PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – KATHRYN GRANDE

Another winter has passed, but I’m not sure. It is April and we’re still having winter weather. Let’s hope that Spring is around the corner and we will be able to enjoy some beautiful weather.

We must continue to concentrate this year on our membership in NYSRTA. We must bring in new members. Our Membership is decreasing each year in our Zone. We need to bring in our teacher friends or former colleagues. It is our responsibility, if we want NYSRTA to continue.

We also need to find out if our members who are over 90 years of age are receiving our LIZ News-letter and York State. Please let us know, if you still want to receive them. If you know anyone who passed away, please inform the State Office at 518- 482-3509, ask for Debbie.

We also need to see that our unit members (WERTA) and (EERTA) are members of NYSRTA. If you have friends who are not members of the State, please encourage them to join. When they join, they will automatically become members of the Long Island Zone. The dues are only $30 per year. They will then receive the benefits of being a member of NYSRTA. Please help us increase our numbers. ONLY YOU CAN HELP!

We also need you to come to our luncheons. We only have two luncheons a year. Our next luncheon is scheduled for May 25th, at 11:30 AM at Lombardi’s on the Bay. Our Speaker will be Cleveland Johnson, the aide for Veterans’ Affairs for Congressman Lee Zeldin. Please make an effort to come. It is important that you come to learn about what is happening in the Zone and in the State. We need your support. Come enjoy an afternoon with your fellow retirees.

I attended the NYSRTA Legislative Action Committee Meeting and the Executive Board Meeting in Utica in March. We developed our Legislative Action Priorities’ Card for 2016. These cards will be used by our Advocates, when they visit their legislators. We need your help. Please let me know, if you are willing to participate.

At the Executive Board Meeting, we voted on several motions. A motion to reduce dues reimbursement to the Zones from 1/3 to 1/4 was defeated. Another motion to reduce the number of delegates to the Convention from 1 per 100 Zone Members to 1 per 200 Zone Members was also defeated.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my chair people for their hard work. We’re all working together.

PLEASE COME TO OUR SPRING LUNCHEON ON MAY 25TH AT LOMBARDI’S ON THE BAY
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WERTA Newsletter Deadline

