

The New York State Retired Teacher's Association, Inc.



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YORK

NO. 1

VOL. 62

Spring 2014

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN THE
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RETIRED EDUCATORS, THEIR
FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES.

state

President's Message — Judie Byndas

Dear NYSRTA members and friends,

This is intended to be my New Year's Resolution letter as it is my first editorial in 2014 and I will also mention some accomplishments in 2013 that were important to me and to you.

Thank you all so much for your generous response to the President's Fund Appeal letter last year. I set a goal of \$80,000 and you donated over \$75,000! What positive trust that we will work steadily for you! Your generosity allows us to provide support for continuing programs as well as adding new ones that help our members. I am extremely proud of programs developed by elected officers, committees, and Strategic Planning. Letter writing efforts on "Loss of Academic Freedom" increased awareness of the damage done by premature implementation of the Common Core to parents and school boards. Governor Cuomo, Commissioner King, and the Board of Regents were convinced to delay some testing after protests were heard from many factions.

Other Legislative Action Advocacy programs called attention to problems with prescriptions filled by mail order (I can personally attest to this), elder abuse awareness, and attempts to raise awareness as well as the inadequate pensions for our most senior retirees.

Funds were also donated to help retired teacher victims of Hurricane Sandy. Zones continued their efforts to support and provide community service. An ad hoc committee is working on money saving plans to reduce Annual Convention expenses to the delegates, Zones, and Association. We are shortening convention time to save on two meals and one overnight night stay. A detailed schedule will be published in the summer issue. Strategic Planning presented some new dues suggestions and incentives to the Executive Board in March.

Resolutions and Bylaws continue their diligence with keeping the Association relevant and streamlined. A balanced budget!

A bright, well organized *YORK STATE* and other accomplishments by Individual members and other committees.

I could go on and on but that would leave me no room for 2014 goals. So I present and look forward to your assistance and advice to:

- Continue, improve, and add to benefits you enjoy and need.
- Improve opportunities to communicate with members. Please invite me to your Zone meetings.
- Increase attendance of new delegates at the Convention, including the Annual Meeting. It is important for new members to see us as a total organization.
- Decrease expenses on all three levels.
- INCREASE MEMBERSHIP. This is necessary to accomplish all our goals and a job that must be done by all.
- Work on an easily implemented plan to improve and increase new leadership in units and zones.



Legislative Action—Mary Johnson, Vice President for Legislative Action

As the long-awaited and well-deserved spring finally arrives, the Legislative Action Committee is gearing up for visits with NYS Assembly and Senate representatives in their home offices. The Committee has developed a State Campaign Card with the excellent research by **Janice Mullins** providing bills to match the NYSRTA Resolutions along with current educational issues. After the talking points are approved at the March meeting, **Kathi Bassett** will be sending out packets to the Zone Chairs and their local advocates. We will be thanking those who helped pass the Elder Abuse Bill which the Governor signed on 11.13.2013. This bill directs the Office of the Aging to produce training materials to be used with professionals and volunteers who work with the elderly in social adult day services programs. This year we will support a bill to widen that training and supervision to include home health care providers.

Speaking of our advocates reminds me that we can always use more people. I encourage you to ask others to go beyond just their local units, join at the state level and get involved with advocacy. The Legislative Advocacy members are always happy to welcome new members to our local advocacy teams. Our scheduled visits include at least two or three advocates. We provide training and support to help you have a successful and enjoyable experience. I hope you will consider joining us in this worthy effort. Just call your local LAC zone chair and tell them of your interest.

Following is the 2014 State Legislative Priorities:

Minimum Pension Bump Up - Extends minimum retirement benefits for retirees of NYSTRS retired prior to 06/01/1980, and receive a pension equal to or less than \$550.00 per year of service (to a maximum of thirty five years of service or \$19,250). **A•04981-A Abbate/S•4496-A Libous**

Pharmacy Reimbursement - To Clarify and strengthen provisions in current law to ensure that consumers have the option to access every covered medication from a participating local network pharmacy and are not forced into mandatory mail order. **A•05723-A Heastie/S•03995-A Maziarz**

Elder Abuse - To expand the definition of caregiver to a person who voluntarily, or otherwise by operation of law, assumes responsibility for providing care for a vulnerable elderly person, or an incompetent or physically disabled person. **A•02781 Morelle/S•02951 Valesky**

Tier I Reinstatement - Relates to certain members who re-enter public service; extends tier reinstatement provisions to a retiree of a public retirement system who was an active member of a public retirement system on or after January 1, 1989. **A•07490 Gunther/S•05165 Seward**

The New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc. supports efforts underway to improve the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. We believe this is in the best interest of all students.

It is time to remove the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) from the school aid formula and allow school districts to begin the reduction recovery process so that our students have access to all programs necessary for a quality education.

Workshop—Angelo Grande, Senior Vice President

The workshop committee met briefly in October at the end of the 2013 Convention. At this meeting I met with **William Tenity** of the Central Zone (Chair for the host zone). The other members of the workshop committee: **Gwynne Bodle** (CZ), **Diane Hahn** *CR (EZ), Shirley Parker (NCZ) and **Kevin Mulligan** (NE). This was followed by a teleconference on February 10th where we continued our discussion of what workshops to offer. We also met in Utica, NY on March 17th to discuss the Workshops. Thank you to the members of the Committee for their hard work.

Listed below is our Annual Convention Timetable for the 2014 NYSRTA Convention. October 7th to October 9th

Theme – Heart of New York

Tuesday, October 7th

Registration

NYSRTA Workshops: New Delegates, Membership, Community Service, Friendly Service and Resolution Writing
Dinner

Certificate of Recognition

Keynote Speaker: John Walsh, America's Most Wanted

Wednesday, October 8th

Breakfast

Workshops: Sessions 1 and 2

Lunch

Annual Meeting: Session 1

Cocktail Party: College Night

Dinner

William Locke

Thursday, October 9th

Breakfast/Workshop Committee Meeting

Annual Meeting: Session 2

Executive Board Meeting

Boxed Lunch Available

Checkout

Site Committee Meeting with Hotel Staff.

