

The New York State  
Retired Teachers' Association, Inc.

# YORK state

## Highlights

- 3 Convention News!
- 7 Teaching Certification Update
- 12 Resolutions Report



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



**Angelo Grande \*CR**  
*President's Message*

NYSRTA is alive and well. We continue to try to cut costs and increase Membership. We also must maintain the Mem-

bership we have. Membership retention is vital to the organization. Only "You" can make it happen. Each Member should try to bring in one new Member to their next meeting. We need new Members to survive as an organization.

Our 2016 Annual Convention is around the corner. We are returning to the Turning Stone Resort and Casino. The Convention will be held from October 26<sup>th</sup> to October 28<sup>th</sup>. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Kevin Mulligan and his committee have set up some great workshops. The theme selected by the host, the Central Western Zone for the 2016 NYSRTA Convention is "Wine, Women and

Waterways". The keynote speaker is Eleanor Stearns as Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Zone specific workshops include: Eleanor Stearns as Clara Barton, Lucas Vineyards history as told by the Lucas Ladies, Psychic Highway by Michael Keene, Mural Mania presented by Gene Bavis, Finger Lakes Museum presented by Dr. Alioto, Natalie Payne, and John Adamski.

We are still trying to stop the 2017 Constitutional Convention. Remember we have a lot to lose if there is a Constitutional Convention. Our Pensions are in jeopardy.

Even though our Pensions are protected by our State and Federal Constitution, there are no guarantees that these protections will be upheld by the courts. There will also be an attempt to tax our Pensions. Tell all your

friends who have a New York State Pension to vote No on having a

Constitutional Convention in October, 2017. This Convention is not a good idea for all New Yorkers.

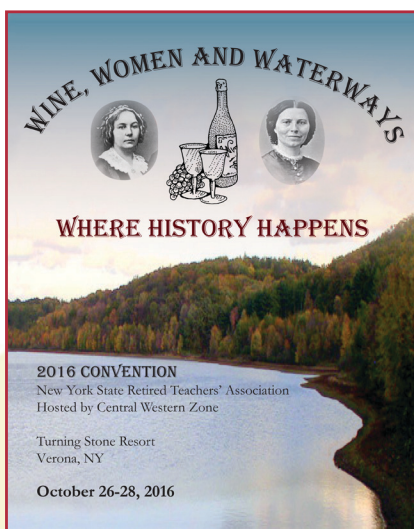
I would like to thank all of our Members who have made donations to, "Help NYSRTA and Help Save our Pensions". To date we have collected over \$90,000. We are still working with our coalition partners; SAANYS, RPEA and the Alliance to stop this Convention from ever happening. If the voters agree to have a Convention in 2017, it is projected to cost over \$200 Million and could last until 2019.

## Wills and Bequests

You have the power to impact future generations. It's so easy to include our organization in your Will and still provide for loved ones. You may be able to make a simple bequest by adding the following language: "I give and bequeath the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be used by the New York State Retired Teachers' Association." This would ensure the future vitality of our organization with your charitable bequest.

## Permanent Teacher Certification Registration Information

[http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/reteachers/Registration\\_CTLE\\_home.html](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/reteachers/Registration_CTLE_home.html)



## Friendly Service *Harriet Beers \*CR, Vice President*

Many groups and organizations that we hear about are having membership problems, and our organization is no exception. Prospective

members are involved with travel, families, hobbies, and the like and do not want to become involved.

How many of you have been asked "What can NYSRTA do that other organizations do not do"? What do you say? It is true that some

benefits are similar to other organizations, but NYSRTA is devoted to all educators. It offers a coordinated Community Service Committee program to serve our communities.

One program that is unique is FRIENDLY SERVICE. The loyal, hard-working Friendly Service workers keep in touch with members with cards, visits, and phone calls. They reach out to those who are celebrating special birthdays, or are ill, housebound, or are recovering from illness or operation.

Occasionally, a member may find him/herself in a serious financial situation. Our group can offer financial

aid through the Friendly Service or DeCormier funds.

In case you didn't see the last issue of *YORK STATE*, I will repeat a New Year's resolution to replace one you may have broken. If every one of our 18,000+ members would give their Friendly Service Chair just one name of someone who would appreciate a card or call, think of the happy and caring feelings we can spread. Remember, if you make someone else happy, that happy feeling rubs off on you.

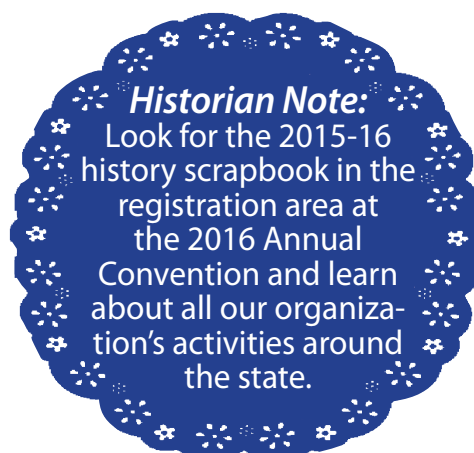
Good wishes to everyone from your Friendly Service workers.



## Historian Report *Carol Lord, Chair*

I will again be creating a scrapbook of NYSRTA history for the 2015-2016 year to be displayed at the annual convention at Turning Stone in October along with previous years' collections. I ask each zone historian to create a couple of pages showing the activities and events that their

zone would like to showcase. They can bring or send these pages to the convention and those pages will be added there. If any member has articles, pictures, or information to contribute, please get those to me or your zone historian. Thank you!



### A Dental HMO for the Members of NYSRTA

NYSRTA Dental Insurance  
Underwritten by Cigna Dental

This NYSRTA Sponsored Dental program is a Dental HMO that lets you pick a network dentist who provides you with most routine services at no charge to you (exams, x-rays, and cleanings).

There are no waiting periods, deductibles, or annual dollar maximums.

Cigna's network of participating dentists focus on the preventive aspects of dental care. Your network general dentist will manage your overall dental care, and provide referrals for more complex procedures requiring a dental specialist.

All network dentists are required to meet Cigna Dental's quality program criteria. They have been evaluated for professional credentials and compliance with government health standards. Offices are visited periodically to verify that all standards are being met, providing an ongoing endorsement of quality.

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

Or visit us online at [pearlcarroll.com/nysrta](http://pearlcarroll.com/nysrta)



# Annual Convention and Workshop Committee Update

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

## WINE, WOMEN AND WATERWAYS



### NYSRTA'S 66<sup>th</sup> WORKSHOP SCHEDULE and ANNUAL MEETING

TURNING STONE RESORT AND CASINO, VERONA, NEW YORK

HOSTED BY THE CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE

#### WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26

##### Registration and Vendor Exhibits

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception – Coffee, Tea and Danish Pastry

##### The New Delegate Workshop

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The New Delegates Workshop will include short presentations from the following Committee Chairs: Friendly Service, Resolutions, Historian, Nominations, and Membership.

