



The New York State
Retired Teachers' Association, Inc.

- ▶ Membership Pg 3
- ▶ Zone News Pages 6-16
- ▶ Insurance Page 19

YORK

State

Fall 2018

NO. 3 VOL. 66

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN
THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RETIRED EDUCATORS,
THEIR FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES.

A word from our President: Angelo Grande



Angelo Grande *CR
President

It is hard to believe that my term as President is about to end. It has been a wonderful experience and I cherish every moment that I served as President. I want to thank the members of NYSRTA for electing me President. My proudest moment was helping to defeat the Constitutional Convention of 2017. Through the President's Appeal we raised \$265,844 as of July 31, 2018. In my wildest dreams, I never thought it was possible to raise that kind of money. My Presidency has given me the opportunity to meet some great people. I would especially like to thank two dear friends and past Presidents **Terry Trudeau *CR** and **Tom Company *CR** for their guidance and words of wisdom during my Presidency. I would also like to thank all my committee chairs. I would also like to thank the office staff consisting of **Kathi Bassett**, **Debbie Barnes** and **Kristen Cecala** for making this organization run smoothly. Most of all I would like to thank my wonderful wife Kathy for her kind words and inspiration during my Presidency. I would also like to thank my friends at the Alliance of Public Employees and my friends of RPEA, Retired Public Employee Association who helped defeat the Constitutional Convention.

The most heartwarming part of my Presidency was the out pouring of love and concern on the passing of my sister Frances Conti. My sister's family and I thank you all for the wonderful response that we received.

I would like to thank **Kevin Mulligan** and his workshop committees these past three years for putting together some outstanding workshops. Thank you to the Western Zone for hosting this years' Convention.

We must keep working to increase membership and cut costs. We have made great success in reducing our expenses. We have had to make some tough decision in cutting our costs, but I think they paid off. I think we will have a balanced budget in the near future.

I leave the organization in good hands with our newly elected President **Kevin Mulligan**. Kevin will be an excellent President and will keep this organization running smoothly. I hope you all give him the same support you gave me. I would also like to wish **Dr. James Newell** luck in his new position as Senior Vice President and **Judy Corigliano** all my best wishes in her new position as Vice President for Friendly Service. I would also like to thank **Mary Johnson** and **Gary Germain** from the Legislative Action Committee, **Lois Thornberg** who will continue to work on increasing our Membership and **Judy Farmer**, who does an excellent job as Secretary. A special thank you to **President Emeritus Terry Trudeau *CR** who continues as our NYSRTA Treasurer.

We must all work together to make NYSRTA an excellent organization. I will still be here to help where ever I can to keep NYSRTA strong.

Senior Vice President; Kevin Mulligan, Workshop Committee Chair

Stepping Up To The Plate

When I was 6 years old my Dad took me to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, and so began my love affair with baseball. Baseball is a team sport, but batting is totally an individual component of the game. At the 2018 NYSRTA Convention, I will be the nominee for President of NYSRTA, and in a sense will be the next "batter up". I will be facing some very imposing problems for our organization, but none are greater than our declining membership and a profound leadership void.

The June 2018 membership statistics for NYSRTA (statewide) paint a very gloomy picture. Since November 2017, our organization has lost 505 members to death and has gained only 90 new members. Our total enrollment (statewide) is down to 15,331. In baseball pitching terms, that is one wicked "slider".

The illustrious leadership for NYSRTA is aging out. Out of 18 members of the State Board of Directors there are only three (3) who are not Medicare eligible, and those will be soon. Some Zone Presidents are being recycled again as President, because no one is willing to "step up to the plate". Going around a second or even third time takes a toll on vim and vigor. It is kind of like seeing the same pitcher for your second, third, or even fourth time at bat.

President Angelo Grande has done a superb job in attending to the President's Appeal. In the last two (2) years his appeal has raised over \$200,000. In part, this was accomplished by drawing members attention to the pitfalls of a Constitutional Convention, and supporting a call for a NO vote in 2017. President Grande made a good faith

effort to work closer with NYSUT in 2016, particularly on legislative action and the Constitutional Convention referendum. NYSUT however, did not receive his good faith gestures in the same vain.

The last several years has clearly delineated, for me, NYSUT's position with respect to retired teachers. They readily provide a system of organization and member benefits for retirees, through their retiree councils. However, they do not represent retirees for benefits lost, unless requested by the respective affiliated Teacher Association. Even then, NYSUT's legal team may choose not to represent the interest of the defamed retirees.

Just recently, the retired teachers of the City of Buffalo lost their provided prescription coverage by a unilateral action of the City of Buffalo Board of Education. They were all indiscriminately placed on Medicare Part D. This action bears witness to my claim that the **number 1 concern for all NY State Retired Educators should be HEALTH INSURANCE**. As President of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association, I plan to make retiree health insurance our **main** focus. It needs to be the #1 agenda item for our Legislative Action Committee. Providing our members with relevant, Zone specific information, and news about their particular health insurance plan will be a new endeavor for NYSRTA.

It is my intent to give NYSRTA a new purpose, and provide a new identity that will be more appealing to "young" retirees and more reassuring to our "experienced" retirees. I hope this will be our "Grand Slam" together. Go Red Sox!!

We're changing...for the better!



**TO ENROLL
OR REQUEST
INFORMATION
518-640-8100**

Our name has changed from Pearl Carroll & Associates to Pearl Insurance.

We're becoming more integrated with our parent company, Pearl Insurance, which will allow us to offer you more holistic solutions.

