

New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc.

# YORK STATE

FALL 2017 No. 3 Vol. 65

Quarterly Magazine

## 2017 Constitutional Convention TIME IS RUNNING OUT!



Angelo Grande \*CR  
*President's Message*

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Convention 2017

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

We are scheduled to vote on a Constitutional Convention on **November 7, 2017**. I would like all of you to vote "NO" on having this Convention. This Convention can have negative consequences on our **state pensions**, not just teachers. There is a possibility that our Pensions will be attacked. Talk to friends, relatives and neighbors. Let them know about the Convention. Listed below are some of the issues that may be brought up at the Convention.

- There is talk that they want to tax our pensions.
- Most likely our pension benefits will not be changed. Our pensions are protected by both our State and Federal Constitutions. If our pension benefits are challenged, there would be lawsuits arguing that there are contractual agreements stated in both Constitutions that cannot be broken.
- Do away with Collective Bargaining.
- There may be a threat to public education by issuing school vouchers and providing state aid to private schools.
- Your support of the environment may be under attack. The "Forever Wild" provision in the State Constitution would be under assault.
- The cost of running this Convention could be as high as 340 million dollars.

Active and Retired Police Officers, Firefighters, Teachers, Custodians, ANYONE who plans on collecting a New York State pension, should be concerned. Andrew Cuomo wants to hold a Constitutional Convention to change not only your pensions, but your health care and bargaining rights.

When you go to vote you won't even see the proposal, as it is on the BACK of the ballot. Unless you remember to turn the ballot over, YOU HAVE NO CHANCE. If you plan on being out of state in November, due to vacation or other circumstances, you need to get an absentee ballot. Keep or establish New York State residency, if only for voting purposes.

Vote "NO" to the proposed Constitutional Con-

vention. Please SHARE!

Our 2017 Annual Convention is around the corner. We are returning to the Turning Stone Resort and Casino. The Convention will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. I would like to thank Kevin Mulligan and his Workshop Committee. The Theme of this year's Convention is "Wild Treasures: A Journey Through North Country".

*I would like to thank the Members, who financially supported NYSRTA this year and all the Chair people and their committees.*

**Vote "NO"**  
November 7, 2017 on the  
Constitutional Convention

**NO**



Visit us at our website [www.nysrta.org](http://www.nysrta.org)

## Those Who Favor a Constitutional Convention

### Kevin Mulligan, Senior Vice President

The November 7, 2017 referendum vote for a State Constitutional Convention is quickly approaching. This year there will be two referendum items. The first one pertains to office holders convicted of felonies, involving fraud or other crimes against a person or persons, losing their State pension benefits. The second referendum will involve the authorization to hold or not hold a Constitutional Convention.

As retired educators, we should be quite familiar with all the reasons to vote against a Constitution Convention, with possible infringements on public pensions leading the way. However, who are those who favor a Constitutional Convention and why? Many of them may fall into three groupings, and they are "Ideologues", "The Problem Parent Conference" and "Winners - it's all about the win".

The "Ideologues" believe a Constitutional Convention will allow the people the democratic opportunity to right the wrongs of Albany and all its corruption. The League of Women Voters recently came out in support of a Constitutional Convention. A reason given was their desire to see ordinary people serve as delegates to a Constitutional Convention. However, it is also quite clear that elected officials, legislators and special interest lobbyists will make up most of the delegate ranks at the Convention.

The second group, "The Problem Parent Conference" have taken on a personal interest to have a Constitutional Convention. That is the student, or the parent of yesterday who may have had a bad experience with school. Some are envious of the pensions we have and

honestly believe we do not deserve it at public expense. This group is very difficult to sway, and our only hope is that they forget to vote on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

The last group, "Winners - it's all about the win", is probably the most dangerous. Their desire for a Constitutional Convention is purely economic, to make themselves richer. Their interests may include fracking, expanding lumbering and other commercial interests in the Adirondacks and restricting and/or eliminating collective bargaining. They include hedge fund investors who would love to see the deregulation of New York State Authorities, such as the Port Authority, Thruway Authority, and the Power Authority. The "Winner - it's all about the win" are powerful and dangerous, because they have money, and lots of it. They follow the creed to win at all costs and seal the deal. ***Now does this sound like our current, chaotic political climate?***

In the next few months remind all like-minded people you know to vote on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, and strongly encourage them to vote "NO" on the 2<sup>nd</sup> referendum. Inform and educate the undecided to the pitfalls of a Constitutional Convention including the possible taxpayer expense of \$340 million.

#### YORK STATE

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## 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.

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Join us on social media at NYS Retired Teachers' Association





## Central Zone

Mary Radloff, Public Relations Chair

This is a busy time for units of Central Zone as they arrange for site, menus, programs invitations, reservations, elections of officers and all the details that make for a worthwhile fall meeting. Members are reminded that, though they may be unable at this time to participate in any of these planning stages, they can show invaluable support by attending the county meetings!

