



WESTERN CURRENTS



NEWSLETTER of the WESTERN ZONE of the NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 15, Number 2

www.wzretiredteachers.org

April 2017

MEMORIAL TO ROY PLUMMER



After graduation with a Bachelor of Music degree from SUNY Fredonia and a Master of Education degree from SUNY Brockport, Roy served in the US Army during the Korean War rising to the office of Company Clerk. He married his high school sweetheart, Shirley, on August 15, 1953 and she traveled with him during his time overseas.

When the War ended Roy began his teaching career as the High School Instrumental Music teacher at Lyndonville. In 1970 the Lyndonville Marching Band touted 110 members under his direction. Roy became the High School principal of Barker Central School in 1971 and remained in that position until his retirement in 1988. While at Barker he was known for his smile, sense of humor and support of excellence in teaching and student life.

Roy's impact on the world of education continued after his retirement. He joined the New York State Retired Teachers Association (NYSRTA) and became very involved in the Eastern Niagara County Retired Teachers Unit (ENCRTA), serving 7 years as president. He was president for two years of Western Zone of NYSRTA and was responsible for the creation of the WZ logo that we still use today. He was also responsible for organizing a lobby that supported a COLA for Retired Teachers. Roy was a 46 year member of the School Administrators Association of NY State, (SAANYS). In 1999 he received the Irving Schwartz Distinguished Retiree Award and was recognized for his service to WZ with the Citation Award in 2003. The 2015 WZ Annual Meeting was dedicated to Roy and Shirley.

Roy was very community minded and served on the Barker Board of Education, including his service as Board President. He also belonged to the Somerset Masonic Lodge #639 F&AM and a member of Barker Lions Club. While his career as an educator was important to him, his wife, Shirley, their 3 children and 5 grandchildren always came first. They were the benefactors of his generous, giving heart and keen sense of humor.

Roy leaves a legacy of caring for others. His memory will live in our hearts forever. Roy, Rest in Peace until we meet again.

The **CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION** is being referred to as Con Con. That's an interesting moniker since two common definitions of CON are (1) to be against and (2) to persuade by deception. Some proponents of the conclave tout it as the "People's Convention". That's a nice idealistic thought. Is it realistic? Consider "who" will really be in charge:

- *The delegate selection process (petitions, campaigning and election) strongly favors incumbents (all levels and branches of government) since they have name recognition, polished political machines and financial resources.

- *The 15 Delegates at Large will be the real power players, having statewide name recognition, political machines and money. They will undoubtedly be chosen as the Convention officers, thereby setting the agenda, directing the debate and influencing the vote.

- *The cost is projected to be \$340 million. That figure is based on the convention finishing its work before the 2019 general election. However, there are NO time restrictions. The convention could go on indefinitely. The longer the sessions, the greater the expense. Regardless of the length, it will be the people who will pick up the tab.

- *History has shown that a Con Con results in few substantive changes. It has been many years since a convention has produced any amendments, because politics - not the people - plays the leading role. Idealism succumbs to reality.

WZ will be providing an informational forum on the Con Con on April 19. See page 12 of this publication for details.