EERTA Exec. Bd., Meeting
SCNB, Riverhead 10:00 AM

LIZ Newsletter Deadline

TBD

EERTA Exec. Bd. Mtg. at Carol Joynes’
Museum, Riverhead 11:30 AM

EERTA Riverhead Luncheon at the
Vineyards (Back to School)
Aquubogue 11:30 AM

WERTA Luncheon-Guy Anthony’s,
Merrick, 11:30 AM

TBD

LIZ Luncheon – Lombardi’s by the Bay
11:30 AM

LIZ Luncheon, Capt. Bill’s, Bay Shore
11:30 AM

WERTA Exec./Bd. Mtg. North Bellmore
Library-10:00 AM

EERTA Exec./Bd. Mtg. at the SCNB,
Riverhead, 10:00 AM

EERTA Exec./Bd. Mtg. at the SCNB,
Riverhead, 10:00 AM

NYSRTA Convention

EERTA Luncheon – Carlyle -on-the
Green- Bethpage Black – 11:30 AM

EERTA Southampton Luncheon at the
Publrick House – 11:30 AM

Hauppauge Diner-10:00 AM

EERTA Southhold/Greenport Luncheon
TBD

EERTA Shelter Island Luncheon –
Virginia Schultze’s Home, 11:30 AM

LIZ 2016 Calendar

April 2016

7 Thurs. WERTA Newsletter Deadline

13 Wed. EERTA Exec. Bd., Meeting
SCNB, Riverhead -10 AM

May 2016

3 Tues. WERTA Exec. Bd., 10 AM
North Bellmore Library

11 Wed. EERTA East Hampton/Montauk
Luncheon – Page 63, Main St.,
Sag Harbor – 11:30 AM

12 Thurs. LIZ Officers & Exec. Bd. Mtg.10:00 AM
Hauppauge Diner

25 Wed. LIZ Luncheon – Lombardi’s by the Bay
11:30 AM

June 2016

8 Wed. WERTA Luncheon- Guy Anthony’s,
Merrick, 11:30 AM

TBD

July 2016

27 Wed. LIZ Newsletter Deadline

August 2016

24 Wed. EERTA Exec. Bd. Mtg. at Carol Joynes’
Museum, Riverhead – 11:30 AM

September 2016

7 Wed. EERTA Riverhead Luncheon at the
Vineyards (Back to School)
Aquubogue-11:30 AM

1 Thurs. WERTA Newsletter Deadline

Hauppauge Diner-10:00 AM

14 Wed. WERTA Trip to Gillette Castle,
Griswold’s Museum and Old Lyme
Inn, Conn.

20 Tues. LIZ Luncheon, Capt. Bill’s, Bay Shore
11:30 AM

29 Thurs. WERTA Exec./Bd. Mtg. North Bellmore
Library-10:00 AM

October 2016

5 Wed. EERTA Exec. Bd.Mtg. at the SCNB,
Riverhead, 10:00 AM

26-28 Wed.-Fri. NYSRTA Convention

November 2016

1 Tues. WERTA Luncheon – Carlyle -on-the
Green- Bethpage Black – 11:30 AM

9 Wed. EERTA Southampton Luncheon at the
Publrick House – 11:30 AM

Hauppauge Diner-10:00 AM

December 2016

7 Wed. EERTA Southhold /Greenport Luncheon
TBD

14 Wed. EERTA Shelter Island Luncheon –
Virginia Schultze’s Home, 11:30 AM
Vice President
June L. Torns

The two LIZ luncheon meetings for 2016 have been arranged. The May 25th luncheon will again be held at LOMBARDI’S On The BAY and the September 20th will be at CAPTAIN BILL’S.

Our speaker in May will be Cleveland Johnson, the aide for Veterans’ Affairs for Congressman Lee Zeldin [R-Shirley]. Congressman Zeldin has submitted a Bill, HR4513, to the House of Representatives, with bipartisan support. This would authorize the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to support veterans’ mentoring programs at the state and local level with a three year federal grant of $25 million for a nationwide program.

The program is based on a model that Rep. Zeldin helped establish in New York State, called the Dwyer program. It was named after an Army private born in Manhasset, who struggled with drug abuse after serving in Iraq and who died all alone in 2008.

Since our luncheon falls between Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day, it is a time to reflect on the debt we owe to our military: past, present and future, most especially what happens when they come home. Do we abandon them in their hour of need or as their teachers do we help support them since we were, along with their parents and communities, the ones who influenced them to volunteer, protect and serve our great country? PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO ATTEND AND BRING A FRIEND.

Membership
Mary Armbruster and Lois Thornberg

The lifeline of any organization is the members and their contributions, be it monetary or commitment and actions to share and improve the values of the organization itself. NYSRTA is no exception to this. Recently however, membership has been declining. We are losing present members and not replacing or gaining new members as they retire. If you know of a retiree, whether recently retired or has retired in the past, you as a member could help NYSRTA by introducing them to us and sharing the benefits we offer. Give them a phone call, stop by to see them, bring them to our luncheons or on our trips. Make them aware of the benefits NYSRTA offers: insurance, travel, shopping discounts, financial assistance, retiree business ventures, social activities, friendly services, and possibly most important State and Federal legislative actions to preserve their pensions. Share the website, www.nysrta.org with them, where they can find more information and an application to join.

REMEMBER WE ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS OUR MEMBERSHIP, SO LET’S ALL GET OUT THERE AND SHARE NYSRTA’S ADVANTAGES WITH SOMEONE AND HELP TO MAKE THIS ORGANIZATION GROW.

Friendly Service
Alicia Winowsky and Dee McKinnon

Welcome back to all the ‘snow birds’! Kudos, and Happy Spring to all you hearty souls who braved the winter here in the Northeast! Hope you all have a wonderful Spring and Summer!

LIZ Friendly Service would like to extend a ‘Welcome’ to our new NYSRTA Friendly Service Chair, Harriet Beers, who hails from the ‘Southeastern Zone’. Harriet is a recent recipient of the NYSRTA’s prestigious ‘Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service Award’. We look forward to working with this dynamic lady!

Of course, we send our love and thanks too to former chair, Mary Ella Moeller. We are grateful for her many years of hard work and cheerful encouragement.

Our ‘Thanks’ too to all our ‘unsung heroes’, our Friendly Service Workers who are always busy sending birthday cards, making phone calls, visits and generously spreading their special caring to all our members. These busy people are truly the heart of LIZ.

As we look forward to Spring, Dee and I are looking forward to greeting you at the door at our upcoming LIZ luncheons and events. Please stop and say, ‘Hello’. Can’t wait to see our old friends and introducing ourselves to many new members.

