

YORK state

Highlights

- 2 Certificate of Recognition Award Winners!
- 4-7 2017 Directory and Budget
- 10 Resolutions Committee 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

We just returned from another successful Annual Convention. Our Association is alive and well. I would like to thank all of you who have donated to the President's Appeal. Due to your donations, it was possible to reduce our deficit and continue our efforts to fight the 2017 Constitutional Convention. You can be assured that NYSRTA continues to be the true source for retired educators.

Congratulations to **Leon Harrold *CR (SEZ)**, **Shirley Parker *CR (NCZ)** and **Salvatore Sedita *CR (WZ)** who have received the Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service to NYSRTA.

Thank you to all of the members of

the Central Western Zone and 2016 Convention Chairs, Jane Behnk and Sandra Kushner for hosting the Convention. It was a wonderful Convention and we enjoyed the workshops that were available. I truly appreciated your Keynote Speaker Eleanor Stearns, who impersonated Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She was exceptional. I would also like to thank Senior Vice President Kevin Mulligan for chairing the Workshop Committee and bringing us such great workshops and running the New Delegate Workshop.

As usual our Parliamentarian Carol Schilansky did a fine job.

A special thank you to our office staff of Kathi Bassett, Lillie Ruby and Debbie Barnes, who did such a great job of preparing for this Convention.

Prior to the Convention, I received the resignation of Brian Sherman (NCZ) as Vice President of Legislative Action. I would like to thank Brian for his service to NYSRTA. At the Convention Mary Johnson (SZ) and

Gary Germain (NEZ) were elected as Co-Chairs for Vice President of Legislative Action. No nominations for Vice President of Membership were received from the floor; Salvatore Sedita will continue to serve in the position.

We are advocating against the 2017 Constitutional Convention. Protect your pensions. I recommend that you Vote "No" on November 17, 2017.

- Possibility of state taxation of your pension
- Protect Collective Bargaining
- Protect the Environment – The "Forever Wild" provision of the State Constitution.
- Protect Public Education

Let's continue the good fight, send in your donation today. Thank you, if you have already sent in your donation.

I am very proud of our organization and what we have done and what we plan to do in the future. Only YOU can make it happen. Let's keep up the good work.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 66TH ANNUAL CONVENTION, HOSTED BY CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE



Photography: Thanks to Virginia Madore, EZ

Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service

Jackie Moller *CR, Chair of Certificate of Recognition Committee

The Committee for The Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service had the privilege of presenting this award to deserving members of NYSRTA at the Annual meeting in October 2016. The honorees this year were selected for their service and have shown outstanding leadership and accomplishments to the Association in many ways. They might have been an elected officer, an appointed committee chair, an active member on some committees, and willing to always say yes when asked to help out. This year we honored Leon Harrold (SEZ), Shirley Parker (NCZ), and Sal Sedita (WZ).

Leon Harrold...in recognition of his service and leadership for the New York State Retired Teachers' Association and his willingness to take the responsibility for jobs that needed to be done at all levels of our Association. His active participation and dedication is an example for others to follow in the New York State Retired Teachers' Association and his community.



Shirley Parker...in recognition for her service and participation at all levels of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association. As a member and leader for many years on various committees, she provided leadership in a variety of positions. She has distinguished herself as a valuable member of our Association.

Sal Sedita...in recognition for his service at all levels of our Association. As the Vice President for Membership at NYSRTA and a chair or member of many committees at the zone and unit levels, his active participation, willingness and dedication is an example for others to follow in the New York State Retired Teachers' Association and his community.

Friendly Service Harriet Beers *CR, Vice President

Greetings from your Zone, Unit, and Key Workers of Friendly Service. We claim all of you as members of our group because it is you who keep us

informed of colleagues who would appreciate a caring thought, a card, or a call to let them know we are thinking of them.

A Native American proverb says: "We will be known forever by the tracks we leave."

For years, Friendly Service workers across the state have left

tracks filled with caring, hope, courage, love, and financial support.

In 2016, in addition to Certificates of Appreciation, recognition of 80-year-olds, personal visits, and two grants of financial aid, our Friendly Service workers

made over 5700 phone calls, and sent 1700 emails and 6300 cards. Three hundred sixty-eight birthdays were celebrated as well as gifts for shut-ins and 90-year olds. With so much depressing news from around the world, it is a privilege to be able to spread happy thoughts and hope.

We wish each of you good health and the love of family and friends in the coming year.



YORK STATE

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



on FaceBook: NYS Retired Teachers Association

The Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund

Jackie Moller, Trustee

The trustees would like to thank the many donors who have contributed to the Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund, thereby enabling us to provide assistance to some of our retirees who have fallen upon hard times and need help. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

We have written in the past about the wonderful notes we receive from our recipients and thought you might like to read some of the small 'quotes' that have come along from our donors. We have also received contributions from non-members who have heard of the trust and wanted to contribute. Just to give you an idea of what has been said —

"Thank you for all that you do to aid needy retired teachers. This donation is to honor and remember our recently deceased retired teachers."

"Please find enclosed a donation to help the struggling retired teachers."

"Enclosed is our zone's contribution to the Robert R. DeCormier Trust."

"We are making this donation in memory of our family and zone members."

"Please accept the check for the DeCormier Trust. We are so pleased to do this and help those in need."

"The Executive Board and other members of our Zone wish to honor the contributions and dedication of a member who recently passed away."

"Spring is finally here and we held our spring meeting. We had a 50-50 raffle and want to give the proceeds to the DeCormier Trust to help NYSRTA members in need."

"Please accept this donation from our county RTA in memory of five of our members."

"Enclosed you will find a check from our zone as a donation to the DeCormier Fund from our zone in memory of two of our deceased members. We will miss them."

"Please accept the enclosed donation in memory of one of our recently deceased members. She was a loyal member of our Board of Directors and was a tireless worker who gave her time, energy, and talent to all that she did."

"Enclosed is a check for the DeCormier Trust as a contribution to honor a loyal member of our zone who is celebrating a wonderful birthday."

"Please find enclosed a donation to the Trust Fund in memory of my Mother who passed away. We know how much she loved the work that was done for NYSRTA and the Decormier Trust, and strongly believed in this Association."

