Congratulations!
We Won (83% No and 17% Yes)

The 2017 Constitutional Convention is history. I would like to thank our members and our coalition partners, the Alliance and RPEA for being there when we needed them. We fought a good fight and won. The "No's" have prevailed. Remember United We Stand, Divided We Fall.

I would also like to thank our members who contributed to my Annual Appeal. We have raised over $100,000 so far this year. In the past two years we have raised over $200,000. As a result of our fundraising and cost cutting, I am proud to say that NYSRTA is in a better financial position.

The Convention was a great success. We accomplished a great deal by voting on the Bylaws and Resolutions. Please see these reports in this issue. I would like to thank Gayla LePage, Resolutions Chair and William Tenity our Bylaws Chair for their efforts.

I would also like to congratulate the following Certificate of Recognition Award Recipients: John Hogan *CR, Central Western Zone, Vincent Smith *CR Southern Zone, Dr. James Flanagan *CR Southeastern Zone, Dr. George Forbes *CR North Central Zone and Fred Conway CR* Long Island Zone.

I would also like to congratulate Kevin Mulligan, Senior Vice President for the great workshop presentations. I would also like to thank the following 67th Convention Workshop Committee members, who made this Convention a success: Diane Hahn *CR, EZ; Pat Newell, NCZ; Gwynne Bodle, CZ; Alice Gavin, NZ; Sandy Kushner and Jane Behnk, CWZ; and Doris Kirsch *CR, WZ. The Keynote speaker for this convention was Maggie Wheeler who spoke about "The St. Lawrence Seaway: A Moving History".

I would also like to inform you that the 2018 NYSRTA Convention will be held from October 17-19, 2018 at the Turning Stone and Resort Casino in Verona, NY. The host Zone will be the Western Zone. The Chair of the host zone is Beth Green. The committee members are: John Cardarella, Michelle Claus, Russ Gervasi, Doris Kirsch *CR, Ginna O’Leary and Nancy White.

We have had the following resignations: Patricia Dietrich resigned as Community Service Chair and in her place I appointed Eileen Holmes from the Long Island Zone as the new chair. Diane Hahn *CR and Burt Philips *CR, resigned from the Bylaws Committee. We also received a letter of resignation from Salvatore Sedita *CR, Chair of the Membership/Marketing Committee. At the Executive Board Meeting during the Convention, Lois Thornberg was appointed as the new chair of the Membership/Marketing Committee. I would like to thank the above committee chairs for their service.

continued page 2
To request information on this program visit www.nyltcb.com/nysrta/ or call (800) 695-8224, ext. 154.

This program offers special discounts not available to the general public for you and your family members including:
- spouse/partner
- children
- parents
- grandparents

If you would like to forward this to a family member, please feel free to do so.

Brian M. Johnson, CLTC, NYLTCB
11 Executive Park Dr., Clifton Park, NY 12065
bjohnson@nyltcb.com

Long-Term Care Insurance Program

The NYS Retired Teachers’ Association has approved a discounted Long Term Care Insurance Program to be offered to its members and their family members.

This program is designed to help protect you, your family and your retirement security. Protection is available should you need care at home, in an assisted living facility, or nursing home.

To request information on this program visit www.nyltcb.com/nysrta/ or call (800) 695-8224, ext. 154.

Planning a move? Please include us in the moving plans!
Call us at (518) 482-3509 to update your address. Returned mail results in additional costs to the Association. Plus, you miss out on YORK STATE magazine!
Congratulations to Northern Zone on a successful 67th Workshop and Annual Meeting

WILD TIMES! and Wild Treasures: A Journey through the North Country

NZ President Gayla LePage greets Keynote speaker Maggie Wheeler.

NZ “Wild Things” Rae Louise (with Lily) and Ted Tate, Doug and Jean Theobald display their animal prints.

The SEZ Grim Reaper (Ray Leduc) reveals his wild side.

Lion Tamer Ron Wilson admires NZ Alice Galvin’s bone necklace and earrings.

NZ centerpieces flew from Jean Theobald’s imagination to land on our tables!

WORKSHOPS!

BASKETS AND BOOTHs!

Plush panda, Pat Reynolds, with the “fur”ocious duo Jack and Patricia DeWeese

The Leopard Ladies strut their stuff!

CWZ Co-Presidents Jane Behnk and Sandy Kushner choose their favorite baskets.

Leigh Powell speaks at the annual meeting while Angelo Grande *CR (L), Terry Trudeau *CR (R) and Kevin Mulligan (far R) listen.

...and Guess Who’s Growlin’!

NYSRTA EOM, Kathi Bassett, had some fun with the Snap Chat filter. Can you guess who played along?

Answers, Page 24

Visit us at our website www.nysrta.org
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>LIZ – President</td>
<td>Angelo Grande *CR</td>
<td>(516) 922-6747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEZ – Senior Vice President</td>
<td>Kevin Mulligan</td>
<td>(518) 846-7855</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEZ – Vice President for Friendly Service</td>
<td>Harriet Beers *CR</td>
<td>(845) 496-6117</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEZ, SZ – Co-Vice Presidents for Legislative Action</td>
<td>Gary Germain</td>
<td>(518) 492-2274</td>
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<td>Mary Johnson</td>
<td>(607) 797-3225</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIZ – Vice President for Membership</td>
<td>Lois Thornberg</td>
<td>(631) 583-5277</td>
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<tr>
<td>WZ – Secretary</td>
<td>Judy Farmer</td>
<td>(716) 652-9210</td>
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<tr>
<td>NZ – Treasurer</td>
<td>President Emeritus Terry M. Trudeau *CR</td>
<td>(518) 529-7269</td>
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<td>CWZ – Immediate Past President</td>
<td>President Emerita</td>
<td>Judy Byndas *CR</td>
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**ZONE PRESIDENTS**

