We have returned from another successful Annual Convention, which was held at the Turning Stone Resort and Casino in Verona, NY. This was our 65th Convention. I would like to thank Rosalie Oliver, Chair of the Eastern Zone and her committee members who hosted the 2015 Convention. The members of the workshop committee were: Gwynne Bodle (CZ), Diane Hahn *CR (EZ), Kevin Mulligan (NE) and Patricia Newell (NCZ) and Rosalie Oliver (EZ).

I would like to introduce you to the new officers, who were elected at the 2015 Annual Convention. They are as follows: Angelo Grande, President *CR (LIZ), Kevin Mulligan (NEZ) Senior Vice President, Brian Sherman (NCZ) Vice President for Legislative Action, Harriet Beers *CR (SEZ) Friendly Service Chair, and Judith Farmer (WZ), Secretary. President Emeritus, Terry Trudeau *CR (NZ), Treasurer, and Salvatore Sedita, Vice President for Membership (WZ) will continue to serve in their current positions.

Thank you to Leigh Powell (LIZ) and the Site Committee for a job well done. I appreciate the advice of my two mentors, Tom Company *CR (NCZ) and Terry Trudeau *CR (NZ). I would also like to thank all the Zones who donated baskets at the Convention.

Congratulations to Judie Byndas *CR (CWZ) for serving as President of NYSRTA for the past three years.

A special thank you to our office staff consisting of Kathi Bassett, Debbie Barnes and Lillie Ruby for helping to put together this Convention.

We have started to investigate new venues to hold our Annual Convention. If you have any suggestions on a new venue, please let me know.

I think that State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli was the highlight of our Convention. The Comptroller gave a great speech about the value of teaching as a profession during our luncheon.

Don’t forget the 2017 Constitutional Convention. This Convention could pose a threat to our pensions. I will keep you updated as the year goes by.

In October I visited Washington, DC as a guest of the National Retired Teachers’ Association. Their Convention dealt with pensions and legislation. While in Washington I was able to visit the office of Congressman Chris Gibson, who is sponsoring a Bill H.R. 452 which deals with student testing and the Common Core. While at the NRTA Convention, I was able to get the support of forty-seven other states to endorse this Bill.

I look forward to a successful term as President, but I need your help to succeed. “United We Stand, Divided We Fall”. YOU can make it happen.

If you would like to leave a bequest to NYSRTA in your “Will”, it would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, from the Staff and Officers of NYSRTA, I would like to wish you and your families “A Happy Holiday Season”. May your New Year be filled with good health and happiness.
Membership  Salvatore Sedita, Chair of Membership

Keeping in mind that recruitment of new members in order to be successful must be a year-round activity. It is appropriate for each member of NYSRTA at this time to ask yourself, “In the past 12 months, have I brought one new member into the organization?” If the answer is “NO”, then it is time you begin the effort. RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS IS EVERY MEMBER’S JOB. If you haven’t recruited one new member in the past 12 months, it’s time to “get going”.

It’s not difficult. Your unit and zone membership chairs currently have the lists of those who retired in the past 12 months, it’s time to “get going”.

MEMBERS IS EVERY MEMBER’S JOB. If you haven’t recruited one new member in the past 12 months, it’s time to “get going”.

How do you go about recruiting a new member? One easy way is described herein. Contact your prospective recruit by phone if possible (it works better than by mail). Invite him/her to your next unit or zone luncheon. In most units and zones the luncheon cost for recruits is absorbed by the unit/zone.

Offer to pick your recruit up and drive him/her to the luncheon. At the luncheon, keep your recruit company and engaged. In the conversation, point out to him/her the advantages of membership and of the services the organization provides through such things as the DeCormier Fund, Friendly Service, Legislative Advocacy, Insurance Programs, Community Service, and any other services your unit/zone provides. Make sure you give your recruit a membership application to use in the event he/she decides to join.

After the luncheon, call your recruit. Tell him/her how much you enjoyed his/her company and thank him/her for joining you at the luncheon. Pitch the organization again and urge him/her to join. It may take two or three follow up calls to convince your recruit to join.

Not all recruits decide to join, but a significant number do when the recruitment contact is one-on-one, the recruit feels wanted, and communication is sincere and positive throughout.

To all members: Good luck in your recruitment efforts to make this organization grow.

The Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund and Education
David S. Mapes, Treasurer

It was a pleasure to see so many visit the DeCormier booth in October at the Annual Convention. We are grateful for the donations that were made to help our retirees who are in financial need. Some of those who receive the stipends or “special grant help” write to us at times and tell us that they are so happy to be able to pay their bills, repair a leaking roof, or to be able to purchase hearing aids, thanks to the help of the DeCormier Fund.

At the convention, Tor Shekerjian, the Grandson of Robert DeCormier, was the guest speaker. He described his Grandfather as someone who had many interests but three were most important to him, namely family, students, and teachers. He served as an unofficial advisor to police and court officials to help troubled youth. A student who had the same birthday as Robert had never had a birthday party. He discussed it with his family and went to the home of the student to see if they would let him come to his house so that he could celebrate both birthdays together with the DeCormier family. He was always available to help students and helped to build a sailboat with the boys so they could sail it on the Hudson River.

As the first President of NYSRTA, he helped to pilot programs for the New York retired teachers and the National Retired Teachers’ Association, and established an umbrella national organization which is now AARP. At that time many retired teachers needed health insurance and NYSRTA created a group hospitalization plan for those involved whose coverage had previously been terminated at age 65. He helped to get the minimum retirement raised from $400 to $1800 per year. Prior to passage of this bill, some retirees were only receiving $9 per month! Mr. DeCormier knew that many teachers needed financial help. At times when members contributed to this fund they sent savings stamps in their letters to NYSRTA. These stamps were used to provide a funeral for those unable to pay for one. As time progressed, the fund was able to further assist those with special needs.

