eliminate all units and create four regional units and members could attend the unit closest to where they live. We could change to yet another idea that you bring to the meeting in April.

If the zone configures to a different format, we will need to look at the individual unit treasuries, officers, bylaws of both zone and units, membership issues, scholarships, outreach and the units conduct. Finally, changes would need to be approved by the zone at their September meeting and then each zone would have to approve the change.

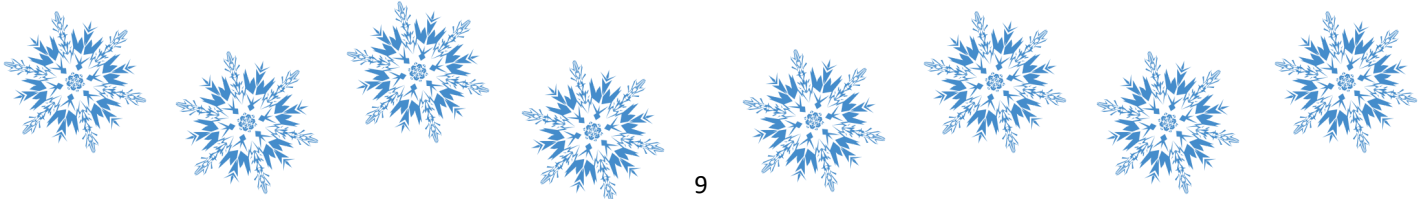
We need to have a large turn out at this meeting on April 6th. Please RSVP to Gwynne Bodle at [redacted] or to Ray Pitcher at [redacted]. Responses are due by March the 20th. This is the future of our zone.

RENY/Onondaga County

Since August, 2022, RENY/OCRTA has held three (3) membership meetings to bring updates to our members.

In addition to giving two (2) scholarships to high school students who will be striving for a career in education, we also gave a \$1,000.00 donation to the Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund. This donation is available to any retired educator in financial need, daily or long term. There are qualifications that have to be met in order to qualify for the grant. Our Friendly Service Workers and our Unit Membership Team are making sure that our local members are reminded of this RENY benefit.

On October 13, two of our unit attended the 2022 NYS Convention held at the Turning Stone Casino & Resort. **Dell Ford Jordan**, Co-President of OCRTA was re-elected for a second term as RENY Vice President for Membership.



ZONE NEWS

EASTERN ZONE BY PAMELA LOVE, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

RENY/Eastern Zone held an Executive Committee Meeting on November 15, 2022 at the Turf Tavern in Scotia. President **Janice Mullins** presided. RENY units of the zone gave activity reports at this meeting. Activities of the units not reported previously this year are the following:

RENY/Columbia County Unit President, **Joan Mattson**, reported that her unit was making plans for a May 2023 meeting.

RENY/Delaware County Unit President, **Patricia Reynolds**, reported that her unit discussed ways for attracting younger retirees to meetings. They have plans on opening a site on Facebook to see if this will help them.

RENY/Retired Educators of the Capitol District (RCRTA) Unit President, **Marjorie Leibowitz**, said that her unit has contributed to a local food pantry, made a donation to the Backpack Program run by the Regional Food Bank, donated food the Regional Food Bank, gave \$100 to the DeCormier Fund and sent five delegates to the State RENY Convention at Turning Stone in October.

RENY/Saratoga County Unit President, **Ken Bollerud**, said that his unit's last meeting at Longfellows was January 2023 as the restaurant has been sold.

RENY/Schoharie County Unit had Co-Presidents, **Margaret Dafeldecker** and **Leslie Hooper** says that the Unit will meet for the Spring Meeting in May or June 2023. For 2022, the unit gave \$50 to the DeCormier Fund and \$50 as a citizen Award to: Nathaniel Stauble, Cobleskill-Richmond Central School Taryn VanValkenburgh, Gilboa-Conesville Central School Connor Dorosky, Jefferson Central School Crystal Waters, Middleburgh Central School John Polley, Schoharie Central School Meghan Steidle, Sharon Springs Central School

RENY/Upper Montgomery County Unit President, **Rosalind Carron**, said that her unit gives each year a \$500 Scholarship to a senior who will be going into the field of Education. The unit also gives a \$250 "Outreach" award to an active teacher for some type of "Enrichment Program". The unit also gives \$25 to the DeCormier Fund.