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<tr>
<td>CZ</td>
<td>Barbara Finley</td>
<td>(607) 373-3699</td>
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<td>Jane Behnk</td>
<td>(585) 335-7127</td>
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<td>Rosalie Oliver</td>
<td>(518) 235-8707</td>
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<td>LIZ</td>
<td>Fred Conway *CR</td>
<td>(631) 476-6558</td>
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<td>NCZ</td>
<td>Dr. James Newell</td>
<td>(315) 773-5862</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEZ</td>
<td>Bonnie Gregware H</td>
<td>(518) 563-0795</td>
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<td>Gayla LePage</td>
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<td>SEZ</td>
<td>Anthony Colombo</td>
<td>(845) 564-3477</td>
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<tr>
<td>SZ</td>
<td>Mary Lou Wood H</td>
<td>(607) 962-0527, (607) 329-0332</td>
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<tr>
<td>WZ</td>
<td>Doris Kirsch *CR</td>
<td>(585) 457-3315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**ASSIGNMENTS**

- NCZ – Editor, YORK STATE: Brian Sherman (315) 357-3464
- Associate Editor, YORK STATE: Lillie Ruby (518) 482-3509
- EZ – Assistant Treasurer: Jack DeWeese *CR (518) 835-4129 or (386) 441-3592

**NYSRTA COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**ANNUAL WORKSHOP**

- NEZ Chair: Kevin Mulligan (H) 518-846-785 (C) 518-420-8403
- EZ – Diane Hahn *CR (H) 518-477-6156 (C) 518-221-6156
- NCZ – James & Patricia Newell (C) 315-773-5862
- NZ – Remaining as consultants
  - Alice Galvin (H) 315-848-2312
  - Gayla LePage (518) 483-5014
- WZ – Beth Green (716) 763-1356

**BYLAWS**

- CZ Chair – William Tenity (315) 253-6315
- NCZ – President Emeritus Carlyle T. Campany *CR (315) 686-3098
- SEZ – Helen Hoering (845) 482-4154

**CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION**

- CZ Chair: Jackie Moller *CR (315) 363-1153
- CWZ – Carol Lord *CR (C) (315) 719-2163
- WZ – Anne G. Flansburg *CR (716) 863-3631

**CREDENTIALS**

- SEZ Chair: Dr. James Flanagan *CR (845) 229-5404
- CWZ – Phyllis Dunlap (315) 539-2060
- LIZ – Fred Conway *CR (631) 476-6558

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- LIZ Chair: Eileen Holmes (631) 722-4504
- CZ – Janice Hedglin (315) 363-6516
- CWZ – Joan Handfield (315) 986-2956
- EZ – Joyce Notarnicola (518) 929 6151
- NCZ – Patricia Dietrich (315) 376-6689
- NEZ – Connie Lalonde (518) 335-9017
- NZ – Alice Galvin (H) 315-848-2312
- SEZ – Cheryl Fischer (845) 566-7339
- SZ – Mary Surneff (607) 739-9017
- WZ – Ann Marie Wik (H) 585-599-3651 (C) 716-228-2414

**FINANCE & BUDGET**

- EZ Chair: Jack DeWeese *CR (518) 835-4129 or (386) 441-0815 (winter)
- CWZ – Carol Lord *CR (C) (315) 719-2163
- LIZ – Lois Thornberg (631) 583-5277
- NZ – Leigh Powell (631) 289-9752
- SZ – Vincent J. Smith (607) 785-3169

**Ex-Officio**

- LIZ – President: Angelo Grande *CR (516) 922-6747
- NZ – Treasurer: President Emeritus Terry M. Trudeau *CR (518) 529-7269

**Ex-Officio member without vote:**

- NEZ – Senior Vice President: Kevin Mulligan (518) 846-7855

**Resource person without vote:**

- Executive Office Manager: Kathi Bassett (518) 482-3509

**FRIENDLY SERVICE**

- SEZ Chair: Harriet Beers *CR (845) 496-6117
- CZ – Dell Ford Jordon (315) 446-9323
- CWZ – Barbara Rosecrans (315) 539-9178
- EZ – Marjorie Leibowitz (518) 238-2782
- LIZ – Dee McKinnon (631) 585-4370
- Alicia Winowsky (631) 588-8591
- NCZ – Linda Hooler (315) 782-5646
- NEZ – Judith Congigliano (518) 834-9915
- NZ – President Emerita Agnes B. Hudson *CR (315) 287-0745
- SEZ – Geri Grammas (914) 343-6082
- SZ – Imogene McKendrick *CR (607) 962-0072
- WZ – Thomas A. Giambra (716) 877-7996

**HEALTH CARE**

- CZ Coordinator: Gwynne Bolde (315) 440-4233
- CWZ – Elisabeth (Betty) Weber-Worden (585) 247-2793
- EZ – Jane Dwy (518) 329-6511
- LIZ – Mary Ella Moeller *CR (315) 324-0470
- NCZ – Toni Gigliotti (315) 376-3890
- NEZ – Robert Joyce *CR (518) 563-6314
- Rodney Sherman (518) 561-4332
- NZ – Joseph Russo (315) 848-5326
- SEZ – Joan Schauer (845) 482-3563
- SZ – TBD

*CR – Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service Award Recipient*
HISTORIANS
CWZ Chair: Carol Lord *CR (315) 719-2163
CZ – Michelle Lonergan (315) 668-6744 & Darlene Jarvis (315) 343-2895
CWZ – Phyllis Dunlap (315) 539-2060
EZ – Virginia G. Madore (518) 237-0237
LIZ – June Torns (631) 842-4517
NCZ – Shirley Parker *CR (315) 782-3295 or (315) 649-2541
NEZ – Dick Brogowski (518) 561-6573
NZ – Jean Theobald (315) 265-9155
SEZ – Joan Schauer (845) 482-3563
SZ – TBD
WZ – Sandra Kelley (716) 772-7807

LEGISLATIVE ACTION
NEZ, SZ Co-Chairs: Gary Germain (518) 492-2274
Mary Johnson (607) 797-3225
CZ – Ray Pitcher (315) 894-5656
CWZ – William Lesniak (315) 483-8061
EZ – Janice Mullins (518) 272-1749
LIZ – Angelo & Kathryn Grande (516) 676-7436
NCZ – Richard Bushnell (315) 232-4258
NEZ – Robert LaFontaine *CR (518) 563-0587
NZ – Rae Louise Tate (315) 848-2581
SEZ – TBD
SZ – Mary Johnson (607) 797-3225
WZ – Judith A. Klug (716) 632-6251 (State)
Gail Niparts (716) 688-9339 (Federal)