Don't worry, no action is required on your end. But changes will occur with our website and branding

⇒ *Senior Life Insurance*

⇒ *Hospital & Home Care Recovery Insurance*

⇒ *Dental Insurance*

⇒ *Vision Insurance*

⇒ *Home/Auto/Umbrella/Renters Insurance*

⇒ *Pet Insurance*

Membership; Lois Thornberg, Vice President for Membership

Membership growth is basically the most important factor in the success or failure of any organization. Members are what make the organization what it is and without them the organization would cease to exist. It is not uncommon today for an organization to experience a decline in participation and membership. NYSRTA is no exception, our membership in NYSRTA is declining rapidly due to mainly three factors: death, present members not renewing, and a decline of new members joining. As an organization we are “aging out”. Not only does the recruitment of new members, but also the retention of present members need to be the responsibility of ALL members of the organization. As a member each and every one of us must work on increasing the awareness of NYSRTA, and work on bringing in new “blood”. We need to reach out to past members and encourage them to come back to the fold. Share what NYSRTA has done for the retiree, and the benefits that are available (both socially and financially) to our members. Spread the word stressing that we are the **ONLY** organization that focuses on the needs of the **RETIREE**, working to insure that their pensions and health care are kept in place. As a parting thought, think about this: Let’s all do our best to **INSPIRE** people to join!

If we work together, we can succeed
Never too early to reach out to new and past retirees
Share your time and talents
Promote what NYSRTA does
Identify with prospective members
Recruit, recruit, and recruit- It is everyone’s job
Engage with others- chat, say “hi”, and communicate



Legislative Action; Mary Johnson and Gary Germain, Co-Vice Presidents

We can be assured that Social Security is stable and can pay full benefits until at least 2034. But, what then? How will our children and grandchildren fare? After 2034 it will be able to pay about 79% of all benefits owed. The modest increases that current recipients have received the last few years fail to keep pace with their financial needs as medical costs rise and prices rise for basic necessities. Basing the cost of living index on a CPI for Elderly would assure that their buying power does not erode over time. That is why we are supporting a bill to strengthen and expand social security.

Medical costs are soaring but something can be done about the increasingly astronomic cost of prescription drugs. Medicare is currently unable to negotiate prices for Medicare approved prescription drugs. We are supporting a bill that would change that. Prescription drug price negotiation has been a priority for us for several years. Now it is getting the attention it deserves in Washington. The tragedy of school violence has sent shock waves through this country. We will support efforts at the State and Federal level to ensure safe schools.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2018-2019

Social Security for Future Generations/Social Security Expansion Act

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code and Social Security Act to apply employment and self-employment taxes to remuneration up to the contribution and benefit base (\$127,000 in 2017) and to use the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers (CPI-E) to compute benefits.

HR2855 Al Larson S427 Bernard Sanders

Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act/Let Seniors Work Act

These bills would amend title II (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to eliminate the Federal payroll tax with respect to the earnings of an individual who has attained retirement age and remove the limitations on the amount of outside income than an OASDI beneficiary can earn without a reduction in benefits.

HR3077 Sam Johnson S158 Marco Rubio

Prescription Reduction in Costs for Everyone (PRICE) Act/Empowering Seniors to Negotiate Drug Prices Act

These bills allow the President or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to negotiate drug prices under the Medicare prescription drug benefit and institute a price structure for the reimbursement of drugs covered under the benefit.

HR1775 Peter DeFazio S1688 Amy Klobuchar

*****New York State Retired Teachers Association also supports.*****

Efforts to ensure School Safety. In addition to grants for training, metal detectors and other devices to ensure school safety, we call for mental health support for students and educators, more counselors in schools and after-school programs; Legislation to protect Social Security and assure that there will be no reduction in Social Security and Medicare benefits.



Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust; Anne Flansburg *CR, Chair

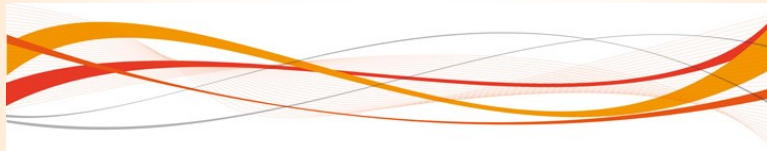
The Trustees and recipients of the DeCormier Memorial Trust extend a sincere "THANK YOU" to the many individuals, units, and zones who have contributed to the Trust Fund. You should be very proud to be a member of an organization that helps retired educators in need of financial assistance.

In 2017, nine zones, namely: **Central, Central Western, Eastern, Long Island, Northeastern, Northern, Southern, Southeastern and Western** contributed and we are grateful for this. Eight zones have units or Retired Teachers Associations (RTAs), and many of these also provided funds. Unit donations were received from: Central Zone - **Oswego**; Central Western Zone - **Alleghany, Ontario**, Eastern Zone - **Amsterdam, Fulton, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga Springs, Upper Montgomery**; Northern Zone - **Gouverneur**; Southern Zone - **Eastern Broome**; Southeastern Zone - **Newburgh**; Western Zone- **Eastern Erie, Eastern Niagara, Lancaster-Depew, Southern Chautauqua County, and Springville**.

The **Buffalo Retired Administrators' Association (BRAA)**, the **Horseheads Area RTA**, and **NYSRTA** also donated, as did the **Friendly Service** from **Southern Zone**. The BJ's membership drive netted \$645. In addition, **thirty-one individuals** sent contributions. Many of those donations were made in memory of deceased educators. A personal note, written by the DeCormier secretary, is sent to the family of the deceased, notifying them of the donation and remembrance. This is truly a great way to honor both the living and the deceased members of a family and/or a friend.

Are you in need of financial help? If so, applications are available on the internet, from your Friendly Service Chair, or by calling Anne Flansburg (716)-863-3631.

If you would like to donate to this Fund, please send check made out to Robert DeCormier Trust Fund and send to: David Mapes, Treasurer, 6163 Vista Hill, Dansville NY 14437.



Planning A Move???

Please include us in your 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!!