2014 YORK STATE Article Due Dates

May 11, 2014—Summer Issue

July 13, 2014—Fall Issue

November 14, 2014—Winter Issue



Resolutions—Doris Kirsch, Chair



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! A Call for Resolutions

Although the deadline for submitting resolutions is not until June 14th, it is time to begin the process of developing the proposals. The initial idea for proposals can come from individual members, units, zones, committees (unit, zone, state), and officers (all levels). There are several current key areas of concern that would lend themselves to resolutions proposals. Some of these would be: pension protection, Social Security, health care, school funding, trends in public education...the list could go on and on. One criteria that must be met for each proposal is that the resolution be in compliance with at least one of the organization's objectives as stated in Article II of the NYSRTA Bylaws. By far the best resource for the proper writing style and format for the proposals lies in each zone Resolutions Chair. If additional assistance is needed, the NYSRTA Resolutions Chair should be contacted at 585-457-3315 or wdkirsch@gmail.com. Once written, the proposals must be approved by the zone governing body and submitted by the zone president.

Upon the recommendation of the NYSRTA Resolutions Committee and the subsequent approval of **President Byndas**, a more streamlined and efficient method for submitting proposals will begin this year. The zone president will need to submit one signed hard copy and an e-mail formatted copy of each proposal to the NYSRTA Resolutions Chair. The method formerly in place required the sending of 15 hard copies. This change and all of the guidelines concerning resolutions (including a sample form for submitting a proposal) can be found by accessing the NYSRTA website, clicking on the Leaders' Manual and scrolling to pp. 78 – 79.

Take advantage of this opportunity to help formulate the policy of your organization.

Dear Members of The New York State Retired Teachers,

Les is typing this letter for me. WE want to thank you for the generous gift of money that you gave us. We have used it to help pay for the many wonderful therapists we had. The therapists themselves are currently being paid for by our insurance, but we have been lucky enough to have their work supplemented by several great part-time aids who continue the therapy when the therapists are not here. As a result I have started doing a bit of walking and with the help from them, although I cannot yet do it on my own, I can see that day coming.

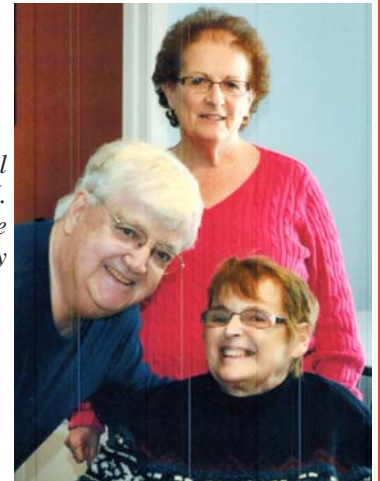
I am also beginning to talk again, though with difficulty, as I have not done any talking for nearly two years during and after my stay at Rochester general Hospital. I am convinced that I will be talking at some point in the not to distant future and look forward to attending Retired Teacher's meetings at some point in the coming year.

Again thank you so much for your generous gift. It, and your friendship, is GREATLY appreciated.

I wish all of you well and good health in the coming year.

*Sincerely yours,
Jane Buell*

P.S. I hope you like the enclosed photo of Carol Lord, John Hogan and I. Carol and John were "supervising" some of my therapy.



Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service – Jackie Moller, Chair

I have looked forward this year to writing this article for the spring issue of *YORK STATE* and not just because I wanted to remind you to search through your zone members to see who might be eligible for the award but finally to see that just maybe the cold, snowy, terrible winter might just be behind us as you receive this issue of *YORK STATE*.

The Certificate is presented to a member or members of NYSRTA who have shown outstanding leadership and service to our Association at all levels by assuming **leadership positions and participation on committees**. Qualifications for this award can be found in The Leaders' Manual and you will also find a list of previous recipients of this award. Each Zone President has received these from me sometime during the month of March. This form can be submitted by any individual member of NYSRTA but must be approved and signed by The Zone President. When filling out this form, would you please try to find out how many years this nominee was active on a committee or when holding a leadership position? This will help us tremendously.

Please make note of the following: To be considered for the current year's award, **nominations must be received by June 1st, 2014.** **NO LATE NOMINATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED.**

Please send all applications to:
Jackie Moller (Certificate of Recognition Committee Chair)
588 Stoneleigh Rd.
Oneida, NY 13421





Group Hospital & Home Care Recovery Insurance is now available to the Members of NYSRTA

Underwritten by: New York Life Insurance Company, 51 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10010 on Policy Form GMR

How it Works

This exciting new benefit can help provide extra money to help cover the cost of hospital stays and the recovery afterwards. It pays a cash benefit in addition to any other insurance you have, which can help pay for things like home care bills, or other expenses, such as groceries, utility bills, and daily living expenses.

Eligibility

Members of NYSRTA under age 75 are eligible to apply. Acceptance to the plan is guaranteed for eligible Members. There are no medical exams or health questions to sign up, and once you are enrolled, there is no termination age for this coverage. Spouse coverage is also available.

To enroll or request more information, contact an insurance representative at 1-866-478-8907

Dental and Vision coverage also available!

Monthly Rates for Hospital & Home Care Recovery Insurance

Age	Monthly Rate
Under 70	\$25
70 - 74	\$35
75 - 84*	\$50
85+*	\$60

*For Renewal Only

Rates as of October, 2012



pearlcarroll.com/nysrta

Friendly Service—Mary Ella Moeller, Vice President for Friendly Service



Two Friendly Service Zone Chairs were honored for their long-time continuing commitment to Friendly Service at the NYSRTA Annual Meeting in October: **Ann Karl**, Eastern Zone and **Imogene McKendrick *CR**, Southern Zone. They are the backbone of Friendly Service and have been a part of this vital committee for 20+ years. We salute them for their dedicated service. Both Ann and Imogene were part of the Friendly Service Committee when I first became involved and have mentored me and all members of the committee through the years.

