PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE-KATHRYN GRANDE

Another season is passing by quickly. August is here already and September is around the corner. Remember how we were preparing for our new group of students. What wonderful memories we all have. Let’s try to bring in some of our dear friends into NYSRTA. We need new members. Please try to bring in at least one new member this year. We need your help.

Plans are underway for our Annual NYSRTA Convention. It will take place at the Turning Stone Resort and Casino from Wednesday, October 26th to Friday, October 28th. We hope to see our delegates at our September 20th Luncheon at Captain Bill’s. LIZ gives a stipend to the delegates, but you must support LIZ by attending our Luncheons. We only have two a year. Please plan to attend. Our speaker will be David Keefe, newly elected President of the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System. Thank you to our Vice-President, June Torns for all her work in making our luncheons so successful.

Our Units, West End Retired Teachers’ Association (WERTA) and East End (EERTA) continue to be very active. See their reports in this Newsletter. They continue to have wonderful luncheons and trips. Please participate in all the luncheons. They work very hard in planning them and getting outstanding and knowledgeable speakers.

I attended the NYSRTA Executive Board Meeting in Utica in July. Gayla La Page, NYSRTA Resolutions Chair, reported the Committee is recommending four Resolutions that will be submitted at the 2016 Annual Meeting. They will be on the NYSRTA Website and in York State.

1. **D-19-1:** Return Cursive Writing to the Elementary Curriculum (Western Zone)
2. **E-16-1:** Ethics Reform in the State Government (Western Zone)
3. **E-17-2:** Mandating Seat Belts for all New York State Backseat Passengers Aged 16 or Older. (Long Island Zone)
4. **E-18-3** A Resolution to oppose the 2017 Constitutional Convention Ballot Initiative. (Northeastern and Long Island Zones)

Emily Castine, Nominations Chair, reported Nominations for the following positions for President, Angelo Grande, Senior Vice President, Kevin Mulligan, Vice President for Friendly Service, Harriet Beers and Vice President for Legislative Action, Brian Sherman. The following officers have agreed to continue in their current positions for 2016-2017. The Membership Position remains open.

A REMINDER! I’m still waiting for my Legislative Advocates to send in their response sheets from their Legislators. I need to send them to our State Office. Thank you for all your help. Hope to see you all at our Luncheon Meeting at Capt. Bill’s on September 20th. We will be presenting our Distinguished Service “Silver Tray” Award.
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LIZ 2016 - 2017 Calendar

August 2016

24 Wed. EERTA Exec. Bd. Mtg. at Carol Joynes’ Museum- 11:30 AM

25 Thurs. Trip to Gillette Castle and Griswold Museum with lunch at the Old Lyme Inn

September 2016

1 Thurs. WERTA Newsletter Deadline

7 Wed. EERTA Riverhead Luncheon at the Vineyards (Back to School)
Aquebogue-11:30 AM.

13 Tues. LIZ Officers and Exec. Bd. Mtg. Hauppauge Diner-10:00 AM

20 Tues. LIZ Luncheon, Capt. Bill’s, Bay Shore
11:30 AM

29 Thurs. WERTA Exec. Bd. Mtg., North Bellmore
Library-10:00 AM

October 2016

5 Wed. EERTA Exec. Bd..Mtg. at the SCNB, Riverhead, 10:00 AM

26-28 Wed.-Fri. NYSRTA Convention

November 2016

1 Tues. WERTA Luncheon – Carlyle -on-the Green- Bethpage Black – 11:30 AM

9 Wed. EERTA Southampton Luncheon - Villa Paul’s Inn, Hampton Bays 11:30 AM

17 Thurs. LIZ Officers and Exec.. Bd. Mtg.
Hauppauge Diner-10:00 AM

December 2016

7 Wed. EERTA Southhold /Greenport Holiday Luncheon at the Soundview in Greenport - 11:30 AM

14 Wed. EERTA Shelter Island Luncheon at Virginia Schulze’s Home- 11:30 AM

January 2017

6 Fri. WERTA Newsletter Deadline

March 2017

8 Wed. WERTA Luncheon – Carlyle -on -the Green 11:30 AM

Hauppauge Diner -10 AM

31 Fri. LIZ Newsletter Deadline

April 2017

13 Thurs. WERTA Newsletter Deadline

May 2017

11 Thurs. LIZ Officers and Exec. Bd. Mtg. Hauppauge Diner -10 AM

17 Wed. LIZ Luncheon

June 2017

13 Tues. WERTA Luncheon, Guy Anthony’s,
Merrick-11:30 AM
The fall Long Island Zone luncheon will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at CAPTAIN BILL’S in Bay Shore. The gathering will begin at 11:30 AM. Since the labor movement is honored in September, our guest speaker will be David P. Keefe, president of the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System.