Robert DeCormier’s life was spent helping others. That “idea” continues today and the trust was named to honor him. We are so grateful to our members, as well as units and zones who make monetary contributions. With 2015 ending and a new year ahead of us, we hope that with your generosity, we can continue to help those in need.

There are teachers who need your help and we urge you to contribute. Please make your check payable to Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund and mail to DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund, New York State Retired Teachers’ Association, 8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110. THANK YOU!
Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service

Jackie Moller *CR, Chair of Certificate of Recognition Committee

This past October at the NYSTRA Annual Convention, we presented the Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service Award to four of our members. The recipients were Harriet Beers (SEZ), Doris Kirsch (WZ), Carol Lord (CWZ), and Robert LaFontaine (NEZ). The purpose of this award is to recognize members who have shown outstanding leadership and accomplishments in the field of education and service through retirement. We were so pleased to give these awards and the members of our Association were proud of them, too, as we watched standing ovations from the members sitting in the audience as the nominees went up to the podium. **What an honor! THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS WHO STARTED THAT!!!**

Robert LaFontaine... for his participation on the Executive Board and multiple committees at the state level of The New York State Retired Teachers’ Association. His willingness to work for so many years as an elected officer and committee member for the Northeastern Zone, distinguishes him as a valuable member in all that he has accomplished.

Carol Lord... in recognition for her willingness and leadership as a member of the Executive Board as Central Zone President, current chair for the Historians’ committee and for being very active on other committees. The positions held at all levels of NYSRTA and her outstanding service for the zone and community is an example of dedication in all she has accomplished.

Harriet Beers... in recognition for all she has accomplished at all levels of the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association. Her dedication to positions held on the Executive Board as the Southeastern Zone President, demonstrates her willingness to participate actively for our Association, her zone and community.

Doris Kirsch... in recognition for her leadership and outstanding service at all levels of the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association as a member of the Executive Board as Western Zone President, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, and participation on committees at all levels. Her willingness to serve as an elected officer and Chair demonstrates what a valuable asset she is to NYSRTA and her community.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

Friendly Service

**WELCOME Harriet**

New York State Retired Teachers’ Association would like to welcome Harriet Beers *CR as our new Friendly Service Chair. Harriet hails from Southeastern Zone and was recently presented with NYSRTA’s prestigious Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service Award (see above).

**THANK YOU from Mary Ella**

At the Annual Meeting of our Association, I was presented a gift for my years of service as Vice President for Friendly Service. I want to thank all of you for this gift. During my years on the NYSRTA Executive Board, I have had the honor and privilege to meet and get to know many of the members of this Association. It is the gift of each of your friendships that I will treasure. I look forward to seeing you and renewing this friendship in future years.

*Thank you again for the gift card! Sincerely, Mary Ella Moeller*

on the web: www.nysrta.org
DIRECTORY – 2015 - 2016
THE NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION, INC.
8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110-6414 Tel: 518-482-3509 Fax: 518-482-0970
rtaoffice@nysrta.org • www.nysrta.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD
LIZ – President: Angelo Grande *CR (516) 922-6747
NEZ – Senior Vice President: Kevin Mulligan (518) 846-7855
SEZ – Vice President for Friendly Service: Harriet Beers *CR (845) 496-6117
NCZ – Vice President for Legislative Action: Brian Sherman (518) 357-3464
WZ – Vice President for Membership: Salvatore Sedita (716) 675-2787
WZ – Secretary: Judy Farmer (716) 652-9210
NZ – Treasurer: President Emeritus Terry M. Trudeau *CR (518) 529-7269
CWZ – Immediate Past President: President Emerita Judie Byndas *CR (315) 539-8475

ZONE PRESIDENTS
CZ – Florence Barnett (315) 336-8883
   Barbara Finley (607) 373-3699
   CZ – Gwynne Bodle (H) 315-440-4233
   CWZ  – Jane Behnk (H) 585-335-7127
   Sandy Kushner (H) 585-689-5271
EZ – Rosalie Oliver (518) 235-8707
   Liz – Kathryn Grande (516) 676-7436
   NCZ – Doug Dietrich (315) 376-6689
   NEZ – Bonnie Gregware (518) 563-0795
   NZ – Gayla LePage (518) 483-5014
   SEZ – Anthony Colombo (845) 564-3477
   SZ – Vincent J. Smith (607) 785-3169
   WZ – Doris Kirsch *CR (585) 457-3315

ASSIGNMENTS
NCZ – Editor, YORK STATE: Brian Sherman (518) 357-3464
   Associate Editor, YORK STATE: Lillie Ruby (518) 482-3509
EZ – Assistant Treasurer: Jack DeWeese *CR (518) 835-4129 or (386) 441-3592

NYSRTA COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ANNUAL WORKSHOP
NEZ Chair: Kevin Mulligan (H) 518-846-785 (C) 518-420-8403
   CZ – Gwynne Bodle (H) 315-440-4233
   CWZ – Jane Behnk (H) 585-335-7127
   Sandy Kushner (H) 585-689-5271
EZ – Diane Hahn *CR (H) 518-477-6156 (C) 518-221-6156
   NCZ – Patricia Newell (C) 315-773-5862
   NZ – Alice Galvin (H) 315-848-2312