Friendly Service has openings on the zone level, should you wish to become part of the Friendly Service Team. We are the committee which looks after our fellow retirees by sending a card, making a call or just being there for someone. If you find that you have those extra few minutes to share, call your zone Friendly Service Chair and let them know that you want to become part of the team. After the long, cold, snowy winter, we all look forward to the spring and getting outside. Remember we all need to stay active and what better way than to

take a walk around your neighborhood and look for the spring flowers as they appear like magic each year, giving each one of us a smile....



YORK STATE

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The **NYS Retired Teachers' Association, 8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110-6414**

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



Membership—Salvatore Sedita, Vice President for Membership

Zone and Unit membership chairs throughout the state are planning for this year's Membership Recruitment Drive. The effort this year will be operated as much as possible by matching existing members with member candidates on a one-on-one recruitment relationship.

Being part of such a recruitment drive is not hard. It doesn't take up much of a member's time. And it is the most productive and efficient way to recruit new members. We know that posting notices, distributing brochures, and writing letters have only a very limited rate of success in these times. It seems like new retirees are not anxious to join anything when they first retire, so one-on-one personal contacts produce the best results in recruiting.

One-on-one recruiting involves several easy tasks. Once a member is assigned a potential new member, a phone call to introduce him/herself, a word of mouth invitation to attend a unit or zone meeting or a "welcome to retirement" event run by the unit or zone, an offer of a ride to the event, and letting the recruit know you are happy to see him/her when he/she attends the event is all that it takes.

Zone and Unit Membership chairs are anxious to involve as many current members as possible in this year's recruiting drive. Current members who are willing to become a part of this year's recruitment efforts are asked to contact their Zone or Unit membership chairs and let them know you will help.

With a little bit of help from a lot of our members, Zones and Units will have a very successful Membership Recruitment Drive this year. Thank you all in advance for your willingness to help.

Bylaws—Burt Phillips, Chair

At this writing, three propositions to amend the Bylaws have been approved by the Executive Board. They have been posted on the website at www.nysrta.org and have been sent to the zones for consideration. Here is a summary of each proposition.

~ **Proposition CW** [Clarify Wording] 2014 inserts a citation into a bylaw to reduce the possibility of confusion. This brings no changes in meaning. Article VI, Section 2 is involved.

~ **Proposition IT** [Insurance Trust] 2014 brings one of our bylaws' wordings into agreement with the recently revised bylaws of the Insurance Trust. Due to its changing role, the Trust no longer directly sells insurance to NYSRTA members and the Trust's bylaws now recognize that fact by having changed its former description as an "insurance plan" to "insurance fund." This makes no substantial change in our bylaw. Article XIV, Section 1 is involved.

~ **Proposition RCAM** [Resolutions Change (for) Annual Meeting] 2014 recognizes that modern communications provide ample prior notice of important matters. It removes the present requirement that resolutions be introduced at one session of the Annual Meeting and be voted upon in a separate session. Article XV, Section 4 is affected.

A fourth change was called for by the Executive Board in March and Proposition ELM [Eliminate (new) Life Memberships] 2014 was created. As of this writing this proposition had not been approved by the Executive Board. If it goes forward, the proposition will have no effect on current Life members, but will end the creation of new Life memberships.

Articles III, Sections 1(b), 2(b), 2(c), and Article XI, Section 3 would be affected.

I have some personal news to announce. Responding to some health issues, I will be stepping down as your Bylaws Chair after the Annual Meeting. Over the past nearly seven years now I have worked with some truly wonderful people and have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges encountered and satisfactions received. I am particularly pleased that I will be replaced by a man with great understanding of the role and a demonstrated ability to lead. Western Zone's **Charles (Chuck) Peszynski *CR** will serve you well.

Nominations Committee – Emily Castine, Chair

For the 2014 -15 year, the following officers are willing to continue in their current positions:

Judie Byndas *CR, President

Angelo Grande *CR, Senior Vice President

Mary Ella Moeller *CR, Vice President for Friendly Service

Mary Johnson, Vice President for Legislative Action

Salvatore Sedita, Vice President for Membership

Nancy Roberts, Secretary

Terry Trudeau *CR, Treasurer

If there are any candidates wishing to oppose one of the incumbents, he/she should submit a letter of intent and a current resume along with a letter for endorsement from his/her zone president. Other supporting letters from NYSRTA members may be included. These materials must be submitted to:

Mrs. Emily Castine
Chair of the Nominations Committee
1483 Lake Shore Rd.
Chazy, NY 12921

Submissions must be received no later than **May 31, 2014**. There will be no exceptions.

Applicants should be prepared to attend the Nominations Committee meeting on Monday, July 14, 2014 to present themselves to the Nominations Committee.