- ◆ See the Latest York State
- ◆ Articles for Retired Teachers
- ◆ Jokes/Stories
- ◆ Members Only Information
- ◆ Pictures from Events

ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

CENTRAL ZONE: *Mary Radloff, Public Relations Chair*

The NYSRTA Ross Hudson Memorial Grant of \$1000 for 2018 was awarded to **Cynthia Covey**, a Sixth grade teacher at Afton Elementary School, Afton, NY. **Project: Creation of textbook and materials of two different reading levels for Social Studies students with a variety of skills and reading levels.** CZ Vice President **Bill Cline** made the presentation at the Afton SCD Moving-Up Day on June 21st. PR Chairs from the local units used a blind evaluation of the 17 applications which were all remarkably well written and showed a wide range from commercial products to original creative plans for student benefits. Evaluators included **Vera Wolczek**, Cayuga; **Chris Granan**, **Mark Granan**, Chenango; **Jane Hicks**, Madison; **Johnnie Jones**, Oneida/Herkimer; **Dell Ford Jordan**, Onondaga; **Michelle Loneragan** Oswego.

In addition to this program, these PR chairs have done an excellent of keeping their members as well as the public informed of their activities. Newsletters, local newspapers, publicity of participation in local walks for good causes, election of officers, community service projects – all contribute to keeping NYSRTA in the public eye.



CZ VP Bill Cline pictured with Ross Hudson Grant winner Cynthia Covey



Central Western Zone: *Phyllis Dunlap, Public Relations Chair*

Ann Czajkowski, chair of the Barrie Fleegel Memorial Active Educator Grants reported from Orleans County. **Carol Lord *CR**, **John Hogan *CR** and **Gene Czajkowski** graciously agreed to serve on the Grants Committee with me again this year. **Mariann Holcomb** passed away in January 2018. She had served on the Committee since the inception of the CWZ Active Educator Awards in October of 2005. She will be missed. This is a great way to get our NYSRTA out to the public domain, help active educators and have our CWZ members receive some monetary rewards. This award is in memory of one of our past presidents at CWZ.

One hundred eighty-eight Split Club tickets at twenty dollars each plus an additional forty dollars in donation for a total of \$3,800 funded the 2018 CWZ Barrie Fleegel Memorial Active Educator Grants, Split Club winnings and expenses. Seventeen hundred fifty dollar was awarded in Grants this year. At least \$100 is awarded to a fulltime active educator pursuing a graduate level degree or certificate in each of our Zone 9 counties with an eligible applicant. Sixteen hundred ninety-five dollars was divided among fifteen Split Club members at \$113 each. Three hundred fifteen dollars was set aside for printing cost, stationery, certificates and postage.

Joan Handfield, Community Service Chair from Ontario County Retired Teachers reports: "Our Community Service project for 2017-18 is the House of John, a hospice home in Clifton Springs. This facility provides wonderful hospice care to terminally ill and their families. Last fall they were delighted to receive our cash donations as well as our paper products and personal care items. We would like to continue our generosity."

Continued on next page

ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Central Western Zone (Continued)

Some of the items from the House of John's wish list are: paper products, copy paper, stamps, Swiffer Wet Jet pads, clear 13 Gallon garbage bags, dishwasher detergent, and medium vinyl gloves, HE laundry soap for front loading washing machine, Keurig cups and gift cards.

Seneca County Retired Teachers' Executive Board met to plan the autumn meeting at Café XIX in Seneca Falls, Birthplace of Women's Rights. The café is named after the 19th Amendment which gives women the right to vote. A small group of women and men met in Waterloo, also in Seneca County to write up the Declaration of Sentiments to be voted on at the 1st Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls in 1848.

From L-R: Cornelia Johnson, Lynn Hefferon, Barb Rosecrans, Lynn Patti, Carol Westlake, Carol Lord*CR, President Emeritas Judie Byndas*CR and Norma Cayward.



Northeastern Zone: *Marti Martin, Public Relations Chair*

Since the Spring edition, members of the Northeastern Zone have reveled in the heat of an unparalleled Summer. Family weddings and reunions, 50th Class reunions, a week hosting Grandparents' Camp, traveling, days at the beach, hiking, fishing, and finding a cool spot in the shade to read a good book or just take a nap, have taken precedence from all organizational responsibilities and have been the order of the day. For this writer, Fall has always been thought of as my 'New Year'. As a teacher, it was the time for gearing up with the start of the school year, and although retired, now, it is the beginning of our NE Zone year ~ time to report the news of our many members and our activities.

Honorariums:

The **NEZ Scholarship winner** of \$500 was awarded to **Colby Fortin**. She graduated from Peru Central High School after being involved in Student Government, Model UN, Honor Society and Theater, all the while volunteering in the Autism Early Intervention program and working part time besides. Her future interests are in the field of education focusing on underdeveloped countries, war-torn areas, and cities in need of better educational resources in the US. What worthy pursuits! She is probably on her way to Oberlin College as I write, so we want to wish her our best in her academic endeavors!

Continued on page 8



ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Northeastern Zone (Continued)

Member Spotlight:

NEZ member **Nancy Olsen** was recognized at the "Six over Seventy" commemoration dinner held in May, an event that honors six seniors over the age of 70 years who have made significant contributions to their community, either through volunteerism, advocates on issues relevant to senior citizens, working in the public interest beyond the retirement age, and those who notably are mentors or role models to others. Nancy came to the Plattsburgh area from Rochester the summer of 1967 to be the waterfront director at Camp Tapawingo, the camp for Girl Scouts at Point Au Roche. She had attended Ithaca College with a major in Physical Education and was teaching in Newark, NJ at the time. After getting her master's degree at University of Wisconsin, she settled back in Plattsburgh "where there were lakes and mountains and places to paddle and hike". She taught physical education at Peru Central School at Northside Elementary School at the Plattsburgh Air Force Base until it closed in 1995. At that point she retired after 32 years...from teaching, that is. Being outdoors is Nancy's passion! You can find her planting or tending the flowers at the Samuel de Champlain monument or along the Karen Fleury Memorial Bike Path. She leads hikes and outings as a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club and as a 46er. She is a church elder in the First Presbyterian Church and the chair of a local Mission Council. The church has a plot at the Community Garden, at Melissa Penfield Park. Nancy helps grow the food raised there which is in turn donated to the Interfaith Food Shelf, where Nancy works twice a month and volunteers as a board member. Nancy participates in the NEZ community service project, Adopt-A-Highway, along a stretch of Route 9 that hugs the shoreline of Lake Champlain near Ausable Point Campground. She was co-editor of the very job I have now, writing for *York State* and our local newsletter, *The Nor'Easter*, with **Marilyn Smith**, a dear friend and fellow adventurer. Our Scholarship program and the Grant Awards that NEZ and NYSRTA have made are important to Nancy. She has dedicated time to help with the selection process many times. Nancy has also been dedicated to the Clinton County Literacy Challenge and always made sure there was financial support for our NEZ team to participate. It's no wonder she received the Distinguished Service award from NEZ last fall at its 65th Anniversary celebration! Nancy was quoted as saying, "Now, I feel that I should give back as much as I can to the people in the community." You certainly have done that...and more. Thank you for your efforts.

