



2018 CALENDAR

April 5	10:00 LIZ Bd. mtg. Hauppauge Diner
April 12	WERTA NEWS deadline
April 16-17	NYSRTA Bd. mtg. Liverpool
April 25	11:30 EERTA Lunch: Phil's on the Waterfront, Aquebogue
May 8	10:00 WERTA Bd. mtg.
May 10	10:00 LIZ Bd. mtg. Hauppauge Diner
May 23	11:30 LIZ Nominations Lunch: Irish Coffee Pub, Islip
June 12	11:30 WERTA Lunch: Guy Anthony's, N. Merrick
June 13	11:30 EERTA Nominations Lunch: Pace's, Mattituck
July 23	EERTA NEWS deadline
August 22	10:00 EERTA Bd. mtg. Riverhead Public Library
August 20	LIZ NEWS deadline
August 27	LIZ ANNUAL REPORT deadline
Sept. 5	11:30 EERTA Back-to-School Elections Lunch (host: Riverhead & West)
Sept. 13	WERTA NEWS deadline
Sept. 19	11:30 LIZ Annual Mtg/Lunch:
Oct. 9	10:00 WERTA Bd. mtg.
Oct. 17-19	NYSRTA Convention, Turning Stone, Verona
Nov. 6	Election Day
Nov. 7	11:30 EERTA Lunch: Hampton Bays (host: Southampton Town)
Dec. 5	11:30 EERTA Holiday Lunch: (host: Southold Town)
Dec. 12	11:30 EERTA Lunch: (host: Shelter Island)
Dec. 31	Happy New Year!



NYSRTA is alive and well. We expect to balance our budget, thanks all of you who contributed to the President's Appeals for 2016 & 2017. Two years ago, we received \$97,318 and last year, \$101,580 which helped us defeat the 2017 Constitutional Convention. With your financial assistance, we can continue our mission to serve our older retired educators. I am optimistic about the future of NYSRTA, but we must continue to bring in new members in order to exist. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. If we all brought in just one new member, we'd be in great shape. —Angelo Grande



After record-setting warmth in February, March rolled in like a lion, dropping 20" of snow on Long Island when spring actually arrived. Holbrook Hal was obviously mistaken!

The LIZ and NYSRTA Board meetings are around the corner. The LIZ Luncheon and nominations meeting has been rescheduled to May 23rd, still at the Irish Coffee Pub in Islip.

I am asking for delegates to represent our Zone at the 2018 NYSRTA Convention at Turning Stone. A coach bus will be taking us up, so we'll be well-rested for the Convention. Up to 27 LIZ delegates will be voting on various items of

NYSRTA business. The zone will pay each delegate \$400 to help cover expenses.

If you have questions or concerns, contact me at 631-476-6558 or fgconway@optonline.net. I remain yours in the interests of LIZ/NYSRTA. —Fred Conway

NYS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2018



Minimum Pension Bump Up would extend the minimum retirement allowance for long-standing retired members of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System who retired prior to July 1, 1980 and increase the minimum retirement allowance for those retirees to \$550 per year of NYS service up to a maximum of \$19,250. A.06603A/Brindisi & S.5329A/Tedesco.

Improve Pension COLA would raise the base benefit amount upon which the COLA is computed from \$18,000 to \$21,000. A.06045A/Steck & S.03306A/Ritchie

We would like to discuss term limits & term lengths for legislators and legislative leadership positions, as well as the New York Health Act. —Angelo & Kathryn Grande

New MEDICARE cards



In an effort to protect against identity theft, Medicare will replace its cards, exchanging Social Security numbers for a 11-digit Medicare identifier. Starting April 2018, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin mailing new cards to all people with Medicare by geographic location. There are 7 waves of mailing; NYS is in the 4th wave. You can check the status of card mailing at medicare.gov. When you do get your new card, put your old one through a shredder or cut it up to be sure the part showing your Social Security number is destroyed. —Mary Ella Moeller



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Community Service while Dining



LIZ will donate to "Helping Makes U Happy," a non-profit organization in Center Moriches, founded by Keith Caputo, a young man with Down's Syndrome. Keith and his charity's mission is to show how everyone is capable of making a difference through volunteering and that doing good works not only helps those less fortunate, but also enriches the lives of the volunteers and donors. There will be a special raffle at the LIZ Spring Luncheon to help fund this donation.

