



President's Message - Judie Byndas

Greetings to all NYSRTA members and new retirees! Hope you all enjoyed a peaceful summer despite the heat and rain that visited most of us! Thanks for pushing the

President's Appeal Fund to close to \$70,000. It seems you appreciate the need for this campaign.

Somehow, what you don't seem to appreciate is our need for leadership. I hear Zones and Units complaining that no one is stepping up to assume leadership positions. I know my Zone and Unit have been searching for vice presidents for over a year. It seems a bit strange as all of us led our classrooms, most for decades. Educators are born with leadership skills or quickly developed them to assist our survival skills. Classroom management was not only a physical plant improvement, but also management through various leadership techniques.

You can't fill your predecessor's shoes? No two leaders are alike! Aggressive leaders on the offensive, silent partners behind the scenes working for cooperation; both can be effective. A "great compromiser" is always in demand! This is perhaps the leader most in demand by many organizations... get the factions to work together for a successful group effort.

Cooperation is a key for the success of any organization. A well intended piece of advice can be misconstrued by an officer as criticism if presented in the wrong manner. Divisions between officers make it uncomfortable for all officers, especially those in a decision making position. Being made to take sides can turn anyone away from a leadership positions.

Unsure of your best fit for a leadership position? Analyze your skills. What made you a successful educator? Well written and followed lesson plans, positive speaking skills, math prowess? There are volunteer positions open to you. **Jennifer Gardella**, for the Strategic Planning Committee, has developed a form to assist in assessing your talents and a process for mentoring for the duties of your new job. Serving as a NYSRTA officer is rewarding as it allows you to hone your skills as a people person and maintain a level of socialization, making new friends instantly.

As an Association officer at the highest level, you will be required to attend meetings with hotel expenses, meals, and mileage paid for your efforts. Many Zones offer the same benefits. Exercise your leadership potential and volunteer to further help NYSRTA keep strong and viable. It's fun, rewarding and necessary!

NYSRTA's Annual Convention,

October 15 – 18, 2013

Turning Stone Resort & Casino,

5218 Patrick Road, Verona, NY 13478

If you are planning on attending the following workshops:

Making Paper Note Cards – Limit 20 participants • Silver Sneakers – Limit 20 participants

Square Dancing – Limit 20 participants • Golf Tournament

Please call the NYSRTA office at 518-482-3509 to pre-register.

Nominations – Emily F. Castine, *Chair*

The following candidate for the office of Vice President for Membership will be presented for election at the Annual Meeting:

- **Salvatore Sedita**

The following officers have indicated they wish to continue in their positions and will be presented for re-election:

- **Judie Byndas** for President
- **Angelo Grande** for Senior Vice President
- **Mary Ella Moeller** for Vice-President in Charge of Friendly Service
- **Mary Johnson** for Vice-President in charge of Legislative Action
- **Nancy Roberts** for Secretary
- **Terry Trudeau** for Treasurer

Any of the above positions may have nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Friendly Service - Mary Ella Moeller, *NYSRTA Vice President for Friendly Service*

Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund Grants are begin given out to retired educators who have been affected by the hurricane just as *YORK STATE* goes to print. I want to thank the many members, groups and individuals who have given to the Relief Fund. You are what truly make our association different from many others. We help our members in many ways, not only with grants, but with visits, cards, calls and being there for each other. The Friendly Service Committee and YOU are the HEART of this organization. We all belong to many different organizations, but do they have a committee whose main purpose is to give aid to its members? Most likely the answer is “NO.” I am proud to say that I am a member of NYSRTA, because we make a difference in the lives of so many others.

As we grow older, independence and quality of life are top priorities. We want to enjoy the freedom that our later years can offer. We want to stay in our homes and get around on our own. In short, we want to live with vitality and purpose as we age. Staying involved in social and meaningful activities may help keep you active and engaged which may lower your risk of health problems and ultimately help you live with more vigor. Encourage your friends and new retirees to join NYSRTA and become a part of the Friendly Service Team. You will find that you are not the only one that can benefit when you become involved. Your community, neighbors and friends will have a lot to gain.

May was Older American’s Month and the theme this year was “Unleash the Power of Age.” Let’s keep this idea going all year!

YORK STATE

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For a complete listing of NYSRTA contacts, please visit our website at www.nysrta.org.

Bylaws – Burt Phillips, *Chair*

All of the 2012 Propositions were adopted at the Annual Meeting. It was heartening to see so many well-prepared delegates who clearly had taken their responsibilities to heart.

The Executive Board has approved eight propositions for this year. They have been sent to the zones for consideration and they will be on the agenda of the Annual Meeting in October. The propositions are posted on the website at www.nysrta.org for the convenience of any member. You will receive more details on the propositions from your Zone President.