Bylaws
Marc Nagelberg

1. Proposition MD (Member Disqualification) 2016 was accepted by the executive board and will go to the zones for presentation and then be voted on at the convention. What this bylaw does is allow the Executive Board to deny membership to any present or future member who is convicted of a crime that would force them to turn in their teaching certification. This came about because it was discovered that a former member who was in prison for child porn had renewed his membership in NYSRTA.

2. Proposition CB (Correct Bylaws) 2016 was withdrawn from consideration with the understanding that the bylaws committee would rewrite it by eliminating the term “unanimous” from it. This is a bylaw, Article IX, Section 6, that presently requires a unanimous vote during electronic/conference call meetings.

3. The bylaws committee has been directed to make a change in Article XI, Section 3 by eliminating “lifetime membership” beginning with the adoption of the change, grandfathering in all present “lifetime members” and offering the option of paying dues 5 or 10 years in advance. They would like this done in time to send it to the zones before the July executive meeting.

4. The bylaws committee has been directed to make a change in Article VI, Section 7 that would allow the 4 elected Vice Presidents, Secretary and Immediate Past President to be able to select a proxy to vote in their place should they be unable to attend an executive meeting. Objections to this change were discussed but the board was almost unanimous in approving this change. Again, they would like this ready for presentation before the July meeting.
WERTA News
Evelyn Paola

WERTA began the 2015-2016 year with a very successful Meeting on November 10, 2015. Since it was the eve of Veteran’s Day, and the 240th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps, we planned a special tribute to our Military. We were honored to have as our guest speaker, Lawrence M. Pinto, USMC retired World War II Veteran, who served in Saipan, Okinowa, and Iwo Jima. He shared many of his wartime experiences with us, a most enlightening and inspiring discourse. Mr. Pinto, along with other WWII Veterans perform Community Service by visiting schools, and instructing students on FLAG etiquette and respect. WERTA presented Mr. Pinto with a "Certificate of Appreciation."

Our March 2016 Meeting at "Carlyle-on-the Green"- Bethpage State Park was held on an extraordinarily warm day! The program for this meeting featured Marion Rizzo, of "Syl-Lee" Antiques, a licensed Antique dealer. Ms. Rizzo outlined "what's in" and "what's not" in the silver, gold, and antique markets. She appraised several "treasures" that the members brought with them.

WERTA’s next meeting on June 8, 2016 will be held at “Guy Anthony’s” Restaurant, North Merrick. This will be our annual Scholarship Luncheon.

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 WERTA trip to the “Gillette Castle”, Florence Griswold’s Museum, with lunch at the “Old Lyme Inn”.

Community Service
Eileen Holmes

The Long Island Zone is pleased to announce that we’ve made a monetary donation to Newsday Charities, a McCormick foundation fund that distributes aid to 28 dedicated nonprofit agencies on Long Island. These agencies deal with improving the lives of children and families in need and include Bethany House, Catholic Charities, Island Harvest, The Salvation Army, Family Service League, Child Abuse Prevention Services and The Safe Center L.I. Donations are matched 50 cents on the dollar by the McCormick Foundation and Newsday and the Foundation pay all administrative costs, so 100% of our donation, plus the match, will go to community grants that will help Long Island’s neediest people.

To all the members of LIZ, who devote many hours to volunteer work, it’s time to give yourself a pat on the back. Are you volunteering in a local hospital or library? Are you helping out at a soup kitchen, food pantry or in a thrift shop that raises money for needy causes? Are you walking to raise money for the fight against cancer? So many of our retirees are doing these things and more! If you are involved in community activities, please get this information to me so I can compile a list for NYSRTA’s Community Service log and submit it to the State Chair for recognition of the many ways our LIZ members serve Long Island. E-mail your details to elo2@optimum.net!

