

The New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc.

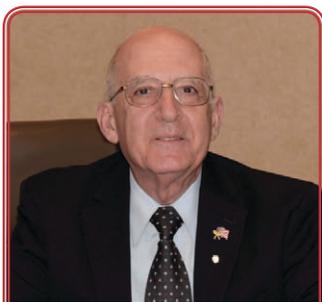
YORK state

Highlights

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- 13 2016 Legislative Action Priorities



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



Angelo Grande *CR
President's Message

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 Campany *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



L to R: President, NYSRTA Angelo Grande, *CR, with Congressman Chris Gibson

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.



L to R: Dara Dann, VP, NRTA, AARP's Educator Community, Angelo Grande, *CR, NYSRTA President, Kathryn Grande, President (LIZ), Mary Johnson, State Legislative Action (SZ) - NRTA Washington trip

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.



L to R: Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, President Emerita, Judie Byndas *CR and current NYSRTA President, Angelo Grande, *CR, at the NYSRTA Annual Convention

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 2014-15 school year. They will supply these lists to you and you can pick someone to recruit. If you prefer, your unit and zone chairs also have lists of those who have retired in the past and have not yet joined. Perhaps you would be more comfortable recruiting someone you knew

or worked with. Your unit and zone membership chairs will make the lists available to you. Let your membership chair know which retiree you have picked to recruit.

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



DeCormier Booth L to R: Jackie Moller *CR, Ellen Mapes, Imogene McKendrick, David Mapes, Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, Anne Flansburg *CR, Angelo Grande *CR, Alex Boschi

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 the 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.



L to R: members receiving the awards – Robert LaFontaine, Carol Lord, Harriet Beers, and Doris Kirsch.

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

YORK STATE

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



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NEZ – **Robert La Fontaine *CR** (Term Expires 12/31/19)
Secretary/Treasurer: Kathi Bassett, Executive Office Manager

***CR – Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service Award Recipient**

New York State Retired Teachers' Association Budget

BUDGET CODE	REVENUES	2014 ACTUAL	2015 PROPOSED	2015 REVISED BUDGET	2016 PROPOSED BUDGET
140	Dues-Annual	\$ 258,123.09	\$280,000.00	\$ 280,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
140A	Refund To Zones Annual Dues	\$ (85,996.02)	(\$93,333.00)	\$ (93,333.00)	\$ (66,666.67)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 172,127.07	\$186,667.00	\$ 186,667.00	\$ 133,333.33
142	Dues-Life	\$ 17,739.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
142A	Refund To Zones Life Dues	\$ (5,913.00)	\$ (3,333.00)	\$ (3,333.00)	\$ (2,666.67)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 11,826.00	\$ 6,667.00	\$ 6,667.00	\$ 5,333.33
139 & 153	Convention & Exhibitor Revenue	\$ 5,256.95	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
133	Dues-90yr.Olds	\$ 4,428.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,400.00
143	General Contributions	\$ 2,390.11	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
144	President Appeal Letter	\$ 75,787.50	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
143A	Insurance Trust	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
149,150A,151A	Interest Income/Dividend	\$ 56,865.53	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
154	Misc. Revenue	\$ 1,583.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
156	Travel & Misc.	\$ 7,349.30	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
206	Advertising Revenue	\$ 7,525.00	\$ -		\$ 2,050.00
	Income from Assets	\$ 117,134.47	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 46,000.00	
	Cash Balance check acct.	\$ 8,907.70	\$ -		
TOTAL REVENUES		\$ 476,180.63	\$ 423,834.00	\$ 423,834.00	\$ 276,616.66
EXPENSES		2014 REVISED BUDGET	2015 PROPOSED	2015 REVISED BUDGET	2016 PROPOSED BUDGET
	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>				
159	Rent	\$ 20,400.00	\$ 20,500.00	\$ 20,500.00	\$ 21,000.00
160	Office Operating	\$ 15,837.61	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
161	Office Equipment	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
162-145	Supplies,Print,Postage	\$ 19,866.51	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
164	Salaries	\$ 169,173.26	\$ 151,815.55	\$ 152,512.85	\$ 137,770.03
164A	Stipends	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
164B	Bonus	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,400.00
165-167, 179	Payroll Taxes	\$ 14,274.34	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
178	Auditing	\$ 9,719.05	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
178A	Legal	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
178B	Training Fees	\$ -	\$ 1,720.00	\$ 1,720.00	\$ 500.00
180	Insurance / Ins. Disability	\$ 2,197.18	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,446.48	\$ 1,450.00
180A	Employee Benefits	\$ 25,434.95	\$ 18,332.43	\$ 18,452.64	\$ 16,935.00
181	Employee Pension	\$ 19,853.84	\$ 16,616.02	\$ 16,976.66	\$ 15,954.00
184A	EOM's Travel Expense	\$ 260.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
185	Contingency	\$ 685.91	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
186	Special Project (President Appeal)	\$ 9,288.16	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
187	Credit Card Fees	\$ 1,832.97	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
189	Membership Project Expense	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
191	Computer	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
193	Telephones and Equipment	\$ 4,018.41	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00
197	Website	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
TOTAL		\$ 316,942.19	\$ 300,184.00	\$ 300,808.63	\$ 282,509.03