Up and Coming News:

Our selection committee will be meeting on August 29th to review the three applications we have received as of this date for the inaugural NEZ Kramer Educator Award. This is a \$500 award our Board of Directors decided this Spring to implement to support our colleagues who are **active** teachers. This award, named after **Karl and Ruth Kramer**, former NEZ members, is being given to an area educator in Clinton or Essex County who has an idea for a project or a program to initiate in his or her classroom. In its design, the project or program must contribute to academic growth or enrichment and relate to the District curriculum goals. The winner and project or program will be shared in our next *York State* edition. The award is modeled after the \$1000 Hudson-Kramer Award that is given by NYSRTA every other year.

In June, 56 newly retired colleagues, received their invitations to join our organization. They have been invited to attend our Fall luncheon scheduled for September 6, at The Barracks Golf Club, located on the former Plattsburgh US Air Force Base. Members are encouraged to phone retiring former colleagues from their districts to personally invite them to come to see what we're all about. A key point when discussing NEZ NYSRTA membership with potential members is that the \$30 membership fee they pay is an investment in protecting the benefits they are about to receive from NYSRTA as a retiree.

One of the highlights of the Fall meeting will be the announcement of the Distinguished Service Awards. These folks will be commended for their dedicated membership and contributions to our organization. In addition, our guest, an officer from the NYS Police, will speak about types of scams that target citizens, particularly Seniors, and how to avoid being a victim. The honorees and a summary of the guest talk will be shared in the next edition *The Nor'Easter* and in *York State*.

October 17th -19th mark the calendar when NEZ will send 9 delegates to the NYSRTA Convention at Turning Stone Conference Center and Casino in Verona, NY outside of Utica. **Kevin Mulligan**, NEZ Past President, NYSRTA Sr. VP, has worked closely with the Western Zone, our hosts, in organizing the convention. In addition, he is facilitating a seminar entitled, "The Family Love Letter", designed to inform family members regarding the location of financial and legal documents, and special requests should a sudden health incident or death should occur. Several members of our NEZ Board of Directors are Chair people of State Committees and they, as well as our President, **Bonnie Gregware**, have their expenses paid by the State organization.

Continued on next page

ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Other Tidbits:

A straw poll was taken at the June meeting to see how many of our members were receiving their copies of *York State* via email, and to assess their preference for the printed or the emailed version. We discovered that several members were not receiving their emailed issues, so that was important to know and easy to correct. We also found that the membership in attendance was split just about 50/50 in their preferences of the two versions.

Our Zone decided to sponsor the Newspapers in Education program at the \$150 Merit Level through the *Plattsburgh Press-Republican*. Our 'hometown newspaper' circulates throughout Clinton, Essex and Franklin counties and during the past year had 20 schools participating in the program at no cost to the school districts. Not only did we make this decision because we are educators, we value the written word, and we want to provide experiences to students that they may not otherwise have, but it was an opportunity to join businesses and other organizations that have done the same. A half page ad appears twice a month, every month, on Wednesdays to inform the public of this valuable resource to students and which organizations have helped to sponsor the program. It is a wonderful opportunity to introduce the open apple logo of NYSRTA to our local communities, and to let them know we are committed to this program as educators.

Finally, perhaps last, but not least, we sadly want to memorialize the following members who have passed away since January of 2018. We wish to send our condolences to their family members and close friends, hoping that the memories of them, kept close in their hearts, will bring peace. Those thought of with fond remembrance are: **Lawrence Arcarese, Judy Clark, Robert Dailey, Theresa Dugan, Tom Greenwood, Elizabeth Hughes, Eileen Perras, Sandra Poutre, Mary Wiley, Wendy Robertson, Bruce Seguin, Lynn Wilke, and Norbert Yakey.**



Eastern Zone: *Pamela Love, Public Relations Chair*

Eastern Zone

A group of Eastern Zone members met in July to prepare a mailing to be sent to all members of Eastern Zone. President, **Rosalie Oliver**, coordinated the mailing. Those joining her for this task included **Mary Boice, Carolyn Bovee, Jack DeWeese *CR, Marge Leibowitz, Pamela Love and Ginny Madore.**

Delaware County Unit

President, **Patricia Reynolds**, reported that their Fall gathering will be held September 27th. at Rainbow Lodge for a luncheon buffet and program. **Dr Lisa Mays** will talk about her recent trip to Nepal. The unit's community project is monetary donations and food to put in the webpacs for thirty elementary children.

Fulton County Unit

President, **Irene Hauser**, reported that their unit presents a \$500 scholarship to a full time, part time or substitute teacher working in Fulton County pursuing an advanced degree in the field of education. The award was presented to **Justin Frederick**, a middle/high school math teacher in the Northville Central School District. This scholarship is awarded each December to a teacher who is selected anonymously by their scholarship committee. They also collect money and items for community projects such as local food pantries, animal shelters and used children's books to be placed on doctor's office, etc. for children to enjoy.

