PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE, KATHRYN GRANDE

Hopefully, we can now say that winter is coming to an end and we can look forward to spring weather. The crocuses and daffodils are showing their beautiful faces, so we can put a smile on our faces.

This is my first message to you as President of the Long Island Zone, New York State Retired Teachers’ Association. I am very proud and honored to represent you. We have a very important project ahead of us and that is to work on membership. It is really important to bring in new members and establish whether our older members are receiving our mailings. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization and we must all work together to achieve our goal.

I would like to thank our new officers and committee chairpersons for volunteering, as well as our past officers and committee chairs. We still have a few committee chair openings. Please let me know, if you would like to help. We need a secretary, parliamentarian and a bylaws chairperson.

Fred Conway served LIZ for four years as President and we say “Thank You” and a thank you as well to Evelyn Paola, Secretary, Lois Thornberg, Treasurer and thank you one and all.

I attended NYSRTA meeting in March in Utica. President Judie Byndas was happy to inform us that the President’s Appeal raised almost $74,000 from individual contributions from members throughout the state.

The 2014 convention will be hosted by the Central Zone. The Chairperson is William Tenity. Please see a brief description of the 2014 convention in this issue of our newsletter. Please note that the convention has been reduced from four to three days, October 7th to October 9th at the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, NY. The reason for shortening the convention was to reduce costs.

Membership for the Association was 20,276 (including 7 associate members). This is approximately 9.5% less than January, 2011. The annual dues for NYSRTA will increase from $27 to $30 effective 1/1/15. The state will be offering Membership Workshops.

LIZ will be conducting the search for the 2014 Scholarship Grant winner.

The Resolution Committee has taken on the task of streamlining the process of submitting Resolutions.

It was announced at the Executive Board Meeting in Utica that our Executive Office Manager Lisa Dolan will be retiring as of March 31, 2015 and Kathi Bassett will replace her. We are very happy for Lisa and looking forward to working with Kathi.

Hope to see you at our luncheon at Lombardi’s by the Bay on May 21st. Please see the flyer on page 5.
LIZ Directory
President | Kathryn Grande | 516-922-6747 | aigrande@yahoo.com
Vice President | June Torns | 631-842-4517 | jtorns@gmail.com
Secretary . . . TBD
Treasurer | Dominick LiCausi | 631-331-4830 | dlicausi@yahoo.com
Awards Chair | Mary Ella Moeller | 631-324-0471 | maryellamoeller@gmail.com
Budget & Finance | Leigh R. Powell | 631-338-4441 | SouthCo@aol.com
By-Laws . . . TBD
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Editor, LIZ NEWS | Angelo Grande | 516-922-6747 | aigrande@yahoo.com
Friendly Service Co-Chair | Dee McKinnon | 631-585-4379 | yyyyyy@optonline.net
Friendly Service Co-Chair | Alicia Winowsky | 631-588-8591 | mawinowsky@gmail.com
Health Advocate | Penny Coyle | 631-477-0099 | sparkyrv17@yahoo.com
Historian | Manfred Kuehnel | 631-957-0674 | mwkuehnel60@optonline.net
Legislative Action | Angelo & Kathy Grande | 516-922-6747 | aigrande@yahoo.com
Membership Co-Chair | Mary Armbruster | 631-957-4366 | marylarmbruster@aol.com
Membership Co-Chair | Lois Thornberg | 631-457-0463 | loistberg@usa.net
Nominations | Sarah Valenti | 516-665-8036 | sallyv@aol.com
Parliamentarian . . . TBD
Public Relations | Eileen Holmes | 631——722-4504 | elo2@optonline.net
Resolutions | Fred Conway | 631-476-6558 | fgconway@optonline.net
www.LI Zone.org | Angelo Grande | 516-922-6747 | aigrande@yahoo.com
EERTA Co-President | Sheila Jones | 631-634-1938 | sdjones@optonline.net
EERTA Co-President | Agnes Dancereau | 631-477-1387 | adancer4@gmail.com
WERTA President | Evelyn Paola | 516-221-0654 | ejp2161@gmail.com

LIZ 2014 Calendar
April 2014
29 Tues. WERTA Executive Board Meeting

May 2014
6 Tues. EERTA Executive Board Meeting
7 Wed. LIZ Officers & Board Meeting, Hauppauge Diner
14 Wed. EERTA Annual Luncheon Meeting, Mill Creek Inn
21 Wed. Liz Luncheon Meeting, Lombardi by the Bay

