

New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc.

YORK STATE

WINTER 2017 No. 4 Vol. 65 *Quarterly Magazine*

Congratulations!

We Won (83% No and 17% Yes)



Angelo Grande *CR
President's Message

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

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*



Visit us at our website www.nysrta.org

President's Message *continued from page 1*

A special thank you to our office staff consisting of Kathi Bassett, Debbie Barnes and Lillie Ruby for helping put the Convention together and Leigh Powell, the Site Chair for his work in setting up the Convention.

I would also like to thank David Keefe (President of the NYS Teacher's Retirement System) for his excellent presentation on the fiscal state of our Pension Fund. I would also be remiss,

if I didn't thank Carol Schilansky for her work at the Convention. She is a knowledgeable Parliamentarian and has given us great advice.

I look forward to the upcoming year. Let us not forget that Membership is the lifeline of our organization. Let's try to get new members by mentioning what we do for retired teachers.

Workshop Report Kevin Mulligan, Senior VP and Workshop Committee Chair

The Northern Zone took on the duties as the Host Zone for the 2017 Convention in an extremely well organized and committed fashion. My sincere thanks go to President Gayla LePage and committee representative Alice Galvin for their dedicated efforts to make the 2017 Convention a success. It is hoped that the selection of workshops at the 2017 Convention provided a wide scope of topics to satisfy your varied interests.

NYS Teachers Retirement Service Chairman David Keefe, gave a very informative expose' on the concerns for a Constitutional Convention. His discussion on the history of constitutional conventions in New York State provided a holistic perspective to this bi-decade event. Mr. David Keefe is a very committed Chair for NYS-TRS. His travels and general on hand knowledge of TRS is truly indicative of his commitment and genuine interest in our pension benefits.

The one and only face to face meeting of the Workshop Committee took place at the Convention breakfast on Wednesday, November 1, 2017. The Western Zone is the Host Zone for 2018 and is represented by Beth Green, as well as a supportive group of

Zone committee members. Western Zone provided the Workshop Committee with some excellent workshop proposals and a great theme idea. The keynote speaker will be an historical re-enactor providing a historical story of the greater Buffalo area, long before the Buffalo Bills and the ever popular Buffalo wings. The Western Zone is well ahead of the curve for convention deadline dates. Great Start!!!!

Both Gayla Le Page and Alice Galvin of Northern Zone have agreed to serve as consultants for the 2017-18 Workshop Committee. President Mary Lou Wood of Southern Zone and some of her zone members were present at the initial meeting, allowing her zone to acclimate to the demands of hosting the Convention in 2019. The three permanent members of the Workshop Committee for 2017-18 are **Diane Hahn *CR**, Pat Newell and Jim Newell. Diane Hahn will again be the punctual timekeeper and Pat Newell will continue to present timely, accurate meeting notes. Grateful appreciation goes to Central Zone member Gwynn Bodle for her several years of faithful service to the Workshop Committee. Thank you.

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!

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.

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**

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.



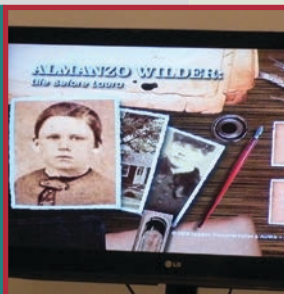
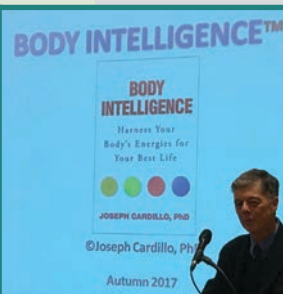
The SEZ Grim Reaper (Ray Leduc) reveals his wild side.



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.

Photographer Key: ☐ Michelle Claus ☐ Linda Crosby ☐ Virginia Madore

...and Guess Who's Growlin'!

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

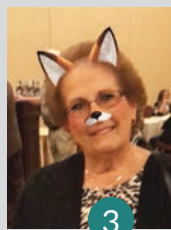
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DIRECTORY 2017 - 2018
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Resource person without vote:

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(727) 345-0445 Nov. - Apr.