THE NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. REVISED BUDGET

This budget replaces the one that was published in the 2013 winter issue

	2012 Interim	2012 Interim	2013 Budget	2014 Proposed
REVENUES	Budget 6-month	ACTUAL 6-month		BUDGET
Dues-Annual	\$ 106,833.50	\$ 107,864.67	\$ 203,667.00	\$ 203,667.00
Dues-Life	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,796.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Convention Revenue	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 3,911.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Dues-90 Yr. Olds	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
General Contributions	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,375.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
President Appeal Letter	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 5,724.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
Insurance Trust	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Interest / Dividend Income	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 36,726.30	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
Bequest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Misc. Revnue	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 680.20	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Travel & Misc	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 940.60	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Adverting Revenue	\$ 3,085.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
From Assets	\$ 20,777.63	\$ 58,273.70	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 29,100.00
Cash Balance eff. 7/1/2010	\$ 23,225.00	\$ 21,324.87	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,472.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 256,671.13	\$ 244,216.34	\$ 436,667.00	\$ 442,739.00
	2012 Interim	2012 Interim	2013 Budget	2014 Proposed
EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL		BUDGET
ADMINISTRATION				
Rent	\$ 9,900.00	\$ 10,200.00	\$ 20,500.00	\$ 20,500.00
Office Operating	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 12,891.30	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 23,500.00
Office Equipment/Repair	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Supplies, Printing, Postage	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,285.13	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
Salaries	\$ 72,425.63	\$ 72,263.95	\$ 146,049.00	\$ 154,000.00
Treas./ Editor Stipends	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 1,622.65	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Bonuses	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,037.68	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 11,981.00
Auditing	\$ 10,550.00	\$ 4,928.10	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
Legal	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Training Fees	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Ins. / Ins. Disability	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 580.46	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Employee Benefits	\$ 10,720.00	\$ 11,067.83	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 24,655.00
Employee Pension	\$ 9,125.50	\$ 9,202.35	\$ 19,175.00	\$ 19,903.00
EOM Expense	\$ 750.00	\$ 583.05	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Contingency	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Special Projects	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Credit Card Fees	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,066.01	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
Membership Project Expense	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 16,554.60	\$ 3,643.00	\$ 5,000.00
Computer	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Telephone and Equipment	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,844.29	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 4,000.00
Website	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$ 168,521.13	\$ 160,217.40	\$ 304,567.00	\$ 310,889.00

	2012 Interim	2012 Interim	2013 Budget	2014 Proposed
EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL		BUDGET
OFFICERS				
President's Travel	\$ 500.00	\$ 189.44	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Other Officer's Travel	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
President's Fund Outlay	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL	\$ 750.00	\$ 189.44	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
	2012 Interim	2012 Interim	2013 Budget	2014 Proposed
	BUDGET	ACTUAL		BUDGET
MEETINGS				
Executive Committee	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 8,199.21	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,500.00
Annual Workshop Expense	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,862.27	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Annual Convention Expense	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 10,184.89	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 47,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 52,500.00	\$ 20,246.37	\$ 63,000.00	\$ 63,000.00
NEWSLETTER				
York State	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 25,483.32	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 25,483.32	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00
COMMITTEES				
Legislative Action	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,649.33	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Friendly Service	\$ 150.00	\$ 24.73	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Annual Workshop Planning	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,722.19	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Bylaws	\$ 450.00	\$ 63.09	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
Certificate of Recognition	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 1,144.16	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Community Service	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00
Finance & Budget	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,022.39	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Personnel Committee	\$ -	\$ 1,199.67	\$ -	\$ -
Credentials	\$ 25.00	\$ 55.84	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Historian	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Membership	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 17.51	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Nominations	\$ 500.00	\$ 1.82	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Public Relations	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Resolutions	\$ 450.00	\$ 1,023.87	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Site	\$ 500.00	\$ 86.75	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Health Care	\$ 250.00	\$ 77.63	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Adhoc	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Strategic Planning	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 2,987.29	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 11,400.00	\$ 12,076.27	\$ 24,600.00	\$ 24,350.00
	2012 Interim	2012 Interim	2013 Budget	2014 Proposed
	BUDGET	ACTUAL		BUDGET
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 256,671.13	\$ 218,212.80	\$ 436,667.00	\$ 442,739.00
NET INCOME/DEFICIT	\$0.00	\$ 26,003.54	\$0.00	\$0.00

ZONE NEWS



Eastern Zone -

Rosalie Oliver, Public Relations Chair

Central Zone –

Mary Radloff, Public Relations Chair

By the time you are reading this issue of YORK STATE let's hope the long and lingering winter has at last become history. Though few meetings were held by Central Zone counties, members have used the time to update membership lists, contact new retirees, evaluate scholarship applications and organize historian books. Now that spring has truly arrived, plans are underway for county meetings. This should be the best year ever for local meetings as attendance is a wonderful cure for cabin fever as we meet with old friends and make new ones. Be sure to make your reservations to attend your local luncheon.

President **Bill Tenity**, after attending the State Executive Board meeting, shared the new planned schedule for the Annual Convention of 2014. After several years of delayed decisions, a plan is in place to change this event from four days to three. What a feat! It looks like a carefully thought-out schedule that covers all the essential ingredients. We are grateful to the hardworking members who rose to the challenge! Details will appear perhaps in this issue. As the first zone to host under this new schedule, we look forward to participating in the creation of a truly memorable event.



Retired teachers from the **Madison County Retired Teachers' Association** presented winter clothing to the Willard Prior Elementary School. Madison, Oneida, and Herkimer counties each received checks for flood relief victims which was collected from the ten zones of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association.

Janice Hedglon, co-coordinator of Community Services for both the county teachers and the Central Zone of NYSRTA met with the assistant superintendent of Oneida School district. They decided the best use of the money would be for elementary students at Willard Prior Elementary in Oneida, NY. Nurse **Melissa Ball** suggested items that were most needed and would oversee the distribution. Sweat pants, hooded sweat

shirts, snow pants, thermal underwear, socks, hats, and gloves were purchased at the Oneida Wal-mart by **Janice Hedglon** and MCRTA president **Gwynne Bodle**. Wal-Mart manager, **Jim Breed**, generously donated a \$50 gift certificate to be used as needed.

This past January, the Eastern Zone lost a valuable member. **Stanley Towne** was frequently a representative of the Eastern Zone at State NYSRTA Conventions. Some of you may remember him and his wife Marlene dressed in fantastic Roaring Twenties Costumes for the party night at the convention held in the Catskills. They really had brave faces for that particular convention since they had just lost their home during Hurricane Irene. Stanley was always there, a good friend, a helper and one of the most enthusiastic members. We will miss his sense of fun and competition.

He was always involved with something whether it was at a meeting of concerned citizens involving the Gilboa Dam, as a Trustee at his church, refurbishing the church parsonage, or being competitive whether it be playing horseshoes, bowling or golfing. As far as horseshoes is concerned, Stanley won seven New York State Senior Championships and was inducted into the New York State Horseshoe Hall of Fame in 2006. When he was home, he loved woodworking and made many whirlybirds. After retiring, Stanley and Marlene traveled extensively all over the world.