At this luncheon, there will also be an important program, "Take Control: De-Clutter Your Life!" to address those piles of papers cluttering our lives: guide us as to what ones are important, how long should they be saved, where should we keep them, and how to safely dispose of papers no longer needed. Please join us May 23rd at the Irish Coffee Pub in Islip! The registration may be found on page 4. —Eileen Holmes

EERTA PR CHAIR



EERTA members enjoyed two luncheons before the snowy, wintery weather set it. In November, Larry Strickland put together an Election Day luncheon at Villa Paul Restaurant where we celebrated the defeat of the Constitutional Convention, met the newly-elected EERTA Board and heard news from the NYSTRA Convention. In December, Agnes Dansereau (at left) arranged a festive

holiday luncheon at O'Malley's Restaurant in Greenport, complete with sing-alongs, an Elf-on-the-Shelf to hand out grab bag gifts, a raffle, and a gala Chinese auction.

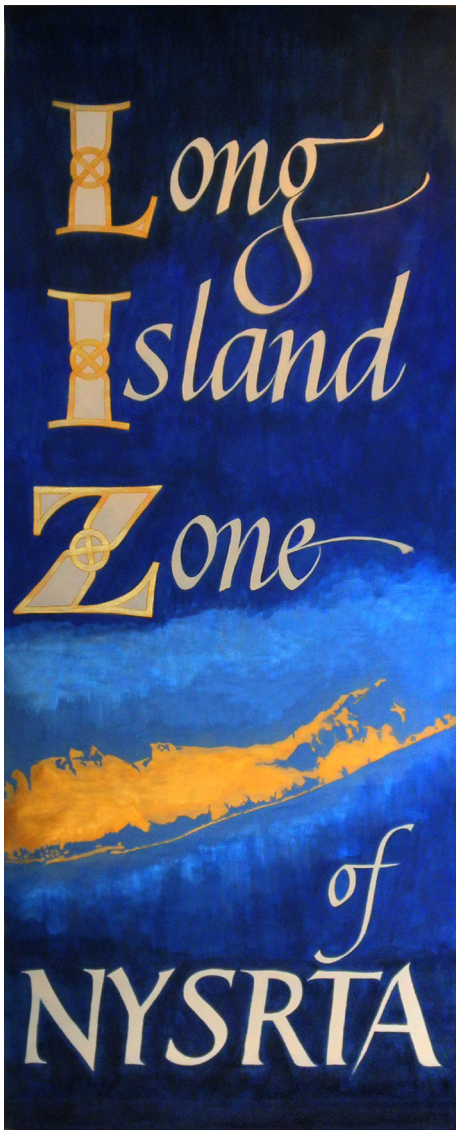
The next EERTA luncheon is set for April 25th at 11:30 at Phil's on the Waterfront, 177 Meeting House Creek Road in Aquebogue. Join with EERTA friends and snowbirds to welcome spring! Choose from sliced steak, chicken marsala or fish of the day. Send \$33 check payable to EERTA by April 16th to John Ruggiero, Box 517, East Moriches, NY 11940. —Eileen Holmes

WERTA PRESIDENT



Due to the inclement weather and a flu epidemic, our March luncheon/meeting had to be cancelled. Our guest speaker for the March luncheon, Theresa of *Flowers by Voegler*, will join us at our June luncheon to give a short presentation on flower arranging. Our last luncheon meeting for the school year will be held June 12, 2018 at Guy Anthony's Restaurant, North Merrick. In keeping with our goal for this year, we will be awarding a Scholarship to a student in the STEP Program at the Adelphi University Ruth S. Ammon School of Education. In addition, I will also be announcing our trip for the 2018 year and

providing all the details for an exciting adventure. —Emily Caristo



67th NYSRTA CONVENTION



When the 67th annual NYSRTA convention ended on November 1, 2017, the Long Island delegation returned home with five LIZ members serving at the state level: Eileen Holmes, newly appointed as Community Service Chair; Lois Thornberg, Vice President for membership; Leigh Powell, continuing as Site Chairperson; LIZ President Fred Conway, as all zone presidents have a vote on the NYSTRA board; and Angelo Grande, continuing to serve as NYSTRA President - way to go, Long Islanders!

Special congratulations to Fred Conway! Fred was presented with the prestigious Certificate of Recognition at the convention, acknowledging and thanking him for his work and dedication on all levels of NYSTRA. Fred joins Angelo Grande, Mary Ella Moeller and the late Jim Moeller on the list of LIZ members who have been honored with this Certificate.