Continued on page 10

ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Eastern Zone *(Continued)*

Otsego County

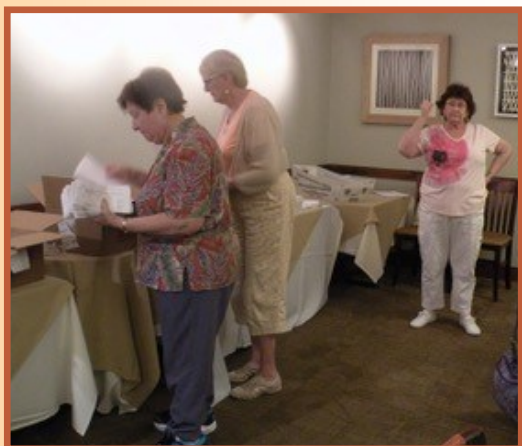
President, **Penny Bellinger**, reported that the Otsego County unit held their annual "Not going back to school" golf tournament at Colonial Ridge Golf Course on August 22nd. 16 teams participated. It included lunch and then they raffled off many prizes. They collected \$1475 in cash and made about \$1300 from the raffle and auction. The money was then used the next day to shop at Walmart to get school supplies (8 shopping carts). This week and during the school year, supplies will be available to the children as needed. It's a wonderful feeling to know that children can start school with supplies that they need.

Rensselaer County Unit

President, **Marge Leibowitz**, reported that the Rensselaer Unit will be holding their September Meeting on Wednesday, September 12th. at Brunswick Greene. This past June, **Bryel Weinlein**, a senior at Columbia H.S. received a \$500 scholarship from their unit. Bryel plans on becoming a Primary Education teacher. **Deborah Lyman** chaired the Scholarship Committee. Marge also reported that the unit has collected goods for rescue animals and continues to support Pets Without People Program at the Troy, Latham and East Greenbush animal hospital locations.

Saratoga County Unit

President, **Ken Bollerud**, reported that the Saratoga Unit meets at Longfellows Restaurant. Their luncheon meetings this year will be Sept, 10th. Oct. 1st., Nov. 5th., Dec. 3rd., Jan. 7th., Feb. 4th., March 4th., April 1st., May 6th. and June 3rd. They usually have a speaker at these luncheon meetings. They have an active group that makes cards and sends them to shut-ins as well as to members celebrating a birthday. At the upcoming November meeting, members will bring food items for the Franklin Community Center Food Bank. In June they make a substantial donation to the DeCormier Fund, leaving enough money in reserve to start in the fall



L-R: Marge Leibowitz, Pamela Love and Zone President Rosalie Oliver



Clockwise: Mary Boice, Pamela Love and Carolyn Bovee



ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Eastern Zone (Continued)

EASTERN ZONE VOLUNTEER DAY AT THE REGIONAL FOOD BANK



Volunteers worked a three hour shift on September 26th (9 am - noon). The shift began with orientation and training. Since we were sorting in the salvage room, we had to learn about which products to keep and which to throw away. This was based on expiration dates, use by dates, dents in cans, rips in products, etc. Our shift sorted one whole tractor trailer of food and a quarter of another one; all of the food had been donated.



Since 1982, the Regional Food Bank has been helping to feed the poor and hungry. It is the only organization of its kind in northeastern New York. The Food Bank collects large donations of food from the food industry and distributes it to charitable agencies serving hungry and disadvantaged people in 23 counties of New York State. The Food Bank distributed 24.9 million pounds of food to over 1,000 member agencies assisting low-income people during 2010.



Long Island Zone: Eileen Holmes, Public Relations Chair

The Long Island Zone is saddened by the passing of long-time member **Mary "Penny" Coyle** on August 24, 2018. She was 77 years old.

Penny was born in Greenport (LI) Hospital and lived in Greenport her entire life. She was a 1962 graduate of SUNY Oneonta and earned her Master's at Hofstra University in 1966. Over the years, she taught in Huntington, Greenport and Southampton. Tutoring foreign students to speak, read and write English was her passion and she maintained contact with many of her students and their families.

Penny was a generous, hardworking member of the Long Island Zone and particularly dedicated to EERTA activities. When her health permitted, she never missed a board meeting, luncheon or the NYSRTA convention. Confined in a nursing home for the past three years her NYSRTA spirit never wavered. Penny continued working with Friendly Service chairs **Alicia Winosky** and **Dee McKinnon**, sending out greeting cards from her sickbed.

The Long Island Zone will miss her spirit and her contributions to our organization and extend our sincere condolences to her loving family and her many friends.

Northern Zone: *Linda Crosby, Public Relations Chair*

After spending far too much of this super steamy summer in my air conditioned living room (very unusual for the North Country-last year, I never turned on the A/C), I was about ready to move to the Northwest Territories of Canada! O' Canada! I am SO looking forward to Fall.

Our NZ members are all welcome to join in on the celebration of Fall at our next membership meeting at the beautiful Malone Golf Club where the food is always tasty and the scrumptious views of the foothills of the Adirondacks will entice all to engage in outdoor fall adventures; you could play an afternoon round of golf after lunch! At our NZ Executive Board meeting on August 28, the final plans for the fall meeting were revealed; the NZ newsletter and the invitations were stuffed into envelopes and mailed to all NZ members. Alice has also made arrangements for guest speaker and NZ-NYSRTA member **Francoise Goodrow** to present a special program at the fall meeting on what life was like for French citizens enduring the Nazi German occupation during WWII. Fran tells the story of her mother, **Germaine Bessard**, a member of the French Resistance, in her recently published book, **The Resistant**, which will be available for sale (\$22) and signing at the meeting. As a young woman, Germaine lived in the Forbidden Zone in Besancon, France; her activities in the Resistance led to her arrest and imprisonment by the Nazis; later, she was pursued by the Gestapo. After WWII, Germaine received national and international recognition from many organizations, including honors from General Charles de Galle and from the British Royal Air Force for her courage and involvement in a Resistance network that won freedom for over 6,000 prisoners of war, Jews and downed British pilots. When Fran was a child, her family moved from France to Canada and, later, to a farm in Northern New York where she graduated from Brushton-Moira Central School, Brushton, N.Y. Fran was a French teacher in several area schools before retiring from Brushton-Moira Central School after many years of service to her alma mater. She lives in Malone, N.Y. with her husband, Paul, a retired BOCES administrator and NZ-NYSRTA member. Also, at the August 28th board of directors' meeting, many committee reports were presented and discussed with an emphasis on preparation for the 2018 NYSRTA Annual Convention at Turning Stone Casino, Verona, N.Y. from October 17-19, 2018. Two-thousand Eighteen NZ Convention delegates will be **Gayla LePage, Linda Crosby, Rae Louise Tate, Alice Galvin, Phil LePage, Tom Cook** and **Betty Cook**. Our zone has to prepare two baskets that will be raffled off at the convention for fund raising purposes. Thank you to all who contributed to the baskets.