The two pictures below are of Eastern Zone Representatives that attended the RENY 71st. Annual Meeting. Picture 1. (L-R) **Mark Notarnicola, Joyce Notarnicola, Diane Hahn*CR, Gloria Ciejka and Albert Ciejka**

Picture 2. (L-R) **Marjorie Leibowitz, Ann Stafford, Patricia Reynolds, Mary Ann Sturm and Carolyn Bovee**



ZONE NEWS

LONG ISLAND ZONE BY EILEEN HOLMES*CR, ZONE PRESIDENT

The Long Island Zone held its annual Fall meeting at The Irish Coffee Pub in September. The highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of the Silver Pin Award to **Val Stype**, This pin is awarded to a LIZ member who has greatly enhanced the organization and Val certainly exemplifies this. Val is presently the vice president of LIZ, he recently stepped up to fill the position of Chair for Legislative Action and also serves as LIZ Historian. He is always willing to pitch in on committees and planning activities. LIZ Awards Co-chairs **Jo Anne Powell** and **MaryElla Moeller*CR** made the presentation to a very surprised recipient. Congratulations, Val! Congratulations also to long-time member **May Griffin** who celebrated her 90th birthday at the luncheon and many thanks to all the attendees who signed dozens of holiday greeting cards for veterans that Community Service Chair **Angelo Grande*CR** delivered to the VA Hospital for distribution.

The East End Retired Teachers Unit had their annual Christmas party at Desmond's Restaurant on December 7, 2022. This get-together was arranged by **Robert Svoboda** and had all the holiday trimmings: Mrs. Claus delivered presents with the help of "an elf on the shelf", LIZ members **Diana and Jim Davies** led a sing-along with their guitars and there was a big Christmas raffle. Before all the festivities, there was a moment of silence in remembrance of Pearl Harbor and **Eileen Holmes*CR** gave a report about the recent RENY Convention. EERTA President **Fred Conway*CR** made a special presentation to **Agnes Dansereau** who has stepped down as Vice President of EERTA. After many years in many positions on the EERTA board. Agnes was honored with a framed certificate and a gift card to thank her for her outstanding service. She is famous for planning dozens of wonderful meetings with awesome speakers and entertainment. Of course, Agnes is still helping out; this year she was Mrs. Santa Claus handing out the goodies!

The Long Island Zone hopes all the delegates to the 2022 RENY Convention enjoyed the Long Island workshops, our keynote speaker Noel Gish and the "Once Upon A Tyme" Barbershop Quartet was the entertainment. It was great to finally get together after the COVID-19 postponements. All those months (years!) of planning and waiting finally came to fruition!!

The LIZ NEWS Editor hopes that all LIZ members update their email address with the RENY office, so that members receive LIZ NEWS directly, rather than having to go to the RENY website. Thank you!



Jo Anne Powell, Silver Pin Award winner
Val Stype and Mary Ella Moeller *CR.



LIZ delegates MaryElla Moeller*CR, JoAnne Powell, Eileen Holmes*CR, Fred Conway *CR, Lesley Conway and Agnes Dansereau.

Delegates not shown include Dave Keefe, Leigh Powell*CR, Dom and Sue LiCausi, Lois Thornberg, Alicia Winowsky and Rosemary McKinley.