MEMBERSHIP
WZ Chair: Lois Thornberg (631) 783-5277
CZ – Mark Granan (607) 563-1503
CWZ – Jane Crosby
EZ – Rosalind Carnon (518) 863-4229
LIZ – Mary Armbruster (631) 957-4366
Lois Thornberg (631) 783-5277
NCZ – Burt Phillips *CR (315) 788-9259
NEZ – Sandy Lashua (518) 643-8862
NZ – Gayla LePage (518) 483-5014
SEZ – Geraldine Goumas (845) 358-4025
SZ – Vincent Smith *CR (607) 785-3169
WZ – Ann Marie Wik amwik@rochester.rr.com

NOMINATIONS
NEZ Chair: TBD
CZ – William Cline (607) 204-0193
CWZ – Julie Wunder (315) 946-6393
EZ – Doris Bedell (518) 482-5372
LIZ – Jola Ann Marcario (631) 324-4653
NCZ – Shirley Parker *CR (315) 782-3295
NEZ – Robert LaFontaine *CR (518) 563-0587
NZ – Rae Louise Tate (315) 848-2581
SEZ – Raymond Leduc (845) 236-7624
SZ – Donald Cutton *CR (607) 594-2252
WZ – Mary V. O’Leary (716) 667-0241

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
LIZ Chair: Angelo Grande *CR (516) 922-6747
CWZ – John Hogan *CR (585) 425-1487
NEZ – Kevin Mulligan (518) 846-8755
NZ – President Emeritus Terry M. Trudeau *CR (518) 529-7269
CWZ – Immediate Past President: President Emerita Judie Byndas *CR (315) 539-8475

PUBLIC RELATIONS
NZ Chair: Linda Crosby (518) 483-4312
CZ – Mary Radloff (315) 364-7439
CWZ – Phyllis Dunlap (315) 539-2060
EZ – Pamela Love (518) 456-1046
LIZ – Eileen Holmes (631) 722-4504
NCZ – Nancy Roberts (315) 782-5217
Patricia Newell (315) 773-5862
NEZ – Marti Martin (518) 593-5072
NZ – Linda Crosby (518) 483-4312
SEZ – Maureen Coffey (for Zone News) Patti DeLeo
Mary Ellen Colombo silverstreakmec@gmail.com
SZ – Debbi Deats (607) 776-7159
WZ – Michelle Claus (716) 649-3844

RESOLUTIONS
NZ Chair: Gayla LePage (518) 483-5014
CZ – Johnnie Jones (315) 865-6357
CWZ – John A. Roy (507) 583-4439
EZ – Mark Notarnicola (518) 703-0397
LIZ – Bob Svoboda (631) 886-2036
NCZ – Elwood “Woody” Lyndaker
NEZ – Beverly Kie (518) 563-1543
NZ – President Emerita Agnes B. Hudson *CR (315) 287-0745
SEZ – Leon Harrold *CR (845) 292-6903
SZ – Vincent Smith *CR (607) 687-2888
WZ – Theresa E. Pope (716) 838-3193

Advisors:
CZ – William Tenity (315) 253-6315
NCZ – Gary Germain (518) 492-2274
Mary Johnson (607) 797-3225

SITE
LIZ Chair: Leigh Powell (631) 289-9752
CZ – Michael Hayduk *CR (315) 336-2617
NEZ – Sr. Vice President: Kevin Mulligan (518) 846-7855
NZ – Treasurer: President Emeritus Terry M. Trudeau *CR (518) 529-7269
WZ – Anne Flansburg *CR (716) 863-3631

TRUSTS

ROBERT R. DECORMIER MEMORIAL TRUST
WZ – Chair: Anne G. Flansburg *CR (716) 863-3631
CZ – Secretary – Jackie Moller *CR (315) 364-7439
CWZ – Treasurer – David Mapes (585) 335-6643
EZ – Trustee – Alexander Boschi (518) 843-3247
NCZ – Treasurer – President Emerita Agnes B. Hudson *CR (315) 287-0745
SZ – Trustee – President Emerita Agnes B. Hudson *CR (518) 529-7269

THE INSURANCE TRUST

*CR – Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service Award Recipient
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### New York State Retired Teachers’ Association Budget

#### 2016 2017 2017 REVISED 2018 PROPOSED

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#### 2016 2017 2017 REVISED 2018 PROPOSED

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Visit us at our website [www.nysrta.org](http://www.nysrta.org)
Health Care, Gwynne Bodle, Chair

At our convention this year it was my privilege to acknowledge Northern Zone as having accumulated the most miles in our NYSRTA Walkers program. Accumulating a grand total of 10,894.16 miles, were Joe and Margie Russo, Laurie Reynolds, Rogene Rice, Alice Galvin and Phil and Gayla LePage. The most miles were walked by Laurie Reynolds with a total of 3,342.06 miles! Congratulations to Northern Zone and Laurie.

I was pleased with the participation this year, but there is more room for everybody all across NY. I was able to report the participation of 3 Zones for a total of 3,917.4 miles last year. This year I recorded a total of 15,755.16 miles from 6 zones! In addition, we also recorded 29,382.4 miles of biking from 3 of those zones. As you can see, there is a variety of movement acceptable. Walking, running, biking, stair-stepping, most any type is good for you – just whatever you are comfortable with.

The zones reporting this year include Central, Central Western, Northern, North Central, and South Eastern. One member from Eastern Zone is now reporting in Central following a move in residence. In addition to those named from Northern Zone, the following members from other zones reporting mileage include: Helen Hoering, Joan Noetzel SEZ; Hope Marston NCZ; Joe White EZ/CZ; Gwynne Bodle, Marilyn Dominick, Sharon Houck CZ.

I look forward to hearing from 10 zones this year. I would appreciate receiving a report from one representative of each zone with names, mileages and type of movement (walking, running, biking, climbing, etc.). Hopefully we can again double our participation and quadruple our mileage!