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EZ – Trustee – Alexander Boschi (518) 843-3247
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(315) 287-0745
SZ – **Trustee - Imogene McKendrick *CR** (607) 962-0072

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EZ – **Diane Hahn *CR** (Term Expires 12/31/20)
NEZ – **Robert La Fontaine *CR** (Term Expires 12/31/19)
Secretary/Treasurer: Kathi Bassett, Executive Office Manager
NEZ – **Robert Joyce *CR** (518) 563-6314 (Term Expires 12/31/20)

*CR – Certificate of Recognition for
Distinguished Service Award Recipient

New York State Retired Teachers'

BUDGET CODE	REVENUES	2016 ACTUAL	2017 PROPOSED	2017 REVISED BUDGET	2018 PROPOSED BUDGET
140	Dues-Annual	\$ 246,156.00	\$230,000.00	\$ 230,000.00	\$ 250,000.00
140A	Refund To Zones Annual Dues	\$ (82,052.00)	(\$76,666.66)	\$ (76,666.66)	\$ (83,333.33)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 164,104.00	\$153,333.34	\$ 153,333.34	\$ 166,666.67
142	Dues-Life	\$ 13,050.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
142A	Refund To Zones Life Dues	\$ (4,350.00)	\$ (2,666.67)	\$ (2,666.67)	\$ (1,666.66)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 8,700.00	\$ 5,333.33	\$ 5,333.33	\$ 3,333.34
139 & 153	Convention & Exhibitor Revenue	\$ 6,791.52	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
133	Dues-90yr.Olds	\$ 4,545.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00
143	General Contributions	\$ 2,147.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
144	President Appeal Letter	\$ 97,318.12	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
143A	Insurance Trust	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
149,150A,151A	Interest Income/Dividend	\$ 32,057.54	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
150	Bequest	\$ -	\$ -		
154	Misc. Revenue	\$ 3,982.50	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
156	Travel & Misc.	\$ 5,381.97	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
206	Advertising Revenue	\$ 6,163.80	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 2,500.00
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 340,191.45	\$ 303,616.67	\$ 321,616.67	\$ 311,900.01
	EXPENSES	2016 ACTUAL	2017 PROPOSED	2017 REVISED BUDGET	2018 PROPOSED BUDGET
	ADMINISTRATION				
159	Rent	\$ 20,400.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
160	Office Operating	\$ 35,288.79	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
161	Office Equipment	\$ 720.38	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
162-145	Supplies,Print,Postage	\$ 10,848.91	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
164	Salaries	\$ 140,823.57	\$ 145,376.89	\$ 145,376.89	\$ 152,559.99
164A	Stipends	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
164B	Bonus	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
165-167, 179	Payroll Taxes	\$ 11,612.65	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
178	Auditing	\$ 10,768.71	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
178A	Legal	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
178B	Training Fees	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
180	Insurance / Ins. Disability	\$ 5,038.26	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,450.00
180A	Employee Benefits	\$ 16,258.16	\$ 18,252.00	\$ 18,252.00	\$ 19,200.00
180B	Employee Life Insurance				\$ 1,334.68
181	Employee Pension	\$ 15,542.69	\$ 16,883.29	\$ 16,883.29	\$ 17,615.52
184A	EOM's Travel Expense	\$ 260.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
185	Contingency	\$ 569.31	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
186	Special Project (President Appeal)	\$ 7,686.04	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 7,700.00
187	Credit Card Fees	\$ 2,004.76	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
189	Membership Project Expense	\$ 477.04	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
191	Computer	\$ 2,286.25	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
193	Telephones and Equipment	\$ 3,692.95	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,000.00
197	Website	\$ 3,135.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	TOTAL	\$ 290,813.47	\$ 290,462.18	\$ 290,462.18	\$ 292,960.19



Join us on social media at NYS Retired Teachers' Association



Association Budget

		2016 ACTUAL	2017 PROPOSED	2017 REVISED BUDGET	2018 PROPOSED BUDGET
	<u>OFFICERS</u>				
183	President's Travel	\$ 1,002.94	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,000.00
184	Other Officer's Travel	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
182	President's Fund Outlay	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
	TOTAL	\$ 1,002.94	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,300.00
	<u>MEETINGS</u>				
169	Executive Committee	\$ 14,291.57	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
173A	Annual Workshop Expense	\$ 533.40	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
172	Annual Convention Expense	\$ 31,151.48	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 45,976.45	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 53,000.00
	<u>NEWSLETTER</u>				
163	York State	\$ 20,002.68	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 21,500.00
	TOTAL	\$ 20,002.68	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 21,500.00
	EXPENSES	2016 ACTUAL	2017 PROPOSED	2017 REVISED BUDGET	2018 PROPOSED BUDGET
	<u>COMMITTEES</u>				
170	Legislative Action	\$ 3,227.38	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
171	Friendly Service	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
173	Annual Workshop Committee	\$ 98.67	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 100.00
174	Bylaws	\$ 363.69	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
174	Certificate of Recognition	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
174	Community Service	\$ 60.90	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
174	Finance & Budget	\$ 1,257.27	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Personnel Committee	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Credentials	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
174	Historian	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Membership	\$ 178.77	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Nominations	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
174	Public Relations	\$ 42.45	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
174	Resolutions	\$ 1,024.37	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Site	\$ 414.52	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
192	Health Care	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
185A	Adhoc	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
	TOTAL	\$ 6,668.02	\$ 17,400.00	\$ 17,400.00	\$ 11,500.00
	GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 364,463.56	\$ 382,862.18	\$ 382,862.18	\$ 380,260.19



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 bik-

ing 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.



