



The New York State  
Retired Teachers' Association

# YORK

No. 4 Vol. 66

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

# State

Winter 2019



Kevin Mulligan  
President

## *A Message From Our President...*

According to the NYSRTA Bylaws Article VIII (Elections) Section 5 – “The term of an elected officer shall begin on November 1<sup>st</sup>...” At the time I am writing this report it is November 2, and I have survived my first day as the new President for NYSRTA. In anticipation of this day, I have found myself, for the last few weeks, having some restless sleep. It reminded me of those restless nights I had before the start of a new school year. As a teacher, my mind was thinking of new and unique lesson plans. Later, as a principal, I was thinking of motivational ideas for my faculty and the students. Whatever it was, it was my creative mind, and the more fruitful ideas stayed with me when I woke up several hours later.

One of the “restless night” ideas that has surfaced is providing some overdue recognition and incentive to our struggling Zone Membership Committees. For years, our declining membership woes have been dumped on the laps of our Membership Committees. At the April, 2019 Board of Directors meeting, I plan to bring an idea for motion and approval that will provide some monetary incentive for our Zone Membership Committees, as well as an annual recognition for achievement.

The Insurance Trust Committee has, in recent years, provided some much appreciated financial support to NYSRTA by providing monetary assistance for our *York State* Newsletter. They are governed by the IRS Tax Code provisions found in 501.C9 that provides direction for our Insurance Trust to be able to financially assist **all** members of NYSRTA, not just a Zone or a person or persons. Following that guidance, the Insurance Trust Committee has very recently given me their approval to procure a professional marketing firm to assist NYSRTA with improving our name recognition and membership strategies. It is hoped by the New Year a professional marketing firm will be in place to assist NYSRTA with membership attraction.

A Health Insurance Survey was recently given to all Zone Presidents to share with their Unit Presidents, Healthcare Committee Chairpersons, and membership as deemed necessary. The purpose of this survey is threefold: 1. Ascertain what areas of NY State provide school district health insurance to retirees, 2. What management organization do the school districts use to provide that health insurance? Do they have a consortium of school districts, or do they individually manage it, and 3. Who, in each Zone or Unit, are the “Watchdogs” of school district (s) provided health insurance? With this information, I would like to move NYSRTA in the direction of providing our members with a new, important benefit that would provide updates on the status of school district retired health insurance benefits. In this edition of *York State*, you will find a copy of the Health Insurance Survey. Please consider completing it and mailing the survey to: NYSRTA, 8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110-6414. The greater the response, the sooner we can get this new benefit initiated.

In closing, I very much look forward to serving you as President of The New York State Retired Teachers' Association. I hope to sleep better tonight as I have just completed my first assignment as President – The *York State* Article. May the spirit of the Holidays provide joy and enlightenment to you and your family, and a very Healthy New Year in 2019.

## Workshop Report: Dr. Jim Newell, Chair

### WORKSHOP COMMITTEE SPRINGS INTO ACTION

Scouting for and lining up presenters for the annual convention is one of the most important functions performed by the NYSRTA Workshop Committee. Obtaining an interesting and engaging keynote speaker as well as quality session presenters is essential in order to provide memorable learning experiences for all convention attendees. NYSRTA members attend the annual convention in order to grow as individuals, to learn more about the many beautiful regions on the Empire State and to expand their horizons.

The NYSRTA Workshop Committee is composed of five permanent members and additional members from the zones responsible for the upcoming convention and the subsequent convention. The permanent members of the Workshop Committee are **Diane Hahn, CR, Lois Thornberg, Mary Lou Wood, Pat Newell and Jim Newell, Chair**. The Southern Zone will be responsible for the 2019 Convention, while the Long Island Zone will be heading up the 2020 Convention.

The work of the Workshop Committee for the 2018-19 year began with a face to face meeting at the Turning Stone Resort following breakfast on the convention's last day. Incoming NYSRTA President **Kevin Mulligan** opened the meeting and turned the operation of the committee over to newly elected NYSRTA Senior Vice-President and Workshop Chair, **Jim Newell**.