Community Service, Pat Dietrich, Chair

Community Service Chair, Patricia Dietrich presents Elaine Leasure, CWZ, with the award for the most events participated in by a Zone for NYSRTA WALKERS this year. She did a great job collecting from so many units. It is sad that she said she will no longer be serving as Community Service Chair, as she will be taking another position in her Zone. Many thanks to Elaine, a longtime member of the Community Service Committee. We will miss her, but look forward to her replacement coming on board.

Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust, Jackie Moller *CR, Trustee

The trustees of The Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust would like to thank all who visited our booth at the Annual Meeting held in Verona in October 2017. The donations that we received will help to fund the Trust that is used to provide the monthly stipend that is sent to our recipients.

Donations contributed to the Trust Fund come from zones, units, individuals from NYSRTA, relatives and friends of our deceased members, or members who have been honored for the work that they have done. Some units, who were unable to continue as entities, disbursed their funds to the Trust. We sincerely thank those units and all donors for your generosity. Hopefully, the trust will last a long time to help all of our current and future recipients as well as those who request a grant when a special need arises.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all who were in the recent hurricane areas. If you are a current member of the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association and are in financial need, remember that the Robert DeCormier Memorial Trust has funds available to assist you. For additional information, please contact Anne Flansburg, Chair of the DeCormier Trust, 24 Amherston Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221-7002 or call 716-863-3631.

Join us on social media at NYS Retired Teachers’ Association

In total mileage, NYSRTA Walkers crossed New York State 47 times this year!
Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service, Jackie Moller *CR, Chair

The Committee for The Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service had the privilege of presenting this award to deserving members of NYSRTA at the Annual meeting in October 2017. The honorees this year were selected for their service and have shown outstanding leadership and accomplishments to the Association in many ways. They might have been an elected officer, an appointed committee chair, an active member on some committees, and willing to always say yes when asked to help out. This year we honored Fred Conway (LIZ), James Flanagan (SEZ), Dr. George Forbes (NCZ), John Hogan (CWZ), and Vince Smith (SZ).

We were very proud of these members and it was our privilege to present these outstanding members with this prestigious award.

FRED CONWAY ... In recognition for his service and participation at all levels of the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association. While being Chair of Resolutions and on committees for Resolutions and Credentials at the State level, he also has put forth effort to work diligently for his zone and unit as an elected officer.

JAMES FLANAGAN ... In recognition of his loyalty and service to the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association as Chair of the Legislation Committee and Chair of the Credentials Committee as well as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee. His dedication to his zone and unit distinguished him as a leader in our Association.

DR. GEORGE FORBES ... In recognition for his dedication, leadership, and service at all levels of our Association. His work as Chair of the New York State Insurance Trust, Chair of Nominations, and a member of the Board of Directors, he has gained recognition for many years of dedicated service. His eagerness to serve at all levels of the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association has distinguished him as a leader in our Association.

JOHN HOGAN ... in recognition for his leadership and participation at all levels of the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association. As a member of The Board of Directors, he is always willing to help and participate at all Association meetings and activities whenever needed. He is a dedicated and valuable member of NYSRTA at the state, zone, and unit levels and we can always depend on him for his service and cooperation.

VINCE SMITH ... in recognition for his leadership and prolonged dedication for service of many years at the state level and as a member of The Board of Directors. His participation in membership and resolutions committees demonstrates his commitment to The New York State Retired Teachers’ Association.

Legislative Action, Mary Johnson and Gary Germain, Co-VPs

Our legislative priorities continue to be the same.

At the state level: Pension Bump Up (the number of potential retirees and beneficiaries is down to 449). In most counties the number is in the low single digits. Fiscal costs for school districts would be 0.003% of payroll), COLA, and Ethics Reform.

At the federal level: Negotiation of Part D Drugs, Medicare Trust Fund, Observation vs In Patient for coverage of Medicare are the priorities.

NRTA Conference in Washington, D.C. The following issues were discussed in the two days of workshop:

- Federal Legislation Climate Outlook (Tax Reform Framework, Healthcare, Social Security.)
- Pensions were a priority issue of discussions.
- Our Defined Benefits (DB) public pension systems are the best value for the public dollars that fund public employee pensions (NYSTRS). Defined Contributions (DC, ex: 401K) are twice as costly. Currently there is an attempt in the proposed budget to jeopardize the tax benefits of DC pension plans.

Thanks to CWZ for the photos of individual award winners; thanks to Leigh Powell for the group photo.

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Central Zone
Mary Radloff, Public Relations Chair

Central Zone sent 21 delegates and three alternates to the NYSRTA 2017 Annual Convention at the Turning Stone in Verona, NY. Host Northern Zone presented a variety of workshops highlighting the beauty, culture and historical contributions of its area. The official meeting included election of state officers; awards honoring exceptional service by members; and committee reports along with the consideration of other issues confronting members.

Wyoming County Angel Action backpack program as well as children’s books, coloring books, markers and crayons. Handmade hats and scarves, playing cards, toiletries, writing paper, pens and candy along with many other items were collected for Operation Gratitude and will be sent to our active military members as well as those receiving services in hospitals.

The program speaker gave all of us valuable information for Care-givers, especially respite services, provided in Wyoming County by the Western New York Alzheimer’s Caregiver Partnership and the Office for the Aging.

Central Western Zone
Phyllis Dunlap, Public Relations Chair

The Oneida-Herkimer RTA welcomed visitors to its fall luncheon meeting. David Keefe, President of the NYSTRS Board of Directors, updated attendees on the status of the NYSTRS and the issues related to the possible NYS Constitutional Convention. Barbara Finley, Zone President, was also a guest.

Wyoming County Retired Teachers’ Association Executive Board
Front Row: Judy Fuller-Brown, Sally Conrad, Sandy Kushner, Claudia Cerasani, Virginia Fugle, Judy Haberer
Back Row: Cindy Parker, Marilyn Hubbard, Pam Osgood, Sandy Smith, Karen Ritenour, Carol Johnson, Patti Bartz, Mary Carlson

Winner of Epke-Meagher Award presented by Judie Byndas, Past NYSRTA President. Karen Moretti is a retired Waterloo High School Spanish Teacher.