In total mileage, NYSRTA Walkers crossed New York State 47 times this year!

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



Photo by Eileen Holmes

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.



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.



2017 Certificate of Recognition award winners with presenters

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.



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

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 Washing-

ton, 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.

Rod Sherman and Gary Germain visited the offices of Congresswomen Elise Stefanik and Claudia Penney as well as Senator Kristen Gillibrand.

Annual Meeting (Turning Stone). Several resolutions were presented and two passed: Resolution B-5-1 Social Security asks that NYSRTA support the removal of all federal taxes on Social Security benefits. Resolution E-16-2 encouraged members to become delegates for the Constitutional Convention. The Constitutional Convention referendum was defeated and the resolution is now moot.



Visit us at our website www.nysrta.org

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.



Congratulation to Northern Zone for a job well done!

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.



Pictured: O-H President Johnnie Jones, VP for Legislation Ray Pitcher, Barbara Finley, David Keefe, Judith Schad, VP of Oneida-Herkimer.

A reminder will be sent out regarding the Central Zone Executive Committee meeting that is scheduled for April. Until then, we will be busy

with meeting plans, continuation of recruitment efforts, dues reminders, Friendly Service, Newsletters, etc.



Hoping everyone had a happy holiday!

Central Western Zone

Phyllis Dunlap, Public Relations Chair



CWZ Executive Officers at CWZ Annual Meeting. in Sept. at Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua, NY. L to R William Lesniak, Carol Lord, Barbara Rosecrans, Betty Pilato, Jane Behnk, Sandy Kushner, Mary Ellen Morgan, Jane Crosby and Phyllis Dunlap



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

Wyoming County Angel Action backpack program as well as children's books, coloring books, markers and crayons. Hand-made 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.



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



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 Abigails Restaurant in Waterloo.



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



CWZ Delegates at Convention



Carol Lord *CR celebrating her Halloween Birthday



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



2017 Zone Presidents

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 Rens-

selaer 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.



Marjorie Leibowitz with Penny Bellinger, and Pat Reynolds sporting their "Vote No" buttons



Rosalie Oliver, EZ President, Carolyn Bovee and Doris Bedell enjoying appetizers



Alex Boschi, Diane Hahn *CR and Phoebe Boschi chilling at the annual cocktail party



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

this year for the prestigious Silver Tray Award: Evelyn Paola and Eileen Holmes. This award is given to recognize outstanding service to NYSRTA on all levels. Evelyn has served as Vice President and President of her WERTA unit, served as LIZ secretary for many years and was an outstanding Co-Chair for the NYSTRA convention that the LIZ hosted in 2011. Evelyn will be serving as Co-Vice president on the Zone level for 2017-18.

Eileen Holmes has been active on all levels, serving as the Public Relations Chair for both the Long Island Zone and the East End unit and serving as Community Service Chair for LIZ. She has been

a Resolutions Committee contributor and as Co-Director for the Riverhead Town area, she helps arrange EERTA meetings and luncheons. Eileen has



Guest speaker, author Rosemary McKinley describing whaling on Long Island in the 1800's

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!



Silver Tray award winner Evelyn Paola with MaryElla Moeller *CR, JoAnne Powell and Kathy Grande



LIZ Silver Tray award winner Eileen Holmes with MaryElla Moeller *CR, JoAnne Powell and Kathy Grande



LIZ's newly elected officers for 2017-18 Fred Conway *CR, President, Eileen Holmes and Evelyn Paola, Co-Vice Presidents, Emily Caristo, Secretary and Dominick LiCausi, Treasurer

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



Cornell presenter Tamen Yeh on "Gardening Disasters!"

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!



LIZ delegates to the 2017 NYSRTA Convention



Fred Conway *CR, keynote speaker Dave Keefe, Kathy and Angelo Grande

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.



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!

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



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 sup-

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.



port 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 NYSRTA's Nominations Chair, Emily Flachbart Castine *CR. Emily was an active and influential member of NYSRTA 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



NZ members at the convention:
Front: Alice Galvin, Gayla LePage, Roxann Finley, Terry Trudeau, Rae Louise Tate, Betty Cook, Tom Cook.
Back: Joe Russo, Doug Theobald, Jean Theobald, Marcella Trudeau, Phil LePage, Ted Tate, Linda Crosby. NZ convention attendees, not pictured: Holly Chorba, Mary Scharf and Sally Miller

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.