6:30 p.m. Dinner

##### 8:15 p.m. Certificate of Recognition

**Keynote Speaker** – (Immediately following the Certificate of Recognition)

Eleanor Stearns will do a presentation in costume as Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She will be introduced by Sue Nellany.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

**Breakfast Buffet** – Starts @ 7:30 a.m.

**Registration 9:00 a.m. to Noon**

##### NYSRTA WORKSHOPS

FIRST SESSION, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

*Choose one of six offerings.*

##### 1. Clara Barton

*Presented by Eleanor Stearns*

*Introduced by Sue Nellany*

Description: A portrayal of Clara Barton that gives glimpses of her life, involvement with the Civil War, and her role in the founding of the American Red Cross.

##### 2. Common Core/Retired Educator Involvement

*Presented by Dr. Doug Selwyn*

*Introduced by Kevin Mulligan*

Description: This session will focus on the current state of public education, with particular attention to the impact that excessive testing, the common core, APPR, and other mandated “educational reform” policies have had on students, educators and public schools. The session will also examine the need/opportunity for retired educators to become active participants in the conversation/actions communities are taking to reclaim public education.

##### 3. Putting Your Garden to Bed

*Presented by Margaret Murphy*

*Introduced by Diane Hahn\*CR*

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida.

Description: Will cover steps to follow for fall cleanup such as: cutting back, cleaning up debris, weeding, pruning, mulching, planting spring bulbs.

##### 4. Creating a Sacred Success Strategy for Mind, Body and Spirit to Fully Enjoy Retirement

*Presented by Diane Ferrucci*

*Introduced by Pat Newell*

Description: A winning lifestyle starts with getting healthy in mind, body, and spirit. This program will allow you to reap the benefits of your retirement in all areas of your life, through simple success strategies that are practical, adaptable, and effective.

##### 5. Psychic Highway

*Presented by Michael Keene*

*Introduced by Dolores Hofmann*

Description: “This powerful waterway carried a flotilla of radicals, visionaries, social reformers, and prophets bent on the idea of creating a new society. It was as if a bolt of electricity struck Western New York lighting it up as fertile ground for ideas and lifestyles that had never been expressed or attempted before”.

SECOND SESSION, 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

*Choose one of six offerings.*

##### 1. Mural Mania

*Presented by Gene Bavis*

*Introduced by Elaine Leasure*

Description: A tour of murals from US and Canada with an emphasis on New York State. Murals are a source of community pride and a history lesson unto itself.

##### 2. Finger Lakes Museum

*Presented by Dr. Alioto, Natalie Payne,*

*John Adamski*

*Introduced by Jane Behnk*

Description: The FLM&A is located on Keuka Lake. The 3 presenters will share the story of the FLM&A from inception to present day and lead you on a visual tour.



### 3. TRS Pension 2016

*Presented by Richard Young/Team,  
Introduced by Angelo Grande\*CR*

Description: As in past years representatives from TRS will give a complete explanation of the current status of the NYS Teachers Retirement Pension. They will also provide insight into the possible pitfalls of a constitutional convention on public pensions.

### 4. Benefits of Acupuncture and Massage for Seniors

*Presented by Talia Foster and Sarah Urquhart  
Introduced by Nancy Perrotto*

Description: This workshop is specially designed to show seniors how massage and acupuncture can improve life quality. Much success has been achieved in the area of stress reduction, knee and back (joint) pain, and sciatica.

### 5. Lucas Vineyards as told by the Lucas Ladies

*Presented by Ruth Lucas, Ruthie Crawford, and Stephanie Lucas Houck  
Introduced by Sandy Kushner*

Description: Ruth Lucas and daughters will give participants a look into their history while providing samples of three (3) of their wines, and showing a short video.

**11:15 a.m. – Noon** Vendor Exhibits

**Noon – 1:00 p.m.** Lunch

**1:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Session 1 Annual Meeting

**7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** Dinner

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016**

**7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast

**8:00 a.m.** Annual Workshop Committee Breakfast Meeting to include a representative from Central Western Zone, the Northern Zone, Western Zone, as well as the 2016 workshop committee.

**9:15 a.m.** Session II Annual Meeting Executive Board Meeting

**Annual Meeting Ends**

**11:30 a.m.** Box Lunch pick up. Eat

*Registration forms are available on page 14 and 15 of this issue.*



## Bylaws William Tenity, Chair

The Bylaws Committee is presenting four proposed bylaws changes for consideration at the 2016 Annual Meeting in October. All four of them were approved by the Executive Board, one, at the March meeting and three at the July meeting. I wish to thank my hard working committee for all of the hard work and time they have put into preparing these propositions. A summary of the four propositions follows. The 2016 propositions have been posted to the web site at [www.nysrta.org/bylaws](http://www.nysrta.org/bylaws), along with an updated copy of the complete NYSRTA Bylaws. I would also like to offer a special thank you to SAANYs attorney Wendy S. DeForge, Esq. for her help navigating the Not For Profit Corporation Law.

**The Bylaws Committee recommends approval of all four propositions.**

Respectfully submitted,  
William Tenity  
Chair, Bylaws Committee

*Committee Members:*

**President Emeritus Tom Campany\*CR**  
**Diane Hahn\*CR**  
Helen Hoering  
**Burt Phillips\*CR**

### Proposition MD (Member Disqualification) 2016

This proposition allows the association to deny membership to anyone who has been convicted of a crime that would, under New York State Education Law, have barred him/her from holding State Education Department Certification as an Educator.

### Proposition ENLM (Eliminate New Life Memberships) 2016

This proposition removes the option of new Life memberships as a cost saving measure. Present Life memberships in good standing would not be eliminated.

**Proposition RUVEM (Remove Unanimous Vote Requirement at Electronic Meetings) 2016**

This proposition was initiated after a review of our bylaws with SAA-NYS attorney Wendy S. DeForge, Esq., who said that it was not in compliance with the New York State Not For Profit Corporation Law. This makes sure that the Bylaw that was passed in 2015 is in compliance with the law.

### Proposition NFPLC (Not For Profit Law Compliance) 2016

This proposition allows voting-enabled substitutes for all members of the Executive Board not already covered by the current bylaws. Legal advice has revealed to us that the NYSRTA Bylaws are not presently in compliance with Not For Profit Law in that we do not have the required functioning Board of Directors. Proposition NFPLC 2016 will accomplish the mission while rectifying the legal compliance issue with the NFPL.