BYLAWS
CZ Chair – William Tenity (315) 253-6315
  EZ – Diane Hahn *CR (518) 477-6156 or (518) 221-6156
   NCZ – President Emeritus Carlyle T. Campany *CR (315)-686-3098
   NCZ – Burt Phillips *CR (315) 788-9259
   SEZ – Helen Hoering (845) 482-4154

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
CZ Chair: Jackie Moller *CR (315) 363-1153
   CWZ – Carol Lord *CR (C) (315)-719-2163
   WZ – Anne G. Flansburg *CR (716) 863-3631

CREDENTIALS
SEZ Chair: Dr. James Flanagan (845) 229-5404
   CWZ – Phyllis Dunlap (315) 539-2060
   LIZ – Fred Conway (631) 476-6558

COMMUNITY SERVICE
NEZ Chair: Patricia Dietrich (315) 376-6689
   CZ – Janice Hedglen (315) 363-6516
   CWZ – Elaine Leasure (315) 986-1423
   EZ – Jennifer Gardella *CR (518) 842-8024
   LIZ – Eileen Holmes (631) 722-4504
   NCZ – Patricia Dietrich (315) 376-6689
   NEZ – Carol Lowery (518) 563-4204
   Connie Lalone (518) 561-7314
   NZ – Exec committee as a whole
   SEZ – Cheryl Fischer (845) 566-7377
   SZ – TBD
   WZ – Ann Marie Wik (585) 599-3651

FINANCE & BUDGET
EZ Chair: Jack DeWeese *CR (518) 835-4129 or (386) 441-0815 (winter)
   CWZ – Carol Lord *CR (C) (315)-719-2163
   LIZ – Lois Thornberg (631) 583-5277
   SEZ – Dr. James Flanagan
   SZ – Vincent J. Smith (607) 785-3169
   Ex-Officio:
   LIZ – President: Angelo Grande *CR (516) 922-6747
   NZ – Treasurer: President Emeritus Terry M. Trudeau *CR (518) 529-7269
   Ex-Officio member without vote:
   NEZ – Senior Vice President: Kevin Mulligan (518) 846-7855
   Resource person without vote:
   Executive Office Manager: Kathi Bassett (518) 795-7571

FRIENDLY SERVICE
SEZ Chair: Harriet Beers *CR (845) 496-6117
   CZ – Catherine Margrey (315) 492-6173
   CWZ – Barbara Rosecrans (315) 539-9178
   EZ – Marjorie Leibowitz (518) 238-2782
   LIZ – Dee McKinnon (631) 585-4370
   Alicia Winowsky (631) 588-8591
   NCZ – Barbara Phillips (315) 788-9259
   NEZ – Judith Corigliano (518) 834-9915
   NZ – President Emerita Agnes B. Hudson *CR (315) 287-0745
   SEZ – Geri Grammas (914) 343-6082
   SZ – Imogene McKendrick *CR (607) 962-0072
   WZ – Thomas A. Giambra (716) 877-7796

HEALTH CARE
CZ Coordinator: Gwynne Bodle (315) 440-4233
   CWZ – Elisabeth (Betty) Weber-Worden (585) 247-2793
   EZ – Jane Dwy (518) 329-6511
   LIZ – Penny Coyle (631) 477-0099
   NCZ – Mary Lee O’Brien (315) 348-8331
   NEZ – Robert E. Joyce *CR (518) 563-6314
   NZ – Joseph Russo (315) 848-5326
   SEZ – Gail Cocks (845) 534-3853
   SZ – Helene Combopiano (607) 729-2775

on FaceBook: NYS Retired Teachers Association
**HISTORIANS**

**CWZ Chair:** Carol Lord *CR (C) (315)-719-2163

**CZ –** Michelle Lonergan (315) 668-6744 & Darlene Jarvis (315) 343-2895

**CWZ –** Phyllis Dunlap (315) 539-2060

**EZ –** Virginia G. Madore (518) 237-0237

**LIZ –** Manfred Kuehnel (631) 957-0674

**NCZ –** Shirley Parker (315) 782-3295 or (315) 649-2541

**NEZ –** Dick Brogowski (518) 561-6573

**SZ –** Jeanie Theobald (315) 265-9155

**WZ –** Sandra Kelley (716) 772-7807

---

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**NZ Chair:** Linda Crosby (518) 483-4312

**CZ –** Mary Radloff (315) 364-7439

**CWZ –** Phyllis Dunlap (315) 539-2060

**EZ –** Pamela Love (518) 456-1046

**LIZ –** Eileen Holmes (631) 722-4504

**NCZ –** Nancy Roberts (315) 782-5217

**NEZ –** Marti Martin (518) 593-5072

**NZ –** Linda Crosby (518) 483-4312

**SEZ –** Maureen Coffey (for Zone News) Patti DeLeo

Mary Ellen Colombo silverstreakmec@gmail.com

**SZ –** Mary Lou Wood (607) 962-0527

**WZ –** Michelle Claus (716) 649-3844

---

**MEMBERSHIP**

**WZ Chair:** Salvatore Sedita (716) 675-2787

**CZ –** Mark Granan (315) 563-1503

**CWZ –** William Lesniak (315) 483-8061

**EZ –** Janice Mullins (518) 272-1749

**LIZ –** Michelle Lonergan (315) 668-6744 & Darlene Jarvis (315) 343-2895

**NCZ –** Robert La Fontaine *CR (518) 583-4011

**NEZ –** Thomas Parsnick (315) 889-5442

**NZ –** TBD

**SEZ –** TBD

**SZ –** Mary Johnson (607) 797-3225

**WZ –** Judith A. Klug (716) 632-6251 (State)

Loretta Peszynski (716) 631-3717 (Federal)