The Annual Zone meeting, hosted by Onondaga County, took place at the Orchard Vali Golf Club in Fayette, NY. A delicious buffet, lovely setting, an "Apple Educator" program—all combined to create an outstanding meeting.

Central Zone delegates are looking forward to serving at the NYSRTA 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention at Turning Stone, October 29-31.

Barbara Finley, serving as Zone President, had assumed responsibility as

Friendly Service Chair as well. After many calls for a volunteer to take on the FS responsibility, her

request was answered by Dell Ford-Jordan of Onondaga RTA. We honor Dell, pictured, whose dedication to NYSRTA, Central Zone and the Onondaga Unit set an example of an outstanding member. In addition to her new role, she also serves on the zone finance, grants, and bylaws committees and is Co-President of Onondaga!



*Thank you, Dell!*

## Central Western Zone

Phyllis Dunlap, Public Relations Chair

Sara Jane (DeFilipps) Buell CR\* passed away on August 17, 2017. Janie



Sara Jane (DeFilipps) Buell CR\* with husband, Les

is survived by her husband Les, daughters Catherine Buell, Karen (Sean) Mac-William and three loving grandsons, Ethan, Jackson and Jacob. She was predeceased by her Mother-in-law, Dorothy Buell.

Janie was a graduate of Holley Central School and SUNY Fredonia. She taught in Williamson Central School (1964-2000) which was a VERY special time in her life, with MANY happy memories! In addition to her teaching duties she was an active member of the Williamson Faculty Association, including several years as president. She also trained in Washington, D.C. with the National Geographic Society (NGS) and then went on to serve as a teacher trainer for NGS and for the New York State Geographic Alliance. After retiring from teaching, she became an active member of the Wayne County Retired Teachers Association and the New York State Retired Teachers Association, and served on a number of committees with CWZ and NYSRTA. She held the office of CWZ Historian. She ordered and sold CWZ and NYSRTA apparel. Jane was on the State Credentials committee. She was also on the Strategic Planning committee for NYSRTA.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to the Jane Buell Memorial Scholarship Fund at Williamson Central School, PO Box 900, Williamson, NY 14589.

Janie will be sadly missed by all of the Central Western Zone.

Did you know that 2017 is the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year for the Erie Canal? Wyatt Doremus visited the Wayne County meeting as an interesting storyteller about the Erie Canal. On July 4, 1817, digging began on the canal in Rome, NY. Two hundred years later, the Erie Canal is still a vibrant waterway for both commerce and recreation. It is part of the "big loop" of transportation for half of the country. If you travel along the Erie Canal, from Albany to Buffalo, you will ascend 550 feet across New York State. The canal helped make New York the Empire State and the New York City Harbor a major world port.

Also Elaine Leisure reports that the Wayne County Retired Teachers met and donated perishable items to Pines of Peace. The Wayne County Retired Teachers held their spring meeting at the Young-Sommer Winery on June 6, 2017.

Teresa Stephens reported that



Left to right: Tad Rounds, Hammondsport HS Principal; Rachel McLoud, math and science teacher; Teresa Stephens, President of Steuben County RTA.

the Steuben County Retired Teachers' Association announced its 2017 winner of the Barrie Fleegel Memorial Active Educator Grant to Hammondsport math and science teacher, Rachel McLoud. Along with her myriad of extracurricular and community activities, Rachel is also

pursuing her doctorate at Walden University. The Barrie Fleegel Award is made available by the Central Western Zone.

Members of the Steuben retired teachers are looking forward to having their fall meeting on October 11, 2017 in Hornell. After the luncheon, members will be given a tour at the Railroad Museum. Hornell has been and still is, a busy and vital stoppage



point for the railroad and members are excited to experience its history at this newly renovated facility. The Steuben group will be giving a monetary donation to this worthwhile museum.

## Eastern Zone

Pamela Love, Public Relations

Eastern Zone's "Lick-em Stick'em" was held at the Turf Tavern in Scotia on July 25<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of sending out 1800 mailings to Eastern Zone Members to inform them of our upcoming Annual Meeting to be held at The Turf Tavern in Scotia on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Those who helped with the mailing included President - Rosalie Oliver, Vice President - Doris Bedell, Treasurer - **Jack DeWeese \*CR**, Historian - Ginny Madore as well as her sister, Public Relations - Pamela Love, By-Laws - **Diane Hahn \*CR**, Carolyn Bovee, and Joyce and Mark Notaricola.