David taught in the Hempstead Public School system for 34 years before retiring in 2004. As past president of the Hempstead Classroom Teachers’ Association, David chairs the Executive and Retired Member Committees, and also serves on the Compensation, Disability Review, Ethics, and Investment committees. (Copied from David’s own resume.) He has spoken at LIZ, EERTA and WERTA functions as well as other teacher organizations. David will discuss the status of our pension system, how other issues may come to bear on the defined benefit aspect of our pension and the ramifications of a possible state constitutional convention, especially on future retirees and in addition to our state tax exemption. So bring any questions or concerns. He is a fund of knowledge and this is your chance. I could use your help once again for the raffle. Any monetary donation or actual gift would be gratefully accepted. Call me at (631) 842-4517 or contact me at jtorns@optonline.net.

Respectfully submitted,
June L. Torns

Membership

Mary L. Armbruster and Lois Thornberg, Co-Chairs

Another fiscal year has begun, July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017. Long Island Zone gained six new members in June. Unfortunately, three of our former members passed.

The New York State Retired Teachers’ Association rules that you must be a NYSRTA member which includes LIZ before joining a local unit, for example: East End Retired Teachers' Association and/or West End retired Teachers’ Association. Total annual dues for NYSRTA and LIZ is $30.00.

Membership is everyone’s job. Please bring a retiree to the next meeting Tuesday, September 20th, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. It will be held at Captain Bill’s in Bay Shore.

Looking forward to seeing you in September. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Respectfully submitted, Mary L. Armbruster and Lois Thornberg

WERTA NEWS

Evelyn Paola, President

Our last meeting/luncheon for the “year”, was held on June 8, 2016 at Guy Anthony’s Restaurant, North Merrick. As in the past, WERTA awarded a Scholarship to a student in the STEP PROGRAM – Adelphi University Ruth S. Ammon School of Education. This year, the recipient was Alexis Madej – a most deserving young lady, focused on a career in Education. We were honored to have Jane Ashdown, Dean of the Ruth S. Ammon School of Education, as well as Carolyn Phillips, Director of the STEP PROGRAM, join us for the festivities.

Vice President Emily Caristo announced that the WERTA Trip to Gillette Castle and Griswold Museum with lunch at the Old Lyme Inn has been changed from September 14th to August 25th, as the state of Connecticut is closing the Castle as of Labor Day weekend for the winter months. All of the details pertaining to the trip remain the same. I hope that you will be able to join us for this exciting adventure. Please contact Emily by phone at 516-721-7036 or by e-mail at, theredb1@optonline.net. Many thanks to Emily for her tireless efforts in arranging such interesting outings.

Respectfully submitted, Evelyn Paola
EERTA News - Fred Conway, President

EERTA will be in compliance with LIZ/NYSRTA in its election cycle starting in 2017. We are putting together a list of delegates for the 2016 Annual Meeting and Convention at Turning Stone on October 26-28th. Our dear Penny is rehabbing at the Medford Multicare Center. She has been hospitalized for numerous ailments since January. Our next event is the Executive Bd. meeting at Carol Joynes’ Museum in Riverhead on 8/24. This museum is a collection of artifacts from her family since slavery in the 19th century.

Our Executive Bd. meetings in the past have been held at the board room in the Suffolk County National Bank in Riverhead before I became involved with EERTA. The bank is being taken over by Peoples Bank, thereby ending our association with SCNB. We will be looking into using the Riverhead Public Library starting with our November 2nd Exec. Bd. Mtg. Other dates through 2016 include: September 7th "Back To School Luncheon at the Vineyards in Aquebogue; the Southampton sponsored Luncheon at the Villa Paul’s Restaurant in Hampton Bays on November 9th; the Southold/Greenport Holiday Luncheon at the Soundview Restaurant in Greenport on December 7th; and our year ending luncheon sponsored by Shelter Island at Virginia Schulze’s home on December 14th.