June 2014
11 Wed. EERTA Luncheon, The Vineyard, Installation
17 Tues. LIZ Officers & Board Meeting, Hauppauge Diner

July 2014
14-15 M-T NYSRTA Executive Board Meeting in Utica

August 2014
1 Fri. LIZ News deadline
26 Tues. EERTA Board Meeting

September 2014
2 Tues. LIZ Annual Report deadline
3 Wed. EERTA Back-to-School Luncheon, The Vineyard
10 Wed LIZ Officers & Board Meeting, Hauppauge Diner
17 Wed. LIZ Annual Luncheon Meeting

October 2014
7-9 Tues.-Thurs. NYSRTA Convention

November 2014
17-18 Mon.-Tues. NYSRTA Committee Meeting in Utica

December 2014
3 Wed. EERTA Holiday Party, Soundview
10 Wed. EERTA Holiday Party
CONVENTION UPDATE -2014
Angelo Grande, NYSRTA-Senior Vice President

Listed below is our Annual Convention Timetable for the 2014 NYSRTA Convention.

October 7th to October 9th

Theme – Heart of New York

Tuesday, October 7th

Registration
NYSRTA Workshops - New Delegates, Membership, Community Service, Friendly Service and Resolution Writing
Dinner
Certificate of Recognition
Keynote Speaker: John Walsh- America’s Most Wanted

Wednesday, October 8th

Breakfast
Workshops: Sessions 1 and 2
Lunch
Annual Meeting-Session – 1
Executive Board Meeting
Cocktail Party-College Night
Dinner
William Locke

Thursday, October 9th

Breakfast/Workshop Committee Meeting
Annual Meeting – Session-2
Executive Board Meeting
Box Lunch Available
Checkout
Site Based Committee Meeting with Hotel Staff.

State Legislative Priorities – 2014
Legislative Action Committee
Chairperson-Kathryn Grande

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

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

Elder Abuse – To expand the definition of caregiver to a person who voluntarily, or otherwise by operation of law, assumes responsibility for providing care for a vulnerable elderly person, or an incompetent or physically disabled person.
A-027181 Morelle and S-02951 Valesky

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

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

It is time to remove the GEA from the school aid formula and allow school districts to begin the reduction recovery process so that our students have access to all programs necessary for a quality education (related legislation:
A-08295 Corwin and S-05452 Flanagan).
WERTA NEWS
Evelyn Paola, President

WERTA held its first Luncheon/Meeting on November 12, 2013 at “Paddy’s Loft” Massapequa. We were happy to welcome several new members, and newly retired teachers and friends. Our Vice-President, Emily Caristo, proposed interesting trips for WERTA members to discuss and vote on a possible event for the fall. The results of the vote will be presented at the March Meeting.

Our next meeting was at “Carlyle-on-the-Green,” Black Course-Bethpage Golf Course. The members had voted on the trip to a Vineyard. Suzanne Bancroft, from PRIME TIME TRAVEL spoke to the group. The trip selected is to “Baiting Hollow Farm and Vineyard.” The date is September 15th, 2014. Ms. Bancroft outlined the Program for the day. Much enthusiasm was generated resulting in members showing great interest. WERTA’s next meeting is on June 10, 2014- our Scholarship Luncheon.

WANTED-VOLUNTEER SPEAKERS
Eileen Holmes, LIZ Public Relations

As we start a new year of LIZ/WERTA/EERTA activities, the Executive Boards have put out a request for entertainment suggestions for our luncheon meetings. Over the years, we have had excellent guests: Senior Smarts/Identity Theft programs sponsored by Nassau/Suffolk County departments, Road Scholar travel programs, Fred Conway’s barbershop group, Greg Efimetz’s History of the Trumpet, motivational speakers (“Be the Best You Can Be!”, “The 12 Commandments for Volunteers”) and high school chorus groups. All of these programs developed from ‘in house’ suggestions. They came from YOU, our members!

If you know someone who has special talent and knowledge that they would like to share, a motivational speaker or a musical group that would like to do an afternoon performance, suggest it to our LIZ/WERTA/EERTA group. Let’s continue to bring entertainment that is fun, informative, and motivational to gatherings. Let’s have a great year!