If you would like to donate, please send a check payable to to:

**David Mapes, Treasurer,
DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund,
6163 Vista Hill,
Dansville, NY 14437-9675**

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



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DIRECTORY 2016 - 2017

THE NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

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CWZ – Treasurer – David Mapes (585) 335-6643
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EZ – Tom Reed (Term Expires 12/31/17)
EZ – **Diane Hahn *CR** (Term Expires 12/31/20)
NEZ – **Robert La Fontaine *CR** (Term Expires 12/31/19)
Secretary/Treasurer: Kathi Bassett, Executive Office Manager

New York State Retired

BUDGET CODE	REVENUES	2015 ACTUAL	2016 PROPOSED	2016 REVISED BUDGET	2017 PROPOSED BUDGET
140	Dues-Annual	\$ 258,714.00	\$200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 230,000.00
140A	Refund To Zones Annual Dues	\$ (86,238.00)	(\$66,666.67)	\$ (66,666.67)	\$ (76,666.66)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 172,476.00	\$133,333.33	\$ 133,333.33	\$ 153,333.34
142	Dues-Life	\$ 12,625.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
142A	Refund To Zones Life Dues	\$ (4,208.33)	(\$2,666.67)	\$ (2,666.67)	\$ (2,666.67)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 8,416.67	\$ 5,333.33	\$ 5,333.33	\$ 5,333.33
139 & 153	Convention & Exhibitor Revenue	\$ 5,503.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
133	Dues-90yr.Olds	\$ 4,494.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00
143	General Contributions	\$ 3,198.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
144	President Appeal Letter	\$ 68,137.76	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
143A	Insurance Trust	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
149,150A,151A	Interest Income/Dividend	\$ 43,834.37	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
150	Bequest	\$ -	\$ -		
154	Misc. Revenue	\$ 1,317.54	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
156	Travel & Misc.	\$ 3,770.40	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
206	Advertising Revenue	\$ 5,550.00	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 2,050.00
	Income from Assets	\$ 127,633.66	\$ -		
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 444,331.40	\$ 276,616.66	\$ 301,616.66	\$ 303,616.67
	EXPENSES	2015 ACTUAL	2016 PROPOSED	2016 REVISED BUDGET	2017 PROPOSED BUDGET
	ADMINISTRATION				
159	Rent	\$ 20,400.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
160	Office Operating	\$ 30,383.03	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
161	Office Equipment	\$ 1,010.88	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
162-145	Supplies,Print,Postage	\$ 8,344.96	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
164	Salaries	\$ 155,245.36	\$ 137,770.03	\$ 137,770.03	\$ 145,376.89
164A	Stipends	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
164B	Bonus	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	\$ -
165-167, 179	Payroll Taxes	\$ 12,644.93	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
178	Auditing	\$ 9,876.67	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
178A	Legal	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
178B	Training Fees	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
180	Insurance / Ins. Disability	\$ 2,180.12	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,450.00
180A	Employee Benefits	\$ 18,710.37	\$ 16,935.00	\$ 16,935.00	\$ 18,252.00
181	Employee Pension	\$ 23,168.39	\$ 15,954.00	\$ 15,954.00	\$ 16,883.29
184A	EOM's Travel Expense	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
185	Contingency	\$ 1,034.49	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
186	Special Project (President Appeal)	\$ 14,263.71	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 8,000.00
187	Credit Card Fees	\$ 1,802.52	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
189	Membership Project Expense	\$ 3,077.65	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
191	Computer	\$ 4,116.06	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
193	Telephones and Equipment	\$ 4,354.51	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00
197	Website	\$ 3,325.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 500.00
	TOTAL	\$ 316,938.65	\$ 282,509.03	\$ 283,009.03	\$ 290,462.18

Teachers' Association Budget

		2015 ACTUAL	2016 PROPOSED	2016 REVISED BUDGET	2017 PROPOSED BUDGET
	<u>OFFICERS</u>				
183	President's Travel	\$ 244.25	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
184	Other Officer's Travel	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
182	President's Fund Outlay	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
	TOTAL	\$ 244.25	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	<u>MEETINGS</u>				
169	Executive Committee	\$ 14,698.99	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
173A	Annual Workshop Expense	\$ 242.56	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
172	Annual Convention Expense	\$ 41,662.90	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 56,604.45	\$ 56,500.00	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 53,000.00
	<u>NEWSLETTER</u>				
163	York State	\$ 41,351.62	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 21,500.00
	TOTAL	\$ 41,351.62	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 21,500.00
		2015 ACTUAL	2016 PROPOSED	2016 REVISED BUDGET	2017 PROPOSED BUDGET
	EXPENSES				
	<u>COMMITTEES</u>				
170	Legislative Action	\$ 10,155.45	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
171	Friendly Service	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
173	Annual Workshop Committee	\$ 717.70	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,000.00
174	Bylaws	\$ 42.45	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
174	Certificate of Recognition	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
174	Community Service	\$ 54.78	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
174	Finance & Budget	\$ 694.19	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
174	Personnel Committee	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Credentials	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
174	Historian	\$ 84.91	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Membership	\$ 68.75	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Nominations	\$ 617.69	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
174	Public Relations	\$ 193.86	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
174	Resolutions	\$ 1,674.66	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Site	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
192	Health Care	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
185A	Adhoc	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
203	Strategic Planning	\$ 4,491.68	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
	TOTAL	\$ 18,796.12	\$ 19,900.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 17,400.00
	GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 433,935.09	\$ 402,409.03	\$ 376,009.03	\$ 382,862.18
	NET INCOME/DEFICIT	\$ 10,396.31	\$ (125,792.37)	\$ (74,392.37)	\$ (79,245.51)

Historian Report *Carol Lord *CR, Chair*

I was thrilled as the pages from ten zones began arriving at convention to be included in our state scrapbook. The zone historians did an outstanding job of illustrating the activities and people that make up our organization in their zone. I appreciate the people that took the time in our busy convention schedule to stop by our display table and

enjoy looking at the histories. It's nice to hear people speak of past events and friends as they look at the older books.

I would like to thank Western Zone: Sandy Kelley; Northern Zone: Jean Theobald; North Central Zone: **Shirley Parker *CR**; Long Island Zone: Manfred Kuehnelt; Eastern Zone: John Miserak; Central Western Zone:

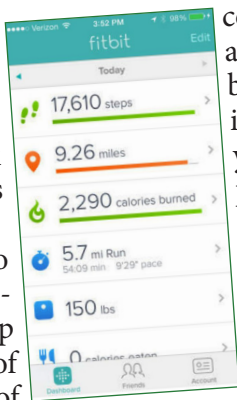
Phyllis Dunlap; and Central Zone: Michelle Lonargan and Darlene Jarvis for creating their pages and submitting them.

Each member please assist your historian and submit pictures, newspaper articles etc. to them all through the year. Thank you!