---

**RESOLUTIONS**

**NZ Chair:** Gayla LePage (518) 483-5014

**CZ –** Johnnie Jones (315) 865-6357

**CWZ –** John A. Roy (607) 583-4439

**EZ –** Dr. Frank Mayer *CR (518) 446-9350

**LIZ –** Fred Conway (631) 476-6558

**NCZ –** Douglas Dietrich (315) 376-6689

**NEZ –** Beverly Kie (518) 563-1543

**NZ –** President Emerita Agnes B. Hudson *CR (315) 287-0745

**SEZ –** Leon Harrold (845) 292-6903

**SZ –** Vincent Smith (607) 687-2888

**WZ –** Theresa E. Pope (716) 838-3193

---

**DIRECTORS**

**CZ –** William Tenity (315) 253-6315

**NCZ –** Brian Sherman (518) 357-3464

---

**SITE**

**LIZ Chair:** Leigh Powell (631) 289-9752

**CZ –** Michael Hayduk *CR (315) 336-2617

**NEZ –** Sr. Vice President: Kevin Mulligan (518) 846-7855

**NZ –** Treasurer: President Emerita Terry M. Trudeau *CR (518) 529-7269

**WZ –** Anne Flansburg *CR (716) 863-3631

---

**TRUSTS**

**ROBERT R. DECORMIER MEMORIAL TRUST**

**WZ – Chair:** Anne G. Flansburg *CR (716) 863-3631

**CZ – Secretary – Jackie Moller *CR (315) 363-1153

**CWZ – Treasurer – David Mapes (585) 335-6643

**EZ – Trustee – Alexander Boschi (518) 843-3247

**NZ – Trustee – President Emerita Terry M. Trudeau *CR (315) 287-0745

**SZ – Trustee – Imogene McKendrick *CR (607) 962-0072

---

**THE INSURANCE TRUST**

**NCZ Chair:** Dr. George Forbes (Term Expires 12/31/16)

**EZ –** Diane Hahn *CR (Term Expires 12/31/20)

**NEZ –** Robert La Fontaine *CR (Term Expires 12/31/19)

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Kathi Bassett, Executive Office Manager
## New York State Retired Teachers’ Association Budget

### Table: Budget Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Dues-Annual</td>
<td>$258,123.09</td>
<td>$280,000.00</td>
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<td>$200,000.00</td>
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<td>140A</td>
<td>Refund To Zones Annual Dues</td>
<td>($85,996.02)</td>
<td>($93,333.00)</td>
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<td><strong>Net Total Dues</strong></td>
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<td>Dues-Life</td>
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<td>Refund To Zones Life Dues</td>
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<td><strong>Net Total Dues</strong></td>
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<td>139 &amp; 153</td>
<td>Convention &amp; Exhibitor Revenue</td>
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<td>133</td>
<td>Dues-90yr.Olds</td>
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<td>$4,500.00</td>
<td>$4,500.00</td>
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<td>General Contributions</td>
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<td>144</td>
<td>President Appeal Letter</td>
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<td>Insurance Trust</td>
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<td>149,150A,151A</td>
<td>Interest Income/Dividend</td>
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<td>$75,000.00</td>
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<td>154</td>
<td>Misc. Revenue</td>
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<td>Travel &amp; Misc.</td>
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<td>206</td>
<td>Advertising Revenue</td>
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<td>Income from Assets</td>
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<td>Cash Balance check acct.</td>
<td>$8,907.70</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
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### Table: Budget Expenses

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014 Revised Budget</th>
<th>2015 Proposed</th>
<th>2015 Revised Budget</th>
<th>2016 Proposed Budget</th>
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<td>164</td>
<td>Salaries</td>
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<td>164A</td>
<td>Stipends</td>
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<td>164B</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
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<td>165-167, 179</td>
<td>Payroll Taxes</td>
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<td>Auditing</td>
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<td>Training Fees</td>
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</table>
Central Zone
Mary Radloff, Public Relations

Filled with enthusiasm for the year ahead, the following elected zone officers begin their service:

Co-Presidents: Florence Barnett
Barbara Finley
Co-Vice Presidents: Bill Cline
Janice Hedglen
Treasurer: Stella King
Co-Secretaries: Mary Radloff
Annette Shaffer
Legislation: Tom Parsnick
Friendly Service: TBA
(Cathy Margrey, until filled)
Membership: Mark Granan

Recognition of Outstanding Members – 2015
Presented at Zone Annual Meeting

Charles Ernst
Exemplary Service

Bill Tenity
Distinguished Service

Delegates to NYSRTA 65th Annual Convention

On a sad note
Seneca County Retired Teachers lost our Legislative officer and longtime Nominations Committee member, Harry Schwarze. We will miss his very colorful reports about visits to Albany. Harry taught in several places in N.Y., before coming to Waterloo in 1970. He leaves behind a devoted wife and retired teacher, Beverly Schwarze. We will miss you “Coach”.

Central Western Zone
Phyllis Dunlap, Public Relations

We have had many county meet-
gings and gatherings this Fall. Wayne
County collected $160 and many Bean-
ie Babies for Ostogenesis Imperfecta
or Brittle Bone Disease. The Alle Shea
Project send small gifts to children hospital-
ized with this disease throughout
the world. Here Kim Colazzo, founder of the project whose daughter died from the disease receives these donations from Elaine Leasure, community service chair for CWZ.

Kim Colazzo and Elaine Leasure, Community Service Chair for CWZ.

Helen Stewart, retired Yates County Teacher, presented a Bible to the new owners of the Yates County Habitat for Humanity’s 15th home event. Music was provided and a quilt was also given to the family.