Five of the 2013 propositions are matters of changing wording or sentence structure without altering meanings of the affected bylaws. It is likely that the five editorial propositions will be presented in a consent agenda format at the Annual Meeting.

There are three “real-change” propositions this year: Prop ATF (Amendment Timing Flexibility) 2013, Proposition PE (President Emeritus) 2013, and Prop RC (Remove Conflict) 2013. Proposition ATF changes wording in Article XVI (Amendments) to recognize our new ability to conduct Executive Board meetings via teleconference calls. Its adoption will help ensure timely delivery of approved propositions to the zones.

Prop PE (President Emeritus) 2013 creates the title of President Emeritus/President Emerita for former NYSRTA Presidents and provides the benefit of their continued participation by making them Delegates-at-Large to the Annual Convention. Prop RC (Remove Conflict) 2013, does exactly that--removes a conflict.

The 2013 propositions have been posted to the website at www.nysrta.org as has the summary which is also printed elsewhere in this issue. Here is a reminder that both the current bylaws and the updated handbook of policies and procedures—the Leaders’ Manual—are also available on the website. Don’t have internet? Your public library does.

Last, but certainly not least, I miss working with **Al Buell** of CWZ and CZ’s Johnnie Jones who have departed the committee. But I’m very pleased to have two continuing stalwarts--Zone Bylaws Chairs **Diane Hahn *CR**, and **Helen Hoering** of SEZ. Additionally, NEZ’s Bylaws Chair **Gary Germain** has proven to be an enthusiastic and productive member, and I am absolutely thrilled that SZ’s bylaws guru and immediate past president, **Jim Parsons *CR**, was willing to bring on board his wisdom and vast experience.

These Things Happen... (Why you need a Personal Umbrella Policy)

A woman pulled out of her driveway, making a left turn into the path of a motorcycle which was rounding a curve. The operator of the motorcycle applied his brakes, but lost control and struck the woman’s vehicle. A passenger on the motorcycle died at the scene, and the woman was cited for traffic violations. The motorcycle operator suffered a fractured finger and abrasions and had a valid “bystander’s claim” under state law. The woman had a Personal Umbrella Policy, *which contributed \$640,000 above what was covered by her auto insurance.*

What is an Umbrella Policy?

Umbrella Policies, also referred to as personal excess liability, provide extra protection if a claim against you exceeds your auto or home liability limit. The example above, provided by RLI Insurance, demonstrates how an umbrella policy can make a big difference in a lawsuit. An Umbrella Policy is a separate policy purchased in addition to your home and auto insurance, and coverage is available for a relatively low cost.

For more information contact your NYSRTA Account Representative at Pearl Carroll & Associates:

Meghan McGarry

1-877-217-4153

meghan.mcgarry@pearlcarroll.com



Legislative Action – Mary Johnson, *Vice President for Legislative Action*

Sometimes it feels as if we are at the mercy of our federal government when it comes to changes in Social Security, Medicare and other issues affecting us. The Legislative Action Committee will be meeting with their Congressional Representatives in their home offices in the next two months to address the bills we are including in our 2013 legislative campaign. One of the bills we are advocating for is: HR 861 Peter King, Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2013. It establishes with the Department of Justice an Office of Elder Justice which shall address issues of elder abuse. The second is S117, Amy Klobuchar, Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2013, amends the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate with pharmaceutical manufacturers, the prices that may be charged to Medicare Part D under Medicare Advantage.

Membership - Sharon J. White, *Vice President for Membership*

Support NYSRTA Membership

Members are the core of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association.

Members drive the association. The services and programs offered by NYSRTA are only part of your membership. Being a member of NYSRTA brings a belonging to a group that is ready promote and advocate for the rights and rewards due the retired educator. NYSRTA strives to provide information

Central Western Zone-Phyllis Dunlap, *Public Relations Chair*

If you did not make it to the Finger Lakes this summer, perhaps you could plan a fall trip to see some of our treasures. Speaking of treasures, I deeply regret to report on the passing of **Samuel "Sam" Dickieson**. He was our treasurer for the Seneca County Retired Teachers. Our condolences go out to his wife, **Dorothy "Dottie"**, also a retired teacher and the family. We will have a complete article in the next York State.

Eileen Witherel reported that The Wyoming County Retired Teacher's Association held its fall "Not Back to School" Annual Luncheon on

The related House bill is HR 1102, Peter Welch. The third bill we are working on is S81, Rand Paul, Prioritize Spending Act of 2013 This bill requires amounts necessary for incurred federal obligations in the event that the public debt reaches the statutory limit, to be made available to certain obligations , in prioritized order, before all other obligations. Social Security payments are among those priorities. The House bill is HR 149, Daniel Webster.