Health Care *Gwynne Bodle, Chair of Health Care Committee*

Walking, Biking, Jogging, Daily Movement – it all adds up! This year, three zones (NEZ, NCZ, CZ) combined to report 3,917.4 miles. Note the word report. I'm sure there were many more that were not reported. I look forward to much more this year.

I have been asked how to do this. Many of you have devices such as "Fit Bit" or an App on your phone. At the end of the day, or whatever period of time it reports, write the mileage down. Keep track for a month at a time and report it to me by e-mail in three



month intervals. I will put it all together for a grand total next year. I started collecting mileage October 1st and will continue until September 30, 2017. Please be sure to include your name and Zone. If you wish you can designate one person in your unit or zone to collect and report.

The second most frequently asked question is what for? FOR YOU! We humans are sociable and usually perform better with friends and buddies. A little friendly competition is also helpful. I do not publish individual names except to award a certificate

at our Annual Meeting for outstanding efforts. Your health and well-being is the most important element here. It is proven that walking is a very beneficial activity and costs nothing but time. I have previously written about this. If you have more questions, send me an e-mail at gesb@mindspring.com and I will answer. I look forward to getting "mileages" from each zone this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention Flu Shots. I sincerely hope all of you get one. Flu vaccines can reduce flu illnesses and prevent Flu-related hospitalizations. Please get yours!!!

Planning a move?

Please include us in the moving plans!

Call us at (518) 482-3509 to update your address. Returned mail results in additional costs to the Association. Plus, you miss out on *YORK STATE* magazine!



Have you changed your email address recently?

The best way to insure that you continue to receive email correspondence from us is to contact the office at 518-482-3509 whenever you change your address.

Submission Deadlines for *YORK STATE*

NYSRTA will produce 2 electronic issues and 2 printed issues of *YORK STATE* each year.

The article submission schedule for these will be:

Spring (electronic) .. April 30

Summer (mailed) July 13

Fall (electronic) August 25

Winter (mailed) November 4

There is no need to sign up for the electronic issues, if you regularly receive emails from NYSRTA, you are already on our list. As usual, all issues will be available at nysrta.org.



BOOK NOW
 & **SAVE UP TO \$200**
 per person**

NYSRTA presents...

Canadian Rockies by Train

9 days, 13 meals • **July 22 – 30, 2017** • **Booking #749434**

Highlights: British Columbia, Vancouver, VIA Rail, Jasper, Columbia Icefield, Choice of Glacier Experience or Glacier Skywalk, Lake Louise, Banff, Calgary

Double: \$4,849* Book by 1/10/17 and **SAVE \$50** per person!**

Tuscan and Umbrian Countryside

11 days, 16 meals • **October 7 – 17, 2017** • **Booking #750696**

Highlights: Rome, Orvieto, Spoleto, Cooking Class, Montefalco, Bevagna, Olive Oil Factory, Home-Hosted Lunch, Assisi, Winery, Florence, Siena, Monteriggioni, Volterra, Guarnacci Museum, San Gimignano

Double: \$4,699*

National Parks of America

12 days, 16 meals • **September 9 – 20, 2017** • **Booking #750723**

Highlights: Scottsdale, Lake Powell, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion, Salt Lake City, Jackson Hole, Grand Teton & Yellowstone National Parks, Old Faithful, Sheridan, Bighorn Mountains, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial

Double: \$4,279* Book by 3/9/17 and **SAVE \$100** per person!**

China Highlights

9 days, 16 meals • **November 6 – 14, 2017** • **Booking #749397**

Highlights: Forbidden City, The Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Rickshaw Tour, Yuyuan Garden, The Bund, Shanghai Museum, Acrobatics Show

Double: \$3,349* Book by 5/7/17 and **SAVE \$200** per person!**

Airfare included from NYC! Other gateways available, call for rates and more information.

To learn more or reserve your seat, call **800.581.8942** and refer to the booking number above. Or visit our website at www.nysrta.org/travel-tour-packages/

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*Rates are per person and include roundtrip air from NYC (Other gateways are available upon request), air taxes and fees/surcharges, and hotel transfers. Airfare: For your convenience, we offer airfare for purchase with all tour packages. If you purchase an air-inclusive program, your airfare will be quoted inclusive of all fuel, taxes and fees. Your rates are subject to change until paid in full. Seats are limited and may not be available on every flight or departure date. Checked Baggage Charges: Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. **Book by savings valid on air-inclusive bookings only. Call for rate after book by date. CST# 2006766-20 UBN# 601220855 Nevada Seller of Travel Registration No. 2003-0279

on the web: www.nysrta.org



Resolutions Committee Report *Gayla LePage, Chair*

The Delegates to the 2016 NYSRTA Annual Meeting approved four proposed new resolutions and one emergency resolution as recommended by the Resolutions Committee.

The approved measures are printed below. The necessary additions will be made to the "Be It Resolved..." document that can be accessed on the NYSRTA website.

A special thanks to the zones who submitted the proposals and to the Delegates for their acceptance of these statements.

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the NYSRTA opposes the approval of the Constitutional Convention referendum, and

Be it further RESOLVED you will be asked to vote on November 7, 2017, if we should hold this convention. NYSRTA urges you to vote NO; 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.

The following is the emergency resolution that was approved at the 2016 annual meeting.

Resolution D-19-1: Repeal the Teacher Registration Regulations (Central Zone)

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the NYSRTA seeks legislation to repeal the Teacher Registration Regulations for all New York State Educators.

Annual Convention and Workshop Committee Update

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

It was a true pleasure working with Co-Presidents Jane Behnk and Sandra Kushner of Central Western Zone, presenting the workshops for the 2016 NYSRTA Convention. It is hoped that the selection of workshops at the 2016 Convention provided a wide scope of topics to satisfy your varied interests.

I was able to attend the last part of the Teacher Retirement System Workshop and got to hear the three representatives respond to some very pertinent questions from the audience. Unlike FBI Director James Comey, Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer Thomas K. Lee did not fall into the "pit" of politics when addressing some of the baited questions regarding the Constitutional Convention. He did clearly point out that the forefathers of TRS very wisely chose the

path of not relying on the State Legislature for funding as some states, such as New Jersey have done. The comments by Mr. Lee and the other representatives of TRS provided a very reassuring account of our pension system, making it all the more critical that we must get the word out to reject the 2017 referendum for a Constitutional Convention.