ZONE NEWS

NORTH CENTRAL ZONE

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

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW NCZ WEBSITE IS: www.renyncz.org

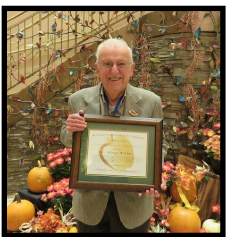
North Central Zone elected new officers at our September 20th luncheon. We had 50 members in attendance and were entertained by the Turning Point Chorus, a very talented group of 12 barbershop singers under the direction of Brad Lundquist. We celebrated NCZ's 70th anniversary with a delicious decorated cake. Our officers for 2023 are: President, **Elwood "Woody" Lyndaker**; 1st Vice President, **Rick Morris**; 2nd Vice President, **Patricia Newell**; Treasurer, **Barbara Cole-Russell**, and we welcomed our new Secretary, **Ann Anderson**. We sincerely thank **Kathy** Allan for her 4 years of dedicated service as secretary. We are proud to have our past zone president, **Dr. James Newell**, as our RENEY president, and his wife, **Pat**, as a member of the State Workshop Committee. They are a busy, committed couple.

Six members of NCZ attended the 2022 RENEY Convention at Turning Stone in October. They were pictured to right: **Dr. James Newell, Pat Newell, Elwood Lyndaker, Rick Morris, Barbara Cole-Russell and Jackie Maloney**. The Long Island Zone did a marvelous job hosting this long awaited in-person convention. LI Zone asked all the zones to contribute to a food pantry drive at the convention. Then LI Zone "paid it forward" to NCZ to deliver to a food pantry of our choice. **Woody Lyndaker** delivered over 100 items to Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry the day after the convention. Our area thanks RENEY for their generosity.



Our "Coats for Kids" committee under the leadership of **Patty Corey** and **Toni Gigliotti** is preparing to distribute coats to children in Lewis County. They work through the Lewis County school districts, churches, DSS, Lewis County Opportunities, and the Prenatal/Perinatal NNY Council to find children in need of winter coats. This program is greatly appreciated in the local communities.

Another Community Service project is NCZ's "Love Your Public Library". Chair, **Pat Dietrich**, led a drawing of raffle tickets at our September meeting. **John Gaffney** submitted a winning ticket for Port Leyden Community Library. Pat presented Jake Myers, Assistant Director of the library, with a certificate and check for \$50. **Alicia Bach** and **Pat Newell** each had their tickets drawn. They had chosen the same library! Alicia presented a certificate and \$100 to the Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library in Black River. Our local libraries are a great community resource for both our children and adults. We are happy to support them.



We were all so sorry to lose a very faithful member of NCZ, **Dr. George Forbes*CR**, who died on September 21, 2022 at the age of 95. He was an outstanding educator in many capacities. George served on many Boards. He was a consultant, advisor, counselor, lecturer, encourager, committee member, active church member, founder of the Clayton Chapter of the AFS student exchange program, world-wide traveler, and friend to so many. In 1977 Dr. Forbes was instrumental in forming a BOCES Consortium Health Care Plan for Jefferson-Lewis Counties. He was leader of a committee of the four largest school districts in the counties who negotiated our withdrawal from the State Health Insurance Plan and formed the self-funded Jefferson-Lewis Employees' Healthcare plan we continue to have today. After Dr. Forbes retired as Superintendent of the Thousand Islands Central School District in 1982, he became the Plan Manager/Treasurer for the Health Plan. He held that job until about 1994. We can thank Dr. Forbes and his committee for their foresight in creating the excellent health care plan we value today.

NCZ was proud to have him as our vice-president, president, dedicated member of the legislative and scholarship committees, auditor, health care coordinator, and delegate to many NYSRTA conventions. At the state level he was a member of the Health Care Committee and Chairman of the State Insurance Trust Committee. Dr. Forbes was awarded the NYSRTA Certificate of Recognition at the 2017 convention. We will miss his kind, caring friendship and his expertise in so many areas.

ZONE NEWS

NORTHEASTERN ZONE BY TRACEY HOWARD, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

An organization can only be successful with members who believe in its mission and are willing to spend time and effort to achieve its goals. I have not been a member of RENY for a long time, but I've met so many people who consistently give of themselves to make our zone better. One such member who seems to make magic happen on a regular basis is **Sandra Lashua**, our membership chair for nearly 20 years. From November of 2021 to November of 2022, the Northeastern Zone led the state in adding new members. The 53 new recruits totaled almost half the number of all ten zones combined for that period. That's quite a feat!