Joe Russo, Clifton-Fine-Edwards Unit-NYSRTA President reported that 23 members attended the summer membership meeting on August 15 at The Haven on the shores of beautiful Star Lake. The program was "Reading with Dogs." C.F.C.S.D. retiree **Jean Pomerville** and her canine pal, Willow, teamed up with C.F.C.S.D. Reading Specialist **Jodi Sczlamczynski** and her dogs, Lily and Miles, to present highlights of their reading therapy program for students at school. **Debby Yartz** gave an encouraging financial report. **Alice Galvin** displayed her historian's scrapbooks. **Mary Sherman** gave the Friendly Services report. The P.A. Miranda Scholarship of \$1,500 was awarded to Clifton-Fine C.S.D. Valedictorian **Rachel Milone**, daughter of CFCSD Art teacher **Rebecca Milone** and **Aldo Milone** of Harrisville, NY. Rachel is attending Cornell University. Joe expressed thanks to the CFE unit members for the money and school supplies for the scholarship fund and for the back to school backpack program generously donated at the meeting.

My sincere apologies go to new member **Susan Shene** of Fine, N.Y. for misspelling her name in the Summer 2018 York State; welcome, again, to NYSRTA! Welcome to new members: **Jodie Flick** (Brushton-Moira C.S.D.) of Chateaugay, NY, **Margaret Carter** (Adirondack Central S.D.) of Chateaugay, NY, **Marsha Ragan Thompson** (Hammondsport C.S.D.) of Hammond, NY, and **Casey Smith** (Ogdensburg C.S.D.) of Ogdensburg, NY. Thank you for joining us in the Northern Zone-NYSRTA membership!

We must note the sad news that our longtime NZ member **Walter Lacks**, of Norwood, NY, recently passed away. Sincere condolences go to his family and friends.

Thank you to all our generous NZ members who donated at the May NZ membership meeting to our scholarship fund (\$327.50) and to the Frederic Remington Museum education fund (\$147.50). Your continuous support is greatly appreciated in our goal to help our communities.



Continued on next page

Northern Zone (Continued)

NZ President **Gayla LePage** has announced the names of the 2018 recipients of our annual NZ scholarship awards of \$400 each. The Janet P. Dana Memorial Scholarship (Franklin County) was presented to **Haley Gonyea**, daughter of **Cathy and Alan Gonyea** of Malone, N.Y. Haley graduated from Franklin Academy (Malone C.S.D.) very near the top of her class while maintaining a heavy course schedule and participating in many voice and band groups, school musicals and plays, National Honor Society, French Club, track and soccer, including leadership positions in many of her activities. She is attending Ithaca College to study music education. **Haven Gotham**, daughter of **Lura Hughes and Bryan Gotham** of Edwards, N.Y., was awarded The Ross C. Hudson Memorial Scholarship (St. Lawrence County). A graduate of Edwards-Knox Central School in Herman, N.Y., Haven also maintained high academic achievement in her courses; she participated in many choral (Area All-State) and band groups, school musicals, varsity swimming, figure skating, National Honor Society, yearbook committee and prom committee. She is a music education major at The Crane School of Music-SUNY Potsdam. NZ members send congratulations to both young ladies and best wishes for continued academic success in college.



Haley Gonyea



Haven Gotham



Rachel Milone receives the P.A. Miranda Scholarship presented by Debby Yartz, CFE Unit Treasurer/Scholarship Committee member.



Fran Miller, Laurie Reynolds, Jodi Szlamczynski, Jean Pomerville, Rae Louise Tate, and Rene'e Waters enjoy lunch after the CFE Unit annual meeting.



C-FCSD retiree Jean Pomerville and C-FCSD teacher Jodi Szlamczynski with Jodi's therapy dogs, Lily and Miles.

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

It has been an old-fashioned summer, and NCZ members have taken advantage of it! They have been involved in active, outdoor activities. **David Schryver**, co-author of the book **Waterfalls of New York State**, and his wife, **Marcia**, led a fieldtrip to the Salmon River Falls in Orwell, NY on July 23rd. Nine brave souls joined these expert guides for a day filled with breath-taking scenery, sunshine, laughter, and companionship. After walking on the trails and viewing the falls, these outdoor enthusiasts enjoyed a delicious lunch at the beautiful Tailwater Lodge in Altmar. After lunch, they took a short excursion to the nearby DEC Fish Hatchery. It was amazing to view the stunning beauty that exists in our own backyard in the North Country.

Yes, it has been a summer for fun, relaxation, and adventure. NCZ members have been spotted on the Willowbrook Golf Course in Watertown and even the River Golf Adventures in Clayton! Our own "Spider Woman", **Hope Marston**, participated in the Over the Edge fundraiser to benefit the United Way of NNY. Hope put on an amazing display of athleticism and courage rappelling down the Midtown Towers building in Watertown.