You can become involved by joining in our advocacy. You can get more information on these bills by entering their number or key words at www.thomas.loc.gov or www.house.gov and www.senate.gov. At the House and Senate sites you can enter your zip code and it will pull up your Representative with contact information. If you prefer to write a letter, check the government pages in the phone book and you will find their office addresses.

and assistance to its members. NYSRTA is always looking to improve the quality of life for retirees through services and experiences. Help NYSRTA stay on track through your opinions on subjects of special interest to retired educators.

The manner in which the new retiree is welcomed into NYSRTA will often predict their commitment to future membership. Personal contact is often the best way to reach and support a new retiree. Help a new retiree join NYSRTA where many are working to support and strengthen the quality of life of all retired educators, their families and communities.

Wednesday, September 4, 2013. Author **Lt. Col. Brian J. Duddy**, USAF (Retired) spoke about his book "Invasion Stripes." "Invasion Stripes" is a fascinating biography of local resident **Jan Wiseley's** father, US Army Air Forces **Captain Robert Uhrig** during World War II. Over the time of his service, Captain Uhrig kept extensive diary entries and sent hundreds of letters to his beloved wife. Amazingly, she kept all his letters and daughter Jan found the diaries and letters, and turned them over to Lt. Col. Duddy to write the first person story of her father.

Resolutions – Doris Kirsch, *Chair*

The Resolutions Committee met in July and reviewed the six proposals that were submitted. The resolutions came from four zones, thus doubling the amount of zones participating in the process of submitting proposals. An explanation of how the proposals are numbered is in order. As new resolutions are considered, the Resolutions Committee wants to immediately incorporate them into the "Be It Resolved..." document. (This document can be found on the NYSRTA website). The document is divided into six sections: A - Pensions; B - Social Security; C - Health Care; D - Educational Policy; E - Public Policy; F - Organizational Policy. Three of the 2013 proposals deal with health care, so they are identified as C-13-1, C-13-2, and C-13-3. Three (D-13-1, D-13-2, D-13-3) deal with Educational Policy.

These six proposals will be brought before the delegates for consideration and vote at the NYSRTA Annual Meeting in October. All of the proposals are recommended by the Resolutions Committee.

Resolution C-13-1: Identification Number for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid (if applicable) (Central Zone)

WHEREAS, the United States federal government requires that qualifying individuals have Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid identification cards; and

WHEREAS, the identification number for such cards is the individual's social security number; and

WHEREAS, individuals are required to present identification cards when seeking services from such programs; and

WHEREAS, there is an increasing problem with personal identity theft which causes numerous problems for individuals and the government institutions;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that NYSRTA takes any and all action to see that the law be changed to require a new form of identification other than the Social Security Number for other government programs and cards.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 3 & 5

The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend".

Resolution C-13-2: Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act (Western Zone)

WHEREAS, hospitals may classify patients on an "observation" or "admitted in-patient" status; and

WHEREAS, the "observation/in-patient" designation affects whether Medicare will pay for skilled nursing care after the patient is discharged from the hospital; and

WHEREAS, the number of "observation" stays in the hospital has increased 25% since 2007; and

WHEREAS, Medicare will cover the care received in a Skilled Nursing Facility only after the patient had a "qualifying hospital stay" which is defined as three consecutive nights as an "admitted in-patient"; and

WHEREAS, Medicare does not currently count the patient's confinement on an "observation" status toward satisfying the required three day qualifying period to be eligible for skilled nursing care; and

WHEREAS, the current policy imposes significant out of pocket costs to seniors who require skilled nursing care after hospitalization if they had not been officially "admitted" in the hospital; and

WHEREAS, many Medicare patients, upon being discharged from the hospital, are forced to choose whether to partake of skilled nursing care, pay personally for rehabilitation or go home with no post hospital medical care or assistance; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Rep. Tom Latham (R-IA) have introduced the "Improving Access to Medicare Cover Act (HR 1179) which would allow hospital "observation stays" to satisfy Medicare's skilled nursing eligibility requirements;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that NYSRTA support HR 1179 in the 113th Congress;

And be it further RESOLVED, that NYSRTA support any bill that will improve Medicare coverage for the cost of rehabilitation after hospitalization.

RESOLVED, that NYSRTA make a coordinated effort to educate our members about this matter.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 1 & 3

The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend".