This year, the Long Island Zone will be awarding NYSTRA's \$1,000 Hudson-Kramer Award to a public school teacher or administrator in Nassau or Suffolk County. This grant money is to be used to fund an innovative project or program that enhances curriculum, increases student achievement, or deals with issues such as bullying, peer pressure.... This grant will be advertised in Newsday and through school superintendents. As Public Relations Chair, I will be looking for five LIZ members to judge the applications in mid-May and help choose a winner. If you are interested in judging, let me know at 631-722-4504 or elo2@optimum.net. —Eileen Holmes

upper left: our banner, designed & painted by Jo Anne Powell

lower left: LIZ President Fred Conway leads his delegation from the coach bus upon arrival at Turning Stone in Verona, NY



Our 2017 Convention Delegates

back: Dominic LiCausi, David Keefe, John Ruggiero, Bob Svoboda, Carrie Gilbert, Jim Wrightman
middle: Dee McKinnon, Susan LiCausi, Lois Thornberg, Fred Conway, Kathy & Angelo Grande
front: Mary Armbruster, Eileen Holmes
not photographed: Leigh Powell



All from Long Island's Eastport High School, John Ruggiero (longtime East End RTA Treasurer), Eileen Holmes (newly appointed NYSRTA Community Service Chair) and Leigh Powell (NYSRTA Site Chair)

MEMBERSHIP



It is not too late to pay your dues for 2018-19. We recommend sending it in May, but June 30th is the deadline. Our delegation to the fall NYSRTA convention

is based on our paid membership in NYSRTA/LIZ. As a paid member you may attend the fall convention as a delegate. The convention is informative, educational and fun. You will receive our YORK STATE publication and LIZ NEWS; both offer important information for the retiree. Go to NYSRTA.org for an application. Hurry, time is running out.

—Mary L. Armbruster

LIZ NEWS in the Computer Age



In order to have LIZ NEWS reach you in a *much* more timely manner, I'm still learning *Mail Chimp* to direct those with internet access to the current full-color LIZ

NEWS edition posted on the NYSRTA website. I further invite you "Like" our Facebook page: "Long Island Zone of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association."

Speeding up the delivery of news will keep us better informed, save a few trees & great piles of stamps. Additionally, critical information will be easier to share with colleagues, family & friends.

We are going to experiment with NYSRTA's policy of sending alternate issues of its newsletter only by e-mail. Those members who receive a simple printed luncheon invitation should send an e-mail address to Llzonenews@gmail.com in order to view the entire full color current newsletter. Thanks!

—Jo Anne Powell

68th NYSRTA CONVENTION

Resolutions are due on June 1st in order to be considered for the NYSRTA Convention in October. Thank you. —Robert Svoboda

👍 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 👍

80% of New York voters gave the thumbs down to a constitutional convention, concerned about lost rights, protections and benefits. Collective bargaining rights, free public education, and our pensions were all on the table at a potential cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. Gov. Andrew Cuomo eventually came around to this point of view, concerned about re-election.

The State Constitution calls for a public referendum on a constitutional convention every 20 years, but the last NYS constitutional convention was held in 1967 with no actual change. The next vote will be in 2037.

Meanwhile, with approval by the voters and the Legislature, the courts may now "reduce or revoke" the pension of elected officials who are convicted of felonies related to their public duties.

Opportunity

Seeking retired teachers to score NYS ELA, math and science tests, grades 3-8. Scoring takes place in Suffolk County for 8 days in May and June 2018. If interested, please respond to drbedford@aol.com for details. —Dr. Robert Bedford



EERTA Holiday singers

Join us: LIZ SPRING LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

at the THE IRISH COFFEE PUB, 131 Carleton Avenue, East Islip

Menu includes: Penné à la Vodka and Cæsar Salad

Entrée: Chicken O'Shea, Flounder Française, Shepherd's Pie, or Steak Forrestière

Dessert: Apple Crisp Soft drinks, Coffee, Tea included Cash Bar Available

Program: "Take Control: De-Clutter Your Life!" Cost: \$36 per person

Long Island Zone's Spring Luncheon, May 23, 2018

Member's name _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Entrée choice _____

Guest's name _____

Guest's entrée choice _____

Please respond by May 16, 2018. Send checks payable to NYSTRA/LIZ for \$36 per person to LIZ Treasurer Dominick LiCausi, 31 Vidoni Drive, Mount Sinai, NY 11776