## Membership *Salvatore Sedita, Chair of Membership*

News Flash! **RECRUITMENT IS EVERY MEMBER'S JOB.** By this time, your zone/unit membership chair has reviewed lists of the current year's retirees. To expect your membership chair to contact and successfully recruit all of the people on the list is unrealistic. **HE/SHE NEEDS YOUR HELP.**

Each NYSRTA member should make it a personal goal to recruit one retired educator to join the zone and NYSRTA. It isn't difficult, nor will it take much of your time. Contact your membership chair (zone or unit) and ask for a list of retirees. You may get a list of only the current year's retirees or list of retirees from the last several years who have not yet joined the New York State Retired Teachers' Association and your zone.

Pick one person from those lists. It may be someone you know, have worked with, or worked in the same district that you did. Get in con-

tact with that retiree and introduce yourself as a member of NYSRTA. Invite that retiree to a meeting of your unit or zone. Offer to pick him/her up to give a ride to the meeting.

At the meeting, engage him/her in a conversation about what they are planning to do (or are doing) in retirement. Point out to him/her the advantages of belonging to NYSRTA. If you do not know all of the advantages, your membership chair will give you a complete list and explanation of each.

Keep in continual contact with your retiree, always suggesting that he/she should join the zone and

NYSTRA. When talking about our organization, always use the title "New York State Retired Teachers' Association", not NYSRTA. Too many retirees confuse NYSRTA with NYSUT. Always emphasize that the New York State Retired Teachers' Association is the only organization that works exclusively on behalf of retired educators.

Good luck on your recruitment efforts. I sincerely hope that you will be able to stand up and say "I brought a new member into the organization this year".



## Nominations Committee *Emily Castine \*CR, Chair*

As there were no applications received by the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for the open position of Vice-President for Membership, the Nominations Committee of NYSRTA did not have to meet in Utica on Monday, July 11, 2015, in Utica. Instead, Nominations Chair Emily Castine gave a report to the Board of Directors on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at their Executive Meeting.

Our Bylaws provide solutions to the problem of having no candidate for an open position in the following ways:

1.) Article VIII - Elections, Section 3, p. 13, lines 389-390: "Nominations for officers may be made from the floor" at the convention.

2.) Article VI - Executive Board, Section 3, p. 9, lines 255-256: "The Executive Board shall have the power to fill any vacancies that may occur in any elected office of the Association."

3.) Article VIII - Elections, Section 5, p.13, lines 402-405: "The term for an elected officer shall begin November 1<sup>st</sup> and end on October 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year, except the officer shall continue until a successor is elected for that office."

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Emily Flachbart Castine\*CR**  
*Nominations Chair*



### **YORK STATE**

Published quarterly by The New York State Retired Teachers' Association, 8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110-6414. 1-518-482-3509. Fax : 518-482-0970.

Subscription price of \$1.00 per year is included in membership dues and available only to NYSRTA members. Periodical postage paid at Albany, NY. (USPS 906-940)

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

For a complete listing of NYSRTA contacts, please visit our website at [www.nysrta.org](http://www.nysrta.org)



# Community Service News

NYSRTA WALKERS Updated details, June, 2016 revised

State Community Service Chair, Patricia Dietrich (NCZ)

In a joint project of Community Service and Health Committee Chairs, any member is welcomed to be a part of NYSRTA WALKERS.

listed, if they do not know their Zone's Chair contact info.

Oct 1, 2015 - Jan 1, 2016

Round 1

Jan 2, 2016 - April 1, 2016

Round 2

April 2, 2016 - July 1, 2016

Round 3

July 2, 2016 - Oct. 1, 2016

Round 4


It would be a good idea to take membership pamphlets to events, cards, etc. to hand out to prospective members.


If you are required to wear the shirt advertising the event, that is fine, but whenever possible please wear your NYSRTA WALKERS shirts which are a vehicle for advertising and showing the good we are doing throughout the state. Another way for our non-walking members to participate is to donate to another member who is walking or just donate to a health cause of their choice and let us know the cause and amount donated. This can be sensitive, but will only be used as a total for the unit and then passed onto zone (no names needed). Just do not replicate donations.


The website for the order form is [www.nysrta.org/t-shirt](http://www.nysrta.org/t-shirt).


We are planning to award certificates for most miles walked by individuals and zones, and also for participation in events and funds raised by membership. This includes any funds collected by members from non-members. Our money collected will go towards these certificates.

Good Luck in your walking endeavors. Any questions please feel free to contact me at [scrappypat17@gmail.com](mailto:scrappypat17@gmail.com), Patricia Dietrich, Community Service Chair or Gwynne Bodle at [gesb@mindspring.com](mailto:gesb@mindspring.com)


 1. Walk, bike (not motorized), or treadmill, and keep track of your miles. Walking with assistive devices, such as walkers, wheelchairs, canes, etc. is permitted, record minutes walked if not miles.

 2. Send your mileage data via phone call, e-mail, etc. to the Health Care Chair for your zone (by whatever means they prefer).

 3. Your walking can include anything from walking on your streets, roadsides, inside of malls, in your home, at the gyms, etc. (just be sure to be safe and that you are visible).

 4. Also, for Community Service, we would like to know participants who are able to walk for events promoting health causes, such as Breast Cancer, any other kind of cancer, Kidney Disease, heart, etc. Also, walks organized for members of the community in need of assistance because of health issues. Crop walks are accepted towards event participation. Also, we feel that members can walk for any causes that any NYSRTA Resolutions support.

However, we abstain from political events. Please remember to report event, date, and total money collected by walking member or members, if walking as a zone. The Community Service Chair will have a form to collect data on for final count. Again, members may send individual miles walked to the Health Coordinator in their zone.

 5. The Zone Community Service Chairs and Health Coordinators will send data collected from zone to their State Chairs of the respective committees at the end of 3 months. This is the schedule you should follow locally to get data collected locally. Chairs should report each month. However, individuals may report directly to the State e-mails

## Long-Term Care Insurance Program

The NYS Retired Teachers' Association has approved a discounted Long Term Care Insurance Program to be offered to its members and their family members.

This program is designed to help protect you, your family and your retirement security. Protection is available should you need care at home, in an assisted living facility, or nursing home.

To request information on this program visit [www.nyltcb.com/nysrta/](http://www.nyltcb.com/nysrta/) or call (800) 695-8224, ext. 154.