The one and only face to face meeting of the Workshop Committee took place at the Convention breakfast on Friday, October 28, 2016. The Northern Zone is the Host Zone for 2017, and is represented by Alice Galvin and President Gayla LePage. They provided the Workshop Committee with some excellent workshop proposals and a great theme idea. They even offered a keynote speaker

proposal that will be further discussed at our first teleconference meeting in December. The Northern Zone is well ahead of their deadline dates for convention workshop proposals.

The success of our first meeting at Turning Stone reaffirmed the success of the new format for the membership of the Workshop Committee. President Doris Kirsch of the Western Zone was present at this meeting and brought several members of her Zone to the table. Western Zone will be hosting the 2018 Convention. I am proud to announce that the three permanent members of the Workshop Committee all have agreed to continue serving on this committee for 2017. They are Gwynne Bodle, Diane Hahn *CR, and Pat Newell.

Membership—An Update for All Members

Salvatore Sedita, Chair of Membership

Have you relocated?

It's not unusual for our retired members to relocate to a different area in New York State or to a different state. When you do, be sure to notify Debbie Barnes at the New York State Retired Teachers' Association headquarters in Latham, NY. *You can notify her by e-mail at dabarnes@nysrta.org or be US Mail at 8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110.*

When you relocate to a new area in New York State, you may have your membership transferred to the zone into which you have moved. This is a good idea. You will have the opportunity to meet new friends and become active in the zone's activities. If there are units in the new zone, you will have the opportunity to join any of the units. You can get contact information for the zone President from Debbie. For members that move to

Florida, NYSRTA has a Florida zone which is active.

On Another Note!

New member recruitment is every member's job. The health and very survival of this organization depends upon a regular influx of new members. They don't just join. They must be informed what we are, what we do, and what the advantages are to joining. If, when you look into the mirror, you cannot say, "The person I'm looking at has brought one new member into the New York State Retired Teachers Association, then you have not done your part, yet. It's time to get to it. Contact your zone or unit membership chair and let him/her know that you are ready to become actively involved in recruiting a new member.

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 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



ATTENTION EASTERN ZONE MEMBERS, get great prices on these Proctors Theatre tickets

thanks to Schenectady County Retired Teachers Association

Wicked

March 7, 2017, Tuesday, 7:30PM...\$76.10
Final balance is due before January 1, 2017

Contact Mitzi Flynn:

518-356-2980, mitziflynn@gmail.com

Send payment & SASE to:

419 Danna Joelle Dr., Schenectady, NY 12303

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SCRTA

DIFFERENT INFORMATION FOR WICKED

The deposit for WICKED is 50% of the price.

Therefore the deposit price due NOW is

\$40.00/ ticket. FINAL balance must be

received by 1-1-17

The Sound of Music

April 8, 2017 Saturday 8PM...\$59.90
Final balance is due before Mar.1, 2017

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SCRTA

Contact Sandi Smith:

518-371-6234, teach2lurn5@yahoo.com

Send payment & SASE to:

1 Easton Dr., Clifton Park, NY 12065

Beautiful

(The Carol King Story)

April 12, 2017 Wed. 7:30PM...\$66.00

Final balance is due before Mar.1, 2017

Contact Paulette George:

518-399-9388, GSWAGG@aol.com

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SCRTA

Send payment & SASE to:

509 Swaggertown Rd., Scotia, NY 12302

Cabaret

May 11, 2017 Thursday 8:00PM...\$50.90

Final balance is due before Apr.1, 2017

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SCRTA

Contact Jocelyn Pranis:

518-356-3151, jpranis@gmail.com

Send payment & SASE to:

216 Vincenza Lane, Schenectady, NY 12303

ALL seats are ORCHESTRA SEATS at discount prices. Prices are the same for children and adults. Wheelchair seating is always available.

Central Zone

Mary Radloff, Public Relations

Thank you to Central Western Zone for a well-planned sixty-sixth convention. A wonderful variety of workshops were presented. The chance to meet again and share ideas with members from all over New York State is invaluable and all delegates re-

turn home with renewed enthusiasm and fresh ideas for reaching the goals of NYSRTA. Especially rewarding is the opportunity to meet delegates serving for the first time. Let's continue to encourage the participation of new retirees in positions of leadership.



Pictured above are cheerful Central Zone delegates from Cayuga, Chenango, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego Counties.

Cayuga County will have a new president for 2016-17, Bill Tenity. Past president of the Zone and the county as well as state By-Laws Chair, Bill entertained with "The History of the Circus in Central New York." Often traveling on the Erie Canal, the troop included circus animals and many small

communities in our area were treated to circus wonders!



Maryann Dec was recognized for years of service in a variety of positions. Archie Westmiller was honored for his contribution as our volunteer cameraman who provided photos of memorable meetings for the Historian.

The recent Annual Zone Meeting was hosted by **Oneida-Herkimer**. After lunch, "Historical Significance of Fort Stanwix" was presented along with slide illustrations and dialogue. The fort is a US National Historic Site on sixteen acres in Rome, NY. What a treasure of amazing historical sites are revealed to members who attend county meetings! An excellent meeting led by President Johnnie Jones and his committee!

Central Western Zone

Phyllis Dunlap, Public Relations



2016 NYSRTA 68th Convention host, Central Western Zone Delegates. We are in front of the 10 zone quilt made at a workshop led by Judie Byndas in 2007, the last convention we hosted!

Many of our zones had fall meetings. In this picture, Seneca County retirees are enjoying lunch after their annual meeting and speaker "Clara Barton". Hope your fall meetings were as good as ours.



Seneca County Retired Teachers Fall Meeting and luncheon held on 10/20/16. L-R Sandra Kushner- Co-President for CWZ, Eleanor Stearns who portrayed Clara Barton, Cindy Piowitz-Vice President for Seneca County, Carol Lord, Treasurer & Membership Chair, also Assistant Treasurer and Past Co-President for Central Western Zone and New York State Retired Teacher's Historian *CR and Nancy Perroto-President for Seneca County

Central Western Zone continued

We are sad that Sandy Kushner, Co-President, CWZ was not able to attend the convention. Central Western Zone thanks the 135 delegates and others who

joined us at the NYSRTA Convention in October. We hope you had as good a time as we did hosting it. Here are some pictures below of the Convention that we

want to share with NYSRTA. We are all resting now but we hope to see you at the 2017 NYSRTA Convention when we will be able to relax more.