The Wyoming County Retired Teachers’ Association met for their fall “Not Back to School” luncheon on September 6, 2017, at the Glen Iris Inn located in beautiful Letchworth State Park.

Members were very generous towards our Community Service projects. Large donations of non-perishable foods were received for two area food banks and the

Seneca County Retired Teachers’ Eleanor Sterns of Geneva portrayed Amelia Earhart at the Seneca County Retired Teachers’ Association fall meeting. In 2016; she did a portrayal of Clara Barton at the NYSRTA Convention.
Karen Moretti and Jane Spiwak, newly retired Waterloo High School Teachers enjoy the Fall meeting of the Seneca County RTA at Abigail’s Restaurant in Waterloo.

Jane Behnk and hubby enjoy their anniversary at the Seneca County RTA Fall meeting Oct. 12, 2017

CWZ Delegates at Convention

CWZ Raffle Basket Winners at convention: Ann Czajkowski, Sharon & Bruce Croucher, Sandy Kushner, Vicki Universal, Linda Snyder, Jane Behnk and Barb Bush

Carol Lord *CR celebrating her Halloween Birthday

Eastern Zone
Pamela Love, Public Relations

Eastern Zone held their Annual Meeting on September 14, 2017 at the Turf Tavern located in Scotia, New York. Active Units involved with Eastern Zone include Amsterdam, Columbia, Delaware, Fulton, Greene, Otsego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie and Upper Montgomery. Rosalie Oliver, President of Eastern Zone, reported that Joan Gallagher who died last April and was the Schoharie Unit President, had left some of her assets to the DeCormier Fund. The DeCormier Fund had helped Joan a few years ago when she was flooded out of her home.

Marjorie Leibowitz, President of the Rensselaer Unit, said that her Unit donated around 300 pounds of cat and dog food and supplies as well as $185.00 to help the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society located in Menands, New York. This Humane Society was preparing to take dogs and cats being sent to this location from Houston, Texas and Florida because of being overwhelmed by the hurricanes this year.

The Eastern Zone Delegates to the 2017 NYSRTA Conference included President Rosalie Oliver, Doris Bedell, Penny Bellinger, Alex Boschi, Phoebe Boschi, Carolyn Bovee, Rosalind Carron, Albert Ciejka, Gloria Ciejka, Patricia DeWeese, Jane Dwy, Diane Hahn *CR, Gloria Kimball, Marjorie Leibowitz, Pamela Love, Virginia Madore, Mark Notarnicola, Patricia Reynolds and Ann Stafford, Alternate was Joyce Notarnicola. Jack T. DeWeese *CR was a Delegate at Large, Each Zone was responsible to bring two baskets which would be raffled off. Marjorie Leibowitz, President of the Rensselaer Unit and Penny Bellinger, President of the Otsego Unit each prepared and brought baskets from Eastern Zone. Delegates who won baskets from this convention included Jane Dwy, Gloria Kimball, Marjorie Leibowitz and Patricia Reynolds. Pamela Love won a raffle from The DeCormier Fund.

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Long Island Zone

Eileen Holmes, Public Relations

The Long Island Zone held their annual fall meeting and luncheon on September 27th and it was a very busy and enjoyable get-together. The new LIZ officers were installed for the 2017-18 year (see photo) and as Kathryn Grande completed her years of service as Vice President and President of LIZ, she was presented with a gift and flowers in appreciation of all her efforts, long hours and hard work!

A highlight of the meeting was Award Co-Chairs MaryElla Moeller *CR and JoAnne Powell announcing two members had been chosen just been appointed to serve on the state level as NYSRTA’s Community Service Chair and she will be working with Evelyn as Co-Vice President of the Long Island Zone for the coming year. Congratulations to both these hard-working members!

Another highlight of the afternoon was guest speaker Rosemary McKinley who spoke on her latest book, “The Life and Whaling Adventures of Captain Henry Green”. Rosemary, a member of LIZ, taught in Nassau County and moved “out east” after retiring. She describes herself as being ‘fascinated’ with the historical aspects of life on eastern Long Island and does a great deal of research for writing. This is her third published book.

On September 6th, the East End unit held their annual Back-to-School luncheon at Jerry and the Mermaid Restaurant in Riverhead. Guest speaker Tamen Yeh from the Cornell Extension Service gave a fact-filled and humorous presentation on “Gardening Disasters’, with lots of tips on how NOT to kill your trees, shrubs, and plants. Eileen Holmes announced an upcoming LIZ Community Service project involving a local group called “Helping Makes U Happy” and EERTA generously donated the raffle and 50/50 money to ‘kick off’ the fundraising for this cause.

Long Island sent fourteen delegates to the 2017 NYSRTA Convention. They were surprised, delighted, and proud to see Fred Conway being honored with the Certificate of Recognition. Fred has worked tirelessly for many years to strengthen LIZ/NYSRTA, protect retiree pensions and promote unity and camaraderie within our zone. Well done, Fred!
Kathryn Grande is well-known and appreciated throughout the Long Island Zone. She has been a very active member of NYSRTA, working on the Legislative Action Committee for WERTA and on the state level representing LIZ. She has served 4 years as President of LIZ and has been a delegate to the annual convention since 2002.

However, above and beyond the work she has done for LIZ and NYSRTA, Kathryn has achieved an awesome list of accomplishments revolving around her love and commitment to her family, her church, her Italian heritage and to helping others and on October 7, 2017 Kathryn received special recognition for outstanding service in her community when New York State Assemblyman Edward Ra hosted a Woman of Distinction Awards ceremony at the Albertson VFW Post and presented Kathy with a proclamation honoring her tremendous work, as well as a gorgeous white golden musical globe.

Kathryn taught 2nd grade for eleven years before retiring in 1973 to raise her 2 children and care for her parents. She became involved in the PTO and served as President. She ran for the North Shore School Board in 1987 and served for 15 years.