Louis Rizzieri from Seneca County received the Father Joseph P. Beattini Memorial Award for being an outstanding citizen of Italian extraction in Seneca Falls. Congratulations to Lou, one of the officer’s for the Retired Teachers’ Association.

Steuben County Retired Teachers met at Bully Hill Vineyards and donated art and office supplies to Boy Scout Camp Gordon. Their program presenter was Dave Peters who sang, played the guitar, and demonstrated how to make handcrafted jewelry. He even brought a small kiln so he could make a piece on the spot.

All of these events made for a busy season but now CWZ is gearing up to host the 2016 Convention after this year’s Convention. It should be an exciting and busy preparation year which we are looking forward to.

Eastern Zone
Pamela Love, Public Relations

Eastern Zone just finished hosting the 65th NYSRTA Convention held at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino located in Verona, NY between October 27th and October 29th. Rosalie Oliver, President of the Zone and Pamela Love were co-chairs. They started working on plans for this convention shortly after the 64th Convention and were joined by Doris Bedell, Jack DeWeese, and Marjorie Leibowitz. This committee met frequently. The committee needed to pick the theme of the convention, take pictures for the program, select the keynote speaker, select speakers for five workshops, greet at the convention as well as run the raffles at the convention. Jack DeWeese was instrumental in getting Tor Shekerjian, grandson of Robert R. Decormier, as the Keynote Speaker. This committee had the help of Ginny Madore who took many pictures for the program and Jane Miller, Toni McEvoy, Jane Dwy and Ken Bollerud who helped with workshops. All Eastern Zone delegates were on deck to help wherever needed.

The Fulton County Unit has to be especially commended for recently

(Photos by Jackie Moller, photographer and delegate)

Inspired by a successful convention and ready to return home to double efforts to support all the worthy goals of NYSRTA!
In September the Long Island Zone hosted its annual Fall luncheon at Capt. Bill’s Restaurant in Bay Shore. A high-light of this meeting was the presenta-
tion of LIZ’s Distinguished Service “Silver Tray” award to long-time member John
Ruggiero in recognition of his years of outstanding service to the Long Island Zone, EERTA and NYSRTA. Before re-
tiring, John taught high school social studies and chemistry, served as a guid-
ance counselor and did coaching. In retirement he has worked on many LIZ committees, regularly attends NYSRTA convenations as a delegate, served as LIZ treasurer and is currently the treasurer for East End Retired Teachers. Highly respected by all who know him through his community and church activities as well as his work with LIZ and EERTA, we congratulate John on receiving this pres-
tigious award.

On September 1st WERTA sponsored an excellent bus trip to Hyde Park, New York. At the Culinary Institute of America, the participants enjoyed beautiful gardens and scenery, a de-
licious lunch at the Caterina D’Medici Restaurant and an informative tour of the Institute. Following this was a visit to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Estate and Muse-
um at Hyde Park. The museum had ex-
cellent auditory and visual presentations and touring the FDR estate provided a
chance to experience the life of our 32nd President and his family. Overall, it was a
wonderful day trip with good friends, good food, and a good time!

On September 9th EERTA held its annual Back-to-School luncheon at the Vineyard in Aquebogue. There was a
great turnout and State Senator Ken LaValle stopped in for a brief but in-
teresting question and answer session about educational issues in NY State. The guest speaker at this luncheon was author Rosemary McKinley, a retired
teacher who moved to the North Fork and in her own words “became fasci-
nated” by the history of the area. Her latest book “The Wampum Exchange” is
historical fiction aimed at elementary school readers and describes the hard work and everyday life in the 1600’s on
Long Island.

being responsible for close to fifty new NYSRTA memberships. A Committee, led by Donna Gendron and Jean La-
Porta, County Membership Co-Chairs as well as Irene Hauser, Linda Sammons and other members sent 160 letters to
retired teachers stressing the impor-
tance of joining the state organization and including information necessary to join. Phone calls were also made to
many retirees.

The Schenectady County Retired Teachers Association celebrated their “Aspiring Teacher Award” with a Tea
held at Annabelle’s Café on May 21, 2015. Barbara Mc Swain, ATA chair, presented the Aspiring Teacher Award to Alex Tuni-
son, Scotia-Glenville High School senior.

Our talented winner will study chor-
ral music at the Crane School of Music. Also, present were former ATA recipients: Joelle Litz (2006), Bryttani Walter (2011), Danielle Brand Rumney (2004) and Nicole Dexter (2010). SCRTA looks for-
ward to presenting a $1500 Aspiring Teacher Award to a high school senior from Schenectady County each year.

In September the Long Island Zone
hosted its annual Fall luncheon at Capt. Bill’s Restaurant in Bay Shore. A high-
light of this meeting was the presenta-
tion of LIZ’s Distinguished Service “Silver Tray” award to long-time member John
Ruggiero. by designer and Awards Co-Chair Jo Anne Powell

Sept. 16, 2015, L.I.Z. members at the annual luncheon meeting

Distinguished Service Award presented to John Ruggiero.

The WERTA trip to Hyde Park and the Culinary Institute

on the web: www.nysrta.org
In October, LIZ was pleased to send 29 delegates to the 65th NYSRTA convention at Turning Stone and proud to see Long Islander Angelo Grande *CR elected President of NYSRTA. WERTA’s Marjorie Williams won the LIZ raffle basket of wine; the basket having traveled over 600 miles roundtrip on the bus from Long Island to Verona and back again! Speaking of bus travel, LIZ had a wonderful ride this year. The bus was very clean and comfortable, the driver was excellent, the traffic kept moving, and the trips both up and back to LI were perfect!