		<i>2014 REVISED BUDGET</i>	<i>2015 PROPOSED</i>	<i>2015 REVISED BUDGET</i>	<i>2016 PROPOSED BUDGET</i>
	<u>OFFICERS</u>				
183	President's Travel	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 200.00
184	Other Officer's Travel	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00
182	President's Fund Outlay	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
	TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 500.00
	<u>MEETINGS</u>				
169	Executive Committee	\$ 13,590.05	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
173A	Annual Workshop Expense	\$ 584.28	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
172	Annual Convention Expense	\$ 81,642.03	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 95,816.36	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 56,000.00
	<u>NEWSLETTER</u>				
163	York State	\$ 41,140.06	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 41,140.06	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00
		<i>2014 REVISED BUDGET</i>	<i>2015 PROPOSED</i>	<i>2015 REVISED BUDGET</i>	<i>2016 PROPOSED BUDGET</i>
	<u>EXPENSES</u>				
	<u>COMMITTEES</u>				
170	Legislative Action	\$ 5,096.50	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
171	Friendly Service	\$ 279.18	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
173	Annual Workshop Committee	\$ 690.70	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
174	Bylaws	\$ 742.88	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
174	Certificate of Recognition	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
174	Community Service	\$ 185.38	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
174	Finance & Budget	\$ 1,017.83	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 2,000.00
174	Personnel Committee	\$ 533.20	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 100.00
174	Credentials	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
174	Historian	\$ 187.63	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00
174	Membership	\$ 133.21	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Nominations	\$ 42.45	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
174	Public Relations	\$ 143.01	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
174	Resolutions	\$ 1,959.07	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Site	\$ 112.38	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
192	Health Care	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
185A	Adhoc	\$ 21.74	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
203	Strategic Planning	\$ 1,440.07	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
	TOTAL	\$ 12,585.23	\$ 22,950.00	\$ 22,950.00	\$ 19,900.00
	GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 466,483.84	\$ 423,834.00	\$ 424,458.63	\$ 401,909.03
	NET INCOME/DEFICIT	\$ 9,696.79	\$ -	\$ (624.63)	\$ (125,292.37)
	FROM ASSETTS				\$ 125,292.37
	NET INCOME/DEFICIT				\$ -

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 Hedglon
- 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



(Photo 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!

Central Western Zone

Phyllis Dunlap, Public Relations

We have had many county meetings and gatherings this Fall. Wayne County collected \$160 and many Beanie Babies for Osteogenesis Imperfecta



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

or Brittle Bone Disease. The Alle Shea Project sends small gifts to children hospitalized 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 chairman for CWZ.

Volunteer and retired Seneca County Teacher, Pam Robinson, staffed the Literacy Volunteers of Ontario and Yates Counties bake sale table at a concert on the Courthouse Lawn in Penn Yan to raise money for the organization.

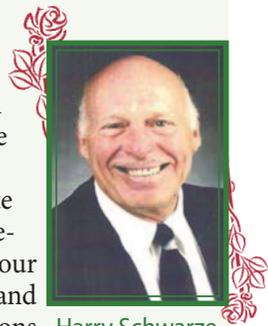
Helen Stewart, retired Yates County Teacher, presented a Bible to the new owners of the Yates County Habitat for Humanity's 15th home event. Music was provided and a quilt was also given to the family.

Louis Rizzieri from Seneca County received the Father Joseph P. Beatrini 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.



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".

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

ZONE NEWS

ZONE NEWS

ZONE NEWS

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 importance 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 Tunison, Scotia-Glenville High School senior.