In 1974, she joined the Italian organization Loggia Glen Cove #1016, the Order Sons of Italy in America, and rose in rank over time to become President. As President she initiated fundraisers, organized Italian heritage and cultural displays at the Glen Cove Library and arranged Italian cultural trips to New York City for members. Over the years she has chaired committees on membership, scholarships, dinner dances, awards, budget, and more! Kathy continued her duties with her appointment by the State President to serve as State Deputy to the John Marino Lodge 1389 and then to Cellini Lodge 2206, and served as Recording Secretary for the 98th Annual State Lodge Convention Budget Committee. Kathryn and her husband Angelo sponsor two State scholarships in honor of their parents and also a Dante Medal for Excellence in Italian.

Kathy has been singing in the choir of St. Mary's Church in Roslyn, NY for over 35 years, functions as a Eucharistic Minister, served on the Parish Council, and was Co-President of the parish guild. She is very proud of her children. Ignatius is an attorney with degrees from Yale University and Georgetown Law. Angela Rose graduated from Connecticut College, received her Master’s in Early Childhood and Special Education from Teachers’ College, Columbia University and is a nursery school teacher. What a fantastic list of service and accomplishments! Congratulations, Kathryn for a job well done in so many areas!

North Central Zone
Nancy Roberts & Patricia Newell, Public Relations Co-Chairs

There were 70 members in attendance at our annual fall meeting in September. The following officers for North Central Zone were elected: President, Dr. James Newell; 1st Vice President, Elwood “Woody” Lyndaker; 2nd VP Lorraine Wiggins; Secretary, Cynthia Graham; Treasurer, John Gaffney.

NCZ’s WILD delegation enjoyed a very rewarding time at the Convention this year. We are extremely proud to announce that Dr. George Forbes was awarded a Certificate of Recognition from NYSRTA at the 2017 Convention. Dr. Forbes “CR has worked tirelessly at the state level as Chair of the Insurance Trust. He is a Past President of NCZ and our current auditor.

We are also pleased that our NCZ proposed resolution “that NYSRTA urge NYS Federal Legislators to support the removal of all federal taxes on Social Security Benefits” was accepted, presented and approved at the Convention.

Our Community Service project “Love Your Public Library” awarded two $50 prizes at our fall meeting.
Susan Gamet’s ticket was drawn for her chosen library in Rodman. Susan and Pat Dietrich, NCZ Community Service chair, visited the library and presented the award to Karen Marriott, the Library Director. The second ticket belonged to Pat Taylor who chose Hawn Memorial Library in Clayton. Both Pats went to Clayton to present this award to Kathy Jewsbury, Library Director. This is becoming a popular project among our members growing from one $50 award to being able to award two.

Our Community Service “Coats for Families” give away on October 26th was held at Glenfield Fire Hall this year. Close to 100 people came to choose coats, with children’s coats going very quickly. Patty Corey chairs this program and works hard all year collecting winter items.

NCZ participated in the Senior Health Fair, held October 6th in Watertown, and sponsored by Senator Patty Ritchie. NCZ’s volunteers included: Woody Lyndaker, Dr. Jim and Pat Newell, Shirley Parker and Lorraine Wiggins. Members handed out Constitutional Convention Information cards and educated people on the importance of voting “NO”.

DATES TO REMEMBER:
- Spring Executive Council Meeting, Thursday, April 26, 2018, BOCES Teachers Center
- Zone Scholarship Luncheon, Tuesday, June 12, 2018, Ramada Inn, Watertown
- Fall Business Luncheon, Tuesday, September 18, 2018, Ramada Inn, Watertown

Northeastern Zone

It is with great sorrow that we share the news of the loss of NYSR-TA’s Nominations Chair, Emily Flachbart Castine “CR. Emily was an active and influential member of NYSR-TA for 15 years, joining the association through Northeastern Zone, in 2002. She served as the zone’s first female president from 2006-2009. She received the Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service Award from NYSRTA in 2014.

In her personal life, she was an ardent advocate of libraries and held leadership positions in her church.

From pressrepublican.com:
Emily was active in both the Chazy and Plattsburgh communities. She joined the Chazy Friends of the Library in the early 1960s and later became that club’s president for two separate terms. She served on the Board of Trustees of the Chazy Public Library for over 35 years, acting several times as president. She was also active in the Chazy Presbyterian Church having been trustee president for four terms, chairman of the church’s 200th birthday celebration, and an elder for life. In 2013, Em earned a certificate of Lay Pastor for the Presbyterian Church and was honored to preach at CPC once monthly for three years. She co-chaired the Town of Chazy Bicentennial Celebration from 1979-1980. Her Plattsburgh affiliations included the Council On the Arts, the North Country Cultural Center, and the SUNY Friends of Art. She was invited to join Phi Delta Kappa, education honorary, in 1984 and served as its president for two years.

You can read more about Emily’s extensive achievements, on line, at http://bit.ly/2C3CBpH

Northern Zone

Linda Crosby, Public Relations Chair

The Northern Zone fall membership meeting on September 20 at the Malone Golf Club highlighted the preparations for the convention and the legislative issues concerning the upcoming November 7 elections. Members were very pleased with terrific guest speakers Sandra Martin and Nick Debyah who both are Brushton-Moira CSD, Herkimer CCC and SUNY Canton graduates; they are employed at Alice Hyde Medical Center (Malone, NY) as NYS licensed physical therapy assistants. They outlined the hospital’s full range of therapy services and then demonstrated some physical therapy treatment techniques with help from NZ member Betty Cook.

Future NZ Meetings:
- Clifton-Fine-Edwards Unit Christmas Party-Dec. 13
- Executive Board Meetings-Jan. 16 and May 1, 2018 and NZ Spring Membership Meeting-May 23, 2018

The Northern Zone was thrilled to host the 2017 NYSRTA Annual Convention with the theme, “Wild Treasures: A Journey Through the North Country”. We hope everyone enjoyed the “wild” glimpse of our cherished area. A big thank-you goes to all our NZ members who helped with so many jobs, such as planning, donating items.
to our raffle baskets, presenting a workshop, creating centerpieces, and working at the convention. Special thanks to our Convention Co-Chairs Alice Galvin and Gayla LePage, true leaders who worked so hard to keep us all on task. We greatly appreciated the superb efforts of our ladies in the Latham office, the NYSRTA officers and committees, and the zone presidents and members; their good-hearted help, sage advice and kind support made the convention a success. Please enjoy the following “wild” convention photos.