LIZ members enjoying the Wednesday evening cocktail party

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

North Central Zone’s Fall Annual Meeting/Luncheon was held on September 17th at the Ramada Inn in Watertown. The following officers were elected: President, Douglas Dietrich; 1st V. President, Dr. James Newell; 2nd V. President, Elwood “Woody” Lyndaker; Secretary, Cynthia Graham; Treasurer, John Gaffney.

Diane Ferrucci, NCZ member and professional life coach, presented a very energetic and dynamic program. Many NCZ members and prospective members attended to hear Diane tell us how to fully enjoy our retirement! Kay Woodard's ticket was drawn for our second “Love Your Public Library” raffle, and $50 will be presented to Flower Memorial Library. Our Health Care Chair, Mary Lee O’Brien, urged everyone to get a shingles vaccine. Douglas Dietrich presented his first Certificate of Recognition to Nancy Roberts, expressing appreciation for her dedication as secretary of NCZ for the past thirteen years.

Scholarship chair, John Gaffney, thanks all our dedicated retired teachers for supporting our scholarship program. We reached our goal of matching the $5000 grant offered by the Northern New York Community Foundation! Our Scholarship program is well and growing!

Senator Patty Ritchie sponsored a very well attended Senior Health Fair on October 21st in Watertown. There were 52 vendors, including a table manned by NYSRTA NCZ members providing information about our group. NCZ volunteers at this event included Dick Bushnell, Joe and Marianne Malatino, Jim and Pat Newell, Burt Phillips *CR and Bev Siedlecki.

Our Community Service Chair, Pat Dietrich and husband,Doug, organized a very successful “Coats for Families” giveaway on October 20th in Lowville. Over 800 winter items, most of which were coats and jackets, were given to very appreciative families. Over $800 was also donated, allowing many new jackets to be purchased. Twenty-four volunteers, both NCZ members and non-members, were involved in helping with this event throughout the season.

We have two very committed NCZ members who are logging many personal miles for NYSRTA WALKERS. They are Joyce Kiburz and Hope Marston.

NCZ members attending the convention included at large delegates Carlyle T. Campany *CR, Douglas and Patricia Dietrich, Dr. George Forbes, Nancy Roberts, Brian Sherman and Zone delegates Dick Bushnell, Beverly Campany *CR, Dr. Jim and Pat Newell, Shirley Parker and alternate Cindy Graham.

NCZ Delegates to Convention 2015
Back row, L to R: Tom Campany *CR, Douglas and Patricia Dietrich, Dr. George Forbes, Cynthia Graham, Dick Bushnell
Front row, L to R: Bev Campany *CR, Pat Dietrich, Nancy Roberts, Shirley Parker

North Central Zone Delegates to Convention 2015

Raymond F. Lavoie *CR of Plattsburg, former Northern Zone President and Treasurer of the Insurance Trust, passed away in November. Ray was a United States Marine, a teacher, principal, husband, father, and grandfather who served his church, his country, his community, and his family with distinction and joy. His Zone, and our Association, are fortunate to have had his service and leadership.

Submitted by Burt Phillips *CR based on remembrances of Robert Joyce *CR.
Northern Zone members are pleased to announce the names of our 2015 scholarship recipients. Lindsey Maroun, daughter of Penny and Thomas Maroun from Tupper Lake, received the Janet P. Dana Memorial Scholarship (Franklin County). She has begun her studies in Elementary and Special Education at SUNY Potsdam. Madison O’Shea, daughter of Aneta and Robert O’Shea from Canton, was awarded the Ross C. Hudson Memorial Scholarship (St. Lawrence County). She is attending St. Lawrence University to pursue a degree in Biology-Secondary Education.

At our last NZ Executive Board meeting, many state level reports were discussed after President Gayla LePage gave explanations from her notes from the State Executive Board and Strategic Planning Committee meetings she recently attended. We appreciate all the efforts of our state level officers and committee members who are obviously working hard to make our organization more meaningful, proactive, efficient, and effective in creative ways during these challenging financial times.

At our Fall membership meeting, members generously gave $437 to the Care Packages For Soldiers Program of St. Lawrence County for one of our community service projects and $377 was collected for our scholarship fund. Recently, $100 was sent to the DeCormier Fund. As we sat at tables adorned with apples/apple recipe centerpieces, Healthcare Chair Joe Russo reminded us that new research suggests that aerobic exercise will help counter dementia and Alzheimer’s. Joe also announced that Shania Muncil, daughter of Tina Muncil from Oswegatchie, was the recipient of the P.A. Miranda Scholarship given by the Clifton-Fine Unit; she attends St. Lawrence University. Joe said six Clifton-Fine teachers walked for charity recently and donated $225 to the local food pantry; our walkers were Joe and Margie Russo, Alice Galvin, Deloris Tooey, Rogene Rice, and Laurie Reynolds.

Agnes Hudson *CR reported that the Gouverneur Chief of Police, Laurina Greenhill, will speak at the November 19 GARTA unit luncheon. After our NZ business meeting, our speaker, Deb Body, Family Nurse Practitioner at the Clifton-Fine Clinic in Star Lake, gave excellent advice on how to maintain good health as we age. Linda Sprague announced that long-time NZ member Beatrice Hathaway of Owl’s Head, NY will celebrate her 100th birthday in October. Beatrice retired from Malone Central Schools. Congratulations, Beatrice!! We hope you had a wonderful celebration!