Delaware County's Unit will be featured at this time. President, Pat Reynolds, wrote that at their spring meeting, Chuck D'Imperio, author, radio broadcaster, and newspaper columnist, presented a program to the unit on "Taste of Upstate New York" in a delightful and entertaining way. From his travels across the state, he shared some of his favorite foods. Some of the foods started with

humble beginnings including Apple Sausage and Grandma Brown's Baked Beans. Besides this spring meeting, the Delaware Unit collected donations and personal items for women and children who find themselves in a *Safe Against Violence* shelter. Pat Reynolds also wrote that they are planning to have a local historian focus on the impact on Delaware County as it celebrates 100 years of Women's Suffrage. In the fall, their unit will be providing community service toward the WEB Backpack program which supplies food to needy elementary students.

Our Historian, Ginny Madore, will be having a show of some of her personal pictures at the Gallery in the Utica Public Library from September 2<sup>nd</sup> - the 27<sup>th</sup>. A reception will be held on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Photography by Virginia Madore



Newly elected LIZ president Fred Conway, shown here with his wife Leslie, will take office this fall for the 2017-18 year.

meeting in late August set the dates for November and December luncheon/meetings and the newsletter deadlines. Fred Conway has been signing up delegates for the NYSRTA Convention in late October and LIZ Treasurer Dominick LiCausi has finalized arrangements for a motor coach to take LIZ delegates to Turning Stone and back.

LIZ members are still collecting magazines and gently used books to donate to the Long Island Book Fairies and former LIZ Vice-President June Torns has been terrific at sending "Coupons to the Troops" to a distribution center. Public Relations Chair Eileen Holmes is working on an advertising strategy to promote applications for the 2018 NYSRTA Hudson-Kramer award and signing up five members to help judge the entries.

We are striving for a productive, successful LIZ year 2017-2018. Hopefully, an infusion of new members, new ideas for community service projects and interesting, fun-filled luncheons will help this come true. **See you at the convention!!**

**Welcome to Fall!!**



## Long Island Zone

Eileen Holmes, Public Relations

"Live in each season as it passes: Breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit." These words of Henry David Thoreau are great advice for everyone but as we watch active teachers and their students embark on a new school year, these words are especially meaningful to our retirees who have the time to devote themselves to the people and activities they enjoy the most!

After a summer lull, the Long Island Zone is gearing up for fall and winter. LIZ President Kathryn Grande has planned the Fall Annual meeting for late September. New officers will be installed at this luncheon. EERTA's organizational



## North Central Zone

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

As the air turns crisp, NCZ members already have ambitious plans underway. However, there is an important piece of news from the spring/summer season that should be highlighted. Dick Bushnell, who is typically associated with the serious business of Legislative Action, also has a creative side. Dick had three entries



*The Homestead 2 by  
Dick Bushnell*

in the 2017 Spring Art Show in historic Sackets Harbor. Below is a photo of one of his entries entitled "The Homestead 2." It depicts one of the early

stone houses on the outskirts of Woodville, NY. Congratulations, Dick, on a job well done!

We are looking forward to our Fall Luncheon/Annual Meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada Inn in Watertown. Matthew Elliott, the Chairman of the Capital Campaign Committee of the Friends of the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center, will be our featured speaker. Matt will acquaint us with this facility which is open all year round. The facility is a delight with 8 miles of hiking trails and 7 miles of cross-country skiing trails. We are excited to learn more about this hidden jewel located on beautiful Wellesley Island on the scenic St. Lawrence River.

The Fall Luncheon will support the Coats for Families community service project. Organized by State/Local Community Service Chair Patricia Dietrich, this worthwhile cause is under the direction of Patty Corey and Toni Gigliotti. NCZ members will be asked to donate gently used winter wear. Members can also make a monetary contribution using the "Coats for Families" mason jars that will help decorate the luncheon tables.



**Matthew Elliott**

The winter goods will be distributed in October in Lewis County.

It's been on the rainy side, but NYSRTA Walkers are still finding time to participate in walking events. They are reporting their participation minutes/miles to Toni Gigliotti, our new Healthcare Chair. Keep walking...just wear your poncho!

Our NCZ delegates are looking forward to seeing fellow colleagues and attending enriching workshops at the upcoming 2017 NYSRTA Convention in Verona.

### **FUTURE DATES**

\*NCZ Fall Annual Meeting/Luncheon,  
Tuesday, September 19, 2017, Ramada  
Inn, Watertown

\*NYSRTA Convention, Oct. 30, 31,  
Nov. 1, 2017, Turning Stone, Verona

\*Executive Council Meeting, Thursday,  
Nov. 2, 2017, "Teachers' Center",  
10-12 Noon, Watertown

## Northeastern Zone

**Marti Martin, Public Relations Chair**

The NYSRTA Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant was an impetus for active teachers in the Northeastern Zone to apply for monies to fund innovative projects in their schools. The Grant has also been a springboard to launch a campaign for our Zone to make stronger connections in the future with the active teachers in the schools in our area, not only by supporting their projects financially, but by using our manpower, expertise, connections and affiliations with local organizations and businesses. A positive outcome would be to have the connection we establish with teachers and schools motivate individuals to join our organization upon retirement.