Southeastern Zone
Maureen Coffey, Public Relations Chair

“The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth”

These words of wisdom from President John Fitzgerald Kennedy were certainly present in spirit at The New York State Retired Teachers’ Association Annual Convention at the Turning Stone from October 30 thru November 1, 2017. The keynote speaker and workshops offered by the Northern Zone advanced our knowledge on a variety of topics. Our luncheon speaker disseminated necessary and pertinent information in regards to a possible state constitutional convention and the effect it might have on public education as we know it as well as our pensions. We in Southeastern Zone want to thank our colleagues from the Northern Zone for giving us a great convention with lots to think about.

Southeastern Zone had much to celebrate as we cheered when one of our own, Dr. James Flanagan, received a much deserved Certificate of Recognition. Jim is a hard worker who brings a spirit of fun to all he does with his delightful sense of humor. He’s worn many hats over the years including that of our Zone President. Thank you Jim, and congrats for many jobs well done.

Before we sign off, we hope 2018 is your best year yet! ’Til next time...

Southeastern Zone Maureen Coffey

Submitted via SEZ member Dr. James Flanagan "CR"

Southeastern Zone sadly says good bye to Doris Kelly. Doris served as an elementary school teacher for more than 25 years. Doris belonged to many political groups, including the New York State Retired Teachers Association, the Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance, the Hyde Park Democratic Committee, and the American Association of University Women, with whom she worked tirelessly to promote women’s issues and support leadership opportunities for girls.

Southern Zone
Debbi Deats, Public Relations Chair

We had a very busy, event-filled last quarter. Corning Area Retired Teachers’ Association was the host of the Annual Southern Zone meeting in Corning at the American Legion hall on September 20th. We were happy to have Katherine and Angelo Grande join us! The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Katherine Larson, Assistant Curator of Corning Museum of Glass. Dr. Larson spoke on “The Invention of Glass Blowing” and presented us with a very humorous history of an important aspect of our region.

New officers were installed at the SZ Annual Meeting. These officers include Mary Lou Wood as President; Vince Smith as Vice-President; Bonnie Stratton as Secretary; Lois Cutton as Treasurer; and...
and Debbi Deats as the Public Relations Chair. Officers were inducted by Don Cutton, Scholarship Chair.

Also included in the meeting was the honoring of Delores “Dee” Smith as our Special Recognition of the SZ. More senior members of NYSRTA may remember Dee as chair of the Legislative Committee for the Southern Zone. This is also a role she filled for the CARTA unit. Dee is still lobbying for the passage of the COLA for those teachers retiring before 1986.

On August 3rd, Vera Marie Be-Gell passed away. Marie was the long-standing historian of the SZ and CARTA. She left us with copious scrapbooks full of our history. Marie is sadly missed and has been hard to replace. RIP Marie!

The SZ had several members attend the Annual Convention. Included were Don Cutton *CR, Lois Cutton, Jean McCormick, Elizabeth Reiter, Mary Johnson, Mary Lou Wood, Gerardo Tagliaferri, Vince Smith, Sue Pierce, Bonnie Stratton, Debbi Deats, Nancy Spaulding and Imogene McKendrick.

SZ will be host of the convention in 2019! Preparations are already underway!
our retirees. Western Zone will be the host of the 2018 NYSRTA State Convention. The dates are October 17-19, at Turning Stone. Please put this on your calendar. Western Zone is looking forward to welcoming members from across the state in 2018.

Barbara O’Shea, a Western Zone member and also a vendor at the WZ Annual Luncheon Meeting in Williamsville on September 20th, is shown here with book she recently co-authored titled, We Remember the Day of President Kennedy’s Assassination. Western Zone members contributing articles include Therese Clarke, Michelle Claus, Dennis Priore, Beth Green, Don Flansburg, Audrey Seidel, and Charlotte Lasher. Published by W.R. Parks, Hershey, PA and available at Amazon.

As required by law, we must publish a Statement of Ownership and Circulation which is three pages in the first issue after October each year.
I will begin this report on a personal note. After serving as Vice President for Membership for one year beyond the recommended tenure as specified in the NYSRTA bylaws, I have resigned from that position. I wish to thank former President Byndas, President Grande, and the NYSRTA officers and members of the Board of Directors (formerly the Executive Board) for the opportunity to serve my fellow retired educators and for their support throughout my tenure. I would also like to thank the zone membership chairs and members of the Marketing Plan Committee with whom I worked, for their support and hard work.

Since there were no nominations from the floor of the Annual Meeting to fill the position of Vice President for Membership, it fell to the Board of Directors. The NYSRTA bylaws provides in Article VI, Section 3 (e) "The Board of Directors shall . . . Have the power to fill any vacancies that may occur in any elected office of the Association". At its meeting on November 1, 2017, a motion was passed that Lois Thornberg (LI) be appointed to the position of Vice President for Membership and that she serve in that capacity until the next election of officers at the 2018 Annual Meeting. Congratulations Lois. I wish you well and am here for you for any advice or support I am able to provide. I am confident your dedication, work ethic, and willingness will provide the organization with a most capable and effective officer.

A meeting was held of the Joint Marketing Plan/ Membership Committee on October 30, 2017. The remainder of this article is a copy of the minutes of that meeting.