**WESTERN ZONE
OFFICERS
2016-2017**

Elected Officers

President

Doris R. Kirsch

1st Vice President

Robert J. Metz

2nd Vice President

Gail A. Niparts

Treasurer

Don E. Lawrence

Recording Secretary

Audrey M. Seidel

Corresponding Secretary

Loretta M. Peszynski

Membership Secretary

Michelle L. Claus

Past President

Charles T. Peszynski

At Large Directors

Term Expiring 2017

Georgann Bemis

John N. Cardarella

Doris R. Kirsch

Don E. Lawrence

William D. Loockerman

Ruthe L. Nemmer

Stanley J. Nowak

Mary V. O'Leary

Theresa E. Pope

Marilyn K. Tota

Term Expiring 2018

Gary Beuth

June Beuth

Russell M. Gervasi

Patricia Keller

Judith A. Klug

Loretta M. Peszynski

Sara Rodland

Dolores A. Scanlon

Salvatore J. Sedita

Audrey M. Seidel

Nancy White

Irene D. Zinter

Term Expiring 2019

Betty P. Browne

Ronald A. Czapla

Elizabeth Egan

Anne G. Flansburg

Thomas A. Giambra

Beth Green

Maria Hager

Sandra W. Kelley

Suzanne Lach

Alphonse Marabella

Robert J. Metz

Marie Gerace Zafron

SPOTLIGHT ON

Marie Gerace Zafron



**DIRECTORS/AREA
UNIT PRESIDENTS**

AMHERST
Joseph A. Podgorski

BUFFALO
Charles Peszynski

CHAUTAUQUA SOUTH
Nancy Anderson

EASTERN ERIE
Judy F. Farmer

GENESEE
James Owen

KENMORE
Dennis A. Priore

LACKAWANNA
Tina Gambino

LANCASTER/DEPEW
Ann Marie Wik

NIAGARA EAST
Gail A. Niparts

**SPRINGVILLE GRIFFITH
INSTITUTE**
Michelle L. Claus

WEST SENECA
Patricia W. Miceli

WILLIAMSVILLE
Therese C. Clarke



Marie attended Grover Cleveland High School, graduating in 1951. She graduated Cum Laude from D'Youville College in 1955 with a BA degree in History and received her Master's Degree in Education & History from Canisius College in 1959. Marie pursued post Masters Studies in Psychology and Education at SUNY Buffalo from 1960-1965. She began her teaching career in 1955 at Bishop O'Hern Catholic High School. From 1956 until 1968 Marie taught history at Bennett High School. She was known for her wonderful mentoring skills in helping new history teachers. Our own Loretta Peszynski remembers what a great mentor Marie was to her. While at Bennett, Marie originated a new elective psychology course for students.

After marrying her husband, Leo, they welcomed their daughter, Michelle, in 1968. Michelle obtained her PHD in Library Science and is presently a librarian at the University of Buffalo. A few years later their son was born. He is an engineer. Marie returned to teaching in the Amherst District, the district where her children attended school, as a long term substitute from 1984-1995.

Upon her retirement she joined NYSRTA and WZ becoming a board member in 2001. Marie quickly became a valuable member, serving on the WZ By-Laws revision committee in 2001-2003. She served as the WZ corresponding Secretary from 2003-2005 and took on the responsibility of Chairman of the WZ By-Law's Committee in 2005 until present. Marie's knowledge of the by-law process and the NYSRTA by-laws serves her well not only at our WZ meetings, but also at the annual NYSRTA Conventions of which she has been a delegate since 1998. If anyone has a question about by-laws, Marie is the one to ask! She is a member of the Buffalo Retired Teachers and attends the Amherst Retired Teachers meetings. She takes it upon herself to do the yearly scrapbook pages for Amherst that are included in the WZ Units' scrapbook. Marie loves to stay active and partakes in many of our Western Zone trips enjoying traveling with friends and satisfying her appetite for learning. She was the recipient of the WZ Citation Award in 2012 for her outstanding commitment and service to WZ.

Continued on page 11

**Questions and/or comments may be forwarded to our Zone President,
Doris Kirsch, at (585) 457-3315 or wdkirsch@gmail.com**

WESTERN CURRENTS is the official newsletter of the Western Zone, New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc., PO Box 922, Williamsville, NY 14231-0922 and is published three times yearly in April, August and December. Members are invited to submit articles for publication on topics that would be of interest to their fellow retirees. Advertising is also welcomed from both members and non-members. For additional information on copy guidelines and advertising format and rates, contact the editors:

Sandra W. Kelley, Editor
(716) 772-7807

Michelle L. Claus, Advertising
(716) 649-3844

Robert J. Metz, Layout
(716) 662-0734

Kenmore Retired Educators' Association Report



Dan Wiles, Executive Director of Ken-Ton Meals on Wheels accepting a Western Zone Founders' Fund contribution from Dennis Priore.