Resolution C-13-3: Prescription Drug Advertising (Western Zone)

WHEREAS, laws have been passed to ban cigarette advertising via magazines, newspapers, radio and television; and

WHEREAS, the cost of advertising any product is added to the price and thereby passed on to the consumer; and

WHEREAS, retirees are more likely to need prescription drugs and are less able to afford extravagant costs; and

WHEREAS, those without prescription drug insurance, or who have co-pays, are adversely affected by any drug costs;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that NYSRTA support legislative action that would prohibit pharmaceutical companies from advertising the sale of prescription drugs.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 1 & 3

The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend".

Resolution D-13-1: Anti-Bullying (Long Island Zone)

That the New York State Retired Teachers' Association supports and requests that all school districts in the State of New York adopt and enforce an anti-bullying policy to help children so that they will not have to suffer the effects of bullying.

WHEREAS, we are concerned about the health, safety and welfare of our children in all New York State Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the incidents of bullying have increased and have caused harm to children;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that the New York State Retired Teachers' Association urge the New York State Legislature and all school districts to enforce the Dignity for All Students Act that went into effect on July 1, 2012.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objective 4

The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend".

Resolution D-13-2: Return to Preparing Students to be Well-Rounded Citizens (Western Zone)

WHEREAS, the schools of our state and nation have in the last several decades turned away from providing a broad, general education to all students; and

WHEREAS, we have moved toward a rigidly organized methodology; and

WHEREAS, we have moved towards a system that only seems to value preparation for higher education as a goal; and

WHEREAS, we have placed nearly all effort on preparing students for mathematics and language arts; and

WHEREAS, we have made great efforts to evaluate both students and teachers using standardizing testing; and

WHEREAS, resources for citizenship education as well as arts, music, vocational preparation, etc. have been diverted to college preparation and high-stakes testing; and

WHEREAS, the emphasis on college preparation and high-stakes testing places the special needs student at an academic disadvantage; and

WHEREAS, we have severely diminished our former goals of inculcating a love of learning as well as helping students to develop into well-rounded, enthusiastic, participating citizens of their local community, state and nation;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, that NYSRTA is opposed to this trend toward rigid and limited curricula;

And be it further RESOLVED, that NYSRTA (as well as its zones, units and members) make a coordinated effort to educate parents, school leaders and legislators, by personal contact or through the media, about this destructive trend.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objective 4

The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend".

Resolution D-13-3: NYS Education Dept. and the Pervasion of NCS Pearson’s Inc. Control (Northeastern Zone)

WHEREAS, State Education has allocated over \$32 million (\$32,136,276.00) for NCS Pearson, Inc. Publishing Company to create, develop, and implement grades 3-8 standardized testing in ELA and Math, eliciting little or no input from educators in the field; and

WHEREAS, the use of the standardized testing regimen, imposed by New York State Education Department to improve the education of our children is not supported by research; and

WHEREAS, these standardized tests provide no measure for creative/innovative thinking, critical analysis, writing skills, or collaborative skills for success in our global economic and networking society; and

WHEREAS, State Education’s sole dependence on a foreign for profit corporation, NCS Pearson, Inc., for New York State testing purposes has put Pearson into the position of being the major provider for the textbooks and supplemental materials linked to the standardized tests produced by NCS Pearson Publishing Co. and their subsidiaries; and

WHEREAS, NCS Pearson’s claim of proprietary rights over the tests makes it impossible for teachers and the public to review and critique tests that are being used to evaluate teachers, schools and the public education system; and

WHEREAS, there is no public oversight into the performance of NCS Pearson, Inc. as the provider of testing materials, and on the validity and reliability of the testing materials themselves;

Therefore be it RESOLVED, the NYSRTA call upon the NY State Legislature and perhaps the NY State Comptroller’s Office to hold State Education accountable for incurring huge expense, and contributing to even larger expenses for local school districts in the name of student and school (including teachers and principals) accountability;

And be it further RESOLVED, that the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association (NYSRTA) call on the New York State legislature and/or the New York State Comptroller’s Office to perform an audit on the NCS Pearson, Inc. contract with New York State Education, to ascertain how the money is being spent, how the contract is being assessed and monitored, and how the State is assessing the effectiveness of the testing on the quality of public education in New York State.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objective 4

The Resolutions Committee voted “To Recommend”.

Flood Disaster Relief – Jackie Moller, Central Zone

The weather we have had in June and early July has not been what we usually expect at this time of year. Warm, hot, muggy weather was accompanied by unexpected heavy rains and storms. Many people were left with flooding and a disaster that we have never been seen here in Central New York.