Twenty NYSRTA members were present and participated freely in wide ranging discussions about the workshops presented during the recently concluded convention as well as plans for next year's convention. The number of people willing to work on this committee and the energy and enthusiasm

shown, is a testament to the vital importance of this committee. It also highlights the excellent leadership provided, and the commendable work accomplished by all members of this committee.

Many favorable comments were made about the excellence of the presenters obtained by the Western Zone for the 2018 Convention. There was wide spread agreement that the workshops were engaging, appealed to varied interests, and provided valuable information to convention attendees. Special note was made of the National Comedy Center, Farmhouse Chef, the Buffalo Story and the Family Love Letter. Convention attendees also enjoyed themselves participating in the Trivia Contest and socializing at the cocktail party. Congratulations and special thanks were given to **Doris Kirsch\*CR, Beth Green, Michelle Claus**, the Western Zone and the NYSRTA Workshop Committee for the outstanding success of the 2018 Convention.

The Southern Zone under the leadership of **Mary Lou Wood** has tapped a great group of people to organize and conduct the 2019 convention including **Vince Smith\*CR, Don Cutton\*CR, Linda Moore, Gerry Tagliaferri, Mary Suffern, Nancy Spaulding and Lynne Hunkovic**. This group hit the ground running and came to the first meeting with a suggested keynote speaker and several potential session presenters. The Southern Zone started off strong and promises to continue that momentum throughout the year. NYSRTA members should make their plans now to attend a great state NYSRTA Convention. See you next year at the NYSRTA Annual Convention at the Turning Stone Resort!



## Friendly Service Report: Judith Corigliano, Chair

The new year of 2019 will have many of us working on keeping our New Year's resolutions...for me it's being faithful about meeting my deadlines, downsizing to make my life simpler, to reach out more often to my own family and friends with cards and calls. Texting and emailing has become the mode for our children and grand-children and many of my own generation (the war babies) have fallen into the same pattern. We do love the convenience of the electronics, but don't we all enjoy sorting through the mail and finding a personal written communication. There is a bit of a good feeling we get, when we stop to enjoy those personal messages. So do it today, send a card, a note, a call, an email ... surprise someone, reach out, share time, news or maybe a symbolic hug or thank you... and there's that bit of a good feeling, again.

While you are at it... Let us be appreciative and thankful for RTA's thoughtful Friendly Service Chairs, Unit Chairs and key workers; may they continue their commitment to our retired friends and meet their reporting deadlines in the new year.

From all of us in the Friendly Service group...A huge thank you to **Harriet Beers\*CR**, who has faithfully served RTA with her thoughtful and timely emails and newsy letters of the workings of State committees. She kept all of us, the Regional FS VP's, informed and urged us to meet those deadlines, to share regional successes and new ideas. Her warm communications always encouraged us with the underlying message to continue to keep Friendly Service moving forward with its mission of service. Thank you, Harriet.

## Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust, Anne Flansburg, *Chair*

Many thanks to the attendees of the annual meeting, who visited the DeCormier booth, picked up brochures, admired our posters, and those who donated. A total of \$880 was raised through the generosity of zones, units, and individuals.

The Robert R. DeCormier Trust Fund is designed to help NYSRTA members who are in need of financial assistance. If a member has an unexpected expenditure, such as a house-roof replacement, dental work, medical bills, or a utility bill that extends beyond the planned budget, know that grant funds are available to help you.