David & Marcia Schryver, Salmon River

As we move into fall, we are looking forward to our Annual Meeting/Luncheon on September 18th at the Ramada Inn in Watertown. We are delighted that musical entertainment will be provided by the talented students from Stage Notes under the direction of **Ticia Aumell**. This luncheon will support the Coats for Kids community service project. Organized by NCZ Community Service Chair, **Pat Dietrich**, this campaign is under the direction of **Patty Corey** and **Toni Gigliotti**. NCZ members are asked to donate gently used winter items for children in all sizes. Monetary contributions are also welcome. The winter goods will be distributed in Lewis County during the month of October. NCZ members always give generously to this worthwhile cause.

Dates to Remember:

*NCZ Fall Luncheon, Tuesday, September 18, 2018, Ramada Inn, Watertown

*NYSRTA Convention, October 17-19, 2018, Verona, NY

*Board of Directors Meeting, Thursday, November 1, 2018, BOCES Wellness Clinic, 10-Noon



L to R: Woody & Teresa Lyndaker and Nancy & Al Roberts



L to R: Joan Carlo, Kathy Allan, Jeannie Greenwood and Pat Newell



Hope Marston: Over the Edge!



Back Row L-R: Jeannie Greenwood, Jim Newell, Bill Haller, Teresa Lyndaker, Marcia & David Schryver
Front Row L-R: Betty Gifford, Pat Dietrich, Kathy Allan, Pat Newell

Southern Zone: Debbie Deats, Public Relations Co-Chairs

The day was June 7th at 1:30 PM when five members of the Southern Zone of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association met at the Marathon Junior/Senior High School. The members were **Mary Lou Wood** President, **Lois Cutton** Treasurer, **Imogene McKendrick*CR** Friendly Service, **Debra Carlone** CARTA President, and **Donald Cutton*CR** SZ Scholarship Grant Chair.

The task was to give the New York State Retired Teachers' Association Hudson- Kramer Memorial Grant of \$1,000 to **Crystal Aukema** who teaches Agriculture to students in 7-12. Crystal is a leader in FFA (Future Farmers of America) as well. Marathon is a Community where Agriculture is a big business and has a Fair that students show what projects they have worked on that year.

Crystal's need – was pop-up tents for bad weather, pop-up banners for display and stands. Her classroom need was a Unit for her Hydroponics and the Animal Display units she has. Her students will gain much from the Grant because of Crystal's leadership. The cost she figured right to the \$1,000 dollars she needed. We congratulate Crystal's win of the Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant and know she will use it well.

***Debra Carlone taught Crystal when she was in High School. She was proud that Crystal received this grant and knows she will use it to help the project of the students.*



Mary Lou Wood, Crystal Aukema, Donald Cutton*CR, Debra Carlone

On September 19th, the Southern Zone held its annual meeting and also followed that with its executive committee meeting. We were honored to have our meeting housed in the Owego Methodist Church. The setting and food were excellent. Our guest speaker was **Jane Talbot** who spoke to us on "Medicare in 2019." Our Special Recognition for SZ was presented by **Mary Lou Wood** to honor **Lois Cutton**, long-time treasurer of both the SZ and her SCRTA unit. Lois was nominated by President of Schuyler County Retired Teachers' Association **Linda Moore**.

Also at the meeting, the slate of officers was presented as the current officers. Re-elected were **Lois Cutton**, Treasurer; **Mary Lou Wood**, President; **Vince Smith*CR**, VP of Membership; **Debbi Deats**, VP of Public Relations; and **Bonnie Stratton**, Secretary.

Some of the members of the Executive Committee that met following the annual meeting are **Debbi Deats**, **Linda Moore**, **Lois Cutton**, and **Lynne Hunkovic**, president of EBB, **Vince Smith*CR**, **Don Cutton*CR**, **Nancy Spaulding**, president of EARTA, and **Mary Lou Wood**.

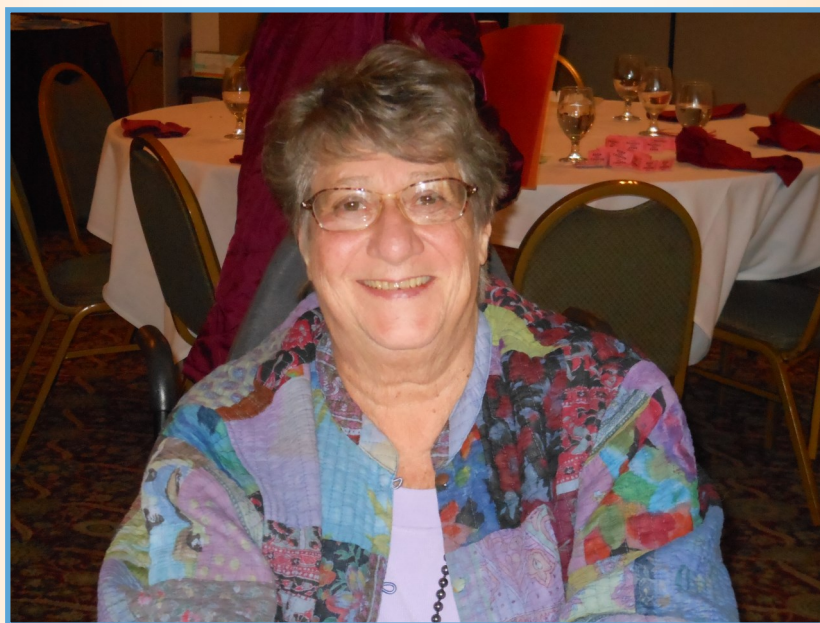


Western Zone: *Michelle Claus, Public Relations Chair*

Western Zone is saying goodbye to **Doris R. Kirsch*CR** after four years as our President. Some members know only Doris as our President, and others have been guided by several devoted Presidents of Western Zone. This article is a biography of Doris R. Kirsch, her work and accomplishments in Western Zone and New York State Retired Teachers' Association.