Long Island Zone – Eileen Holmes, Public Relations Chair



After a snowy and exceptionally frigid winter, LIZ retirees are looking forward to another busy, productive year. New officers

for LIZ were installed last fall: President, **Kathy Grande**; Vice-President, **June Torns** and Treasurer, **Dominick LiCausi**.

West End RTA awarded their annual scholarship to **Christine DeGregorio**, who is continuing her studies in Adelphi University's STEP Program. East End RTA's scholarship was awarded to **Natasha Kubiesko**, who is working on a degree that will enable her to work with disabled students.

EERTA Community Service Chairs **Robert Svoboda** and **Carol Joynes** visited Greenport High School and presented a check to the Student Activities Club to be used to help needy families.

Congratulation to LIZ's **Mary Ella Moeller *CR**, NYSRTA VP for Friendly Services, for a "Job Well Done!" on the Superstorm Sandy Relief Fund (\$10,395 was collected, including \$1500 from Kentucky Retired Teachers!). The money was equally distributed to 13 retired teachers to assist them with their storm recovery efforts.



Western Zone - Irine Denis Zinter, Public Relations Chair

Our Leadership Team is very appreciative to everyone who has responded to the first fund raising appeal as the amount collected has enabled us to continue to provide monetary and material support to various agencies including Meals on Wheels and Network in Aging and the Presidents Fund. It has also enabled our president, **Chuck Peszynski *CR**, to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee on Scholarships and Incentives in an effort to promote educational creativity in WZ as well as to raise the profile of WZ/ NYSRTA in local schools and communities. The committee chaired by **Ronald Czapla** is in the preliminary stages of setting up details and criteria. More information will appear in future articles.

Theresa Pope, chair of resolutions is requesting and will welcome any resolutions you may have that are concise, well written and forwarded to her at jdp86@live.com. The AZALEA FESTIVAL trip to Norfolk, Va. April 24-27 will include visits to the Norfolk Naval Base, MacArthur Memorial, performance of the International Tattoo and a dinner cruise called The Spirit of Norfolk. Plans are also being made for a trip to Montreal and Quebec City, Canada July 14-18, 2014. The trips have been planned by **Anne Flansburg *CR**, **Betty Browne** and **Judy Klug**. *Editor's note: a Tattoo is an exhibition of military bands, massed pipes and drums, and military drill teams.*

As warm weather approaches our thoughts turn to many different avenues of recreation and/or employment. Of lasting merit is that of volunteering and we all know that this is a feature of WZ membership. We salute **Marilyn and Conrad Tota** for the 10+ years that they have taught conversational English in Poland sponsored by the Pomost International, a non-profit organization in Buffalo, NY, sanctioned by the government of the city of Rzeszow located in southeastern Poland.

Each teacher pays for his/her own travel expenses to Poland and the local government provides housing and meals. High school and college age students from Poland, Ukraine and Hungary register for this program to improve their English language skills which are essential for future employment. In recent years, outstanding students from this program have become executives in England and Germany and as government leaders in the European Union.

In addition to the Totas the following WZ members have provided long-term service to this program: **Therese Clarke**, **William Gross**, **Carol Ann Harlos**, and **Gloria La Sota**. All have been officers as well as teachers in Poland. Long term service is encouraged in order to have program continuity and is a demanding program but well worth the effort.

North Central Zone— Patricia Dietrich & Nancy Roberts, Public Relations Co-Chairs

NCZ's first Scholarship Committee, composed of Chair, **John Gaffney**, and members, **Dr. George Forbes**, **Marianne Malatino** and **Dick Vanyo** met in the spring of 2003 to compile criteria and begin fund raising, with a goal of awarding the first scholarship in 2004. They were successful, and our first scholarship was awarded at the June luncheon in 2004 to Courtney Belloff, then a senior at South Jefferson Central School. **Courtney Belloff-Barker** now teaches kindergarten at Black River Elementary in the Carthage Central School district. This June at our spring luncheon we expect to award at least four \$500 scholarships to eligible seniors in Jefferson and/or Lewis Counties. John Gaffney continues to chair this committee in exemplary fashion with Dr. Forbes and Marianne Malatino still serving on the committee. **Mary Lee O'Brien** has joined them as well as new member, **Tom VanEmmerik**. We are glad to welcome Tom to this committee. Tom retired in 1996 after teaching 4th and 5th grades at South Lewis Central School. After retirement, he taught the AARP Driver Safety Course for several years. He now volunteers at the local Food Pantry and has helped with our Coats for Families project.

Burt Phillips *CR is our new Membership Chair. Burt has taken on this challenge with his usual energy, passion and dedication to detail. Burt, who is also Bylaws Chair, now has a new co-chair on the Bylaws Committee, **Jannet Seelman**. Jannet retired in 2010 from Harrisville School system where she taught remedial reading in grades K-12.

She has been on the board of Lewis County Opportunities, Inc., a Community Action Agency, for the past 33 years. As part of her experience on this board, Jannet has worked with bylaws revision. She also gained experience with bylaws as a member of the Harrisville Teachers' Association union. We welcome Jannet to this position where she is a perfect fit with her wealth of bylaws' experience. Jannet has served her community as a Girl Scout Leader, helped with our Coats for Families project and is active in her church. Jannet is also care giver to her mother who lives with her.

We appreciate new and older retirees stepping forward to serve on NCZ committees and giving new life and vitality to our organization.