This program offers special discounts not available to the general public for you and your family members including:

- spouse / partner
- children
- parents
- grandparents

If you would like to forward this to a family member please feel free to do so.

Brian M. Johnson, CLTC, NYLTCB  
11 Executive Park Dr.,  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
[bjohnson@nyltcb.com](mailto:bjohnson@nyltcb.com)



## Important Update on Teaching Certification Registration for those holding PERMANENT, PROFESSIONAL, and TEACHING ASSISTANT Certificates

Why the requirement? A written response from a member of the Senate Education Committee told us that this was one of the compromises in the 2015 State Budget (you heard that right – the 2015 - not the 2016 budget negotiations) in order to get the budget accepted by the legislature and signed by the governor. The original requests came from the governor's office.

All teachers who hold a Permanent Certificate (or older certificate), a Professional Certificate, or a Level III Teaching Assistant Certificate MUST establish a TEACH account if they don't already have one, AND register to stay active, or indicate inactive. Indicate "active" if you think you might work at some point in your future! You MUST register no later than the month of your birth starting with July of 2016. There is no penalty with registering earlier but your five year renewal clock starts with your registration date! Important links appear below. *Please read them as they contain much more information than we can include here. And yes, earlier certificates used your social security number and you will be asked that!* Make sure you are on the secure SED website. Your local BOCES certification officer can also help you with this. Questions can be referred to the BOCES or to the Associates at SED listed at the end of the article.

NYSED Office of Teaching – Registration and CTLE (Continuing Teacher Leader Education) Requirements:  
[http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/Registration\\_CTLE\\_home.html](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/Registration_CTLE_home.html)

NYSED TEACH website – Registration Overview  
<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/resteachers/Registration.html>

NYSED Frequently Asked Questions regarding TEACH Registration  
<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/pdf/CTLE%20FAQ%2006102016.pdf>

To actually log-in or create a TEACH account use:  
<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/teach/home.html>

For step by step instructions, captions, and screen captures to create a TEACH account follow this URL address:  
<https://nysrta.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Creating-a-TEACH-Account.pdf>

To see the process to REGISTER after creating your TEACH account, refer to this URL address:  
<https://nysrta.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Permanent-Teacher-Certificate-Holder-Registration-Process.pdf>

For a NYSUT Fact Sheet or a Q&A on the Registration Process use these URL addresses:  
<http://www.nysut.org/resources/all-listing/2016/april/teacher-registration-regulations>

Finally, if you would like further assistance, please call The Office of Teaching Initiatives at 518-474-3901.

## The Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund *Anne Flansburg \*CR, Chair*

*A recipient of a DeCormier Grant had expressed thanks to the many people who made the grant possible, and gave permission to publish this thank you message. It has been edited slightly, to maintain the anonymity of the writer.*

One way or another, I had spent a good deal of my life as a caretaker-family members, animals, the students in my classes during 30+ years of teaching. Then came a bad winter and I was the one who needed help. My home incurred serious storm damage and a portion of the house became uninhabitable. Worse yet, through no fault of my own, none of the damage was covered by insurance.

My heart sank as I watched part of my home crumble before my eyes. Talking to contractors didn't make me feel any better. Past and current illnesses and repeated home repairs had taken any money I ever had and put me in debt. No bank would loan me the money and I couldn't handle more debt. All my family was gone. There was

no one to help me. There was no one to take me in. There was no one to advise me. I felt helpless and very much alone. I didn't know which way to turn. Even if I chose to sell out and move, my damaged house would not bring much money. If I could not fix my house, what would I do? Where would I go? I was terrified.

Then I remembered an article about The Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund of NYSRTA.

Submitting an application led me to the DeCormier Fund committee, a group of knowledgeable people dedicated to helping New York State retired teachers in financial distress. The application process was extensive. I invested a lot of time and effort into the process and so did the members of the committee. They are good stewards of the available funds and take the job seriously.

Ultimately, the grant that I received was precisely tailored to my situation.

It reset the course of my life. It was enough to enable me to get a handle on beginning the project and moving beyond the debt that held me captive. The advice provided led to valuable changes in the construction plan. The grant replaced the terror that I felt with a new sense of hope for the future. That which seemed impossible, has become attainable.

Beyond that, the committee has stuck with me, advising me and supporting me, and rejoicing with me, as I move forward. There are still hurdles ahead, but with the help of the DeCormier Fund committee

I feel that I am up to the challenge. My heart is filled with gratitude for the dedicated members of this committee and for anyone who has contributed to the Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund, thereby enabling me to be helped during this difficult financial period in my life.



## Central Zone

*Mary Radloff, Public Relations*

Lisa McCallister, health teacher of Central Square School District, was selected as the winner of the 2016 NYSRTA Grant for active teachers in Central Zone. Her grant will fund the American Red Cross "School Partnership Program." This provides middle school students with manuals, mannequins and equipment which empower students with CPR and first aid skills they will utilize for their entire lives.



Pictured is Lisa McCallister accepting the award from Michelle Lonergan, president of Oswego County RTA and member of the Central Zone grant committee.

**Membership** issues continue to be top priority for county units of our zone. Several are making changes in meetings and programs in an effort to update the appeal of our organization to retirees. Cayuga County replaced the spring luncheon with an afternoon punch and hors d'oeuvre reception for recent retirees. The result was an increase in attendance. The scholarship award has been changed to several mini-grants for active teachers for 2017. Jane Hicks of Madison County reports plans are in the works for the same change, from scholarship to mini-grants for teachers. William Cline of Chenango County writes: "We have re-instituted a newsletter format rather than a letter and have increased from two mailings a year to three – spring, fall and winter. We have streamlined our business meetings to no more than 45 minutes and scheduled our "entertainment" before the meal. This allows our guests to dine and talk at a leisurely pace and leave when they desire."

Oneida-Herkimer is hosting the Zone Annual Meeting September 12, at Hart's Hill Inn in Hartsboro. A sit-down luncheon will be served followed by the program "The History of Fort Stanwix."

## Central Western Zone

*Phyllis Dunlap, Public Relations*

We are getting so excited to be hosts for the NYSRTA Convention. Everyone has been working to make it a wonderful convention for each and every one of you. Three of our ten counties have sent in reports about banquets, meetings and awards they want to share with you.

Monroe County Retired Teachers Organization celebrated their June 1 banquet at the Whittier Party House. There were 58 in attendance and the Oasas Tappers performed at the end of the meal. They announced four awards to teachers for further studies and community service. Those recipients were Rachael Fanguinetti, Brittany Phillips, Tom Mallaber and Christine Green.