The NEZ Grant Committee members Marilyn Smith, Nancy Olsen and Marti Martin reviewed 15 grant applications for the Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant offered through NYSRTA. As reported in the Summer 2017 YORK STATE issue, we announced that Technology teacher, Aaron Brassard, from Moriah Central School, was chosen to receive the grant of \$1000. With the funds, Aaron plans to purchase a 700 watt Renewable Energy Kit consisting of two solar panels and a small wind turbine that will generate the energy to

illuminate an area of the school grounds.

Members of the Moriah trades community will be invited to speak to the students and act as mentors for the completion of the project, enabling students to relate their learning experience to possible career paths in electrical engineering and wind and solar technology. Other classes in the school have the option of becoming involved in the project by focusing on the science, technology, engineering, and math NYS Standards that correspond to their disciplines.

We wish Aaron and his students the best of luck as they embark on their ambitious project this school year. We plan to invite them to one of our meetings to share the successes and the challenges of the project.

The committee decided that the projects submitted for the grant were worthy of further funding consideration, so attempts were made to find resources for each of the 14 that were not chosen, through local means. The Executive Board of NEZ voted at the August meeting to sponsor Kathleen Modert's Middle School Life Skills class at Ticonderoga Central School for the 2017-18 school year. The goal for her students is to prepare them for transition after high school to be responsible workers in the community and respectful members of society. The students volunteer with adult supervision at the town's co-op and at the local thrift store. In addition, they help out with the school's Backpack Program. Kathleen's students are in need of personal hygiene supplies, healthy snacks, weekly cooking supplies, and food purchases for cooking class (mac and cheese, oatmeal, pancake mix, and ready to eat meals) as well as store/restaurant purchases. Ms. Modert had also stated a need for WalMart gift cards to use to take her students shopping for appropriate clothing for school and community work. The mentioned items and cash donations will be gratefully accepted at each of our meetings during the 2017-18 school year.

This is just a beginning. Ongoing attempts will be made to connect other teachers, who applied for the Hudson-Kramer grant funds, with individual members, local organizations, corporations and businesses that provide expertise, grant funds and donations to schools.



Visit us at our website [www.nysrta.org](http://www.nysrta.org)

## Northern Zone

Linda Crosby, Public Relations Chair

Greater understandings of the needs of teachers in the field will be realized, and knowing there is a pool of resources out there that active teachers can tap into will make for a valuable association.

Who knows what it will lead to?

### 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Adirondack Room of the Butcher Block in Plattsburgh NY was the setting for the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Northeastern Zone of NYSRTA on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The 50's theme of the day was "The Way We Were" dating back to the time when the organization was formed. Members were encouraged to dress up for the occasion, show off their yearbooks and memorabilia, and take part in the 'Guess Who?', 'Name that Tune', and 50's Education Trivia segments of the celebration.

The highlight of the day was when Emily Castine \*CR, Robert LaFontaine \*CR, Nancy Olsen, Marilyn Smith, Ron Wilson \*CR and Mary Myers (posthumously), received Distinguished Service Awards for their years of service and dedication in their respective leadership roles in our local Northeastern Zone chapter and at the state level for collectively, 107 years!!! They served in numerous capacities throughout all those years and were valuable members of both organizations to which they have dedicated their time and resources.

The celebration was also an opportunity for members to donate to the Scholarship Fund through a Chinese auction. Members were treated to a delicious lunch and entertainment was provided through the services of DJ Tina LaFontaine. She not only had a great selection of music from the Era, she entertained us all with her magnificent vocal renditions from the time period. A swingin' time was had by all!!

### More Community Service by President Bonnie Gregware

We also completed the food drive that our Community Service Committee holds at which we brought a half a ton of food and money to our local shelter. People are getting out and walking to be healthier. We also have a road clean up scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup>. The five delegates from the Northeastern Zone are looking forward to the convention in October.

After a relatively quiet summer, Northern Zone members will have a busy fall season to enjoy at several upcoming events, such as NZ executive board meetings, the Fall Membership Meeting and the 2017 NYSRTA convention. NZ executive board members have been meeting every month to plan and prepare for the fall activities. NZ President Gayla LePage and Public Relations Chair Linda Crosby also attended the July NYSRTA Executive Board meeting in Liverpool, N.Y. where the emphasis was on legislative action (especially concerning the fall elections season and upcoming NYS Constitutional Convention vote -- please get out and vote!) and on the NYSRTA convention at Turning Stone Casino in Verona, N.Y. (please join us at the convention!) At the zone president's meeting, everyone expressed concerns about decreasing membership and vacancies in leadership and committee positions. In the NZ, we have numerous positions that the executive members are trying to keep up with in addition to their usual duties. Please, if you can help out, talk with one of our executive board members; most positions are not very time-consuming and our meetings are very enjoyable. On an encouraging note, the NYSRTA financial outlook is considerably better due to conservation measures and the kind support of all the members. Thank you to all who gave so generously to the President's Appeal.