Looking ahead, we have the following dates on our schedule:

- Spring Executive Council Meeting
Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Teachers' Center 10:00-12:00
- Spring Zone Luncheon/Scholarship Awards
Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at Ramada Inn, Watertown
- Summer Executive Council Meeting
Thursday, August 7, 2014 at the Teachers' Center 10:00-12:00



Northern Zone—Linda Crosby, Public Relations Chair



Although actually residing in the Northern Zone, many of us in the North Country are presently feeling like we are living in the Twilight Zone with waist-deep snow still in our yards and eye level snow banks lining our streets during a cold and snowflake-filled March; it's

hard to believe Spring is only a couple of days away. With the changing of the seasons filling our thoughts with visions of sunny and warmer days, perhaps, it is a good time to reflect on the changes that have occurred in our zone over the last few months. We are pleased to announce that NZ has a new president with the Fall election of **Gayla LePage**, who retired in 2009 from Brushton-Moira C.S. in Brushton, NY after 32 years of service as an innovative and energetic high school English teacher. She was also the stage director of the annual Senior Play and the school musical for many years. A graduate of BMCS and SUNY Potsdam, she resides in North Bangor with her husband, Phil, who also is a retired BMCS teacher. Together, they raised two wonderful children, Luke and Erika, who have successful careers and families. The three (and counting) grandchildren constantly entertain and delight Gayla and Phil.

We would like to heartily thank our outgoing president, **Donna Finnerty**, for her four years of dedicated service. Although escaping the rigors and demands of presidency, Donna has continued very active involvement in NZ for the past few months in many capacities! Her extensive knowledge and experience will provide much needed and critical support for NZ. We are hoping she will have a little more time now for her many other activities; she is very devoted to her family, her church and senior citizens groups. She has been sponsoring foreign exchange high school students for many years. In other leadership roles, we are fortunate to still have the expert services of **Roxann Finley** as Treasurer and **Rae Louise Tate** as Secretary as well as the many members who serve as committee chairpersons. Thank you, dedicated members.

Our Fall 2013 membership meeting spotlighted an exciting speaker; **Derek Sprague**, PGA Vice-President (an international position) and General Manager/Golf Pro of the Malone Golf Club, entertained us with an informative view of the overall structure, the golf tournaments, the professional activities and the commercial aspects of the PGA.

We especially appreciated his witty, good-humored stories of life on the road with world famous pro golfers. Derek's mom, Linda Sprague, is a long time NZ-NYSRTA member. In the Fall of 2013, NZ members also announced the recipients of our scholarship awards for the following 2013-2014 college freshmen: **Alex Farrell**, son of Ogdensburg resident **Michael Farrell**, attends SUNY Brockport for physical education. **Megan Barney**, daughter of Lisbon residents **Ray and Patricia Barney**, is attending Elmira College for Secondary History Education. **Robert Bashaw**, son of Malone residents **Paul and Audrey Bashaw**, attends North Country Community College for Spanish Education.

Our upcoming Spring 2014 membership meeting at the Potsdam Country Club on May 21 will feature a performer of music and trivia; **William Locke**, a retired teacher/ administrator with B.S., MBA and M.S.Ed degrees from St. Bonaventure University, has pursued a favorite hobby in performing arts for many years. He has directed, produced and performed in over 40 theatrical productions. His cabaret-style shows for nursing homes, adult daycare centers and community service groups have delighted many western and central New York audiences. NZ members will be receiving a NZ news letter and reservation form soon for this exciting program.

NZ members should also reserve the following date for our Fall 2014 meeting. On September 17, at the Malone Golf Club, our guest speaker, **Dr. Elemer A. Raffai**, will give a PowerPoint presentation on joint replacement operations. He is an orthopedic surgeon at Alice Hyde Medical Center, Malone, NY.

Despite the difficult winter, hearty NZ members have been out in our communities and busy with many service projects. **Joe Russo** and **Rae Louise Tate** reported that their local unit, Clifton-Fine-Edwards, has been raising funds to add lights to the town wreaths and to purchase new street banners for seasonal displays in Star Lake. **Agnes Hudson *CR** and Donna Finnerty said the Gouverneur Area Retired Teachers unit continued to collect paper products for donation to area outreach centers which help those in need. Linda Crosby spend many winter days working with fellow Foothills Art Society artists to design, construct and paint stage set backdrops and props for the YMCA Malone Winter Carnival Revue performed in early February; students from Malone C.S. and Chateaugay C.S. also worked with the FAS artists.

Southeastern Zone – Maureen Coffey, Public Relations Chair

On a Thursday morning in February, many of the die-hards from Southeastern Zone braced the cold to meet with our president, **Tony Colombo**. Newer members in the zone had questions for Tony regarding the required NYSRTA annual meeting and procedures that were unfamiliar to them. They also generated suggestions for sharing with the by-laws committee. A recommendation for the conference committee to consider included presenting more workshops on items such as the Common Core and Medicare. We also urged more members to be involved in the nominations process.

'Til next time...



Northeastern Zone— Nancy Olsen & Marilyn Smith, Public Relations Co-Chairs



NEZ Celebrates 300 years in 2013! And 100 years in teaching!

Between July and September three of our Zone retirees celebrated their 100th birthdays and between them accumulated over 100 years of teaching our children. Wow what wonderful milestones to achieve and celebrate!



Edith B. Bolles was born on July 16, 1913. Edith began her career at the Plattsburgh City Schools in 1960. One of the highlights of her time at Monty Street School, now Momot, was her frog contest. The class was reading about frogs and Edith encouraged her students to bring in a live frog and have a jump-

ing contest. At the conclusion her fellow teachers brought out "Mrs. Bolles' Frog". It was a giant fake frog that jumped when the bulb was squeezed. The children loved it and is still one of Edith's fondest memories. Two retired teachers also remember Edith. **Marilyn Smith** remembers Edith telling her that she was the first elementary librarian that Plattsburgh hired. Edith was the librarian at all four schools - Broad, Oak, Bailey, and Momot. Art Momot, one of her former principals, described Edith as being "ageless." Edith retired in 1978.

students and growth brought on by the arrival of Plattsburgh Air Force Base, and by the enactment of the Taylor law in 1967 that gave public employees the right to organize and negotiate a contract. Clare firmly believed in unions and the good that comes from compromise. For this reason she became active in the Peru Association of Teachers. Clare was on the negotiating team and was also an AFT Delegate. She held several association offices and was a building rep striving to ensure a good learning environment for PCS students and good working conditions for fellow teachers. In retirement Clare became a weaver involving herself in several craft groups along with being active in organizations such as the League of Women Voters, the Plattsburgh Garden Club, Peru Community Church, and served as Secretary of NEZ for several years. Clare continues to enjoy her garden and flowers!