Our talented winner will study choral 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 forward to presenting a \$1500 Aspiring Teacher Award to a high school senior from Schenectady County each year.



ATA recipients: Joelle Litz (2006), Bryttani Walter (2011), Barb McSwain, Alex Tunison (2015), Danielle Brand Rumney (2004) & Nicole Dexter (2010)



Alex Tunison, 2015 ATA winner, with SGCS D English teacher Amanda Fulkner, who was SCRTA's 1993 ATA winner!

Long Island Zone

Eileen Holmes, Public Relations

In September the Long Island Zone hosted its annual Fall luncheon at Capt. Bill's Restaurant in Bay Shore. A highlight of this meeting was the presentation of LIZ's Distinguished Service "Silver Tray" award to long-time member John



Distinguished Service Award presented to John Ruggiero, by designer and Awards Co-Chair Jo Anne Powell



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

Ruggiero in recognition of his years of outstanding service to the Long Island Zone, EERTA and NYSRTA. Before retiring, John taught high school social studies and chemistry, served as a guidance counselor and did coaching. In retirement he has worked on many LIZ committees, regularly attends NYSRTA conventions 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 prestigious award.



L to R: Kathryn Grande, guest speaker Lois Lutwin, and June Torns

The afternoon also featured a wonderful guest speaker Lois Lutwin, a docent at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. Lois described the programs that the center provides to facilitate tolerance, empathy, and understanding in today's world as well as teaching the history of genocide and hate crimes involving people of all



The WERTA trip to Hyde Park and the Culinary Institute

religions, color, gender and nationality. It was a moving and informative presentation with many examples of how the center works with children and young adults on the issues and dangers of teasing, pranks, hazing and cyber-bullying. Many thanks to LIZ Vice-President June Torns for planning this excellent luncheon!

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 delicious 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 Museum at Hyde Park. The museum had excellent 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 interesting 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 fascinated" 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.



Long Island Zone *continued*



LIZ members enjoying the Wednesday evening cocktail party



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!

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.



NCZ table at Senator Patti Ritchie's Health Fair in Watertown, **L to R:** Marianne Malatino, Joe Malatino, Pat Newell

Our Community Service Chair, Pat Dietrich and husband, Doug, organized a very successful "Coats for Families" give away 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 **Carllyle 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.



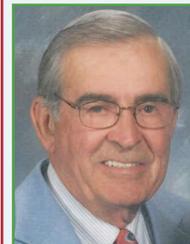
NCZ Delegates to Convention 2015
Back row, L to R: Tom Campany *CR, Doug Dietrich, Pat Newell, Dr. Jim Newell, Dr. George Forbes, Cynthia Graham, Dick Bushnell
Front row, L to R: Bev Campany *CR, Pat Dietrich, Nancy Roberts, Shirley Parker



NCZ officers for 2015-16 **L to R:** President, Doug Dietrich; 1st V. President, Dr. Jim Newell; Secretary, Cynthia Graham; 2nd V. President, Elwood Lyndaker; Treasurer, John Gaffney

Northern Zone

Linda Crosby, Public Relations



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 commit-

tees 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 Tooly, 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. Informative 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 Childhood, 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!



A grant for \$1,000 is received by John Johnson, left, a teacher at Beacon High School, for an anti-bullying program. Presenters are Tony Colombo, center, and Leon H. Harrold. PHOTO PROVIDED

■ The New York Teachers' Association Southeastern Zone gave a check for \$1,000 to John Johnson, a teacher at Beacon High School, who is advisor to the Gay-Straight Alliance Club. The club's purpose is to stop bullying. Presenting the check were Tony Colombo, president of the Southeastern Zone, and Leon H. Harrold, past president.

All of us in SEZ wish everyone in the rest of the state Enjoyable and Satisfying Holidays. We wish you as well, an easy end to Autumn and a beautiful, mild Winter.

Thanks to Jean Theobald for photos



Healthcare Chair Joe Russo giving his reports at the Fall meeting.



Gayla LePage, NZ President, and Friendly Services Chair Agnes Hudson *CR reading thank you notes from NZ members at the Fall meeting.