On Friday at October 21st the fall luncheon meeting of the Kenmore Retired Educators Association was held at Sean Patrick's restaurant in Getzville. Fifty-eight attendees including 10 new 2016 Kenmore retirees were in attendance. Following an 11 AM social hour and a brief business meeting, lunch was served at noon. At 1 PM attendees are treated to a very passionate speech by Kenmore Teachers' Association President Peter Stuhlmiller who talked about how he and every current Kenmore teacher stands on the shoulders of all the teachers that preceded them. He mentioned by name the retired teachers - some of whom were in attendance - that inspired him to take up this noble profession.

Recently you may have read information in our local and state publications regarding the Honor Flight Program that honors and sends our local veterans to our Nation's capital for full day. I had the pleasure of being a chaperone on Saturday October 29th as 42, mostly World War II Veterans and their guardians flew to Washington and back and toured the memorials of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam as well as Arlington Cemetery. We had a chance to meet WWII vet, former Presidential candidate and longtime Senator Bob Dole. A Ch. 2 crew went along and is planning a series of special reports. It was an exciting and full day.

A black and white photograph of four people in a room with bookshelves. Three people are standing and one is leaning over a long shuffleboard table. The text "left to right: Russell Delmonte, Mary Jane Russell, Bill Russell, Ruth Shoemaker" is overlaid on the image. The advertisement includes the "enjoylife." logo, the text "Playing shuffle board with friends - that's enjoying life!", "Financial stability is never a worry and life is what you make of it. Live Life at Fox Run", the website "foxrunorchardpark.com • 716.662.5001", the "FOX RUN ORCHARD PARK" logo, the "livelife." logo, and the tagline "Fox Run is a Lifecare Retirement Community."/>

left to right: Russell Delmonte, Mary Jane Russell, Bill Russell, Ruth Shoemaker

enjoylife.

Playing shuffle board with friends - that's enjoying life!

Financial stability is never a worry and life is what you make of it. Live Life at Fox Run

foxrunorchardpark.com • 716.662.5001

FOX RUN ORCHARD PARK

livelife.

Fox Run is a Lifecare Retirement Community.

Buffalo Retired Teachers' Association Golf Outing



This year's tournament will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at Terry Hills Golf Course in Batavia. Cost is \$75 per golfer including golf, dinner, and lunch at the turn, beer, and prizes. Tournament begins at 12:30 pm. Send money and registration to Stephen Parada, 23 Tremont Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14217. All are welcome. Cell phone: 716-472-0277.

2017 Annual President's Appeal

As of this writing, the Annual President's Appeal continues. Western Zone thanks all members who have made contributions and appeals to those who have not yet contributed to consider a donation.

WZ needs your voluntary contributions in order to:

- ✓ Offer timely presentations such as the Constitutional Convention workshop.
- ✓ Provide financial assistance to our needy members
- ✓ Continue the excellent work of the Friendly Service Committee
- ✓ Retain granting incentive awards to active teachers
- ✓ Present informative programs
- ✓ Maintain the publication of three newsletters per year

Should you have any questions regarding this appeal, please contact Doris Kirsch at 585-457-3315 or email her at wdkirsch@gmail.com.

PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE OUR SERVICE TO YOU BY FILLING OUT THE FORM BELOW AND SENDING IT WITH YOUR CHECK TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ E-Mail _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Local Unit _____ (if applicable)
Donation Amount: _____ \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$30 _____ \$50 _____ Other

Please make checks payable to: **Western Zone-NYSRTA**
P.O. Box 922
Williamsville, NY 14231-0922

Founders' Fund

Vicki Smith presenting a check to Barry Yokum, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels of the Jamestown area.



Founders' Fund

This year we received over \$4,500 from the interest of Founders' Fund investments.

This is a list of local organizations we donate to:

Network in Aging of WNY \$550

The following Meals on Wheels:

Buffalo/Erie County..... \$1,750
Ken-Ton..... \$200
Alden \$200
Springville..... \$200
Amherst \$200

Jamestown \$200
Genesee County \$200
Seneca Nations Cattaraugus Reservation \$200
Niagara County Office for Aging \$250

If there are other Meals on Wheels in the Western Zone area, please let John Cardarella at (716) 689-8838.