Claudia M. (Craig) Bradley was born on September 22, 1913 in Beekmantown, NY. Claudia lived on the Pellerin Road and attended the District 2, Rooney School. Claudia graduated from Plattsburgh Normal School. Her first teaching position was the District 13, Rand Hill School where her \$24 per week salary was soon reduced to \$20 due to budgetary constraints. Claudia also taught in the last one room school in the City



of Plattsburgh at Scotion Creek where she had 18 children in grades K-2. In 1971 Claudia retired from Plattsburgh's Oak Street School. She served as organist for 50 years at the Morrisonville Community Church and she made many crocheted handcrafts. She belongs to the Clinton County Historical Association and the DAR. *Note: sadly, Claudia passed away on March 5, 2014.*

Clare Ethel Kelley Rooney was born on August 21, 1913 in Peru, NY. Her first thoughts of teaching were nurtured by Anna Coffey, a teacher herself, who Clare, at seven years old, walked to school with in Schuyler Falls, NY. Clare experienced many changes in the Peru School system during her career from its beginning in 1935 as she taught in Districts 3 and 7 one room school houses until her retirement as a 5th Grade departmentalized Science teacher in 1975. Perhaps the biggest changes resulted from the centralization of Peru Central School, the influx of



Congratulations once again to these three remarkable women who taught for over 100 years!





Spring Safety Tips



Yard and Garden Safety

Working outdoors in the garden can be very relaxing and is a great way to get some good exercise. Care must be taken not to overdo things, though, and some basic safety rules should be observed. Especially before engaging in gardening activities that are physical in nature, it is a good idea to take a few minutes to do some simple stretching exercises. It is also a good idea to bend properly to avoid stress to the back and knees. Using a kneeling pad or a gardening bench is often a good choice. Care should be taken when lifting so as not to cause unnecessary strain. Frequent breaks should be taken in order to avoid becoming fatigued. Clothing should be appropriate for the weather, and sunscreen always should be used. Make sure instructions are followed on all equipment, fertilizers and lawn chemicals, and always take care to put supplies away safely after the job is done.

Check Smoke Detectors

When the time changes in the spring, it means it's also time to replace the batteries in the smoke detectors. Smoke detectors are a very important feature in every home, but they can be especially valuable for senior citizens. As part of the spring battery change, the smoke alarm also should be tested to make sure it works properly.

It is also a good idea to vacuum the smoke alarm so that dust or cobwebs aren't an impediment to the proper functioning of the smoke alarm.

Another good springtime safety tip is to check your fire extinguisher at the same time you change the smoke alarm batteries so that functional fire extinguishers are always present and easily located.

Remain Vigilant Against Fraud

Once the weather turns nice, senior citizens need to be especially careful to guard themselves against roving home repairmen. Although most home repairmen are reputable and reliable, there are unscrupulous traveling repairmen who travel from area to area and who tend to prey on senior citizens. These home repairmen often try to sell what they claim is emergency home repair work that must be performed and paid for immediately. These home repair jobs vary but often include roofing, paving and painting. Senior citizens should be careful to ask for company identification, be leery of repairmen who work out of unmarked vehicles, and never agree to have repairs made on the spot without checking first regarding the legitimacy of the repair person's business.

Learn more: http://www.ehow.com/way_5718510_safety-tips-senior-citizens-springtime.html#ixzz2xqOqjjMy

Remembering Mr. Thomas O'Shea, Credentials Chair, by Charles Peszynski



With the passing of Thomas (Tom) O'Shea in mid-march, NYSRTA and Western Zone lost a faithful and dedicated friend. During the funeral service, he was aptly described as "a gentleman and a gentle man" but he was by no means hesitant to be a persistent advocate for retired educators and other causes dear to his heart. He served as Chair of the NYSRTA Credentials Committee, Chair of the Founders Fund of Western Zone, held several offices in the Eastern Niagara County Retired Teachers Association and was a long-time delegate to NYSRTA Annual Conventions.

That, however, is only one part of his legacy. The other part was his commitment to and involvement in organizations in his community. He was past president of the Lockport City Fire Board, past president of the Lockport Kiwanis Club and a member of the Board of Directors for the Orleans-Niagara-Erie Counties Challenger Center. Active also in the political arena, he served on the Niagara County Board of Ethics and as the Lockport Civil Service Commissioner. In recognition of his involvement in educational and community affairs, Tom was awarded the NYSRTA Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service in 2012, an honor his family will cherish for many years to come. May he rest in peace.



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**In the Fall 2014 Edition, there will be a complete listing of the Workshops to be offered on
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ACROSS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Hairstyle | 42) Just a ____ (slightly) |
| 5) Southwest party snack | 43) Get one's dander up |
| 10) Where peat is found | 44) Like Pisa's famed tower |
| 14) Issued a command | 45) Prepared for a shock |
| 15) Attentive to possible danger | 47) Electrical units |
| 16) Geometrical calculation | 48) Composer Erik |
| 17) Hampering the progress of | 51) Bottom of a shoe |
| 20) Half of the forearm bones | 53) Japanese art of paper folding |
| 21) Beached | 56) Hold forth |
| 22) Proofer's retraction | 60) Good trivia entry |
| 25) Solitary sort | 64) Scandinavian capital |
| 26) Humble requests | 65) Not even a mouse |
| 30) Throws easily | 66) Harbinger of tooth trouble |
| 33) Aerie inhabitant | 67) Flow slowly |
| 34) Kachina doll carver | 68) Hypnotized or anesthetized |
| 35) Grandpa Simpson | 69) Quarter-acre of land |
| 38) Longest parts of the alimentary canal | |