Homes have been completely destroyed. Those not ruined completely have been damaged and in some areas, water from flooded basements rose above the first floor. FEMA came through with aid for counties to rebuild roads, bridges, and infrastructures as well as publicly owned facilities but no help for homeowners. Aid for those people will be forth coming (sometime) from New York State but they need help as soon as possible. The stories you hear are heart breaking and bring tears to your eyes.

Those from the Central Zone have started a fund to help out those groups who are helping the people in need now. Central Zone wants to help those in Herkimer, Madison, and Oneida Counties and will be accepting donations for flood related organizations that still are working to help those families recover from this disaster.

Any contributions you would like to make would be more than welcome. Checks could be made out to NYSRTA – CZ (with a memo at the bottom – 2013 Flood Relief). Those donations could be sent to Charles Ernst (Treasurer of CZ), 8 Heatherwood Dr., New Hartford, NY 13413-2209 or could be sent to Lisa Dolen, NYSRTA, 8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110-6414

THANK YOU for any help that you can give for this recovery assistance.

NYSRTA – 63RD ANNUAL WORKSHOP and ANNUAL MEETING

TURNING STONE RESORT AND CASINO, VERONA, NEW YORK

HOSTED BY Southeastern Zone

Tuesday, October 15

**Registration 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Welcome Reception & Vendor Exhibits During Registration**

Dinner 6:45 p.m.

**Keynote Speaker, Anthony Musso
“Setting the Record Straight”**



Wednesday, October 16

Breakfast Buffet 7:30 a.m.

Session 1 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Choose one from the four offerings

1. Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley

Introducer: Ed Coffey

Presenter: Anthony Musso

Mr. Musso will introduce his new book, Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley Volume II and also discuss the first volume of the series which was published in 2012. Both volumes highlight many sites that are not significant destinations but have ties to local and national history.



2. Estate Planning 101: Tips on Basic Decisions that Make a Big Impact

Introducer: Lisa Dolen

**Presenters: Brian M. Johnson, National Long Term Care
James R. Barnes, Esq. Burke & Casserly, PC**

A properly designed estate plan ensures that you are the one making the ultimate decisions that affect you and your family. But, what are the important choices to make and how does someone put thoughts into action? This workshop will help attendees to simplify the estate planning process by understanding basic documents to utilize, how to incorporate insurance and other financial products into your plan, as well as how to get organized and prioritize what is most important to you. We will discuss common pitfalls, examples of problems that can arise, and how to avoid them. Making some basic legal, financial, and insurance-based decisions can ensure that you stay in control, and create a succession plan that benefits your loved ones.



3. Making Note Paper Cards

Introducer: Doris Whitney

Presenter: Ellen Barnes

Instruction will be given for three cards: 1 Fall Theme, 1 Lighthouse and 1 Apple Theme.

Limit: 20 participants. Please contact kbassett@nysrta.org or 518-482-3509 to pre-register.

4. Silver Sneakers

Introducer: Diane Hahn

Presenter: Jody Satalin



Muscular strength and Range of Movements is the Silver Sneakers core class and is designed to increase strength, range of movement, agility, balance and coordination to improve participants' functional capacities, physical fitness level and a sense of well-being. Appropriate attire suggested.

Limit: 20 participants. Please contact kbassett@nysrta.org or 518-482-3509 to pre-register.

Session 2 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Choose one of these four offerings

1. Stay Well, Get Well and Enjoy Yourself! The American Cancer Society's Guide to Long Term Health

Introducer: Ed Coffey

Presenter: Martha Ryan, MPS, RN

Sr. Director Community Engagement, Western NY Region

Learn what our latest research reveals about staying healthy and vibrant in your retirement years. Find out how the American Cancer Society is there to help you or your loved one facing cancer. Discover ways you can stay active and engaged in your community by volunteering for the Society. Your retirement years are yours to enjoy! Join us for tips on ensuring only healthy fulfilling years to come.

2. The Chobani Story

Introducer: Diane Hahn

Presenter: Donald Brown



The presentation will be about the start of Chobani, the growth of the company, community involvement, Shepherd's Gift Foundation, yogurt process and more.

3. Herbs for Food, Flavor and Fragrance

Introducer: Gwynne Bodle

Presenter: Joan Livingston

Ms. Livingston will discuss growing tips for the inside and outside of many common herbs.

4. Lifetime Planning For You and Your Family

Introducer: Shirley Parker

Presenter: Scott E. Koldin

Mr. Koldin will discuss: Wills, Health Care Proxies, Power of Attorney, Medicaid Eligibility, Trusts for Protection of Life Savings and Home, Long Term Care Insurance, Avoidance of Probate, Trusts for Disabled Children, Special Rules for IRA's and 401(K) plans.