NZ 2015 State Convention delegates at the Turning Stone Resort were Phil LePage, Gayla LePage, Alice Galvin, Linda Crosby and Rae Louise Tate. NZ member and State Treasurer Terry Trudeau *CR also attended with his wife, Marcella. Information workshops dominated our mornings. Excellent, energetic presentations by highly knowledgeable speakers, Sally Naran (Columbia County Historian) and Kathy Sheehan (Rensselaer County Historian), and an impressive 65th anniversary convention booklet produced by the Eastern Zone brought back fond memories of my youth, childhood home and college years in the Hudson Valley. All members are always welcome to attend our state convention; think about it for next year! Thank you to the following people who generously donated items for our impressive convention raffle baskets: Alice Galvin, Gayla LePage, Jean Theobald, Linda Crosby, Roxann Finley, Agnes Hudson, Joe Russo, Rae Louise Tate, Beth Dana, Mary Scharf, Kathy Lahendro, Avis Ragan, Alice Antwine, and Leather Artisans of Childwold, NY.

South Eastern Zone
Mary Ellen Colombo, Public Relations

Congratulations again to our beloved Harriet Beers *CR. She has been chosen to be the new Vice President for Friendly Service. She also received a Certificate of Recognition because of all that she has been to the Southeastern Zone and to NYSRTA. Thank you from all of SEZ, Harriet!

Southern Zone
Mary Lou Wood, Public Relations

As I write this article I can hear the cold winds blowing, see the beautifully colored leaves falling, and feel the temperature dipping into the twenties. I’m sure our “snowbird” friends will be traveling south with the sparrows, robins, hummingbirds, and every other creature who can leave this cold, north weather. And so the circle of our seasons continues.

When our weather was still warm, the trees were still covered with leaves, and the flowers in bloom. Our Southern Zone annual meeting was hosted by co-presidents Beth Kanalley and Jennie Mooney, of the Cortland Area Retired Teachers Association (CARTA). They provided a picturesque venue at the Tinellie’s Hathaway House located in the countryside of Solon, NY. During our annual meeting, committee reports were given along with reports from the Unit Presidents and our Zone President, Vince Smith. Our guests, President Judie Byndas, updated us on NYSRTA news.

At our Annual Zone meeting nominated officers were elected, and installed for the 2015-2016 year. They are President -Vince Smith, VP of membership - Bonnie Stratton, Secretary- Debbi Deats; Treasurer-Lois Cutton; VP of Public Relations- Mary Lou Wood

on the web: www.nysrta.org
Well known as past President and Vice President of the Corning Area Retired Teachers Association, Federal-State Legislation for CARTA, and Federal Legislation for the Southern Zone.

Shirley will be greatly missed.

**Western Zone**

Michelle Claus, Public Relations

The holidays bring greater care and concern for our fellow man. The Western Zone Friendly Service and Community Service Committees guide us, “helping others” 365 days a year. Under the direction of Tom Giambra, Friendly Service committee members send cards for health and wellness. Over 450 holiday season cards are sent out each year as well as birthday cards for all age milestones. This is a large undertaking which includes visits, phone calls, emails, and special age recognitions. The Community Service Committee is headed by Ann Marie Wik, who also works constantly to support people in need. This year, we have donated to Ride for Roswell, one of our research and cancer-fighting hospitals in Buffalo. During the summer months, we collect children’s books for Project Flight. These books are given to children all over Western New York that want books of their own to read. Toiletries and personal items are collected and given to the Buffalo City Mission. Warm clothes and coats are also donated in the winter to the Mission.

**Letchworth State Park**

We were sorry to see the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Shirley Ann Edsall. Shirley was full of energy, smiles and enthusiasm. She received her BS and MS from SUNY Albany, and her Ph.D. in library science from Indiana University. Shirley started her career at Campbell CSD, then went on to teach at several colleges. Shirley was very active in her community and surrounding area, but she was also well known as past President and Vice President of the Corning Area Retired Teachers Association, Federal-State Legislation for CARTA, and Federal Legislation for the Southern Zone.

Shirley will be greatly missed.

As required by law, we must publish a Statement of Ownership and Circulation which is two pages in the first issue after October each year.
Shortly after the annual NYSRTA convention, the Legislative Action Committee met to formalize its legislative priorities based on the six resolutions approved by our delegates. This meeting focused on state legislative issues (the March meeting addresses federal legislative issues) and established four legislative concerns on which to dedicate the majority of our resources. They include (in order of priority): Minimum Pension Bump-up, Common Core – APPR, Elder Abuse legislation, and a COLA increase. Also addressed at this meeting were methods of enhancing communication to the zones on legislative issues. An ancillary concern is the 2017 New York State Constitutional Convention.

NYSRTA President, Angelo Grande *CR is working to form a coalition of the education alphabet groups to address the concerns related to the public vote that will come as to whether a convention should be in held. At stake for our members is a possible negative impact on our pensions, taxes on our pensions, and the actual cost to taxpayers of the convention itself. On the day of this writing, we are meeting with a representative of the TRS to discuss scenarios and strategies.

Regarding the COLA initiative, we are working to get sponsors in both the Senate and Assembly. We heard from State Comptroller, Tom DiNapoli, that he is much in favor of this legislation; however, most legislators want more research done on the costs associated with these measures (some estimates as high as $5 billion over five years). Kudos to Dick Bushnell (NCZ) for his work with Senator Ritchie to draft a bill, likely being submitted at this next legislative session. The committee is still working to acquire an Assembly sponsor.

An update, as of this writing, the legislation that requires the reporting of data related to Elder Abuse to the Governor and the Legislature bi-annually (S852 and A83) goes into effect in January 2016.

Lastly, thanks to Jan Mullins (EZ) for her work coordinating state legislative research. Our committee chairs for this next year are Dick Bushnell and Mary Johnson as Co-Chairs of the federal legislative sub-committee and Jan Mullins is the Chair of the state sub-committee.