Since attendance is low at their banquets, they asked for suggestions from the floor for improving attendance. They suggested changing our meeting dates to occur further away from holidays. That will be discussed at our Board meeting on July 18.

Since our newsletter, FYI, is now posted on the Central Western Zone website, we may be able to get more people reading it, thus keeping our costs down.

Steuben County had a most informative speaker at the Spring Meeting on May 11, 2016 at Mossy Bank Park in Bath, New York. Dr. Randy Weidner gave attendees the history of Mossy Bank Park as well as a talk on Bald Eagles, one pair of which nests annually near the park. They also took a nature walk and observed the Bald Eagles on their nest. For Community Service this time they supported the Hornell Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Claudia has served the Wyoming County Retired Teachers' Association as

the Vice President and Chair of Community Service. Under Claudia's direction, members donate non-perishable food items for local food pantries and items for the military at each meeting. Last December, Claudia received a personal phone call from Carolyn Blashek, the President of Operation Gratitude, thanking them for the wonderful donations of handmade hats, mittens, scarves and other items.

Claudia has served as a delegate to the NYSRTA Annual Convention for three years. In 2015, she received a Certificate of Recognition from the Central Western Zone for her service and dedication

to Wyoming County retired teachers. Claudia is always available to help in any way she can. They value her service.

**The Central Western Zone Committee hopes to see all of you in October at the Convention!**



Co-President Central Western Zone Sandra Kushner (right) presented award to Claudia Cerasani (left)

## Eastern Zone

*Pamela Love, Public Relations*

By the end of June many of our units have had their Spring Meetings and some have awarded scholarships to students planning to study so that they may become teachers. Included in this group are the Upper Montgomery Unit which awarded \$500 scholarships to two deserving seniors and the Rensselaer Unit which gave one \$500 scholarship to a deserving senior. A big task for each unit is to invite newly retired teachers to come and join the respective unit and to join the NYSRTA as well. All units are planning fall meetings at this time and are active in outreach programs as well. The next article will feature two of our units.



## Long Island Zone

*Eileen Holmes, Public Relations*

LIZ held its annual Spring luncheon on May 25<sup>th</sup> at Lombardi's in Patchogue and in keeping with the Memorial Day theme, guest speaker Cleveland Johnson, an aide to Long Island Congressman Lee Zeldin, gave a detailed account of Zeldin's efforts towards implementing a national peer-to-peer support program for veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury.

Before being elected to Congress, Zeldin, who grew up on Long Island, was a NYS Senator and in 2012 created a model program for New York veterans suffering from PTSD and TBI. Named the *Dwyer Program* in honor of PFC Joseph Dwyer, a young Long Island soldier who served in Iraq and died from stress related causes after returning home, the program was

originally launched in Suffolk, Jefferson, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties. In New York it has expanded to over a dozen counties and has helped over 1,500 NY veterans. In Washington, Congressman Zeldin has presented a bipartisan bill aimed at legislation that will take what has been accomplished in New York and expand it nationally, establishing peer support groups across America for veterans who are struggling with PTSD and TBI.

LIZ Vice-President June Torns arranged this impressive luncheon and followed up with an innovative wine raffle: 10 members donated bottles of wine in honor of/in memory of people who served in the Armed Forces, long-time LIZ workers and long-remembered favorite teachers. When the winners were called, June announced the dedications. It was a lovely way to pay tribute to special folks!



Guest speaker Cleveland Johnson with June Torns and Kathryn Grande



LIZ VP June Torns, the wine raffler!



LIZ guests enjoying the Spring Luncheon



## North Central Zone

*Nancy Roberts & Patricia Newell, Public Relations Co-Chairs*

North Central Zone's Scholarship Luncheon in June was very successful with 92 members and guests in attendance. Discounting our guests, we had over 15% of our total zone membership attending our luncheon. **Diane Wright** from BOCES reviewed the SED requirements for re-registration and certification. **Kathy Van Ness** from the North Country Library System Outreach Program spoke to the group about services available by mail to homebound patrons. **Kathy Campbell** from the American Red Cross spoke about the educational programs the Red Cross is introducing in the schools and *invited our members to become instructors for these programs.*

Two NCZ \$1,000 scholarships, in partnership with the Northern New York Community Foundation, were awarded to **Meghan Panowicz** and **Claire Sheley**. The winners, along with their mothers, were honored guests at the luncheon. Ms. Panowicz will be attending the University of New Hampshire to major in chemistry. Ms. Sheley plans to attend Jefferson Community College and then transfer to SUNY Potsdam to major in elementary education.

April Fallon from the NNYCF presented the scholarships along with NCZ President, **Doug Dietrich**, and Scholarship Chair, **John Gaffney**.

**The NYSRTA Florence Coulter Kramer** grant of \$1,000 was offered this year in NCZ to an active teacher who is developing an innovative educational program in his/her school. **Marianne Malatino**, scholarship committee member, introduced this year's winner, **Adah Poquette**. Ms. Poquette is an occupational therapist in the Carthage Central School District who plans to develop bins of tools and toys to help all Kindergarteners in the district develop their fine motor and visual skills. We look forward to pictures and progress updates in regard to the tools she will be implementing with her young students.

**Barbara Phillips** was recognized for her many years as NCZ Friendly Service Chair with a Certificate of Recognition,



a bouquet of flowers and monetary gift given from the Executive Council. We appreciate her dedication to our members who are 85 years of age and older.

**Linda Holley** graciously volunteered to become our new FS Chair.

New members attending our June luncheon included **Anita James, Krista Juczak, and Jan Young**. We warmly welcomed them to NYSRTA NCZ.

Community Service Chair, **Pat Dietrich**, organized a successful food pantry collection which was distributed to three food pantries in Jefferson County. Enough funds were donated to give two \$50 awards in our "Love Your Public Library" raffle. **Linda Grimes'** ticket was drawn for the Brantingham Greig Public Library and **Stella Garitz's** ticket was drawn for Flower Memorial Library. NYSRTA Walkers in NCZ are energetic and racking up those hours and minutes of exercise for Health Care Chair **Mary Lee O'Brien** to tabulate. We are adding swimming, water aerobics, golf, weight lifting, running and anything that qualifies as exercise to our walking hours. We hope to see everyone on September 20<sup>th</sup> for our fall meeting and luncheon.