One of our many CWZ Greeters, Julie Wunder



L-R Jane Behnk, CWZ Co-President –Invocation, CWZ Burce Croucher–Song Leader, and CWZ Frank Berger–Pledge of Allegiance

Eleanor Stearns portraying Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Frank Berger CWZ–A Very Happy Convention Basket Winner



CWZ Elaine Leisure- Community Service and Carol Lord- CWZ Assistant Treasurer, NYSRTA Historian *CR–selling 50/50 tickets before dinner



Happy CWZ Convention Basket Winners–Judie Byndas, NYSRTA Past President *CR, Robyn Ballard and Mary Ellen Morgan



Talia Foster and Sarah Urquhart, Seneca Falls, NY presenting Benefits of Accupuncture and Massage for Seniors!

A Thank You from CWZ Co-Presidents-Sandra Kushner and Jane Behnk to the CWZ Executive Board.

“The NYSRTA 66th Annual Convention is now behind us. Hopefully, you feel pleased with the efforts of the many ideas and suggestions that fueled the major topics displayed throughout the event. The theme was a combina-

tion of ideas. The Keynote Speaker and the six workshop topics came from direct suggestions from members either at the CWZ November 2015 meeting or in follow up emails. Many of the pictures in the booklet come from members, as

well as the last page dedications to two former “Strong Women” who led us in the past. Many hands make light work, and we sincerely thank everyone for doing their part to make the convention successful.

Eastern Zone Pamela Love, Public Relations



Eastern Zone representatives at the 66th Annual NYSRTA Convention and includes: (front row L-R) Ann Stafford, Pamela Love; (second row L-R) Patricia Reynolds, Marjorie Leibowitz, Phoebe Boschi, Diane Hahn, Rosalie Oliver, Penny Bellinger, Gloria Ciejka, Jane Dwy, Patricia DeWeese; (Back Row L-R) Doris Bedell, Irene Hauser, Gloria Kimball, Marilyn Seidenberg, Carolyn Bovee, Mark Notarnicola, Albert Ciejka, Alex Boschi, and Jack DeWeese.

Those members of Eastern Zone who were instrumental in the planning of this year's convention include Eastern Zone President, Rosalie Oliver, *CR Award winners Jack DeWeese and Diane Hahn as well as Alex Boschi, a Trustee of The Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund. Our first time delegates to a NYSRTA State Convention included Penny Bellinger, Albert and Gloria Ciejka and Mark Notarnicola. Six of our Eastern Zone representatives won raffled baskets and they included Doris Bedell, Carolyn Bovee, Irene Hauser, Marjorie Leibowitz, Marilyn Seidenberg and Ann Stafford.

On a sad note, I have to report that the Albany Unit is no longer active at this time. Their long held leadership team has been looking for new leadership and has not found it. The Rensselaer County Unit is sending letters to members of the Albany Unit so that they may choose to join their unit or those members may choose to join any of the other units in Eastern Zone.

Florida Zone

Thomas McKeever *CR, President

Wanted: A Few Good Men - and Women - willing to step up to provide leadership to the Florida Region of NYSRTA. The Region, formerly the West Coast South Unit, has been an active organization for decades in the Sunshine State; but deaths, illnesses, and just plain old age have decimated the leadership corps.

Although membership has dwindled over the years, the potential is tremendous since thousands of retirement checks are mailed each month to former New York State educators who now live in Florida. Yet another incentive to new volunteers is the presence of a solid treasury to allow for innovative recruitment efforts.

Interested? Want more information?
Contact Tom McKeever (CR) at
tnlmckeever@embarqmail.com.

Long Island Zone

Eileen Holmes, Public Relations

The Long Island Zone held its annual Fall meeting/luncheon in September and David Keefe, President of the NYS Teachers' Retirement System gave a very interesting keynote speech on the status of our pension system, its history, its projected future and the pitfalls of opening the State Constitution for revisions. It is always rewarding to hear that our pension system is among the finest in the nation and a reason to keep up-to-date on any legislation that could affect it.



LIZ keynote speaker Dave Keefe, LIZ VP June Torns and LIZ President Kathryn Grande



Mary Ella Moeller announced that the Awards Committee has chosen Penny Coyle as the 2016 Silver Tray recipient in honor of her many years of



Fred Conway, second from right, and his Barbershop Quartet "Antiquity"

service to the Long Island Zone. Despite on-going health issues, Penny has been a hard worker as LIZ Health Chair, EERTA Vice President, Friendly Service worker and a generous donor of door prizes and gift baskets featuring her home-made jellies and jams. EERTA President Fred Conway delivered the certificate and pin to Penny at the Medford Multicare Nursing Home and she was surprised and delighted with this prestigious recognition.

WERTA Vice President Emily Caristo organized a summer bus trip to Lyme, CT that included a tour of Gillette Castle and lunch at the Old Lyme Inn. After lunch, there was a visit to the Florence Griswold Museum to view a major collection of American Impressionism art.

East End Retired Teachers held their annual Back-to-School luncheon on Sept. 7th with over 50 guests attending. EERTA President Fred Conway's Barbershop Quartet "Antiquity" provided entertainment. Their excellent rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the beginning of the luncheon and their later performance of Broadway show tunes and old favorites were greatly enjoyed.

Robert Svoboda, EERTA Community Service Chair, announced that



EERTA Community Service Chair Robert Svoboda, 2nd from right, with Southold HS Principal, Social Worker and students

the EERTA donation to Southold High School's SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) program was sincerely appreciated and he shared their lovely thank-you letter.

Hearty congratulations to LIZ member Jo Anne Powell on her award winning quilt "Excelsior". The Quilter's Consortium of NY State challenged its



Jo Anne Powell's award winning quilt "Excelsior"

members to create a quilt using the theme 'Lines and Angles of NY State' and Jo Anne's quilt was one of six proclaimed "EXEMPLARY".

These quilts have been traveling to various quilt shows

through-

out 2016. Jo Anne has fabricated over 300 quilts and six are currently on display at the Water Mill Museum on eastern Long Island. In past years, Jo Anne has been a presenter of painting and quilting workshops at NYSTRA Conventions.



Jo Anne Powell with another award winning quilt.

North Central Zone

Nancy Roberts & Patricia Newell, Public Relations Co-Chairs



President, Dr. James Newell; 1st VP Elwood "Woody" Lyndaker; 2nd VP, Lorraine Wiggins; Secretary, Cynthia Graham; Treasurer, John Gaffney.