MEMBERSHIP
Mary Armbruster, Chairperson

I am sure everyone is happy to welcome Spring. Our 2014-2015 membership cards will be bright orange. As you may know our numbers are going down. There are a lot of old timers passing on, a natural cycle. WANTED - New retirees. Hopefully membership will increase when the new retirees receive our invitation to join. A few hundred letters are mailed to new retirees, with info about NYSRTA & LIZ, as well as EERTA and WERTA. Personal contact is one of the best methods to encourage new retirees. “If each one of you should bring in one new member. Membership is everyone’s job” HELP!!

Hope to see you at our next meeting, wishing all a Healthy Happy Summer.

EERTA NEWS
Sheila Jones & Agnes Dansereau, Co-Presidents

This is our last EERTA report for the LIZ board. We have served on this board for two terms as Presidents of the East End. We will continue to serve as past presidents on the EERTA board.

There are many emotions involved. We leave with regret that we will no longer see our “up island” friends on a regular basis, but will look forward to seeing you at NYSRTA’s annual convention. There is also the relief that there will no longer be deadlines to write articles, sort of like being released from school for summer vacation. No more long journeys up island to meetings will be a relief, but mostly we will miss each and every one of you and the experience of working together.

On a final note, please consider joining EERTA or at least heading east to our luncheons. The east end is lovely at any time of year. Our luncheons are wonderful and the scenery perfect. Our annual meeting is on May 14th at the Mill Creek Inn- Presentation of the Slate of Officers and on June 11th at the Vineyard - Installation of Officers.

FRIENDLY SERVICE
Dee McKinnon and Alicia Winowsky, Co-Chairs

Our biggest challenge this year will be to find volunteers to fill the vacated spots for Friendly Service for Nassau and Suffolk counties. We plan to meet with current representatives in both counties to fill our needs. We will encourage WERTA AND EERTA to nominate representatives where needed.

The list of LIZ member’s ninety years and above are numerous. We plan to make one of our goals lists available to these members of community services and tips that these members might find useful.

Through the winter months we have been receiving updates on our membership from NYSRTA. We are working on making a completed and up to date list of all of our members.
S P R I N G  L U N C H E O N  M A Y  2 1 S T  1 1 : 3 0  A M

L O M B A R D I ’ S  O N  T H E  B A Y

Appetizer
Penne Filetto di Pomodoro

Salad
Tuscan Garden Salad

Entrée
Choose one of the three entrees

Roasted New York Sliced Steak
With Mushroom Madeira Wine Sauce

Chicken a la Francaise
A French Riviera classic ........
Egg battered Breast of Chicken sautéed
in a light Lemon and White Wine Sauce

Fish du Jour
Tilapia Oreganata

Fresh Seasonal Vegetables and Lombardi Potatoes
Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter

Dessert
Yellow Cake with Cannoli & Chocolate Mousse and Whipped Cream

Freshly Brewed Coffee and Tea
Regular or Decaffeinated
and Soft Drinks

Send checks payable to NYSRTA/LIZ for $30/per person with a choice of entrée to June L. Torns, 40 Pleasant Ct., Copiague, NY 11726
(631-842-4517) before May 7, 2014.

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Name _______________________ Phone_________  Beef ________  Chicken ________  Fish ________
Name _______________________ Phone_________  Beef ________  Chicken ________  Fish ________
Name _______________________ Phone_________  Beef ________  Chicken ________  Fish ________

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HEALTH CARE REPORT 2014
Penny Coyle, CHAIR

*An occupational therapist that specializes in helping drivers compensate for any lost skills rides with an older person to check use of feet, reflexes and range of motion for neck and shoulders and can declare a person fit for driving.

*Brightly colored belts, shoes and other accessories may contain high levels of lead,

*Cancer survivors celebrate their cancer anniversary, especially fifth.

*More than a year after Sandy, one of our country's largest disasters began, 30,000 residents in New York and New Jersey remain displaced by the storm. Many are mired in a bureaucratic limbo.

*Most adults with hearing loss are seniors, but so few have opted for cochlear implants where a complete electronic device is surgically implanted.

*The vaccination effect; 180 million cases of contagious diseases are prevented, according to The New England Journal of Medicine.

*Knee or hip replacements for people with severe arthritis may have an added benefit; a reduction in the risk of cardiovascular disease.

*A promising new class of cholesterol-lowering drugs known as PCKSA is being developed.

*If you take a daily aspirin to ward off heart attacks, it may be more effective if you take it at night, right before bed.

(To Be Continued in the Next Issue of LIZ)