Public Relations
Eileen Holmes

At the September LIZ Luncheon, after the presentation of the Distinguished Service “Silver Tray” Award to John Ruggiero, we had the pleasure of hearing a wonderful guest speaker Lois Lutwin, a docent at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. Lois described the programs that the center provides to facilitate tolerance, empathy and understanding in today’s world as well as teaching the history of genocide and hate crimes involving people of all religions, color, gender and nationality. It was a moving and informative presentation with many examples of how the center works with children and young adults on the issues and dangers of teasing, pranks, hazing and cyber-bullying. Many thanks to LIZ Vice-President June Torns for planning this excellent luncheon!
Legislative Action Committee
Kathryn Grande
State Priorities

Minimum Pension Bump Up
This would extend the minimum retirement allowance provided to long standing retired members of the New York State Teachers’ retirement System who retired prior to July 1, 1980 and increase the minimum retirement allowance for all such retirees to $550 per year of NYS service up to a maximum of $19,250.
A.06867-Abbate S.06746 Farley

Improve Pension COLA
Provides a cost-of-living adjustment for members of the retirement systems.
A.09496 Steck S.06282 Ritchie

Education
Establishes the community schools act; authorizes the commissioner to award grants for Community schools programing; appropriates funds therefore.
A.06791 Peoples-Stokes S.05447 Stewart-Cousins

NYSRTA rallies against any effort to diminish public education including any legislation that promotes public tax dollars to Charter Schools/ tax credits to private schools/vouchers. Whereas such legislation diverts resources from public schools at a time when they are expected to raise standards and reach higher expectations.

A.06867-Abbate S.06746 Farley

Awards
Mary Ella Moeller & Jo Anne Powell

In September the Long Island Zone hosted its annual luncheon at Captain Bill’s Restaurant in Bay Shore. A highlight of this meeting was the presentation of LIZ’s distinguished service “Silver Tray” award to long time member John Ruggiero in recognition of his years of outstanding service to the Long Island Zone, EERTA and NYSRTA. Before retiring, John taught high school social studies and chemistry, served as a guidance counselor and coached sports. In retirement he has worked on LIZ committees, regularly attended NYSRTA Conventions as a delegate, served as LIZ Treasurer and is currently the Treasurer of the East End Retired Teachers. John is highly respected by all who know him through his community and church activities as well as his work with LIZ and EERTA.

We congratulate John on receiving this prestigious award.

. EERTA
Fred Conway, President

PLEASE SEE THE CALENDAR FOR OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS.

Our main focus for this year is to update our (and LIZ/NYSRTA's) membership rosters for accuracy and participation. I want to thank the Jessups (Membership co-chairs) for their long and continuing efforts in controlling our membership lists.

I personally want to thank Alice Hokkanen for her outstanding commitment as our past Friendly Service Chair. Mary Ella Moeller, the recently retired NYSRTA Vice President of Friendly Service has spent 15 years on the NYSRTA Executive Board.

Mary Ella, Jola Marcario and I will be overseeing the committee this year.

In November, EERTA Community Chair Robert Svoboda announced that our Community Service grant was presented to the William Floyd School district. It was presented to the president of the student body and will be used to aid a needy student or family.

In December, EERTA Scholarship Chair Larry Strickland was pleased to introduce Robin Webster and presented her with a $1,000 EERTA Scholarship.

EERTA's Vice President, Penny Coyle has spent a long winter at the Rehab Center in Medford. We are pleased to hear that she is doing very well. She is off her ventilator and has high hopes for being back at home in Greenport by May 1st. Best Wishes Penny!
Guest Speaker

Our speaker at the May meeting will be Cleveland Johnson, the aide for Veterans’ Affairs for Congressman Lee Zeldin, who has submitted a Bill, HR4513, to the House of Representatives with bipartisan support. This would authorize the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to support veterans mentoring programs at the state and local level with a three year federal grant of $25 million for a nationwide program.

Menu includes:
Appetizer: Penne Filetto Di Pomodoro
Salad: Tuscan Garden Salad
Choose one of the three Entrees
Entrees: Chicken a la Francaise-Egg battered Breast of Chicken sautéed in a light Lemon and White Wine Sauce
Roasted New York Strip Loin Steak
With Mushroom Madeira Wine Sauce.
Fish du Jour – Tilapia Oreganata
Fresh Seasonal Vegetables and Lombardi Potatoes
Freshly Baked Rolls and Butter
Dessert: Chocolate Cake with Cherry Filling and Chocolate Mousse and Whipped Cream
Freshly Brewed Coffee and Tea –Regular or Decaffeinated and Soft Drinks

Lombardi’s on the Bay
600 South Ocean Avenue, Patchogue, NY 11772
(631) - 654 - 8970 www.lombardisonthebay.com

Send checks payable to NYSRTA/LIZ for $30/per person with a choice of entrée to June L. Torns, 40 Pleasant View Ct., Copiague, NY 11726 (631-842-4517) before May 14, 2016.

Name__________________ Phone___________ Beef___ Chicken___ Fish______