At the August NZ executive board meeting, a decision was made to use some money from the CD to cover some fall convention expenses because we are the host zone this year. Gayla LePage, NZ President, said she will be mailing letters and membership forms to our area's recent retirees soon; she did display NYSRTA information/membership forms at the Franklin County Fair in Malone in August.

Gayla reported that we presently have 408 NZ members and that the NYSRTA 2017 resolutions will be discussed at our fall NZ meeting for approval to send to the NYSRTA Convention. Jean Theobald, NZ Historian, reported that because we are hosting the fall convention, she would like to include photos of NZ villages/scenery to spotlight our North Country in the NZ scrapbook which will be on display at the fall convention. If you can spare any 4" by 6" photos of local/historical scenes, please send them to her (253 Wheeler Road, Potsdam, N.Y. 13676) or bring them to the fall membership meeting and discuss with her what is needed. Thank you for your help. Jean has also begun work on her impressively creative ideas for the convention table centerpieces.

Many thanks go to Lillie Ruby at the NYSRTA office for her very creative work on the cover for the convention booklet; it's gorgeous. Check out the cover design and convention booklet excerpts on the NYSRTA website. Also, I have posted on the website, photos and articles concerning the 2017 NYSRTA Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grants awarded by all the zones.

Convention preparations are ahead of schedule thanks to our NZ Convention Co-Chairs Gayla LePage and Alice Galvin. Our baskets for the raffle at the convention are being prepared; please, could you help with donating items (you could bring them to the September membership meeting)? Convention costs are partially covered with proceeds from the raffle. If you are attending the state convention (Oct.30-Nov.1), make sure you shop for a camo or animal print outfit to wear at our "Wild Times" cocktail party on Halloween; Gayla LePage is working on "wild" music to listen to while you strut your wild stuff in your favorite print.



Guest speaker Lisa Davis and her husband Mark display her artwork.





(Left to Right) Deb Durham, Gayla LePage, Rae Louise Tate and Linda Crosby view Lisa Davis' books and artwork.

In view of a beautiful, sparkling lake, the Clifton-Fine-Edwards Unit held their annual membership meeting at The Haven on the shores of Star Lake on August 16. Guest speaker Lisa Davis from Fulton, N.Y., spoke about her unusual artwork of inventive floral compositions (gleaned from her extensive gardens) that she creates, scans and prints. Unit members also presented the P.A. Miranda Scholarship Awards to Clifton-fine Central School 2017 graduates, Robert Muncil and William Sealander. The C-F-E Unit steadfastly continues as the only surviving NZ unit under the leadership of President Joe Russo. They are always welcoming, often



Scholarship Chair Sally Capone (center) presents the 2017 P.A. Miranda scholarships to Robert Muncil (left) and William Sealander (right).

inviting, all zone members to join them at special meetings, such as their Christmas party and the August 16 meeting, which NZ President Gayla LePage and NZ Public Relations Chair Linda Crosby attended. Also



Long-time CFE Unit President Joe Russo leads the summer meeting.

impressive is that when some members wanted to retire from unit leadership and committee positions at the August meeting, many others stepped up to volunteer!

All NZ members are invited to the September 20<sup>th</sup> membership meeting at the Malone Golf Club; you should have received a reservation form and newsletter in the mail. Abby Lynch, Doctorate in



C-F-E Unit members Chuck Yartz, Sue Shene, Debby Yartz, and Deb Durham listen to the guest speaker.

to work on preparations for the state convention.

Physical Therapy, will speak about chronic pain causes and management. All members are also welcome at the next executive board meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>



At the August meeting, C-F-E Unit members donated school supplies and \$167 to the Clifton-Fine PTO for their "Back to School Backpack Program".

## Western Zone

### Michelle Claus, Public Relations Chair RETIREES LIFE PASSION

You are never too old to have a life passion and enjoy it daily. These four retired teachers are passionate about swimming. They competed in the 2017 New York Empire Senior Games in Cortland, New York, this year. This is not their first Senior Games or competition. They have been swimming since they were very young, and competing since high school. The New York Senior Games are open to anyone 50 years of age or older. The Masters Competitions are in 5 year age groups. These men compete in the 70-74 year age group. There are over 18 different sports that make up the

Games. Many events have both a men's and women's division. Don Scherer, Don Cannamela, Floyd Kruschke, and Dick Gaughan are Master swimmers.

Don Cannamela taught elementary school (grade 6), for 34 years in the Sweet Home School District. After retiring, Don taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Christopher's Elementary School for 9 years. He attended Buffalo State College and, after graduation, was the boys Varsity swim coach for years.