Under the leadership of membership Co-Chairs, Jim Newell and Burt Phillips *CR, the NCZ participated in the Senior Health Fair, sponsored by Senator Patty Ritchie, on October 19th in Watertown. NCZ's volunteers included Dick Bushnell, George Forbes, Anita James, Woody Lyndaker, Hope Marston, Ron Roch, and David & Marcia Schryver. NYSRTA screen wipes, apples, candy, and membership forms were passed out.

North Central Zone continued



NCZ members attending the convention L to R: Douglas and Patricia Dietrich, Dr. Jim and Pat Newell, Shirley Parker *CR, Cynthia Graham, Dr. George Forbes, Woody Lyndaker, and Dick Bushnell



NCZ is very proud that Shirley Parker, our Historian, shown above, received a Certificate of Recognition at the 2016 Convention. We congratulate Shirley for receiving this award for her many years of dedicated service to NYSRTA and NCZ.



Our Community Service Coats for Families give away in October was a huge success with 25 tables of coats and winter accessories left empty at the end. We thank members, Jean Henry and Terry

Cataldo, as well as many groups and individuals who knit mittens and hats for the children. Brookside Senior Living Community collected items in memory of former member, Mae Schneeberger. We thank Ron Rock for collecting items

at the Carthage Farmers' Market all summer. We appreciate all Doug and Pat Dietrich have done organizing this program for so many years. We welcome new Co-Chairs, Patti Corey and Toni Gigliotti, who will be taking over.

Northeastern Zone

Mary Martin, Public Relations

Bonnie Gregware took over the helm of NEZ in December 2015 from Kevin Mulligan, who served two two-year terms, and now is transitioning to his role of VP of NYSRTA at the State level. Bonnie taught Title I Reading at Northern Adirondack Central School in Ellenburg for thirty three years while serving in many leadership positions throughout her career both in her local school district and in community organizations. She was President of the Champlain Valley Reading Council for 20 years, an organization responsible for bringing children's literature authors to regional schools, promoting Children's Literacy through weekly book give-aways at Plattsburgh's Champlain Center Mall, and in addition, donating books as gifts for newborns at Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital. She also served as Chair for the NYS Reading Council conferences held across the state. Bonnie was elected to the position of Chair of the Board of the North Country Teacher Resource Center which provides too numerous- to-mention opportunities to teachers in the 17 regional school districts in the Clinton-Essex-Warren- Washington BOCES, but

among them, specifically graduate credit hours and the prestigious Mentoring Program using funds allocated through the NYS Legislature. Bonnie has had many roles in her position as facilitator for Champlain Valley Educational Services, developing and implementing the English Language Arts curriculums, training classroom teachers in specific skills, grading New York State tests, and leading staff development day trainings in area school districts. Bonnie's teaching skills were recognized 19 years ago when she began teaching at SUNY Plattsburgh as an adjunct Professor, preparing teachers-in-training with skills needed for their roles and responsibilities in the classroom. Bonnie comes to the office of President of NEZ having served as VP during Kevin Mulligan's leadership and has a close working relationship with Ron Wilson who also has served as President not only of our local chapter, but is President Emeritus in NYSRTA. With her leadership skills and her dedication to her students and colleagues, Bonnie comes to the job more than qualified to represent the retired teachers of the North Country.



Bonnie Gregware (center) current President of NEZ, is surrounded by members of distinction from NEZ who have been recognized for their service to their local chapter of NYSRTA and to the state organization. Also pictured from left to right are Ron Wilson- Past President of NEZ and Past President of NYSRTA from 2006-2009; Emily Castine-recipient of the esteemed Certificate of Recognition from NYSRTA; Kevin Mulligan, Past President of NEZ and currently Vice President of NYSRTA; Robert 'Bob' Joyce, also a recipient of the distinguished Certificate of Recognition award. Regretfully absent from the photo is Raymond LaVoie, Certificate of Recognition recipient. The years of dedication to the NYSRTA organization both at the local and state levels is to be commended.

Northern Zone Linda Crosby, Public Relations



NZ 2016 Convention Delegates: (front row) Linda Crosby, Betty Cook, Gayla LePage, Alice Galvin (back row) Jean Theobald, Doug Theobald, Tom Cook, Roxann Finley, Terry Trudeau*CR

Another wonderful convention in October delighted NYSRTA members with a thoroughly engaging keynote speaker, many thought-provoking workshops and classy table centerpieces; many thanks to CW zone for all your hard work, planning, and hosting. Also, thanks for the impressive basket CWZ created for the raffle; after winning their basket, I immediately placed the glitzy tiara on my head! All the baskets presented by the zones looked terrific. NZ member, Alice Galvin, won the beautiful



Alice Galvin was thrilled to receive the DeCormier Trust Fund basket at the 2016 convention.

holiday themed DeCormier Trust Fund basket. Thank you to all the NZ members who contributed to our two baskets: Gayla LePage, Alice Galvin, Jean Theobald, Linda Crosby, Tom Cook, Betty Cook, Joe Russo, Agnes Hudson *CR, Roxann Finley, Avis Ragan, Ellen Smith, and Rae Louise Tate. Leather Artisans (Childwold), Coffee Fever (Star Lake) and High Peaks Winery (Winthrop) are local businesses who supported us, also. We hope that more NZ members will consider

attending the convention in 2017 at Turning Stone Casino; we really need your help because NZ will be the host zone! We also do have a lot of fun.

At our Fall membership meeting at the Malone Golf Club, Karen Fluwelling gave an impressive talk about her organization, Drilling For Hope. NZ members gave generous donations to her very worthy cause and purchased many copies of her book. We are so pleased she was willing to travel so far to be part of our gathering. NZ members also gave generously to our high school senior scholarship program (\$271 at this meeting). Thank you for your contributions.

Be sure to check out our beautiful Zone scrapbook at our next executive board or membership meeting if you missed it on display at the convention. Jean Theobald, our Zone Historian, always does a wonderful job capturing and memorializing special moments for NZ. A big thank you goes out to Jean for all her hard work.



First-time delegates, Tom and Betty Cook (Chateaugay, N.Y.), arrive at the opening reception/registration.

Southern Zone

Mary Lou Wood, Public Relations

The hot humid days with the majestic sunsets are behind us. The vibrant autumn leaves are falling to the ground waiting for us to rake them away. The cold wind is blowing, bringing with it frost and snow! My family room looks like a greenhouse sheltering my outside plants. My summer clothes are put in storage and my flannels, sweat pants, and fuzzy socks are now back on my body!! Ugh! Where did summer go?! Soon we'll be saying good bye to our snow bird friends, till we see them again next year when the warm sun shines.