## Future Dates to Remember

- Executive Council Meeting  
Thursday, August 4, 2016, at the Teachers' Center
- Fall Annual Meeting & Luncheon with the Northern Blend Quartet  
Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at Ramada Inn, Watertown
- 2016 NYSRTA Convention  
October 26-28, 2016, at Verona, NY

## Northeastern Zone Mary Martin, Public Relations

Our zone has been working very hard to get the word out about voting "NO" to opening up the New York State Constitution at a possible Constitutional Convention. We have also been trying to reach out to the retired teachers that are substitute teaching and working in school districts in other capacities that they need to create a TEACH account and register to keep their certification active. As always we have done our road cleaning in May and there is another one scheduled for July. The organization has also collected food for our local food shelf (335 pounds of food!). There is one more food drive being conducted next week to add to our current number. We are all trying to stay physically fit and walking to add to the NYSRTA Walkers miles. Our next executive board meeting is August 4<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to the October convention.



## Northern Zone Linda Crosby, Public Relations

There is wonderful news to report concerning The New York State Retired Teachers' Association Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant. The five trustees of The Insurance Trust have announced that NYSRTA will be able to award five \$1,000 grants each year beginning in 2017 to successful applicants who are active teachers and who wish to use the grant to implement an innovative project or program in their NYS public school districts. In the past, we have awarded two \$1,000 grants in two selected (and alternating) zones per year. Now, the five zones that will administer/award the grants in 2017 are Central Western, Eastern, Northern, Northeastern, and Western. In 2018, grants will be administered/awarded by the following zones: Central, Long Island, North Central, Southeastern, and Southern.

More information concerning the administration of the grants will soon be communicated to the zone Public Relations Chairs, Presidents and members.

I hope zone PR Chairs will be able to attend a public relations committee meeting at the Fall 2016 Convention to finalize plans for the grant procedures.

Congratulations to the North Central and Central Zone committees for their successful administration and awarding of the 2016 NYSRTA Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grants to dynamic active teachers in their zones. Special thanks to Mary Radloff, CZ Publics Relations Chair, and John Gaffney, NCZ Scholarship Committee Chair for their leadership during the grant award process and, especially, for their many communications and gracious sharing of their grant materials with me in my quest to become more knowledgeable about the grant process.

At the June membership meeting, many hearty NZ "sailors" braved 45 degree temperatures and brisk winds to venture out on Star Lake's famous motorized floating docks. Local raft owners treated us to a two hour exhilarating journey with

entertaining stories of local lake history. At the business meeting, it was re-



ported that membership is steady at 453 members, two local H.S. seniors were awarded \$400 scholarships (more later), and that members donated \$474 to the scholarship fund and \$300 to the Franklin County Association of Senior Citizens to help their volunteers transport residents of the Alice Center (assisted living center in Malone) to medical appointments. We have a small but very generous membership! Remember to add the date for the fall meeting to your calendar now: September 27 at the Malone Golf Club.

Congratulations to NYSRTA member, Holly Chorba, whose gorgeous photo of a pond lily was chosen to grace the cover of the St. Lawrence County Arts Association's *Fine Arts Up North Calendar 2017*. She received this honor last year also for another of her excellent, intriguing Adirondack photographs!



## Southern Zone

Mary Lou Wood, Public Relations

Isn't summer great? Our friends are back from the South! This is a great time to socialize, exercise, and take those little day trips to see what our state and country have to offer. Some members took a trip towards the Auburn area and discovered 4 occupied eagle nests. Four majestic eagles and eaglets nesting right next to route 5 & 20. A beautiful site to behold.

The Southern Zone executive committee met in April to discuss pertinent information for our retirees. Lynne Hunkovic, Eastern Broome Branch, has been keeping us abreast of information concerning our Permanent Certification. Those teachers who are active in schools, whether substitute teaching, administering tests, or in any other capacity, will need to register with the NYS Ed. Dept. Vince Smith, SZ president, informed members of topics discussed at the state Executive Board meeting in March. Mary Johnson, SZ legislator, would like our members to



Hope you enjoy your summer, keep cool, drink plenty of water, stay active, socialize, and get outside to smell the flowers and hear the birds sing. If you get a chance, take a day trip to watch the eagles. They're awesome.



From left: Don Cutton \*CR, Amanda Behnke, and Stephanie Falls, principal

The Southern Zone Educational Scholarship Grant was given to Amanda Behnke. She is a Special Education Teacher at the Intermediate School at the Homer Central School District. The Grant is for \$500.00 to be used for her Master's Degree. It was given June 3 at an Assembly Program about heroes. Miss Behnke was so surprised that her face got red. Later her color came back when we took pictures of Amanda, Don Cutton and Stephanie Falls, her principal.

Others that attended the presentation were Mary Lou Wood, Debbie Deats, Lois Cutton, Beth Kanalley, and Jeanie Mooney. ~ article submitted by Don Cutton\*CR



The Southern Zone executive committee members in attendance were: Front row: **Don Cutton \*CR**, Mildred Rugur, Lynne Hunkovic, Vince Smith, Marie BeGell, Back row: Mary Johnson, Nancy Spaulding, Bonnie Stratton, Linda Moore, Lois Cutton,

keep informed of state rules, regulations, and laws and to introduce ourselves to our local representatives. Our Southern Zone gifted a \$500.00 scholarship to Amanda Behnke, a special education teacher from Homer, N.Y.

Eastern Broome Branch Retired Teachers will be hosting the Southern Zone Annual Meeting.

It will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Holiday Inn in Binghamton.

## South Eastern Zone

Mary Ellen Colombo, Public Relations

SEZ is hosting a lovely luncheon on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. If you will be near Middletown on that date between 10:30 and 2:30 please join us at West Hills Country Club. \$25 will provide you with a fabulous lunch and the opportunity to have a prized item of your own to be evaluated by William Jenack and his wife, antique experts. More info at silverstreakmec@gmail.com.



## Western Zone

Michelle Claus, Public Relations

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

You already have by being an active member of Western Zone and NYSRTA. We need your help. The more members we have, the better we can support the objectives of our state-wide organization, NYSRTA, for the benefit of retired teachers.

Did you know that everyone is not a member of our organization? We are the only organization that works solely on behalf of retired educators.

We need all of our members to be Ambassadors of Membership for Western Zone and NYSRTA. You can go on facebook and ask retired colleagues to join Western Zone. They can email me or call, joeclaus@msn.com or 716-649-3844. I will send them the forms to join. If facebook is not for you, the phone works just as well. Look in your address book or where you keep phone numbers, and call them. Give them my phone number. Or if you live in a community, spend an afternoon, under the umbrella, sipping lemonade, touting the benefits of NYSRTA and Western Zone.

A few ideas to focus on when talking to fellow retired educators are:

- Want a retiree job? Go to our website, [www.nysrta.org](http://www.nysrta.org), and check out our connections to public and private employers hiring retirees. Also, if you want to hire retirees, there is free ad space on the website.