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 "snow-bird" 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 (CAR-TA). They provided a picturesque venue at the Tinelli'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 guest, 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 Strat-



President-Vince Smith; VP of Membership- Bonnie Stratton; Secretary- Debbi Deats; Treasurer-Lois Cutton; VP of Public Relations- Mary Lou Wood

ton, Secretary - Debbi Deats, Treasurer - Lois Cutton, and VP of public relations - Mary Lou Wood.

Recently retired museum director, Leonora Brown Letchworth, spoke on the Letchworth family and Letchworth State Park. The park is a site to behold with its beautiful scenery, walking trails, waterfalls, and museum. I followed her advice to visit Letchworth. The falls were truly outstanding, the hillside colors were spectacular, and the soaring eagles were magnificent.



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.

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.

We have Holiday Basket Raffles and we split club drawings to raise money for scholarships and awards. Students entering the field of education receive the scholarships and current teachers that teach in a unique way, are helped with the cost of supplies.

If you are a retired teacher in the Western New York area and want to join our NYSRTA family, contact, Michelle Claus at joeclaus@msn.com or 716-649-3844. The committees welcome new members also. New and creative ways of care and concern are being undertaken all the time. Please consider joining our retired teachers' family.

Also, be sure to read these articles in this magazine. **Doris Kirsch *CR**, President of Western Zone, has been honored with the Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented to dedicated members, in which Doris is an exceptional member. Judy Farmer, our WZ secretary has been elected as Secretary of NYSRTA. Congratulations to these hard working WZ members.

A special congratulations to retired teacher, Western Zone, Elisabeth Tompsett, who received a New York State Senate Proclamation for her longevity, from Senator Cathy Young. Elisabeth turned 103 yrs old, 6/26/15. She now resides at Heritage Village RS & N in Gerry, NY. *Happy Holidays!*



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.

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Legislative Action *Brian Sherman, Vice President for Legislative Action*

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



Top Row, L to R: Tom Parsnick (CZ), Gary Germain (NEZ), Brian Sherman (NCZ) *Vice President of Legislative Action*, **Angelo Grande *CR**, *NYSRTA President*, Richard Bushnell (NCZ), Tom Mullins (EZ), **Bottom Row, L to R:** Judith Klug (WZ), Mary Johnson (SZ), Kathryn Grande (LIZ Zone President), Jan Mullins (EZ)

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 *Doris Kirsch *CR*

The Delegates to the 2015 NYSRTA Annual Meeting approved seven proposed new resolutions and the rescission of four previously adopted resolutions as recommended by the Resolutions Committee. The approved measures are printed below. The necessary additions and deletions will be made to the "Be It Resolved..." document and can be accessed on the NYSRTA website.

Thank you to the zones that submitted these proposals and to the Delegates for their acceptance of these policy statements.

Resolution A-15-1: Increasing COLA Cap to Reflect Inflation (Southern Zone)

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that NYSRTA support and promote legislation to increase the COLA Cap to account for the rate of inflation that has occurred since the inception of the COLA Cap.

Resolution D-15-1: Common Core (Long Island Zone)

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that NYSRTA disapprove of the Common Core as written and promulgated.

Resolution D-15-3: Charter Schools (Central Western Zone)

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that we do not support legislation in any form or name, which promotes public tax dollars to Charter Schools.

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:

A-5 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan paragraph #2 (2006) - redundant

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

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State Community Service Report NYSRTA WALKERS

Community Service Chair, Patricia Dietrich (NCZ) and Health Care Coordinator, Gwynne Bodle

A question that has been asked many 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.

Good news, just in time for the cooler weather! NYSRTA Walker shirts are now available in long sleeved shirts and sweat shirts.

NYS Retired Teachers' Assoc., Inc.
Your Zone Here
www.nysrta.org

www.nysrta.org/tshirt.pdf
kovachimprints@yahoo.com

Workshop Committee, NYSRTA Convention 2016

Kevin Mulligan, Senior Vice President and Chair of the Workshop Committee

The initial meeting for the Workshop Committee 2016 began the last day of Convention 2015. The committee is comprised of four fulltime members that include: Gwynne Bodle (CZ), Pat Newell (NCZ), **Diane Hahn *CR** (EZ) and Kevin Mulligan (Chair). This year we welcome Host Zone Representatives – Jane Behnk and Sandy Kushner from the Central Western Zone (host for 2016) and Alice Galvin of the Northern Zone (host for 2017). Rosalie Oliver (EZ) will serve on a part time basis as the consultant representative, allowing her to share her experiences as the 2015 host zone representative.



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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