Thus far, in 2018, seven zones have contributed, namely: **CZ, EZ, LIZ, NEZ, NZ, SZ** and **WZ**. Eighteen units have contributed, namely: **CARTA, Columbia Co. RTA, Eastern Broome, Eastern Erie RTA (LIZ), Eastern Erie RTA (WZ), Eastern Niagara, Fulton Co., Livingston Co., Newburgh RTA, Ontario Co. RTA, Orleans Co., Oswego Co., Rensselaer, Saratoga Springs, Schoharie Co., Springville RTA, Upper Montgomery Co., and Wyoming Co.** In addition, **BJ's Wholesale Club, Buffalo Retired Administrators' Association, CWZ Friendly Service, Horseheads RTA (NYSUT group), and SZ Friendly Service** sent donations. Many of our members have also been very generous, and we appreciate this support. We urge those who have not donated, to please consider doing so. You may send a check made out to Robert DeCormier Trust Fund, to: David Mapes, Treasurer, 6163 Vista Hill, Dansville NY 14437.

If you, or any member of NYSRTA you know, has a financial need, please contact DeCormier Chair **Anne Flansburg** at (716)-863-3631. All requests are confidential, and shared in the spirit of our first NYSRTA President, Robert R. DeCormier.



## Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service: Jackie Moller, *Chair*

Every year it has been an honor to present the Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service Award to members of The New York State Retired Teachers' Association to recognize members of our Association who have shown outstanding leadership and accomplishments in the field of education and service through retirement. This year, on October 17, 2018, at the NYSRTA Convention, it was our privilege to once again recognize members – **Judith Farmer (WZ) and Leigh Powell (LIZ)** with this award. We thank the Zone Presidents who took the time to send in the application earlier this year.



L-R: Jackie Moller\*CR, Leigh Powell\*CR,  
Judy Farmer\*CR and President Angelo Grande\*CR

### Judith Farmer

....in recognition of her service and dedication to The New York State Retired Teachers' Association. She is the NYSRTA secretary and is currently a candidate for re-election in October. Judith has been a delegate to the Annual meeting for 9 years. At the Zone and Unit levels you will find her as corresponding and recording secretary and President of EERTA of WZ at the Unit level. Judith was awarded the WZ Citation Award for Outstanding Service in 2014. Her dedication to the Association, Zone, and Unit has distinguished her as a leader.



### Leigh Powell

....in recognition of service at all levels of our Association where he has been active since 2002 when he joined NYSRTA as a life member. Over the years, he has been on the Site Committee for 12 years and currently Chair, and on the Finance and Budget committees. He also has been a convention delegate and Chair of the Site Committee. His leadership as an active member and chair of many other committees at the State, Zone, and LIZ of EERTA. We consider him as one member we could not do without as a "valuable person to The New York State Retired Teachers' Association".



**DIRECTORY 2018 - 2019**  
**THE NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110-6414 Tel: 518•482•3509**  
[www.nysrta.org](http://www.nysrta.org)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**NCZ – Senior Vice President:** James Newell  
(315) 767-7801  
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**NEZ – Vice President for Legislative Action:**  
Gary Germain (518) 492-2274  
**LIZ – Vice President for Membership:**  
Lois Thornberg (631) 583-5277  
**WZ – Secretary: Judy Farmer\*CR** (716) 652-9210  
**NZ – Treasurer: President Emeritus**  
**Terry M. Trudeau \*CR** (518) 529-7269  
**LIZ – Immediate Past President:**  
**Angelo Grande \*CR** (516) 922-6747

**ZONE PRESIDENTS**

**CZ – Ray Pitcher** (315) 894-5656  
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**LIZ – Fred Conway \*CR** (631) 476-6558  
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**NEZ – Bonnie Gregware H** (518) 563-0795 C (518)-578-7118  
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**SZ – Mary Lou Wood H** (607) 962-0527, C (607)-329-0332  
**WZ – Alphonse Marabella** (716) 635-9530

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**NCZ – Editor, YORK STATE:** Kathi Bassett (518)  
482-3509  
**Associate Editor, YORK STATE:**  
Kristen Cecala (518) 482-3509 x211  
**EZ – Assistant Treasurer: Jack DeWeese \*CR**  
(518) 835-4129 or (386) 441-3592