- Want discount services and programs? Again, go to our website, [www.nysrta.org](http://www.nysrta.org), to see the list of services you can receive or are receiving. Boast how much money you save using some of the services including purchasing hearing aids, a car purchase, dental and vision discounts, and investments to name a few.

- We take care of our members. Our objective is to promote the economic, social, and professional status of retired educators. Want more information about the Constitutional Convention vote in 2017?

*continued page 16*



# Resolutions Committee Report

Gayla LePage, Chair

The Resolutions Committee reviewed the five proposals that were submitted by three different zones. Two of the proposals were on the 2017 Constitutional Convention. These were combined to make one resolution with both zones named. These four resolutions are recommended for consideration by the delegates at the 2016 Annual Meeting. All NYSRTA members should review these proposals and make their feelings about them known to their zone president, Resolutions Chair, and delegates. A complete listing of the resolutions that have already been adopted can be found on the NYSRTA website.

## **Resolution D-19-1: Return Cursive Writing to the Elementary Curriculum (Western Zone)**

WHEREAS, teaching of cursive writing is no longer mandated in the elementary curriculum nationwide; and

WHEREAS, today's students lack the knowledge to utilize cursive writing for expression and the application of signature; and

WHEREAS, cursive writing is like a foreign language to today's students who can neither write nor read it; and

WHEREAS, cursive writing has been taught in some districts in the third grade, but it is not reinforced afterwards; and

WHEREAS, a generation of students can only print their names instead of using cursive writing;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the NYSRTA urge the New York State Department of Education to return cursive writing to the elementary curriculum.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objective 4

The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend".

## **Resolution E-16-1: Ethics Reform in the State Government (Western Zone)**

WHEREAS, all residents of New York State deserve to live in an atmosphere where honesty, integrity, and ethical behavior on the part of the

elected leaders are the norm; and

WHEREAS, there is a mounting concern that the people of New York State have justifiably lost faith in their government and elected leadership; and

WHEREAS, in the last several years nearly 30 state legislators and other state officials have been convicted of felonies, misdemeanors, or violations; and

WHEREAS, citizens and watchdog groups have identified some major problem areas such as (but not limited to) the: unrestricted amount of outside income that can be earned by public officials, need to close the LLC (Limited Liability Corporations) loophole in the campaign finance law, ability of convicted felons to retain their lucrative public pensions and lack of term limits, and length of service and powerful committee chairs; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and legislative leaders have given lip service to the need for ethics reform but have done little, if anything, to combat the culture of corruption that has been allowed to grow; and

WHEREAS, as retired educators, we should seize the opportunity to be in the forefront of those trying to restore faith, confidence, and accountability in our state government;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the President of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association (NYSRTA) contact the Governor, Assembly Speaker, Senate Majority Leader, and the Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Ethics Committees expressing our deep concern over the

lack of ethical behavior that currently exists, and

Be it further RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA President strongly encourage these state leaders to immediately initiate and enact meaningful ethics reform, and

Be it further RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA President contact these state leaders on at least an annual basis, reinforcing the need to accomplish common sense, good government reforms, and expressing appreciation for any reform that may have been adopted since the last contact.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 2, 3, & 5

The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend".

## **Resolution E-17-2: Mandating Seatbelts for All NY State Backseat Passengers Aged 16 or Older (Long Island Zone)**

WHEREAS, New York State enacted the nation's first seat belt requirements for front seat passengers in 1984 and expanded seat belt laws in 2000 to include children aged 10 to 16 who sit in backseats, New York now lags behind 28 other states and the District of Columbia in not requiring anyone older than 16 who is riding in the rear seat to buckle up; and

WHEREAS, from 1994 to 2014, 886 backseat passengers 16 or older who were not buckled up were killed in car crashes in New York State; and

WHEREAS, backseat passengers from ages 16 to 24 had by far the low-

est rate of belt usage and accounted for more than half of the fatalities; and

WHEREAS, people sitting in the backseat might feel they are at less risk of being ejected than those in front, they are twice as likely to kill front seat passengers by becoming a “bullet” if they are not wearing seat belts; and

WHEREAS, backseat passengers are three times more likely to be killed and eight times more likely to be seriously injured if they are not buckled up; and

WHEREAS, these kind of fatalities rise with the number of people who live in an area and how much driving they do; and

WHEREAS, we live in a state with heavy traffic congestion in urban, suburban, and rural areas that include recreational areas, college, university and high school campuses, senior citizen complexes, and shopping malls where many rear seat passengers are 16 years and older;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the NYSRTA support legislation to require all rear seat passengers 16 years or older to wear seat belts in New York State.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 2, 3, & 5

The Resolutions Committee voted “To Recommend”.

---

**Resolution E-18-3: A Resolution to Oppose the 2017 Constitutional Convention Ballot Initiative (Northeastern and Long Island Zones)**

Lastly, the Resolutions Committee is required to review annually the adopted resolutions and recommend for rescission for those which are no longer legal, timely, relevant, or have been accomplished. This was done, and there are no recommendations for rescission at this time.

WHEREAS, the New York State Constitution requires a ballot initiative be presented in 2017 to answer the question “Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Constitution provides for many protections for the citizens of New York State including but not limited to citizens’ rights to organize and bargain collectively, voting rights, entitlement to a free education, prohibition from using public funds to aid religious affiliated schools, conservation protections, and social safety nets; and

WHEREAS, your pension is now protected by both the New York State and Federal Constitutions; and

WHEREAS, your pension may not be reduced or infringed. If a Constitutional Convention, that protection may disappear; and

WHEREAS, your pension is now free of New York State Tax, but at a New York State Convention they may vote to tax your pension; and

WHEREAS, some citizens are calling for the convention to make changes in the constitution that could or should be considered through the conventional legislative and referendum process; and

WHEREAS, the cost estimates of conducting the convention could cost as much as \$138 million dollars and would be an unnecessary burden on an already tight budget; and

WHEREAS, you will be asked to vote on November 7, 2017, if we

should hold this convention. You may want to vote NO; and

WHEREAS, after a careful reading of the constitution and considering the agenda many special interest groups and individuals might force on a convention, it is clear that the risks are high of all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, if there is a YES vote to hold this convention it could last until November 2019;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the NYSRTA opposes the 2017 Constitutional ballot, and

Be it further RESOLVED that the NYSRTA broaden its arguments of opposition to the convention by including other groups who could be harmed by the convention, and

Be it further RESOLVED that the NYSRTA make every effort to participate with coalitions representing both retired and active educators, as well as, other special interest groups who could be harmed by proposals made at the New York State Constitutional Convention, and

Be it further RESOLVED that the NYSRTA inform its members on these other issues and join the broader media campaign.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 2 & 3

The Resolutions Committee voted “To Recommend”.