Dick Gaughan attended South Park High School and is a Buffalo Public Schools graduate as well as a Brockport graduate. He student taught, was a teacher and the principal at Maple East Elementary School in the Williamsville Central School District. Dick was also a swim coach at St. John the Baptist.

Floyd Kruschke graduated from Lancaster High School. His elementary education degree is from Buffalo State College, and he taught in the Buffalo Public Schools as an elementary teacher and computer science teacher. He was a club swim coach.

Don Scherer retired from Williamsville North High School 35+ years ago, and taught math. Don attended Buffalo State College also. He loved diving and competed in both diving and swimming during his time at college.

Practice makes perfect is certainly the phrase for these swimmers, diver, and race walker. These men practice daily at any of these venues: The Aquatic and Fitness Center, Tonawanda; University of Buffalo Master's Program; the Hamburg Master's Program; and Carley's Crossing at Sunset Bay.



(Left to Right) Don Scherer, Don Cannamela, Floyd Kruschke, and Dick Gaughan

Why do they swim with passion? Each retired teacher has their reasons. Don S says "keeps me young, in shape, and forces me to push myself". Don C agrees, "it energizes me, tests my limits, and you never grow up". Floyd says, "it keeps me in shape, is a social experience, and makes me feel good on down days". Dick, along with the other three adds, "you keep your competitive edge".

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*Western Zone News  
Continued from page 7.*

Don C and Don S competed in the FINA World Masters Competition in 2014. Don C came in number 36 in the 800 meter freestyle, and number 38 in the 100 meter freestyle. Over 5000 senior athletes competed during those World Master games. Don S also competed in diving. He was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in his age group in the world.

These four men brought in nineteen medals from the NYS Senior Games this past June. They won 9 gold medals, 7 silver medals, 3 bronze medals mostly in swimming events in the 70-75 age group. Dick also won the gold in the 5K race walk.

You have a passion! Are you following that passion? Do you want to follow that passion again? Maybe something you did in school or are doing now. Physical activity keeps us young. Start or continue being active, find a passion. Retirees can do it!

**DO  
WHAT  
YOU**



# TWO CONVENTION FAVORITES RETURN!

## NYSRTA Annual Cocktail Party

Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> 6:15

**WILD TIMES!**

Wear your Leopard Print, Zebra Stripes, Camo or wildest outfit and be prepared to ROAR!

## Musical Entertainment with

**William Locke**

Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> 8:30



## DeCormier Financial Assistance, Agnes Hudson \*CR, Trustee

We never know! We're doing fine. We have a good job and our health is good. Time passes and then things change. Now we need help. Unfortunately, help is not always easy to find. The bills pile up; our health deteriorates. Where can we turn?

This is where our retired teachers now have no worries! Years ago though in 1967, a teacher by the name of Robert R. DeCormier saw a need and established a charitable trust. This was to be a lifeline for needy retired teachers who were members of The New York State Retired Teachers' Association. A Board of Trustees would review applications and if needed a personal contact was made.

Application forms can be obtained from the NYSRTA office, your Zone President or from the website. Help could be needed for medical expenses, rent, home repairs, etc. A one-time grant can be given or a monthly stipend grant. (For more detailed information, look again on page 3 in the spring 2017 edition of YORK STATE.)

There are currently six trustees who meet regularly via telephone conference calls. These trustees, who come from various areas of the state, are nominated by the NYSRTA Executive Board and elected by the DeCormier Trustees. They are appointed for 6 year terms and then it is renewable upon the Trustee's written application to the

Trustee Board.

Contributions, gifts, investments, etc. keep the DeCormier Trust viable. All donations are welcomed and appreciated.

On a personal note, I very much appreciate the donations made in Memory of my son, Michael, who had a doctorate in Geology and taught at Ashland University in Ohio. He loved his students and loved teaching. He told me he was never going to retire. Sadly to say, he passed away last November at age 62. He will now continue to help retired teachers who need assistance, through the donations made to the Trust in his name.

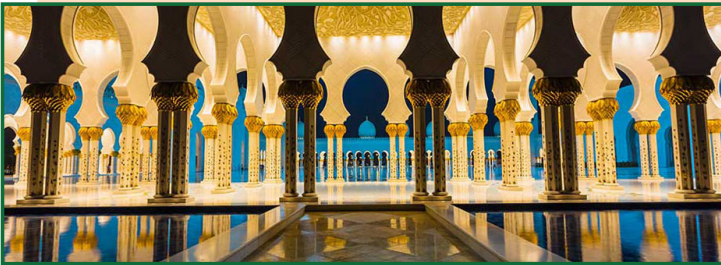
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## Bylaws, William Tenity, Chair