**NYSRTA COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**ANNUAL WORKSHOP**

**NCZ Chair:** James Newell (C) 315-773-5862  
**EZ – Diane Hahn \*CR** (H) 518-477-6156 (C) 518-221-6156  
**NCZ – Patricia Newell** (C) 315-773-5862  
**SZ – Mary Lou Wood H** (607) 962-0527, C (607)-329-0332  
**LIZ- Lois Thornberg** (631) 583-5277  
**LIZ – Fred Conway \*CR** (631) 476-6558

**BYLAWS**

**CZ Chair – William Tenity** (315) 253-6315  
**CWZ – Bruce Croucher** (315) 462-3067  
**NCZ – President Emeritus**  
**Carlyle T. Company \*CR** (315)-686-3098  
**SEZ – Helen Hoering** (845) 482-4154  
**NEZ – Pete Atchinson** (518) 834-7432  
**NZ – Rae Louise Tate** (315) 848-2581

**CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION**

**WZ- Chair: Anne G. Flansburg \*CR** (716) 863-3631  
**CWZ – Carol Lord \*CR** (C) (315)-719-2163  
**CWZ- John Hogan \*CR** (585) 425-1487

**CREDENTIALS**

**LIZ Chair: Fred Conway \*CR** (631) 476-6558  
**CWZ – Phyllis Dunlap** (315) 539-2060  
**NZ – Marti Martin** (518) 593-5072

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**LIZ Chair:** Eileen Holmes (631) 722-4504  
**CZ – Janice Hedglon** (315) 363-6516  
**CWZ – Joan Handfield** (315) 986-2956  
**EZ – Joyce Notarnicola** (518) 929 6151  
**NCZ –**  
**NEZ –**  
**NZ – Alice Galvin** (H) 315-848-2312  
**SEZ – Cheryl Fischer** (845) 566-7339  
**SZ – Mary Suffern** (607) 739-0167  
**WZ – Ann Marie Wik** (H) 585-599-3651 (C) 716-228-2414

**FINANCE & BUDGET**

**EZ Chair: Jack DeWeese \*CR** (518) 835-4129 or  
(386) 441-0815 (winter)  
**CWZ – Carol Lord \*CR** (C) (315)-719-2163  
**LIZ – Leigh Powell\*CR** (631) 289-9752  
**SZ – Vincent J. Smith\*CR** (607) 785-3169  
**NEZ- Ron Wilson** (518) 834-5104  
**Ex-Officio:**  
**NEZ – President: Kevin Mulligan**  
**NZ – Treasurer: President Emeritus Terry M. Trudeau \*CR**  
(518) 529-7269

**Ex-Officio member without vote:**

**NCZ – Senior Vice President:** James Newell (315) 767-7801

**Resource person without vote:**

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

**FRIENDLY SERVICE**

**NEZ Chair: Judy Corigliano** (518) 834-9915  
**CZ – Dell Ford Jordon** (315) 446-9323  
**CWZ – Barbara Rosecrans** (315) 539-9178  
**EZ – Marjorie Leibowitz** (518) 238-2782  
**LIZ – Dee McKinnon** (631) 585-4370 **Alicia Winowsky** (631) 588-8591  
**NCZ – Linda Holley** (315) 782-5646  
**NZ – President Emerita Agnes B. Hudson \*CR** (315) 287-0745  
**SEZ – Donna Harness** (845) 707-3152  
**SZ – Imogene McKendrick \*CR** (607) 962-0072  
**WZ – Thomas A. Giambra** (716) 877-7796

**HEALTH CARE**

**LIZ – Mary Ella Moeller \*CR** (631) 324-0471  
**CZ – Gwynne Bodle** (315) 440-4233  
**CWZ – Elisabeth (Betty) Weber-Worden** (585) 247-2793  
**EZ – Doris Bedell** (518) 482-5372  
**NCZ – Toni Gigliotti** (315) 376-3890  
**NEZ – Robert Joyce \*CR** (518) 563-314  
Rodney Sherman (518) 561-4332  
**NZ – Joseph Russo** (315) 848-5326  
**SZ – Sue Pierce**  
**SEZ – Joan Schauer** (845) 482-3563  
**WZ – Elizabeth Browne** (716) 646-2372 May - Oct.,