We also keep WZ President's Fund at \$1,000. We will have about \$1,500 in our own account.

The Founders' Fund Distribution Committee consists of the following: Vicky Smith, Karen Schlum, Dolores Scanlon, Chuck Peszynski and Rob Roy Griffith. Also, helping us with distribution were Dennis Priore and Michelle Claus.



DISCOVER *the difference*

The Amberleigh...

an Independent community. Now opened our enhanced Assisted Living and Memory Care apartments. Where you can explore new interests, discover amenities and convenient services that offer residents a vibrant lifestyle that encourages both health and independence.

Come see our new Assisted Living and Memory Care addition. Make your reservations today!

Call or visit us online today for more information.

THE AMBERLEIGH

2330 Maple Rd
Williamsville, NY 14221
tel **716-689-4555**

amberleigh.net



ASBURY POINTE

Independent Retirement Community



There's no place like Home...

Call 810-7500 Today

to schedule a tour and complimentary lunch



AFFILIATES INCLUDE

BLOCHER HOMES
Assisted & Enhanced Living Community
716-810-7400

BEECHWOOD HOMES
Skilled Nursing ~ Person-Centered Care
716-810-7000

WESLEY REHABILITATION CENTER
Sub-Acute Short Term Rehabilitation
716-810-7000

www.beechwoodcare.org



HANDLING YOUR DAILY CHORES. SO YOU CAN SPEND YOUR DAY THE WAY YOU WANT.

INDEPENDENT LIVING
CHEEKTOWAGA
WHEATFIELD

ASSISTED LIVING
CHEEKTOWAGA
HAMBURG
TONAWANDA
WEST SENECA
WHEATFIELD
WILLIAMSVILLE

There's so much more you can enjoy when you have just a little extra help. You'll find that help at Elderwood's independent living and assisted living communities, along with new opportunities, a welcoming social circle and lively activities. Relax – home maintenance and yard work are done for you at our independent living residences. While we take care of the cooking, cleaning, laundry and even help keep track of your medications in our assisted living communities. It's why Elderwood is the right place for the right care.



888-826-9663 | Get in touch with us to schedule
elderwood.com a tour and learn more.

INDEPENDENT
LIVING

ASSISTED
LIVING

SKILLED
NURSING

REHABILITATION



Embrace Aging.

The desire to evade an entire season of life is bound to leave us all questioning what is important. You do not need to question, though. You have nothing to evade, no empty promise to cling loosely to. You do not grieve for life past. You are too busy embracing your life today. Aging is not the enemy. Underestimating it is. Others might think it is time to slow down. Good luck convincing your heart.

Presbyterian Village at North Church, 214 Village Park Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221 • 716-631-3430

Lockport Presbyterian Home, 305-327 High Street, Lockport, NY 14094 • 716-434-8805

Ken-Ton Presbyterian Village, 3735 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217 • 716-874-6070



**PRESBYTERIAN
SENIOR CARE**
OF WESTERN NEW YORK

www.pscwny.org

Legislative Action Committee

Judy Klug, Chair

The NYSRTA Legislative Action Committee saw some changes at the Annual Meeting in October. Brian Sherman resigned as 1st VP and was replaced by Mary Johnson (SZ) and Gary Germain (NEZ) who agreed to step in and fill the position. Mary previously served as 1st VP for Leg. Action.

Also, to save money the state committee did not meet in November as in the past but held a teleconference on January 10. Seven of the 10 zones were represented along with Angelo Grande, President and Kathy Bassett, Coordinator.

The tentative Federal Agenda for 2017 is as follows:

- Social Security – no bill had been introduced yet
- Observation vs Inpatient – refers to whether a person is or is not admitted as an inpatient. If not, they are not eligible for Medicare coverage if they are then moved to a nursing home.
- Prescription Drug Negotiation for Medicare

Continued on page 9

Legislative Action Committee

Continued from page 8

The tentative State Agenda includes:

- Minimum Pension Bump-Up – Passed Senate last year
- COLA
- Ethics Reform through Constitutional Amendment

The State committee will be meeting in Liverpool on March 26 and 27. The advocacy period for state legislation will take place in April.

