The Long Island Zone’s Annual Meeting and Luncheon was held on Wednesday, September 26th at the Irish Coffee Pub in Islip. After a unanimous vote, Kathy Grande installed the 2017-2018 officers (list & photo at lower left). The new or returning chairs on the 2017-2018 Board of Directors include: Mary Ella Moeller (Health), June Torns (Historian), Jo Anne Powell (Newsletter/WebPage/FB), and Bob Svoboda (Resolutions), replacing Penny Coyle, Manny Kuehnel, Angelo Grande, and myself. I wholeheartedly thank these outstanding members for their fine efforts and contributions to our LIZ BOD. Retiring President Kathy Grande was presented with a gift certificate and flowers. The highlight of the afternoon was the awarding of the LIZ Distinguished Service Award presented by co-chairs Mary Ella Moeller and Jo Anne Powell to Evelyn Paola (left photo) and Eileen Holmes (right photo). Evelyn has been Unit VP & President, Zone Secretary & VP, and NYSRTA Convention delegate & 2011 Chair. Eileen has been Unit VP, PR Chair, Town Director, and columnist; Zone VP, Community Service Chair, PR Chair, and columnist; as well as NYSRTA columnist, Resolutions contributor, and delegate.

We look forward to the NYSRTA Annual Convention at Turning Stone this coming October 30-November 1. Our 27 delegates will be participating and voting to accept resolutions and bylaw propositions that have been passed by LIZ, as well as other NYSRTA business. In closing, I am looking forward to leading you for the next year and, if you have any questions or concerns, don’t hesitate to call me at 631-476-6558 or e-mail me at fgconway@optonline.net. I humbly remain yours in the interests of LIZ/NYSRTA.

–Frederick G. Conway

On November 7th, NYS voters have the opportunity to vote for/against a NYS Constitutional Convention. I urge New Yorkers to vote NO on this amendment. Governor Cuomo wants to tax and/or limit your pensions because NYS is in the red. The pensions of teachers, firemen, police, sanitation and all other civil service workers are on the line. It will cost the state at least $342 million to have a Constitutional Convention to dismantle programs. Please vote NO on the back of your ballot. The pension you save may be your own. –Robert Svoboda

In order to have Long Island Zone reach you in a more timely manner, your LIZ NEWS editor is implementing a full-color e-mailed edition for those with internet access. Further, we encourage you to “Like” our new Facebook page: “Long Island Zone of the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association.” Speeding up the delivery of news will keep you better informed, save a few trees & great piles of stamps. Additionally, we hope that critical information, like the importance of voting NO on the Constitutional Convention amendment, will be easier to share with colleagues, family & friends. If you have received this black & white Special Edition in a printed format, please send your e-mail address to Lizonenews@gmail.com. Thanks! –Jo Anne Powell