VENDOR EXHIBITS 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The invitations have been sent out, and we are expecting to have exhibits of interest for all our attendees this year. These exhibits will feature products and/or services aimed at improving all aspects of your life in retirement, from travel and leisure to health, education and entertainment. The Office Staff has been hard at work to build upon this feature, which was initiated several years ago at our Annual get-together. We are sure that the Annual Exhibitors' Show will generate new enthusiasm and interest for all. Visit our exhibits and help support NYSRTA.

Lunch 12:00 p.m.

****Session 3 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Choose one of these five offerings**

Golf Tournament (1:30 p.m. until completion).

The Annual Golf Tournament is under the guidance of our annual winner, Jane Crosby. All Zones are challenged to enter a team of 4. Singles may register and be assigned to another incomplete Zone Foursome. A trophy will be awarded to the winning zone.

Please contact kbassett@nysrta.org or 518-482-3509 to pre-register.



1. Your TRS Pension - 2013

Introducer: Mary Johnson

Presenters: Richard Young, TRS Actuary; Sheila Gardella,

Director of Member Relations; Wayne Schneider, General Council



This workshop replaces the Annual Report made by TRS Personnel in the past during the regular session of the Convention itself. You will be brought up to date on such issues as, projected pension funding, investment performance, projected employee contribution rates, recent legislation and retired member services.

Note: Members having questions and concerns regarding any TRS matter should plan to attend this session as no other presentation by TRS Personnel will be made during the NYSRTA Annual Meeting on Thursday. Those wishing to ask questions regarding their personal TRS accounts should bring a copy of their "TRS Retired Member Profile". This workshop is recommended for additional leadership training for those interested in Pension and State Legislative issues.

2. America's First River:

Introducer: Ed Coffey

Presenter: Jonathan Kruk



Storyteller and educator Jonathan Kruk will discuss why the Hudson River can be considered the country's foremost river. During his presentation he will show how the river helped to launch three revolutions. This workshop will include stories that illustrate the significance of the river to our nation from colonial times to the present day.

3. An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

Introducer: Shirley Parker

Presenter: Catherine Moore



Ms. Moore will discuss her work as a dietitian and community nutritionist, which includes managing a broad based nutrition program that includes environmental change projects to reduce obesity, local food projects to increase fresh, nutritious, local grown foods and breast feeding initiatives to ensure infants and mothers get the healthiest start possible.

4. How Smart is Your Smart Phone, or do I have to be a Meteorologist to Use the Cloud?

Introducer: Tom Company

Presenter: Brian Sherman

What's this about squeezing a jelly bean or ice cream sandwich into my Android phone? An overview will be presented on the features and settings for cell phones and tablets. The differences between Apple and Android operating systems will be explained and demonstrated and the process of adding or deleting "apps" will be demonstrated for participants. Also addressed will be the question raised and answered: how smart phones and tablet devices can help us rather than confuse us.



5. ****Square Dancing **This workshop will be from 1:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

Introducer: Frank Mayer

Presenter: Dennis Viscanti & Elaine Mikenas

Did you know a typical square dance is about 2 1/4 hours long, and in that period you would have walked at least 3 miles... and enjoyed yourself doing it! During this 2 1/4 hour session, there will be a short discussion on the benefits of square dancing to various age groups and how to set up a square dance. This will be followed by a participatory period which will include simple dancing instructions and several square dancing "tips." **Please contact kbassett@nysrta.org or 518-482-3509 to pre-register.**



Session 4 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Choose one of these four offerings

1. History of West Point

Introducer: Ed Coffey

Presenter: Ret. Lt. Col. Sherman Fleek

A brief but interesting history of West Point, presented by retired Lt. Col. Sherman Fleek who has been the Command Historian of The United States of America Military Academy since 2009. The workshop will include anecdotal portrayals of both the time honored traditions and the newer current day practices of this fabled academy.

2. Refurbishing Old Monuments and Cemetery Stones

Introducer: Shirley Parker

Presenter: A. Cozzi and Company

You will be given monument cleaning and restoration recommendations on cleaning and restoring monuments in the proper way.



3. Teacher Evaluations

Introducer: Angelo Grande

Presenter: Kevin Mulligan

The significance and magnitude of standardized testing is designed to see public education fail. Linking the accountability of schools, teachers and administrators to standardized testing results, as the new Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) does, will witness many public schools falling short of unreasonably high expectations. Their anticipated failure will foster political and economic concerns to increase their support for Charter Education.

4. Red Cross Disaster Preparedness

Introducer: Gwynne Bodle

Presenter: Chris Tracy

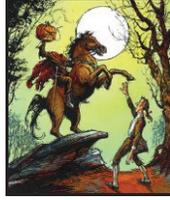
This will be a PowerPoint presentation that will cover the necessary preparation for common disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and other disasters.