Betty Browne's Health Tip: Supplements That May Promote Heart Health

Fiber helps cut down bad LDL cholesterol and can help raise good cholesterol, HDL. Make sure you are drinking plenty of water when adding fiber to your routine.

Coenzyme Q10 may aid in lowering blood pressure and is also touted as a possible treatment for the side effects of cholesterol-lowering drugs called statins.

Garlic may help lower blood pressure and slow the buildup of plaque in arteries, lowering the risk of blood clots.

Fish Oil, full of omega-3 fatty acids, may help reduce the level of triglycerides (unhealthy fat found in the blood) and may improve blood pressure.



Mike Gannon
West Herr Select Mgr.

★★★★★ VIP Auto Buying Benefits

WEST HERR Select NEW YORK Vehicle Purchase Plan

Western Zone NYSTRA members enjoy ...

- Concierge Shopping Assistance for You and Your Family
- "Below Market" Preferred Pricing on New and Used Vehicles
- Privileges, Perks, and Automotive Discounts

By Appointment
716.202.3091 | westherrSelect.com



Follow us on


20 NEW Brands · 1,800 Pre-Owned · Personal & Commercial



Rochester:



2017-50 SE Western Zone NYSTRA Ad 2-6-17

“CINCINNATI ARK ENCOUNTER AND CREATION MUSEUM”

August 28-September 1, 2017

Join Western Zone members and Diamond Tours to enjoy a five day trip to experience the new wonders of the Cincinnati area! Visit a modern engineering marvel - THE ARK ENCOUNTER in Kentucky, which features a full-size Noah's Ark, spanning 510 feet long. This ark is the largest wooden timber structure in the world and includes hundreds of jaw-dropping exhibits and displays. Spend a day at the CREATION MUSEUM in Cincinnati, which offers a biblical history featuring over 160 exhibits, a planetarium, animatronics, insectarium, and botanical garden. While on this trip, enjoy a guided motor coach tour of Cincinnati, and relax on a sightseeing Riverboat Cruise.

The price is only \$549 per person for double occupancy, \$529 for triple occupancy and \$728 for single occupancy. The trip cost includes: motor coach transportation, four nights lodging, four breakfasts, four dinners, as well as gratuities for standard meals, guides and bus driver. One of the dinners will be an exclusive Diamond Tour dinner party with entertainment. **Complete the form below and enclose a \$100 deposit per person.** Remember – this trip is on a “first paid-first served” deposit basis. Once the bus is filled, additional payees will be put on a waiting list, and will be notified accordingly. Reserve quickly! For special needs, such as a handicapped room, first floor location, food allergies, or near an elevator, please advise below. All hotel rooms are non-smoking, unless requested otherwise.

Any questions, contact Anne Flansburg at 716-863-3631 or anneflanswz@aol.com OR Judy Klug at 716-632-6251. All e-mails and calls will be acknowledged.

Two pickups will be scheduled, one in Williamsville and one in Hamburg. Luggage tags and additional information will be provided. Optional travel insurance is available by calling 866-684-0218 (option 2) or by visiting www.travelconfident.com.

Please send a deposit of \$100 per person, payable to Western Zone RTA by or before April 1, 2017. (Reservations are accepted in order of date received.) The balance for this trip is due by June 1, 2017.

Send completed form and check to: Judy Klug, 52 Harrogate Square, Williamsville, NY 14221-4051.

-----DETACH and send to Judy Klug by or before April 1, 2017 -----

Western Zone RTA – Deposit for Cincinnati trip (August 28-September 1, 2017)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone _____

Pickup location preferred (circle one) Williamsville or Hamburg

Special needs or requests _____

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

SALVATORE SEDITA RECEIVES STATE AWARD

By Loretta Peszynski



At the annual NYSRTA convention in late October, our own Salvatore Sedita was awarded the Certificate of Recognition. This is the highest award from NYSRTA and it is based on a person's participation at the state, zone and unit levels. The award is given after careful evaluation of the person's service to teacher organizations and other community service. Salvatore Sedita has served as NYSRTA's Membership Vice President for four years. For several years before that, Mr. Sedita served on the statewide Strategic Planning Committee.