**Reminder to all Zone Presidents and Bylaws Chairs who have not done so already, make sure to let Bill Tenity know the results of your zones' vote on the bylaws no later than a week before the convention (October 30, 2017). Bill can be reached by email at [billt1@roadrunner.com](mailto:billt1@roadrunner.com)**

The Bylaws Committee is presenting four proposed bylaws changes for consideration at the 2017 Annual Meeting in October. All four of them were approved by the Executive Board at its March meeting. A summary of the four propositions follows. The 2017 propositions have been posted on the web site at [www.nysrta.org/bylaws](http://www.nysrta.org/bylaws), along with an updated copy of the complete NYSRTA Bylaws (also on the NYSRTA face book page). Four of the propositions are holdovers from the 2016 Annual Meeting. The delegates accepted two at that time, while one was tabled and the delegates voted one down. Due to a technicality, no actions on bylaws taken at that meeting had validity and therefore must be presented again. I wish to thank the members of the committee for all of the hard work and time they have put into preparing these propositions.

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) 2017**

This proposition allows the association to deny membership to anyone who has been convicted of a crime that, under New York State Education Law, would have barred him/her from holding State Education Department Certification as an Educator, whether or not he/she actually holds such certification. This covers all three classes of membership: Educator, Associate, and Spouse.

### **Proposition ENLM (Eliminate New Life Memberships) 2017**

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) 2017**

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) 2017**

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 2017 will accomplish the mission while rectifying the legal compliance issue with the NFPL.

## So When DID WWII End?

The YORK STATE staff recently received a note from CWZ member and past president of the Orleans county RTA, Frank Berger, who had, at our previous annual convention asked when did WWII end? With no clear responses supplied, he felt compelled to share this clip describing Truman's Presidential Proclamation 2714.

Perhaps the hesitation to answer arose from the fact that there are two "endings"—a shared emotional moment of triumph among allies and a tactical military ending. Both Great Britain and the United States celebrate Victory in Europe Day. Cities in both nations, as well as formerly occupied cities in

Western Europe, put out flags and banners, rejoicing in the defeat of the Nazi war machine. However, Truman, in order to maintain occupation in both Germany and Japan, didn't sign Proclamation 2714 until December 31, 1946.

We shared the May 8<sup>th</sup> celebratory post of NYSRTA's Facebook page. We thank Mr. Berger for his submission and will be clarifying the record, posting Truman's Presidential Proclamation to our social media accounts at the end of December. Now we know!



### **Presidential Proclamation 2714**

was signed by President Truman on December 31, 1946, to officially declare the cessation of all hostilities in WWII.

Even though the actual combat of the war ended May 8, 1945 in Europe and September 2, 1945, in the Pacific, the state of war was not lifted off of Japan and Germany in order to give a reason for the necessity of occupation troops in these countries. Once the War Crimes Trials were over, the hostilities were seen as over. The signing of Proclamation 2714 is reason why the U. S. recognizes its WWII veterans as anyone who has served between the dates of December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946.



## Membership Report, Salvatore Sedita \*CR, VP for Membership

The combined Membership and Marketing Plan Committee is continuing its progress. Most recently work has been completed on the design of the card sized version of the "Magnificent Seven Strengths of NYSRTA". Kevin Mulligan (NEZ), Lois Thornberg (LIZ), and Michelle Claus (WZ) must be recognized and thanked for their

### Magnificent 7 Strengths

efforts on this project. Thanks a l s o

must go out to Lillie Ruby, NYSRTA Design and Technical Coordinator, for her hard work on creating the actual design for the cards.

Currently, the complete *Magnificent 7 Strengths* document is posted on our website [www.NYSRTA.org](http://www.NYSRTA.org). If you would like to view it, go on to the website and under Membership,

click on "Magnificent 7 Strengths". The seven strengths are listed, and if you click on one, detailed information pops up.

The card sized version is intended to be used by the members to carry with them so they have a quick reference of points to discuss with prospective new members whenever they have occasion to talk with them, or anyone else, about NYSRTA.

At its teleconference on September 21, committee members will determine which version of the card will be printed up and made available to the membership.

### Membership is everyone's obligation

By now, your zone and unit membership chairs have contacted school districts and have received information on those educators who have retired during the 2016-17

school year. Many have already sent out initial letters of congratulations, well wishes, and invitations to join the New York State Retired Teachers Association.

It's now up to each of you, the membership, to step up and do your part. Contact your Zone or Unit Membership and let him/her know that you are ready to become actively involved in recruiting new members. If you don't do it, no one else will. It's time for you to bring at least one new member into the organization. Our association desperately needs your help.

Remember, I am looking forward to reporting at the Convention in October that our organization's membership has turned the corner and is now growing. I will be able to do that when each of you has done your part.