President Kirsch is a respected educator and a devoted advocate for retired educators. She is involved at the local, zone, and State levels. Members have said she "works well with others". This strength allows her to be persuasive with a positive attitude and a good sense of knowing the direction to take. Doris encouraged her students to be successful even if they thought themselves incapable. Drawing on her many roles as a leader in Western Zone, Doris guided members in their new committee or officer positions. She quickly learned the skills needed for her many committee chair and officer positions. She held the following positions as a member of Western Zone; Recording Secretary, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, President, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, and member of several other committees. At the State level, she was the Chair of the Resolutions Committee and member of the Host Committee for the 2009 NYSRTA Annual Convention. This year, Doris was the co-chair of the 2018 NYSRTA Annual Convention. Western Zone and NYSRTA recognized Doris for her dedication and involvement by presenting the Citation Award and the Certificate of Recognition Award to her. Doris R. Kirsch has been our collective voice, our mentor, steering us down the right or left path. Quotes from fellow members; "hardworking, dedicated, leader". **Dr. William Loockerman** sums it up "**Doris Kirsch*CR** has proven herself a LEADER EXTRAORDINAIRE". We will miss our President, turning now to be our Past President, still very much involved in Western Zone and NYSRTA.

Please welcome our new president, **Alphonse Marabella**. Al taught in the Buffalo Public Schools and retired in 1999. He became President of the Buffalo Retired Teachers' Association for several years. He has served Western Zone in many ways. He has served as 2nd Vice President, Awards Committee Chair, and Chair for Federal Legislation. Al served on the following committees; Finance and Budget, State Legislation and Founders Fund. He also received the Citation Award in 2013 for his service and dedication. At the State level, Al served as the Vice President for Federal Legislation. Our Western Zone membership is eager to continue our mission that works exclusively for retired educators under the direction of our President, **Alphonse Marabella**. Welcome!



NYSRTA & COLLETTE PRESENTS FANTASTIC DEALS ON TRIPS!



Shades of Ireland
June 1 - 10, 2019



YOU'RE *invited!*

From vibrant and history-filled Dublin, across rolling green hills to the dramatic coast, experience all of Ireland's charm on this magical tour of the Emerald Isle. Live like royalty during an overnight stay on the grounds of a castle. Visit Waterford, Ireland's oldest city, where you'll have the opportunity to visit the House of Waterford Crystal. Choose from a selection of Killarney's best restaurants with our Diner's Choice program. See the Atlantic from the stunning 700-foot Cliffs of Moher. Experience the world-famous beauty of the Ring of Kerry. See sheepdogs in action on a working farm. Explore Dublin with a local guide – either by foot or on a panoramic city tour – it's your choice! See beautiful Killarney from your seat on an Irish jaunting car. Journey to historic Blarney Castle, lean back and kiss its famous stone!

Please refer to Booking #850658

COMING SOON!

LISBON: PORTUGAL'S CAPITAL CITY

Learn why your travelers will be captivated by Lisbon, with its striking mix of modern culture and historic sites, including Portugal & Its Islands and Spain's Classics & Portugal.

To learn more or reserve your seat, call 800-581-8942 and refer to the booking number above.

Or visit our website at www.nysrta.org/travel-tour-packages/

For your convenience, we offer airfare for purchase with all tour packages. If you purchase an air-inclusive program, your airfare will be quoted inclusive of all fuel, taxes and fees. Your rates are subject to change until paid in full. Seats are limited and may not be available on every flight or departure date. Land rates are per person, double occupancy, unless otherwise noted. Availability of departures at the prices noted in the brochure is limited. For current prices, please see our website. Government taxes and fees are additional. Land rates are guaranteed at time of deposit.

Already a member? Please detach this application and give to a friend who may be interested in joining. There is strength in numbers! NYSRTA needs YOU to stay involved! Thank you!

NEW MEMBER ENROLLMENT FORM AND PROFILE

Name (circle one) Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms. Dr. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (____) _____ Date of Birth _____ Email _____

(Circle one) Retired Educator Active Educator Associate (non-certified support staff) Year Retired _____

County of Residence _____ School Dist./College/Univ Retired

From _____

Subject Area _____ Level Taught _____ Level of Admin if Applicable _____

Spouse Enrollment

Spouse Name (circle one) Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms. Dr. _____

Date of Birth _____ Email _____

Retired Educator? Yes No (year retired) _____ Active Educator? Yes No State Retired From _____

School Dist./College/University Retired From _____

Payment Options

I have enclosed my check or money order made out to NYSRTA in the amount of: _____

Charge my: (circle one) VISA Mastercard Credit Card# _____

Print your name clearly as it appears on your card _____

Authorizing Signature _____

OUR JOB IS TO HELP YOU!

JOINING IS EASY

Member Dues: \$30.00
Lifetime Dues: \$450.00

Mail to:
NYSRTA
8 Airport Park Blvd
Latham, New York 12110-6414



The ONLY statewide
organization which
works solely on behalf
of retired educators!

www.nysrta.org



Dental HMO for the Members of NYSRTA

NYSRTA Dental Insurance
Underwritten by Cigna Dental

This NYSRTA Sponsored Dental program is a Dental HMO that lets you pick a network dentist who provides you with most routine services at no charge to you (exams, x-rays, and cleanings).

There are no waiting periods, deductibles, or annual dollar maximums.

Cigna's network of participating dentists focus on the preventive aspects of dental care. Your network general dentist will manage your overall dental care, and provide referrals for more complex procedures requiring a dental specialist.

All network dentists are required to meet Cigna Dental's quality program criteria. They have been evaluated for professional credentials and compliance with government health standards. Offices are visited periodically to verify that all standards are being met, providing an ongoing endorsement of quality.

To enroll or request more information, contact an insurance representative at 1-866-478-8907.
Or visit us online at pearlcarroll.com/nysrta



Pearl Insurance ~ 13 Airline Drive ~ Albany, NY 12205
518-640-8100

Or visit us online at nysrtainsurance.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.

This program offers special discounts not available to the general public for you and your family members including:

spouse / partner
children
parents
Grandparents

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



*Submission Deadlines
For
York State*

Spring (electronic) April 30th
Summer (mailed) July 7th

Fall (electronic) August 25
Winter (mailed) November 4