This year the Eastern Broome Branch of Retired Teachers under the supervision of co-presidents Lynn Hunkovic and Steve Cornell hosted our annual Southern Zone meeting at



Unit Presidents: Mary Lou Wood, (Corning Area RTA); Steve Cornell (Easter Broome Branch), Linda Moore (Schuyler County RT), Vince Smith (Western Broome Eastern Tioga), Lynn Hunkovic (Easter Broome RT), Debra Carlone (Cortland Area RT)

the Holiday Inn Arena in Binghamton. Proposed bylaws and resolutions were mentioned by President Vince Smith and voted on by the attending members. Officers for the 2017-18 year were nominated, accepted, and voted on at this meeting: President Mary Lou Wood; VP of Public Relations Debbi Deats; VP of



SZ Executive Board: sitting; Don Cutton, Debbi Deats, Linda Moore, Mildred Rugur, Mary Lou Wood; Standing: Steve Cornell, Bonnie Stratton, Mary Johnson, Lynn Hunkovic, Lois Cutton, Vince Smith, absent Nancy Spaulding

Membership Vincent Smith; Treasurer Lois Cutton; Secretary Bonnie Stratton. We will be reporting state convention news to our units upon our return at the end of October.

At the Southern Zone annual meeting the presenter was Larry Kassan who discussed the importance of School of



Presenter Larry Kassin, soloist Olivia Cappozzi, , co-presidents Of EBB, Lynn Hunkovic and Steve Cornell

the Arts, within the Binghamton School District. He brought with him a junior from the local High School. Olivia Cappozzi did an outstanding job singing 'I Could Have Danced All Night' from My Fair Lady---- a cappella. Just beautiful.

The Southern Zone committee members have nominated Mary Suffern for our Teacher Recognition Award. Mary has participated in both the unit and the zone committees. Mary has represented her unit while serving as its president for 3 years and continued zone participation by serving as



Mary Suffern with her Special Recognition Award

zone secretary for an additional 3 years. While being an active participant on the Southern Zone RTA and the Corning Area RTA, Mary continued as an active educator, teaching as a long term substitute

for Regents science. We would like to recognize her time and energy by being this year's recipient of the Southern Zone



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

Special Recognition Award.

The Southern Zone Retired Teachers' Association sent 11 delegates and 2 alternates to the NYSRTA October Conference. Almost 200 delegates from

around NY State shared, discussed, and were informed of pertinent information that will be passed on to their members.

Hope you had an enjoyable autumn. Keep moving, keep healthy, and keep in touch with family and friends. Take time to check out the spectacular changes in nature. Are you aware that walking keeps your brain functioning well? So keep moving. Put on those snow-pants, muck-lucks, mittens, and hats and get out and walk. If it's too cold, walk at the nearest mall. Then come in and cozy up with a good book. Don't forget to get your immunizations up to date. We certainly don't want you to get sick.



Front row: Debbi Deats, Mary Lou Wood, Lois Cutton, Mildred Rugur, Linda Moore; 2nd row: Nancy Spaulding, Debra Carlone, Lynn Hunkovic, Don Cutton; 3rd row: Mary Johnson, Vince Smith, Bonnie Stratton; Absent: Elizabeth Reiter

Southeastern Zone *Maureen Coffey, Public Relations*

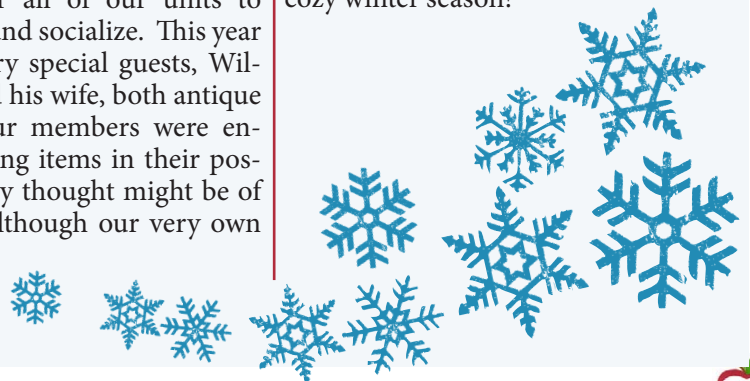
SEZ certainly has lots to be proud of this autumn. Our delegates just returned from our NYSRTA Convention at Turning Stone where our very own Leon Harrold received a Certificate of Recognition Award. Leon has been a tireless worker for both our zone and his community. When the Southeastern Zone was struggling, Leon was at the helm keeping us together. We just want to take a moment to say both thanks and congrats!

On another note, SEZ held its annual meeting, called by our Pres-

ident, Tony Colombo, on September 28th at the West Hills Country Club in Middletown. These meetings are enjoyable for us because they provide a wonderful opportunity for all of our units to come together and socialize. This year we had two very special guests, William Jenack and his wife, both antique appraisers. Our members were encouraged to bring items in their possession that they thought might be of some value. Although our very own

version of The Antiques Road Show resulted in most of us leaving with trinkets as opposed to treasures, it gave us an afternoon that was priceless.

We wish you a warm, safe, and cozy winter season!



Western Zone

Michelle Claus, Public Relations

CITATION AWARDS GIVEN AT WESTERN ZONE ANNUAL MEETING

The Awards Committee's responsibility is to select and present to the membership, at Salvatore's Restaurant on September 21, 2016. Recipients have shown



Irine Zinter, Sandra Kelley, Donald Lawrence, Anne Flansburg

superior contributions, leadership, participation and service for the betterment of Western Zone.

The Committee used written nomination forms and profile sheets from WZ members providing firsthand information of member achievements, leadership in WZ, accomplishments and participation in their community/zone activities. Each recipient has made outstanding contributions to Western Zone.

Our first honoree is Anne Flansburg. She has been our past president and past vice president for 6 years. Also a past Chair of these committees; Membership, Remembrance, Health Services, and Travel. Anne has served on many other committees. She is currently Chair of the NYSRTA DeCormier Trust Fund. Anne has received the NYSRTA Certificate of Recognition Award and the WZ Dedication at our annual meeting. Anne says she "is committed to Western Zone and knows the need for advocacy for retirees."

Sandra Kelley is our second honoree. Her trademark is a winning smile and willing hand. She divides her volunteer time between her local, Eastern Niagara County Retired Teachers' Association (ENCRTA) and Western Zone. Her duties in her local include Co-President, Historian, and Membership Chair. Her parallel duties in WZ are zone historian, managing 10 plus scrapbooks and is also the editor of our newsletter, Western Currents. In her spare time, Sandy and her husband are traveling on their motorcycles across the country.