~ Salvatore Sedita

MINUTES - JOINT MARKETING PLAN/MEMBERSHIP MEETING
ANNUAL CONVENTION, TURNING STONE - OCTOBER 30, 2017

IN ATTENDANCE:  Mary Armbruster (LI), Rosalind Carron (E), Mark Granan (C), Angelo Grande *CR NYSRTA Pres, Lynn GranJean (C), Gayla LePage (N), Sal Sedita *CR (Chair), Vince Smith *CR (S), Lois Thornberg (LI), Ann Marie Wik (W), Michelle Claus (W)

1. OPENING REMARKS - Sal Sedita greeted all attending zone membership chairs and thanked them for coming. He did note that he was retiring from the position as State Membership Chair.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Angelo Grande said a new Membership Chair will be needed. He hoped that nominations from the floor would occur for the position, but if not, he will appoint someone. He did note that he has seen a number of public ads in various media that were urging a "No" vote on the 2017 Constitutional Convention. Angelo feels that the message is finally getting out on the harm a "yes" vote could do, and he stressed that we continue to rally against a "yes" vote right until the final day of the Nov. 7 ballot day.

3. BULK MAILING: It was reported that 350 cards are needed to be sent to get a bulk mailing rate. A member noted that the Association does not note the school district in which one taught, in its monthly stats. The living residence reported of a retiree, listed in the stats, does not necessarily reflect the actual school district in which one taught. In regard to having retirees be members of the State Association prior to being a unit member, a zone's bylaws would have to state unit members need to be State Association members. This could be a “touchy” issue.

4/5. MATERIALS SENT TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS: All membership chairs said they send a personal letter with an enrollment form to new retirees. Mark Granan said he sends a more detailed letter and he will send a copy of it to zone membership chairs. Financial support for membership chairs for mailings to prospective members generally is provided by each zone. A question was raised as to why the Association does not support such mailing. Cost is a factor.

6/7. MAGNIFICENT 7: It is on-line and may be down-loaded. The Association will duplicate a short version from the large version and will make copies that will be available.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS: There was no old or new business to report.

CLOSING: Sal said he appreciated working with all state membership chairs and wished us well in the future. All meeting members congratulated Sal for his leadership role as Membership Chair.

ADJOURNMENT: Adjournment was at 5:30 p.m. Vince Smith made the motion to adjourn and Michelle Claus seconded it.

Submitted: Vince Smith *CR - SZ Membership Chair
The following report represents a compilation of zone information from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Beginning next year, Friendly Service will follow the NYSRTA fiscal year - Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st, and for that one time will include the six months of July - Dec. 2017 that have not yet been reported.

These totals represent the work done by the ten zones. It has been another busy year, and our Zone and Unit Chairs, and key workers are to be commended for their hard work.

Once again, we ask our members to inform the Zone and Unit Chairs and their key workers, if you know of someone who would appreciate a card or a call, or might be in need of financial help. This Friendly Service group is unique, hard-working, and dedicated to helping to keep NYSRTA in the minds and hearts of our retirees.

Thanks to member, Burt Phillips "CR, for the heads on a Watertown Daily Times article which reports that the Kidde Company has issued a recall of many of its fire extinguishers that were manufactured between January 1, 1973 and August 15, 2017. Apparently there have been many instances of ineffective operation. Kidde is offering replacements, not refunds. Customers should call the company at 855-271-0773, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Eastern time, Saturday or Sunday. The recall FAQ section of Kidde's website says, "No proof of purchase is required. Please supply the model number, year of manufacture, the unit’s date code and serial number. Additional information may also be requested. You can find the model number and serial number on the unit's label.”

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Resolutions Committee Report, Gayla LePage, Chair

The Delegates to the 2017 NYSRTA Annual Meeting approved two proposed new resolutions. The approved measures are printed below. One resolution was accepted as was and one as amended. The amended changes are in bold. The necessary additions will be made to the "Be It Resolved..." document that can be accessed on the NYSRTA website.

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

Resolution B-5-1: Social Security (North Central Zone)

WHEREAS, wage earners pay 6.2% federal tax for Social Security and a 1.4% tax for Medicare while employed; and

WHEREAS, wage earners who retire pay ordinary federal tax on 50% of their Social Security benefit if filing a joint tax return and earning between $32,000 and $44,000 per year and 85% of their benefit if filing a joint tax return and earning more than $44,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, this constitutes double taxation, that is, individuals are taxed twice on the same earnings; and

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the NYSRTA urge the New York State Federal Legislators to support the removal of all federal taxes on Social Security benefits.

Resolution E-16-2: Delegates to the Constitutional Convention (Western Zone)

WHEREAS, despite the fact that the NYSRTA opposes the approval of the 2017 referendum to convene a NYS Constitutional Convention the organization must be prepared in the event such a convention is called; and

WHEREAS, the delegate to said convention would be elected in November, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the process to become a delegate is very involved, requiring a substantial number of petition signatures, an effective campaign mechanism and financial resources; and

WHEREAS, the process strongly favors individuals who are current office holders, political party leaders and insiders despite the fact that the delegate positions are technically open to everyone; and

WHEREAS, the decisions and recommendations made by the convention will be heavily impacted by the makeup of the delegates and their background and special interests; and

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that if the referendum to convene a NYS Constitutional Convention is approved in November 2017, the NYSRTA initiate an immediate and active campaign in an effort to have individuals whose interests represent the objectives of this organization be elected as the delegates to the Constitutional Convention: and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA join like minded organizations to promote the election of delegates who will defend and protect our common interests; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA initiate and conduct a mechanism to inform the membership of the intricacies and importance of the delegate selection process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA, the zones and units encourage their members to become informed and active participants in the delegate selection process.

Historian Report, Carol Lord *CR, Chair

Kudos to each of the zone members of NYSRTA’s Historian’s Committee! The pages that you submitted for our annual state scrapbook at convention were fabulous and told the story of our organization’s busy, productive year. The zone scrapbooks were beautifully done as well. Thank you for all of your work and for sharing with the convention’s delegates. I look forward to our stories of this next year’s activities, events, and achievements as our members work to represent our State’s retired teachers.
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Guess who’s Growlin’!

ANSWERS TO SNAP CHAT PHOTOS FROM PAGE 3
1. Gayla LePage, President, Northern Zone
2. Debbie Barnes, NYSRTA office, Membership Coordinator
3. Carol Lord *CR, Historian
4. Carol Schilansky, Parliamentarian
5. Bill Tenity, Bylaws Chair
6. Salvatore Sedita *CR former VP of Membership

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