The calendar for 2017 will be set up at our August 24th Executive Bd. Meeting. I remain yours in the interests of EERTA, LIZ and NYSRTA.

Respectfully submitted, Fred Conway

Resolutions – Fred Conway, Chairperson

Two resolutions from LIZ were brought before the NYSRTA Resolutions Committee on July 11th in Utica, NY. They are: Mandating Seatbelts for all NY State Backseat Passengers Aged 16 or Older - This was introduced to me by our own Eileen Holmes.

A Resolution to Oppose the 2017 Constitutional Convention Ballot Initiative. This was promulgated by our own NYSRTA President Angelo Grande.

These resolutions along with two others will be brought to the floor at our 2016 Annual Meeting and Convention in Turning Stone this October for adoption by the state wide delegation.

Respectfully submitted, Fred Conway

Public Relations – Eileen Holmes

LIZ held a lovely luncheon on May 25th at Lombardi’s in Patchogue. Guest speaker Cleveland Johnson, an aide to Congressman Lee Zeldin (Shirley, NY - R), gave a detailed account of the congressman’s efforts to pass a bipartisan bill that would set up a national program to provide aid to veterans suffering from posttraumatic stress syndrome and brain injuries. Before being elected to Congress, Zeldin served as a NY State Senator and designed a program to help returning vets in NY and the program has helped over 1,500 veterans in our state. Congressman Zeldin’s bill would enable the program to spread across the country.

LIZ Vice-President June Torns arranged this impressive luncheon and also organized a wine raffle. Ten members donated bottles of wine and dedicated them in honor of people they admired. When the winners were called, June read the dedications and it was a lovely ending to an excellent luncheon.

Respectfully submitted, Eileen Holmes

Community Service – Eileen Holmes, Chairperson

As an on-going Community Service project, the Long Island Zone is collecting clipped manufacturer’s coupons to be sent to military families at overseas bases. PX’s accept coupons 60 days past the expiration date, which allows time to forward them to military families. Eileen Holmes is collecting the coupons. If you wish to donate clipped coupons, bring them to any LIZ/ EERTA/WERTA meeting or luncheon.

Respectfully submitted, Eileen Holmes

NYSRTA President, Angelo Grande

Just a reminder that we will have to vote on whether or not to have a Constitutional Convention in November, 2017. My recommendation is that we vote NO on having a Constitutional Convention. This Convention is not a good idea. It may open many issues that may affect all of us. We as teachers must be concerned about the restructuring and taxation of our Pensions. All individuals who have a state pension, should be concerned about this convention. This Convention will be very costly. Please tell your friends.

Respectfully submitted, Angelo Grande
Awards - JoAnne Powell & Mary Ella Moeller, Co-Chairs

While many are enjoying summer vacations, your LIZ Awards Committee Chairs are working diligently to review suggestions of potential candidates for initiating discussion among committee members at their August 11th meeting in East Hampton. The Long Island Zone recognizes members for working hard to have a significant effect on the operation of LIZ & NYSRTA, and presents the Silver Tray Award to a member whom the LIZ Awards Committee considers the most outstanding. This Distinguished Service Award, established in 1968, was updated by the 2012 committee. In lieu of an actual silver tray which requires storage and polishing, it was unanimously agreed that future recipients will receive a special Distinguished Service “Silver Tray” Award Certificate and Distinguished Service Silver Pin - both designed by Jo Anne Powell.

For those who like statistics: there have been 46 recipients since the award’s inception. The current balance between men & women is 50/50; the current balance between WERTA & EERTA is 2/1. Historically, the balance between men & women has been 40/60; the balance between WERTA & EERTA exceeds 2/1.

Committee members include those who have previously received the honor: Mary Ella Moeller (co-chair), JoAnne Powell (co-chair), Leigh Powell, Fred Conway, and Mary Armbruster. Be sure to attend the LIZ Annual Meeting & Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. September 20th, 2016 at Captain Bill’s in Bay Shore to congratulate this year’s winner!