**Already a member? Please detach this application and give to a friend who may be interested in joining. There is strength in numbers! NYSRTA needs YOU to stay involved! Thank you!**

### NEW MEMBER ENROLLMENT FORM AND PROFILE

Name ☐Mr. ☐Miss ☐Mrs. ☐Ms. ☐Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐Retired Educator ☐Active Educator ☐Associate (non-certified support staff) Year Retired \_\_\_\_\_

County of residence \_\_\_\_\_ School Dist./College/University retired from \_\_\_\_\_

Subject area \_\_\_\_\_ Level taught \_\_\_\_\_ Level of Administration if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

#### Spouse Enrollment

Spouse Name ☐Mr. ☐Miss ☐Mrs. ☐Ms. ☐Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐Retired Educator (year retired) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐Active Educator \_\_\_\_\_

State retired from \_\_\_\_\_ School Dist./College/University retired from \_\_\_\_\_

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I have enclosed my check or money order made out to NYSRTA in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my: ☐Visa ☐Mastercard Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print your name clearly as it appears on your card \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Looming Teacher Shortage, Mary Johnson, Co-Vice President for Legislative Action

Can you remember when you decided you wanted to become a teacher? Was it when you had a teacher that inspired you or when you lined up your siblings and the neighbor kids on the front steps and played “teacher?” I actually played teacher for real. In the last one room school in Cortland County, the third graders took the first graders out under a tree to practice their reading skills.

Many of us were members of the Future Teachers of America. Kindly local teachers allowed us to come to their classrooms and read to their students or teach them multiplication tables. That program seems to have disappeared from today’s high schools.

The looming teacher shortage is probably attributable to many causes but is a serious concern, not only for educators, but the general public. A poll released recently from EdSource and the Learning Policy Institute shows that 64 percent of voters consider the shrinking supply of teachers “very serious.” Whether teaching as a career has become less attractive as a result of the increase in testing, the

threats to tenure and seniority, the expansion of charter schools and school choice or the federal push to tie student performance to teacher evaluation, it is time to pay attention.

In a recent Wall Street Journal article, Learning Policy Institute President Linda Darling-Hammond was quoted regarding the

need to encourage young people to consider teaching as a profession, “At a time when California is implementing new standards, it’s important that all students have access to teachers who are well-prepared. A teacher shortage will set back the education agenda.” If we don’t have qualified teachers, the alternative is under-qualified people in our classrooms, not good for students or communities.

CNN reported on August 21, 2017 that the Learning Policy Institute said, “Currently there are not enough qualified teachers applying for teaching jobs

to meet the demand in all locations and fields.” Since school has already started in many states, some have had to increase class sizes to make up for the teacher shortage.

“The institute reported last year that if trends continue, there could be a nationwide shortfall of 112,000 teachers by 2018.”

The Common Core Curriculum has been reviewed and revised in New York State along

with much-needed changes to the APPR teacher evaluation standards and practices. Much more needs to be done to encourage young people to go into the profession that we so loved. Mentoring programs are on the rise again so that should help. We need community support for our teachers and schools, better working conditions and in some areas better salaries and benefits. As retired teachers and administrators let’s do all we can to steer promising candidates to the field that had done so much for us.



## Community Service Updates, Patricia Dietrich, State Community Service Chair

Thank you to all Community Service Chairs in each Zone for your co-operation in the ongoing projects that we are working on this year. At the time of this report, the following persons are serving as chairs for their zones: Central Zone, Janice Hedglon; Central Western, Elaine Leasure; Eastern Zone, (no acting chair), Long Island Zone, Eileen Holmes; North Central Zone, Patricia Dietrich; Northern Zone, Alice Galvin; Southern Zone, (no acting chair); Western Zone, Ann Marie Wik; Northeastern Zone, Connie Lalonde; and Southeastern Zone, Cheryl Fischer. These chairs are currently working on updating information for our State Community Service resource

notebook that was first printed in October, 2011. Since many projects may now be defunct or not have up to date contacts and new projects may have been developed, it is necessary to keep this up to date for use by others. These updates will be copied and put in the Community Service Notebook in the NYSRTA Office. We will try to print out any new reports and pass them on to current Community Service Chairs to add to the notebook and make revisions on old projects. This project will take us into the new year I’m sure.

In my next report, I will plan to announce the winners of our NYSRTA WALKERS Community Service Award for Number of Events partici-

pated in by a Zone this past year, October 1, 2016-October 1, 2017. I just want to say .. thank you Elaine Leasure for your early report from Central Western Zone indicating the high participation rate and reporting from numerous units on their walking events!

Please consider becoming a Community Service Chair of your Zone. At this time, Southern Zone and Eastern Zone do not have acting chairs. We have our meetings via teleconference and communicate through letters and emails. As I have said before, Community Service promotes membership in our organization. It is a pleasure to serve our communities in a broad spectrum of ways.





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### Submission Deadlines for YORK STATE

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Summer (mailed) .....Jul 13

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

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