New Delegate Workshop 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Angelo Grande, NYSRTA Senior Vice President, **Burt Phillips**, NYSRTA Bylaws Committee Chair, and **Doris Kirsch**, NYSRTA Resolution Chair will present a workshop on the duties and responsibilities of Delegates to the NYSRTA Annual Meeting. This is your chance to get orientated to what will go on and get your questions answered before your delegation goes to the floor of the Annual Meeting.

Wednesday Evening

Hotel Sponsored Cocktail Reception 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.



“The Annual fall party at Katrina Van Tassel’s in Sleepy Hollow”

Costumes optional, but wear your Sunday best!

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Certificate of Recognition Ceremony 8:00 p.m.

Presenter: Jackie Moller
Showroom



Entertainment: Jonathan Kruk-Once Upon the Hudson: Entertainment, Music and
Myths
Showroom

(Immediately following the Certificate of Recognition)

Bridge tournament and game room open to all after this performance
Seneca Room



Musical Entertainment: A Return Performance by William Locke
9:30 p.m.
Tuscarora Room

Thursday, October 17th

Breakfast Buffet 7:30 a.m.

Annual Meeting – Session 1 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Lunch 12:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting – Session 2 1:30 p.m.

**“Executive Committee Meeting Immediately following Session 2”
Cayuga Room**

Thursday Evening

Zone Cocktail Party 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

**Ret. Lt. Col. Fleek will be speaking about the History of West Point.
Showroom**

**Bridge Tournament (Concluding Session)
Game Room Open**

Friday, October 18th

Breakfast Buffet 7:30 a.m.

Southeastern Zone – Maureen Coffey, *Public Relations Chair*

“Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs.” I doubt Henry Ford was thinking of hosting a NYSRTA convention when he said this, but it applies nevertheless. Our committee is busy, but we are progressing and having fun in the process! Southeastern Zone is looking forward to a great convention!

SEZ will be having their annual fall meeting at the beautiful West Hills Country Club in Middletown on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 from 10:00 – 2:00. Tony Musso, a thoroughly entertaining presenter and author, will be one of our guest speakers. (He will be our Keynote at Turning Stone, but will speak on different topics.) We will also hear from a representative from The American Cancer Society. Two great speakers, a delicious buffet luncheon, raffles for fun prizes, and a chance to relax and catch up with colleagues sounds like a recipe for a terrific day. Why not plan on joining us and bringing along a friend?

Tony Colombo, our zone president, recently held a meeting of his executive board. Wanting to start the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance was no problem for us. Even though the room we were in had no flag, Helen Hoering, our recording secretary, keeps a small flag in her laptop case for just that reason. We saluted our beautiful flag and then got down to business! Thanks, Helen!



Affordable Dental Insurance Now Available for NYSRTA Members through Security Health and Pro Benefits Administrators

-  Freedom to use any dentist with an optional network for additional savings
-  Additional hearing aid benefit included
-  3 Cleanings Per Year
-  100% Preventative Coverage



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UNDER 65 AND LOOKING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS?

Good News!! NYSRTA with Univera Healthcare and Pro Benefits Administrators can provide a Plan for under 65 retirees

Highlights of the plan:

PPO	National Network of Providers
Preventive Services	Covered in full
Deductible	\$1300/\$2600
Pharmacy	\$5/35/70
Active Rewards	Cash back opportunity

Rates:

Single	\$518.21
2 People	\$1036.39
Family	\$1638.53

For more information contact Pam Styn at 716-836-7013 or 888-683-3682 x228





Low Cost VSP Vision Care Insurance Available Exclusively through Pro Benefits Administrators for NYSRTA Members

Benefit	Frequency	Coverage from a VSP Doctor
Exam \$10.00 Copay	12 months	Covered in full.
Lenses \$20.00 Copay	12 months	Single vision, lined bifocal lenses, lined trifocal lenses are covered in full. Children - Polycarbonate covered in full
Frame	24 months	Frame of your choice covered up to \$130.00 Plus, 20% off any out-of-pocket costs.
Contact Lenses in lieu of glasses	12 months	Covered up to \$130.00 allowance

Cost
MONTHLY RATES
SINGLE \$10.00
FAMILY \$25.00



For more information contact Pam Styn at 716-836-7013 or 888-683-3682 x 228



Eastern Zone - Rosalie Oliver, *Public Relations Chair*

Several units in EZ present scholarships in June. Upper Montgomery, which consists of the school districts of Canajoharie, Fort Plain, Fonda/Fultonville and St. Johnsville give a \$500 scholarship to a senior who is going into the education field. They also have an "Outreach" program which gives a \$200 grant to a school district in their unit for a worthwhile educational program in the classroom. The funds for this program are raised wholly through a raffle of items donated by the community.