### Resolutions Committee Report

**Resolution D-15-4: S.O.S: Support Our Public Schools (Western Zone)**

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that NYSRTA support and rally against any efforts to destroy public school education.

**Resolution D-15-6: UNITY to Save New York’s Public Education System (Northeastern Zone)**

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that we encourage retired educators across the state to reach out to their in-service former colleagues and work with them in their fight to save our public education system;

And, be it further RESOLVED, that the leaders of the Zones of the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association reach out to the leaders of the NYSUT Retiree Councils to find joint activities that they may do together in support of our in-service educators and the institution of public education; And, be it further RESOLVED, that the Officers of the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association reach out to the Officers of NYSUT to plan joint activities that they may do together to support our in-service educators and the institution of public education.

**Resolution D-15-7: Safe Behavior in Teen Relationships (Western Zone)**

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that NYSRTA support the Teach Safe Relations Act which supports teaching safe relationship behavior in high school health classes; And, be it further RESOLVED, that NYSRTA add its support to Senators Tim Kaine (D-Va) and Clair McCaskill ((D-Mo) who have recently introduced the Teach Safe Relationships Act; And, be it further RESOLVED, that NYSRTA support any bill that would result in the teaching of safe relationship behavior in high school.

**Resolution E-15-1: Bullying as a Crime (Western Zone)**

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that NYSRTA support future proposed legislation to make bullying a crime; And, be it further RESOLVED, that NYSRTA support the improvement of interactive training for all employers and employees who handle bullying situations.

### Rescinded:

- C-9 - Identity Theft/Medicare – Medicare Correspondence (2006, 2013) - accomplished
- D-12 - NYS Education Dept. and the Pervasion of NCS Pearson’s Inc. Control (2013) - accomplished
- D-13 - CPR Training for High School Students (2014) - accomplished
NYSRTA presents...
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on FaceBook: NYS Retired Teachers Association
A question that has been asked may times recently is “Where was the idea of NYSRTA WALKERS born?” Community Service State Chair, Patricia Dietrich recalls discussing the idea with her Community Service chairs at the 2014 Convention. It was well received and development of the concept ensued. At the Executive Board meeting following that convention, Mrs. Dietrich presented the concept to the Board. The Board encouraged Community Service and Health Committee state chairs work together to develop the idea further. Gwynne Bodle, Health Care Chair embraced this idea because she was in the beginning stages of developing an idea one of her Zone Chairs had presented. Thus began e-mail communications, telephone calls and a face-to-face meeting in March 2015.

NYSRTA WALKERS is a three-pronged effort. First is to promote good health for our members. Second is to support community efforts to raise money for causes. Finally, we hope to raise awareness for who we are and what we stand for. To fulfill all these goals, we encourage you all to get up and get moving – walking (outside when possible, or in malls, halls, gyms or on treadmills when not), biking, stepping – whatever works for you. Keep track of your ‘mileage’ and report it to your Health Coordinator who sends a total to the zone Health Care Chair every 3 months. The Chair then forwards the grand total to the State Chair. This information will/should be used by Public Relations Chairs to get the word out to the public in papers and on web sites.

A T-shirt design was developed by Kovach Imprints followed by an order form and report forms. When things finally came together it was decided to go from June 1, 2015-October 1, 2015 this first year. The ideas and forms were passed on to our chairs at the zone level. We were able to award a few certificates at the 2015 convention, but participation was slight due in large part to confusing communication and forms. We are improving the forms and plan on some solid communication through YORK STATE, our web site and information to zone chairs, and presidents. It was a pleasure to have participation take form with a number of events, as well as individuals keeping track of their efforts. At the 2015 Convention, we awarded Participation Awards to 5 zones, including Eastern, Central Western, Northeastern, North Central and Southern Zones. Central Zone achieved the most reported miles by members not for a cause. Elaine Leasure, Community Service Chair for Central Western received verbal recognition for her complete report for Central Western which included 18 events with a total of $16,500 contributed through member’s efforts. Some of their events included a Lymphoma/Leukemia Walk, Alzheimer’s 5 K, Relay for Life, Walk for Diabetes and the list goes on. They were awarded a certificate for their outstanding participation and most events and money collected.

Get a shirt and wear it especially when you walk for a cause in your community. Take pictures and be sure to have membership materials available should you be asked “who you are”. If you do not wish to be identified personally, that is fine – just submit the “mileage.” The benefit will be to your health, which has been touted in previous York State articles.

NYSRTA WALKERS is a three-pronged effort. First is to promote good health for our members. Second is to support community efforts to raise money for causes. Finally, we hope to raise awareness for who we are and what we stand for. To fulfill all these goals, we encourage you all to get up and get moving – walking (outside when possible, or in malls, halls, gyms or on treadmills when not), biking, stepping – whatever works for you. Keep track of your ‘mileage’ and report it to your Health Coordinator who sends a total to the zone Health Care Chair every 3 months. The Chair then forwards the grand total to the State Chair. This information will/should be used by Public Relations Chairs to get the word out to the public in papers and on web sites.

We plan to continue the NYSRTA Committees/New Delegate Overview Workshop in 2016, as that seemed to be favorably received by all in attendance. We also plan to have a nice selection of workshops for the 2016 Convention featuring the Central Western Zone, also known as the Finger Lakes Region, and the birthplace for Women’s Suffrage. As always the Workshop Committee is interested in any unique workshop presentation(s) that may be suitable for the NYSRTA Convention. If you know of any please contact me at grampymull@gmail.com.

Thank you.

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