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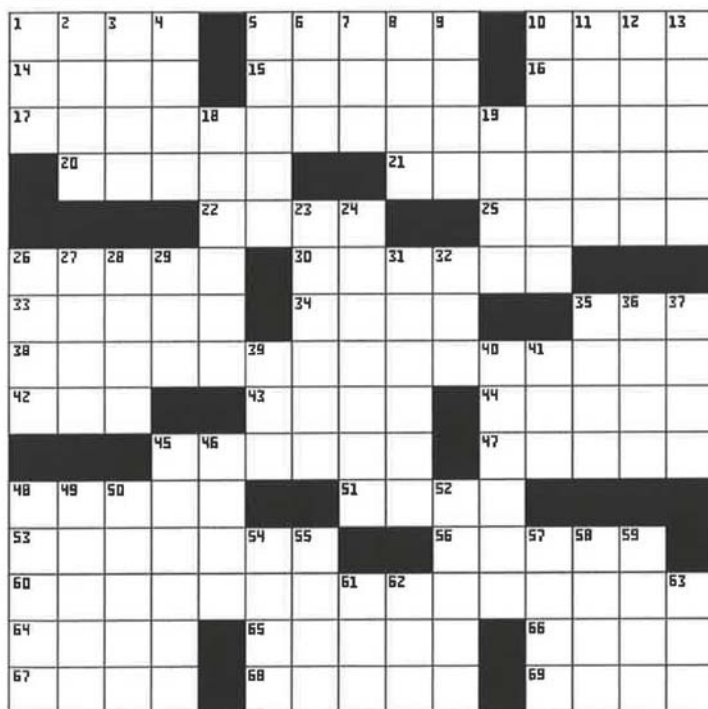
KEEP IT DOWN!

By Mary Jersey

Edited by Timothy Parker

DOWN

- 1) Truckers' radios
- 2) Home to Honolulu
- 3) Object of worship
- 4) Flowerless, seedless plant
- 5) "Be silent," in music
- 6) Boxing legend
- 7) ____ capita
- 8) With the bow, to violinists
- 9) Phaser setting
- 10) From the sublime to the ridiculous
- 11) Hunter killed by a scorpion
- 12) Science fiction, for one
- 13) More wise
- 18) Grad's memento
- 19) Robinson Crusoe's home
- 23) Pertaining to a certain culture
- 24) Plays the piccolo, say
- 26) Aphid, to a gardener
- 27) Mantra chanter
- 28) Old-fashioned exclamation
- 29) ____ in a day's work
- 31) Big name in little suits
- 32) Bro's kin
- 35) Blue shade
- 36) Mixed martial arts prize
- 37) Superlative endings
- 39) Nest egg abbr.
- 40) Where pints are poured
- 41) Midori of figure skating
- 45) Ringmaster's place
- 46) Genuine
- 48) One-man flights
- 49) Leave the bed
- 50) Champion's claim
- 52) Dim, as lights
- 54) Diner options
- 55) Sacred image (Var.)
- 57) Winston Churchill's "____ Country"
- 58) Fast food choice
- 59) Reflection of a kind
- 61) Affirmative action
- 62) A third of 111?
- 63) Actor Danson



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Robert DeCormier Memorial Trust—

Jackie Moller, *Trustee*

The DeCormier Trust committee would like to thank the individuals and zones who donated to the Trust this past year. It is because of you that we are able to help individuals who are in need. Trustees for this year include **Alex Boschi**, **Anne Flansburg *CR** (Chair), **Agnes Hudson *CR**, **Imogene McKendrick *CR**, **Jackie Moller *CR** (Secretary), and **John Olsen *CR** (Treasurer).

One of our trustees, Imogene, has served on this committee for 14 years and has been the Chair for eight of those years. During this



time she has also been the Friendly Service Chair for Southern Zone, and was the Association Friendly Service Chair for three of those years so she has always been busy helping The New York State Retired Teachers' Association. Some trustees who worked with her felt that they would like to let you know all that she has done to help out and how valuable she has been.

Carolyn Normile *CR —“As a fourteen year veteran of the DeCormier Trust Fund Committee, eight of which Imogene served as Chair, the committee has been blessed with a patient, thorough, fair and discernible leader. Imogene's thinking process has

been organized according to the rules of the trust. She elicited ideas, thoughts and opinions and with the committee's help, made sometimes, very difficult decisions.

How fortunate The Association membership is that she will continue on the committee to share her expertise, experience and time with this important arm of our Association.”

Agnes Hudson - “A workman that needeth not to be ashamed.” This is the motto of Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY.

“This definitely applies to Imogene! She has been conscientious, hardworking, and dedicated to the Association regardless of what position she has held.

I became aware of her abilities and compassion when I became Chair of Friendly Service in Northern Zone. She was so organized, providing material to all of us so we would know what to do, how to do it, and when to do it.

As Chair of the DeCormier Trust, she has been involved in a personal and compassionate way with each of the Trust's recipients. She has kept the Trustees informed and has also kept The Association informed. Her shoes will be hard to fill!”

Alex Boschi — “Although I have been a Trustee of the DeCormier Trust for only a few years, I have come to know Imogene McKendrick as a very dedicated and compassionate person who goes out of her way to assist the applicants who are seeking assistance from the Trust.

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She takes the initiative to ask for additional information when it is needed to consider an applicant's request for assistance. She is a remarkable woman who displays professional and ethical attributes and is not afraid to express her concerns and beliefs.”

John Olsen —“ When Imogene became a DeCormier Trustee, it was a natural extension of all the work she has done (and is still doing) on the Unit, Zone, and State levels for Friendly Service. Her efforts for Friendly Service and the DeCormier Trust reflect her strong faith and conviction that we, like the Good Samaritan, have a responsibility to care for and take care of our neighbors. She does this with great love.

Under her leadership the DeCormier Trust has served more people and increased the stipends to them. She also provided the leadership to expand the work of the Trust to include one-time emergency grants to needy individuals.

NYSRTA is a much better Association because of Imogene's work and leadership!”

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