Our next honoree is Donald Lawrence. Don has one of the most important jobs in Western Zone, Treasurer. He

spends most of his time maximizing our investment earnings and reducing expenses when possible. He makes monthly presentations to our Executive Committee and our Board of Directors Business meeting. When not analyzing our numbers, Don is the president and treasurer of the Amherst Rotary Club. He explains that he "works for the good of retired and active teachers, as a lifelong job."

Our fourth honoree is our Awards Committee Chair, Irine Denis Zinter. She has been a WZ Board member for 26 years. She has served as first and second vice presidents of WZ, and chaired the Ross Hudson Grant, Public Relations, and Annual Meeting at Salvatore's. Irine belongs to several committees outside of WZ. Irine states in her profile, "I am a member of a responsible, energizing, innovative, organization that truly cares for retirees of our chosen teaching profession."

Our recipients are proud of their Citation Awards. Our next annual meeting and Awards Presentation is Wednesday, September 20, 2017. Put it on your calendar and help honor the next citation Award recipient(s).

CREATIVE TEACHER WINS FIRST EMPIRE STATE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Written by Irine Denis Zinter and Michelle Claus, Public Relations Committee members

June 2016 was a very important month for NYS teachers. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo came to Buffalo to present the first recipient the Empire State Excellence in Teaching Award. This recipient was recognized having exemplified the highest professional standard of teaching and work. He instills a love of learning by ensuring school is exciting, motivational, and challenging. Governor Cuomo said further regarding teachers, "You need patience to be a teacher. You need tolerance to be a teacher. You need to be educated to be a teacher. You need



Adam Norris and Governor Cuomo

to keep up on education to be a teacher. You need to be creative and engaged and you need to stay creative and engaged and that's hard."

Adam Norris is the recipient of the first Empire State Excellence in Teaching Award and he lives in the Buffalo area. Adam Norris is a social studies teacher at Maryvale High School since 2006. He uses a "flipped classroom" method in his teaching of his APUSH (Advanced Placement US History) students. Mr. Norris creates videos which range in length from 5-15 minutes. Students watch the videos and write down the important information of the day. After the video, Adam Norris discusses the material with the students and addresses any questions they may have. The remainder of the class is spent practicing multiple choice questions, thesis statement writing, and document analysis. Adam has made over 400 videos. They are on youtube.com, and he encourages other students and teachers to view his videos and use them for teaching/learning. Mr. Norris estimates that the 5-10 minute videos replace 40-45 minutes of notes in the classroom. This method gives the teacher time to help students with their writing and more time to talk to students individually. He can meet with students in small groups and provide immediate feedback.

Adam Norris has won the 2015-2016 first Empire State Excellence in Teaching Award, which was created to recognize teachers who inspire students and help them to learn in new and unique ways. Adam is the first Teacher Ambassador. New York State is finding the best teachers and identifying them, acknowledging them, thanking them with a \$5,000 stipend, and asking them to tell their story to other teachers. These other teachers can create, copy, or emulate the Teacher Ambassador, eventually to also become one of the best NYS Teachers.

During our years of teaching, mentoring, supervising and evaluating student teachers, we sometimes found a diamond in the rough, and hoped they would eventually be a Teacher Ambassador with a little help from us.

To nominate a teacher for the Empire State Excellence in Teaching Award, go to www.ny.gov/NYSTeachingExcellence.

Community Service News State Community Service Chair, Patricia Dietrich (NCZ)



Your Community Service committee looks forward to a new year and continuing our service with various projects in our communities. We will continue on with veteran Chairs, Connie LaLonde (NEZ), Elaine Leasure (Central Western), Janice Hedgdon (CZ), Cheryl Fischer (SEZ), and Patricia Dietrich (NCZ). Also, we welcome new additions this year with Eileen Holmes (LIZ) and Ann Marie Wik (WZ), most recently adding Alice Galvin (NZ), Rosalie Oliver (Eastern Zone), and (SZ) Mary Lou Wood.

The latter three names are Presidents of their respective Zones so are serving as "sit-ins" since they have been unable to find individuals to serve in this capacity.

If you are interested in helping in your community and making a difference, this may be the perfect committee for you to serve on. The local Chairs of this committee are passionate about the projects and service they report from their zones and units. We have only one or two meetings via teleconference once or twice a year. Periodically, there are communications via email. There would be a matter of one written report in July to tell

what your zone and units have been doing for their communities. We share a lot through teleconferencing and it is fun to get ideas. You are given specific directions on how to do the teleconference. Here are a list of some of the projects reported this year followed by the zone reporting: Coats for Families (NCZ), "Love Your Public Library" (NCZ), flood relief monetary donations channeled to childrens' needs (CZ), coat drive in collaboration with local church (CZ), food pantries, walks, (units of CWZ) and collection of money for First Books (CWZ), clipped coupons

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As required by law, we must publish a Statement of Ownership and Circulation which is three pages in the first issue after October each year.

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<i>Lillie Ruby</i>	9/6/16

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Community Service News

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for military and monetary donation to Newsboy's Long Island Charities serving 26 different L.I. groups of charitable needs, (LIZ), donating to charities and animal care (SZ), collecting gently used books and money for the Buffalo Library, collecting clothing at Christmas to donate to those in need, also to donate to "Buffalo Ride for Roswell" (WZ), and collecting personal care and food items in their food drive efforts, along with starting a tutoring program for needy (NEZ). These are from zones reporting at our teleconference.

In addition, we continue to motivate our members to walk, run, bicycle, etc. and report any events they walk in to their Chair as part of our state efforts for NYSRTA WALKERS. Please report the name of an event and how it serves the community. This year Central Western Zone was awarded Certificate of Recogni-

tion for their reported participation in eleven events. Thank you Elaine Leasure for sending these results and congratulations to all participants in your zone for helping the community at large and helping yourselves. North Central Zone was also runner up. Remember you are still able to order t-shirts to promote your walks, your zones, and our organization. Try this link, www.nysrta.org/t-shirt.

Since there have been new ideas for projects the past two years, we are at a stage to write these ideas down to add to our Community Service notebooks. These notebooks originated in 2011 and are for the use of your community service chairs for ideas of projects to try. With all the ingredients to make a successful project outlined for you, you can choose from a variety of projects and vary it as you wish for your zone members. Also, we

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are taking a look at old projects to see what information might need to be changed, such as contacts and improvements and modifications to projects. We will work diligently to update and add to our original notebooks.



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