Sandy will be the first to tell you that Northeastern Zone success comes from the combined efforts of the organization. When the committee received state funds for our membership efforts, they came up with a plan to get even more members. The committee offered \$30 vouchers to the 3 year for \$75 incentive offered by RENY. Several current members have received \$50 for signing up 5 new members as well. Every year as June approaches, Sandy is on the lookout for newly retired teachers who she personally contacts on behalf of our zone.

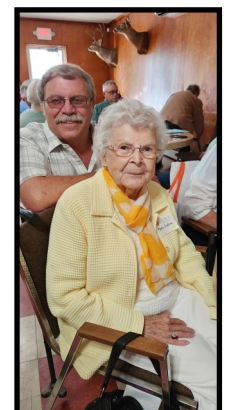
Our next step has to be getting our new members involved. Many newly retired teachers are not ready to step up to a demanding role so soon after retirement. We have many active committees who can use volunteers. Currently we sponsor food drives, volunteer for Make-a-Wish in November and December, and help out at the Christmas Bureau. Attending our luncheons in June, September and November is a great way to learn more about what we do and how to help us achieve even more! Together we are stronger!



NORTHERN ZONE BY LINDA CROSBY, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

As I write this, I'm thinking of our friends in the southern NZ, Watertown and Buffalo areas who got pummeled with 2-6 feet of snow. We are used to snow, but, this November blast was an overwhelming, dangerous record-breaker. Hope you had good luck digging out!!!

NZ members gathered for their fall meeting at Casablanca Restaurant, Gouverneur, NY, on September 21. We were especially pleased to visit with our long-time friend, **President Emeritas Agnes Hudson*CR**, past NZ BOD member/Friendly Service Chair. Agnes, a kind, wise, and beautiful lady inside and out, as you can see in the photo, was escorted by her son, Scott, also an educator.



Continued on next page...

ZONE NEWS

NORTHERN ZONE- CONTINUED



We were excited to have NZ member **Holly Chorba** as our guest speaker; she spoke about her new book, "It's Ok...Scream In The Shower", which details her reflections on her grief and her journey to recovery after the sudden death of her husband, Ron. Her book provides a great deal of excellent, practical advice and creative emotional support. In the photo, **Alice Galvin**, Meetings & Programs Chair (left), joins Holly, with President **Gayla LePage** (right).

Other highlights of the meeting: A Membership Chair is needed. Motion to donate \$100 to the DeCormier Fund was passed. We would like to thank the NZ members who donated items for the raffle basket for the convention. Generous members from all over the NZ also just donated \$355 for our scholarship fund. Thank you to our NZ Secretary, **Betty Cook**, who stepped up again to be our new Friendly Service Chair.

Our BOD met on October 25 to discuss the very successful convention, new Friendly Service and Community service ideas, and C-F-E Unit Christmas party. Next BOD meeting: 2/18/2023.

SOUTHEASTERN ZONE BY MAUREEN COFFEY, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

"Kindness is like snow.
It beautifies everything it covers."
Kahil Gibran

Here in the Hudson Valley, we experienced both kindness and snow as we gathered together to celebrate the holidays. The members of Southeastern Zone were busy catching up with friends, both old and new.



Barbara Topps shared that the Mid-Hudson Area Retired Teachers Association (MARTA) had their holiday party at Bella Luna in Washingtonville on December 1st. A delicious buffet and seasonal games were enjoyed by all. Two raffles were held that benefited MARTA's scholarship fund. Donations were collected for the local food-bank. Everyone filled out Christmas cards for house-bound veterans. All attending members brought a gift for a child enrolled in the Orange County Cornell Cooperative Extension's Relatives as Parents Program. Barbara was 100% correct when she said it was a great way to start the holiday season! See picture to the left.