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ella Moeller and JoAnne Powell

Bylaws - Marc Nagelberg, Chairperson

As per your request that I review the NYSRTA’s Bylaws and LIZ Bylaws in regard to the election of officers’ procedures, I have found that LIZ Bylaws are not in compliance with the NYSRTA’s Bylaws.

Under NYSRTA Bylaws of 2016, ARTICLE VIII: Elections; Section 5 reads as follows: The elected officers of the Association shall hold office for a term of one (1) year. Elected officers are limited to not more than three (3) consecutive terms except for the Secretary, whose service cannot exceed six consecutive terms and for the Treasurer, whose number of terms is not limited. The term for an elected officer shall begin November 1st and end October 31st of the following year, except the officer shall continue until a successor is elected for that office.

While LIZ’s Bylaws currently states under: ARTICLE VI ELECTIONS: Section 4. The elected officers shall hold office for a term of two years except the treasurer, …The President, Vice President, and Secretary may succeed themselves for one term only. The term of office shall begin November 1st and end October 31st of the expiring year and continue however until in each case, a successor shall be elected.

Therefore, LIZ’s Bylaw; ARTICLE VI ELECTIONS: Section 4 must be rewritten to read exactly as NYSRTA’s ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS; Section 5 reads as follows:

The elected officers of Long Island Zone shall hold office for a term of one (1) year. Elected officers are limited to not more than three (3) consecutive terms except for the Secretary, whose service cannot exceed six (6) consecutive terms and for the Treasurer, whose number of terms is not limited. The term for an elected officer shall begin November 1st and end on October 31st of the following year, except the officer shall continue until a successor is elected for that office.

This amendment will become effective January 1, 2017
Respectfully submitted, Marc Nagelberg

Legislative Action – Kathryn Grande, Chairpeson  
NY State Legislative Priorities

Minimum Pension Bump Up

This bill would extend the minimum retirement allowance provided to long standing retired members of the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System who retired prior to July 1, 1980 and increase the minimum retirement allowance for all such retirees to $550 per year of NYS service up to a maximum of $19,250.
A.0686-Abbate   S.06746 Farley

Improve Pension COLA

Provides a cost-of-living adjustment for members of retirement systems.
A.09496 Steck   S.06282 Ritchie

Education

Establishes the community schools act; authorizes the commissioner to award grants for Community schools programming; appropriates funds therefore.
A.06791 Peoples-Stoke   S.05447 Stewart-Cousins

NYSRTA rallies against any effort to diminish public education including any legislation that promotes public tax dollars to Charter Schools/tax credits to private schools/vouchers. Whereas such legislation diverts resources from public schools at a time when they are expected to raise standards and reach higher expectations.

Respectfully submitted, Kathryn Grande
Join the Long Island Zone of NYSRTA (Dues $30/Year) by contacting Membership Chair, Mary Armbruster, 120 South High Street, Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Kathryn Grande, 11 Pine Park Avenue, Bayville, NY 11709

Join us Tuesday, September 20th at 11:30 AM at our Fall Annual Luncheon Meeting at Captain Bill’s Restaurant 122 Ocean Avenue, Bay Shore, NY 11706

Guest Speaker: David Keefe, President of the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System.

Menu includes: Soda, Coffee and Tea
Appetizer: Cheese Tortellini with Peas (Pink)
Tomato Cream Sauce
Salad: Spinach Salad with Warm Bacon Dressing
Entrees: Roast Prime Rib Au Jus, Salmon Filets with Ginger Sauce, Stuffed Chicken Breast with Prosciutto and Mozzarella in a Marsala Wine Sauce. All served with Fresh Seasonal Vegetable and Potato plus Fresh Baked Rolls and Butter
Dessert: Ice Cream Sundae

Directions:
Southern State Parkway to Exit 42 south,
Cross over Montauk Highway,
Continue down to Clinton Avenue.
Turn left on Bayview Avenue
or Sunrise Highway to Fifth Avenue South which becomes
Clinton Avenue.
Turn left on Bayview Avenue.

Bring a friend!
Send a check payable to: NYSRTA/LIZ for $30.00 per person to June Torns
40 Pleasant View Court, Copiague, NY 11726 (631) 842-4517 before Sept. 8th.