NZ members Roxann Finley and Joe Russo sell basket raffle tickets.



NZ members Holly Chorba and Gayla LePage put their "wild" heads together at the cocktail party.



NZ members Jean Theobald, Rae Louise Tate, Alice Galvin and Ted Tate prepare to sell dinner raffle tickets.



NYSRTA members listen to Mary Craig speak about the Wilder Homestead in Burke, NY

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



and professional 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



**Guest Speaker
Dr. Katherine
Larson**

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 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 BeGell 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!



Western Zone

Written by Irine Denis Zinter, Patricia Keller, and Michelle Claus—
Western Zone Board Members

Western Zone Celebrates

The 2017 Annual Meeting of Western Zone for NYSRTA, was celebrated on September 20th. It was a celebration of 68 years as a supporter of education and educators. The keynote speaker was David Keefe. He stressed the importance of a **NO VOTE** on the Constitutional Convention ballot question. We are all aware of the many reasons this would not be beneficial to the state.

The Dedication Award was given to Elaine L. DeLisle, for her commitment to the teaching profession, her community, her church, and Western Zone. The Nominations committee, chaired by Ginna O'Leary, presented the following slate of Western Zone officers for 2017-2018;

President, **Doris R. Kirsch *CR**; 1st VP, Robert Metz; 2nd VP, Michelle Claus; Treasurer, Don E. Lawrence; Recording Secretary, Au-

drey Seidel; Corresponding Secretary, Nancy White; Membership Secretary, Ann Marie Wik; Past President, **Charles Peszynski *CR**. The candidates were elected unanimously.

The success of any organization depends on the involvement of each and every member. One of the best ways to get involved is by being elected to an office and/or by joining a committee, faithfully attending meetings, performing duties, or preparing and executing plans. Our honorees have been involved and have shown the leadership qualities listed above. In Western Zone, there are many committees to help, initiate, and finalize matters that are important to retirees. We are pleased to announce the 2017 Citation Award honorees; Betty Browne, Michelle Claus, and Ronald Czapla. Congratulations for all your accomplishments!

The 2017-2018 committees and Chair are: By-Laws (**Charles Peszynski *CR**); Awards (Irine Zinter); Nominations (Ginna O'Leary); Membership (Ann Marie Wik); Friendly Service (Thomas Giambra); Founder's Fund (John Cardarella); Remembrance (**Anne Flansburg *CR**); Legislative Action (Judy Klug); Federal Legislation (Gail Niparts); Community Service (Ann Marie Wik); Public Relations (Michelle Claus); Teacher Grant (Ronald Czapla); Travel (Betty Browne).

It is evident that Western Zone has, is and will continue to give unsurpassed support to and for



Nancy White and Chuck Peszynski *CR take in a workshop



Sandy Kelley and Karen Gembar enjoy dinner



Betty Browne and Doris Kirsch *CR relax at the annual cocktail party



All smiles—Beth Green and Vicky Smith

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.

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Barbara O'Shea
E-mail: sheasydney@msn.com
Phone: 717-728-3355
Cell: 716-695-4165

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.

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■ Membership Report, Salvatore Sedita *CR, VP for Membership

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 by laws, I have resigned from that position. I wish to thank former President Byn-das, President Grande, and the NYSR-TA 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*

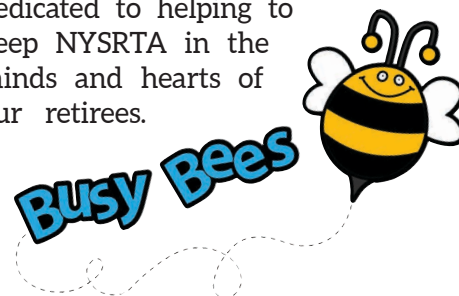
Friendly Service, Harriet Beers *CR

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.

1. # of Unit & County Chairs	55
2. # Key Workers.....	248
3. # 80 yr-olds given special recognition..	68
4. # Certificates of recognition.....	24
5. # requests for financial assistance	0
6. # of visits made.....	387
7. # telephone calls	1648
8. # emails sent	2001
9. # card sent.....	5380
10. # birthdays celebrated and/or gifts for shut-ins and 90+ yr-olds	201
Total amount spent for Friendly Service activities	\$7240.00

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 offer-

ing 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

WHEREAS, a Constitutional Convention could result in recommended negative changes to many areas of concern (including but not limited to public education, collective bargaining rights, pensions, environment, social welfare) to the NYSRTA and its members; now

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.



YORK STATE

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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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