Ray LeDuc wrote that the Newburgh Area Retired Teachers Association (NARTA) has been busy. On October 6th, they held their annual "Eighty-five Plus" luncheon at The Lakeview House in Newburgh to honor their fourteen members who are 85 years old or older. NARTA returned to The Lakeview House on December 8th for their annual holiday luncheon. Both events were enjoyed by all. Pictured at right are some of the beautiful young ladies at the luncheon.



Continued on next page...

ZONE NEWS

SOUTHEASTERN ZONE, CONTINUED

Helen Hoering reported that the Sullivan County Retired Teachers Association (SCRTA) had their holiday party on December 14th at the Liberty Elks Club. The luncheon was served buffet style. Students from the middle school chorus entertained their former teachers. It was a fun time for everyone. Picture on right.

Southeastern Zone had their annual meeting on October 26th at Franco Di Roma's in Middletown. **Donna Harness**, President of SEZ is already thinking ahead to our spring newsletter and luncheon.

When thinking winter into spring, American writer Hal Borland might have said it best:
"No winter lasts forever;
No spring skips its turn."

'Til next time...
Maureen



SOUTHERN ZONE BY MARY LOU WOOD, PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

Being cautious due to the sporadic Coronavirus outbreaks, the Southern Zone annual business meeting was scaled down to just the Board members. We met at the Curly's Chicken House in Elmira, NY. Besides conducting RENEY business we carried on with our SZ business at hand.

Southern Zone President **Gerardo Tagliafferi** presented the SZ Special Recognition Award for distinguished service to **Nancy Spaulding**. Pictured at left are Gerardo, Nancy and **Mary Lou Wood**.

Nancy, a retired Earth Science teacher from Elmira Free Academy, is an active member in Elmira and Area Retired Teachers' Association Unit, (EARTA), RENEY, and the Science Teachers' Association of NYS. She contributes her time making presentations combining geology and history on Waterfalls and Wineries as well as on The General Sullivan Campaign. Nancy was a teacher mentor for implementing ESCP (Earth Science Curriculum Project), and revised the textbook *Earth Science*. We are pleased to present this outstanding award to **Nancy Spaulding**, president of EARTA.

Lynne Hunkovic and Steve Cornell co-presidents of EBB, Eastern Broome Branch, had two meetings. Their September meeting speaker spoke on the health department and their programs. The October speaker was from the Humane Society informing the members of the many services they provide, i.e. rabies clinics, receiving displaced animals from Hurricane Ian, the feral crisis, and even provided lock boxes for their prescription medicines. While thoroughly enjoying each other's company, they started making plans to host the Southern Zone annual meeting/luncheon scheduled for September 2023. Members were thrilled to get back to normal and be with friends.

CARTA, Corning Area Retired Teachers' Association, under the leadership of **Debbi Deats** has been meeting every other month. In December the annual Remembrance Ceremony to memorialize the 12 members of CARTA who have passed since the last ceremony pre- COVID 2018.



ZONE NEWS

SOUTHERN ZONE, Continued

We remembered **Helen Bailey, Ruth Campbell, Victor Campbell, Clyde Daugherty Barbara Dick, Ellen Good, Bunny Jacobs, Bryon Johnson, Barbara Martin, Mary Esther O'Brien, Jane Terrill, and Ethelea Wardner.** While there were 12 members memorialized, there were 13 candles. The extra candle represented all of our fellow members who have gone before us! The poem entitled "The Dash," which symbolizes the life we live between our birth and our ultimate demise was read.

The September meeting was held at En En Chinese Restaurant where members who turned 90+ were honored. This year we celebrated the birthdays of **Jane Agnello** and **Winifred Peer.**

Schuyler County Retired Teachers, under the leadership of **Lois and Don Cutton*CR,** had one meeting at Seneca Harbor Station. Future meetings are being planned.

The Southern Zone of RENY had sent delegates to Turning Stone. We've learned how RENY has supported retirees and how we continue to improve in helping our members.