Mr. Sedita's work at Western Zone has included many services. He served as our Parliamentarian for several years. He has been actively involved in advocating with our assembly persons and state senators. Mr. Sedita computerized and kept current our Western Zone membership. He was also the Western Zone membership chair for three years. During that period, he ran several membership workshops for our units to increase membership, at the unit level; Mr. Sedita is responsible for keeping track of relevant state and federal legislation. He was a teacher and an administrator in the Buffalo Public Schools for thirty-three years.

Spotlight on Marie Zafron

Continued from page 2

Community service is very important to Marie. From 1975–1995 she did extensive volunteer work with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Marie was president of the PTA for two terms and served on various committees, many while serving as chairman. Since retirement she remains active as a leader of Tai Chi at the Amherst Senior Center, assists with activities at the Amherst American Veterans Post 49, is a member of the Eggertsville Community Association, is a Guild member of Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Divine Child and assists with mailings for the Sisters of Social Service. Marie has worked as an Amherst Election Inspector since 1984, a class representative of D'Youville College class of 1955 for the 45th and 50th year reunions and on the Grover Cleveland High School 50th year reunion committee.

Marie has received many awards for her outstanding Community Service work. These include the NY State Congress of Parents and Teachers Honorary Life Member award for service to children and youth; the Amherst PTA Special Service Award for outstanding service; induction into the D'Youville College Alumni Association Delta Sigma Honor Society in 2004 for service to D'Youville and commitment to the community; and induction into the Bennett High School Alumni Honor Roll in 2005.

We are pleased to spotlight Marie as she is truly a valuable asset to Western Zone. She is always willing to lend a hand no matter what is asked of her. Marie's warm smile and friendly personality is welcoming to everyone she meets. We are honored to have her as a dedicated WZ board member and as a friend.

Western Zone—NYSRTA

P.O. Box 922

Williamsville, NY 14231-0922

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Buffalo, NY
Permit 4574

ATTENTION!

There will be a presentation on the impact of the proposed **New York State Constitutional Convention**. All members of the Western Zone are encouraged to attend. There is no cost to attend!

Date: April 19, 2017
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Location: Michaels Banquet Facility
4885 Southwestern Blvd
Hamburg, NY 14075

Reservations must be made by phoning Doris Kirsch at 585-457-3315 or by email at wdkirsch@gmail.com



Aesthetic Associates Centre

Plastic Surgery - Cosmetic & Implant Dentistry



Office Based Surgery Centre

Samuel Shatkin, Jr. M.D., F.A.C.S.
Board Certified Plastic Surgeon

Todd E. Shatkin, DDS
Cosmetic & Implant Dentist



Cosmetic Dentistry

- Porcelain Veneers
- Crowns & Bridges
- Bonding
- iSmile™ Teeth Whitening

Mini Implant Restoration

- Immediate Tooth Replacement
- Full Mouth Reconstruction
- Permanent Dentures & Denture Stabilization

Be sure to watch Dr. Sam Shatkin & Dr. Todd Shatkin on AM Buffalo segment called "Gr8 Look Monday" which airs the first and third monday of each month during the AM Buffalo program on Channel 7 ABC-TV affiliate weekdays between 10-11 am.

Cosmetic Surgery

- Cosmetic Breast Surgery
- Body Contouring & Tummy Tuck
- Liposuction & Liposculpture
- Nose, Facial & Eyelift Surgery

Advanced Skin Care

- Botox Cosmetic®
- Laser Treatments & Laser Tattoo Removal
- Skin Fillers
- Medical Facials
- Chemical Peels
- Microdermabrasions

Skin Products, Nutritionals & Weight Management

10% OFF
on any Dental
Procedure

www.GR8LOOK.com
1-800-GR8-LOOK • 716-839-1700
2500 Kensington Avenue • Amherst