If you would like to attend the Annual Convention as a Day Guest please fill out the form below

**REGISTRATION FORM – DAY GUEST ONLY**  
**TURNING STONE RESORT & CASINO**  
**THE NYSRTA 66<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
**ANNUAL WORKSHOP & ANNUAL MEETING**

OCTOBER 26 – 28, 2016

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate meals.

WEDNESDAY ☐ Dinner (\$50)

Dinner Choice:

Chicken Francaise with Lemon White Wine, Fennel Roasted Fingerling Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable Medley \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Braised Short Rib with Roasted Shallot Jus-lie, Fennel Roasted Fingerling Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable Medley \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY ☐ Breakfast (\$25) ☐ Lunch (\$26) ☐ Dinner (\$50)

Dinner Choice:

Fennel Crusted Supreme of Chicken Breast with Rosemary Jus-lie, Marquis Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable Medley \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Filet Mignon with Cabernet Demi-Glace, Marquis Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable Medley \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY ☐ Breakfast (\$25) ☐ Lunch (\$26)

Friday Boxed Lunch:

Three Pigs Wrap- Prosciutto, Cappicola, Honey Ham, Fontina, Arugula, Red Pepper Aioli \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Honey Turkey Club Wrap – Lettuce, Tomato, Applewood Bacon, Roasted Garlic Aioli \_\_\_\_\_

*Please clip this form and mail with a check made out to NYSRTA for the total amount to:*

Mary Kathleen Bassett, EOM  
NYSRTA  
8 Airport Park Blvd  
Albany Airport Park  
Latham, NY 12110

**REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE:  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2016**



# THE NYSRTA 66<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by Central Western Zone

Turning Stone Resort & Casino

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. **October 26 – 28, 2016**

**Registration: Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE:  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

## Wednesday: REGISTRATION BEGINS 2:00pm

- \* Welcome Reception – Coffee, Tea, and Danish pastry @ Registration
- \* Vendor Exhibit
- \* Dinner on Wednesday evening.
- \* Certificate of Recognition Presentation
- \* Keynote Speaker

## Thursday

- \* Breakfast
- \* Workshops
- \* Vendor Exhibit
- \* Lunch
- \* Annual Meeting – Session 1
- \* Dinner
- \* Entertainment

## Friday

- \* Breakfast
- \* Annual Meeting – Session 2
- \* Boxed Lunch

## **REGISTRATION FORM – ANNUAL CONVENTION --- OCTOBER 26 - 28, 2016 - NYSRTA**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ SHARING ROOM WITH \_\_\_\_\_

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

### **FULL PACKAGE** - Wednesday and Thursday Nights

(Includes dinner Wednesday evening, all meals Thursday, breakfast & lunch on Friday)

TRIPLE: \$330 Per Person \_\_\_\_\_ DOUBLE: \$382 Per Person \_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE: \$560 Per Person \_\_\_\_\_

All rates include applicable sales tax and dining room gratuities. A minimum seven-day cancellation notice is required

**A CREDIT CARD WILL BE MANDATORY UPON CHECK-IN**

NON-SMOKING \_\_\_\_\_ SMOKING \_\_\_\_\_ HANDICAP \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

### **DAILY RATES** - Daily Rates include overnight accommodations, plus dinner, breakfast, lunch

TRIPLE: \$165 Per Person \_\_\_\_\_ DOUBLE: \$191 Per Person \_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE: \$280 Per Person \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## **PLEASE MAKE DINNER SELECTIONS AND RETURN WITH YOUR RESERVATION FORM**

Wednesday Dinner – Chicken Francaise with Lemon White Wine, Fennel Roasted Fingerling Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable Medley

OR

Braised Short Rib with Roasted Shallot Jus-lie, Fennel Roasted Fingerling Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable Medley

Thursday Dinner – Fennel Crusted Supreme of Chicken Breast with Rosemary Jus-lie, Marquis Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable Medley

OR

Filet Mignon with Cabernet Demi-Glace, Marquis Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable Medley

Friday Boxed Lunch – Three Pigs Wrap- Prosciutto, Cappicola, Honey Ham, Fontina, Arugula, Red Pepper Aioli

OR

Honey Turkey Club Wrap – Lettuce, Tomato, Applewood Bacon, Roasted Garlic Aioli

\*\*\*\*\*  
Please clip and mail completed form to:

**Turning Stone Resort and Casino**

**Attn: Accommodations Dept. 5218 Patrick Road, Verona, NY 13478**

Upon receipt of a confirmation letter from Turning Stone Resort Casino, please call 1-800-771-7711 with your confirmation number to guarantee your room with credit card.

Cancellations must be made prior to **October 19<sup>th</sup>** to avoid penalty of forfeiture of the deposit at minimum AND the food and beverage portion of the package.

# ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

*Western Zone continued from page 11*

Want information on State and Federal issues, including Healthcare? Go to our website, [www.nysrta.org](http://www.nysrta.org).

- Let's travel. A great way to become friends and traveling companions. We have traveling opportunities with family, friends, and fellow educator retirees. A great time for Ambassadors of Membership to encourage retirees to join NYSRTA.

- Do you send get well or thinking of you cards to friends? Why not do this for friends of friends and acquaintances, ask them to join Western Zone/ NYSRTA.

The cost is \$30 for 1 year (try us out). It is never too late to join. We need you, as part of the 3400 retirees in Western Zone, to help increase membership one person at a time. Be a buddy, and invite your retired educator friends to a social event. The YORK STATE and Western Currents Newsletters are part of your membership dues. Use the articles to start a conversation about NYSRTA. BRAG, I do!

Contact me, Michelle Claus, 716-649-3844 for information to join.

**The New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc.**  
**8 Airport Park Boulevard**  
**Latham, NY 12110-6414**  
**Ph: 518-482-3509**

**Dated Material—Please Do Not Delay**

## Submission Deadlines for YORK STATE

**Spring (electronic) . Apr 30**  
**Summer (mailed) ....Jul 13**

**Fall (electronic) .....Aug 25**  
**Winter (mailed) .....Nov 4**



"I could not have imagined that my future necessitated hearing aids in both ears. I contacted Hear In America, and with their assistance WOW! WOW! WOW! It was smooth sailing through the entire process. It's a whole new world: my life is better!"  
- R.C.

To register for your family's free hearing benefits including discounts, extra warranties and even free hearing aid batteries, **call Hear In America at 1-800-286-6149.**