Amsterdam gives a \$500 scholarship to a senior with less than 90% average who is going into the field of education. These are students who are often left out of the scholarship field but are deserving of recognition. Rensselaer Co. (RCRTA) also gives a \$500 scholarship to an outstanding student who is going into the education field. This year the scholarship was awarded to a student who intends to teach music. Both Units have a thorough vetting process in order to choose the best applicant.

Western Zone – Irine Zinter, *Public Relations Chair*

A fervent appeal from the ten zones in NYSRTA, is an ongoing call for new members. We know our Association's primary goal is to serve the needs of retired educators, but it is a known fact that active teachers can and do belong. Our social-educational projects need to be known to them in an inviting and appealing way.

One avenue that WZ has found to be effective in bringing in members is scheduling tours to various interesting places. Our travel committee of three consists of **Anne Flansburg**, **Judy Klug**, and **Betty Browne**. This year, plans for our trips included a fun filled, informative trip to Pittsburgh, PA in May with tours of Frank Lloyd Wright's "Falling Waters", and the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. Trip number two, scheduled for Sept. 23-26, 2013 is a "Ride the Rails of WV" in an open air, steam locomotive, riding through the Allegheny Mountains, visiting Seneca Caverns. Both trips were booked solidly in short order.



The Long Island Zone, along with all of us at NYSRTA are very proud to announce that NYSRTA Senior Vice President, **Angelo Grande *CR** has been elected by the Nassau County American Legion to the position of County Commander for the Legion Year 2013-2014. Angelo was installed as Commander at the 95th Annual Convention of the Nassau County.

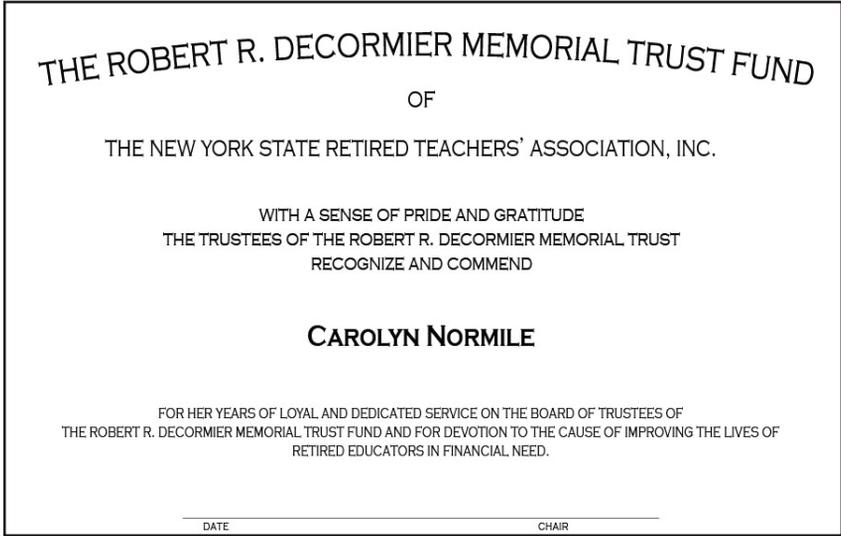
**The New York State Retired
Teachers' Association
8 Airport Park Boulevard
Latham, NY 12110-6414
Ph: 1-518-482-3509**

Dated Material – Please Do Not Delay.

The Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust –

Imogene McKendrick, *Chair*

Our thanks and appreciation to **Carolyn Normile *CR**, not only for her participation as a Trustee of the Robert R. DeCormier Trust Fund, but also for her dedicated effort, through the past thirty years, to maintain and improve the well-being of retired teachers. Carolyn has served in the State Legislation position at the county, zone and state level. She was elected as VP for State Legislation for two different terms. In 1995, Carolyn was awarded the NYSRTA Certificate of Recognition. In that same year, she was named New York State Retired Teacher of the Year, and chosen as 1 of 12 members nation-wide to serve on the NRTA (AARP) Pension Roundtable that was working to put together a program that the national office could use to better serve the fifty state retired teachers' associations. Carolyn was VP of State Legislation in 2000 when the COLA bill was finally passed. She and many others worked tirelessly to lobby for its passage.



YORK STATE ARTICLE DUE DATES

November 14, 2013 – Winter Issue

March 9, 2014 – Spring Issue

May 11, 2014 – Summer Issue

July 13, 2014 – Fall Issue