SZ Delegates pictured at right: Front row: **Mary Lou Wood, Lois Cutton, Don Cutton*CR, Jerry Tagliaferri (President)**

Back row: Debbi Deats, Bonnie Stratton, Winnie Peer, Mary Johnson, Vince Smith, Nancy Spaulding

We hope all will remain healthy, stay warm. and keep in touch with family and friends.



WESTERN ZONE

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

Western Zone was represented by 19 delegates at this year's RENY Annual Meeting in October. Members enjoyed speakers, meetings, workshops, and the comradery of fellow RENY members. It's hard to believe it's been three years since we gathered together at Turning Stone.



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. BRTA, Buffalo Retired Teachers Association, is a very large WZ unit. Its president, **Thomas Giambra** has served as president for four years, and also served as its second and first vice presidents. In addition to his involvement with the BRTA, Tom is a member of the WZ Board of Directors, has served on various committees, and is the Chairperson of Friendly Service.

Continued on next page...

ZONE NEWS

WESTERN ZONE, Continued



The second WZ unit we would like to showcase is LDRTA, Lancaster/Depew Retired Teachers. **Karen Gembar** leads this unit as president, an office she has held since 2017. Karen also serves on the Board of Directors for WZ. She has served on various committees, and currently is Vice President for Membership. Both Tom and Karen have also served as delegates at RENY's annual meeting.

BRTA currently has approximately 1,100 members. They average 15-20 members who attend their 4 board meetings a year. Board meetings are followed by a luncheon. In September there is an annual meeting for the unit. BRTA is very active and community minded. It awards three scholarships annually, totaling \$1,500. Also, the BRTA works with the United Way on a fund-raising drive with members of the organization. In addition, their newsletter includes volunteer opportunities that members may be interested in. On occasion, speakers at their luncheons will be from organizations who are looking for volunteers. Another aspect of the BRTA is the offering each year of travel opportunities to its members. Anyone interested in joining the BRTA, should contact the membership chairperson, Linda Parada at 716-875-3392.

Another wonderful unit in WZ is the Lancaster/Depew Retired Teachers. This unit currently has over 70 members. As with many organizations during COVID, no meetings were held. Due to special circumstances during that time, President Gembar served as president, treasurer, membership chair, and historian. Thankfully since the pandemic has waned, other LDRTA members have been able to fill those positions. Attendance at meetings and luncheons average between 30-47 members. They have 2 meetings per year, in May and October. In October they celebrate "Socktober" and fill Christmas baskets with donations. Speakers at their luncheons have included the President of Honor Flight, Tom Petri, and JR Seeger, an author, CIA case officer, and paratrooper. This unit makes donations to various groups, including the Lancaster Youth Bureau, FeedMore WNY, and the City Mission. Money is raised through dues and a split club. Anyone interested in becoming a member may contact their membership chair **Ken Kowalski** at _____ or **Karen Gembar** at _____

These units, like others in Western Zone, offer opportunities for their members to support their communities in various ways and remain informed about issues that pertain to retired educators. As the year closes, we are appreciative of their supportive involvement and their commitment to their members.



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The New York State
Retired Teachers' Association
DBA Retired Educators of New York (RENY)
P.O. Box 490
Amsterdam, NY 12010
PH: (518) 482-3509

Dated Material—Do Not Delay

Easy Butternut Squash Soup



Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
 - 1 large onion, chopped
 - 3 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1 medium butternut squash (3 pounds), peeled and cubed
 - 4 cups vegetable broth
 - 3/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- Optional: Additional heavy whipping cream and crispy sage leaves

Directions:

1. In a large saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Add onion; cook and stir until tender. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer.
2. Stir in squash, broth, salt and pepper; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, 10-15 minutes or until squash is tender. Puree soup using an immersion blender. Or cool slightly and puree soup in batches in a blender; return to pan. Add cream; cook and stir until heated through. If desired, garnish with additional heavy whipping cream and crispy sage.