## HISTORIANS

**CWZ Chair: Carol Lord \*CR** (C) (315)-719-2163  
**CZ** – Michelle Loneragan (315) 668-6744 &  
Darlene Jarvis (315) 343-2895  
**CWZ** – Phyllis Dunlap (315) 539-2060  
**EZ** – Virginia G. Madore (518) 237-0237  
**LIZ** – VACANT  
**NCZ** – **Shirley Parker \*CR** (315) 782-3295 or (315) 649-2541  
**NEZ** – Dick Brogowski (518) 561-6573  
**NZ** – Jean Theobald (315) 265-9155  
**SEZ** – Joan Schauer (845) 482-3563  
**SZ** – TBD  
**WZ** – Sandra Kelley (716) 772-7807

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

**NEZ -Chair:** Gary Germain (518) 492-2274  
**SZ – Sub Committee Chair Mary Johnson** (607) 797-3225  
**CZ** – Wynne Shaul (315) 697-2636  
**CWZ** – William Lesniak (315) 483-8061  
**EZ** – Janice Mullins (518) 272-1749  
**LIZ** – Kathryn Grande (516) 676-7436  
**NCZ** – Richard Bushnell (315) 232-4258  
**NEZ** – Rod Driscoll (518) 643-2735  
**NZ** – Rae Louise Tate (315) 848-2581  
**SEZ** – **Leon Harrold \*CR** (845) 292-6903  
**SZ** – Mary Johnson (607) 797-3225  
**WZ** – Judith A. Klug (716) 632-6251 (*State*)  
Gail Niparts (716) 688-9339 (*Federal*)

## MEMBERSHIP

**WZ Chair:** Lois Thornberg (631) 783-5277  
**CZ** – Mark Granan (607) 563-1503  
**CWZ** – Jane Crosby  
**EZ** – Rosalind Carron (518) 863-4229  
**LIZ** – Mary Armbruster (631) 957-4366  
Lois Thornberg (631) 783-5277  
**NCZ** – **Burt Phillips \*CR** (315) 788-259  
**NEZ** – Sandy Lashua (518) 643-8862  
**NZ** – (vacant)  
**SEZ** – Geraldine Goumas (845) 358-4025  
**SZ** – **Vincent Smith \*CR** (607) 785-3169  
**WZ** – VACANT

## NOMINATIONS

**NEZ Chair:** William Cline (607) 204-0193  
**CZ** – William Cline (607) 204-0193  
**CWZ** –  
**EZ** – Doris Bedell (518) 482-5372  
**LIZ** – Jola Ann Marcario (631) 324-4653  
**NCZ** – **Shirley Parker \*CR** (315) 782-3295  
**NEZ** – **Robert LaFontaine\*CR** (518) 563-0587  
**NZ** – Rae Louise Tate (315) 848-2581  
**SEZ** – Raymond Leduc (845) 236 -7624  
**SZ** – **Donald Cutton \*CR** (607) 594-252  
**WZ** – Mary V. O’Leary (716) 667-0241

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

**NEZ** – Chair Kevin Mulligan (518) 846-7855  
**CWZ** – **John Hogan \*CR** (585) 425-1487  
**NCZ** – James Newell (C) 315-773-5862  
**NZ** – **President Emeritus Terry M. Trudeau \*CR**  
(518) 529-7269  
**LIZ** – **Immediate Past President: President Angelo Grande \*CR** (516) 922-6747

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

**NZ Chair:** Linda Crosby (518) 483-4312  
**CZ** – Mary Radloff (315) 364-7439  
**CWZ** – Phyllis Dunlap (315) 539-2060  
**EZ** – Pamela Love (518) 456-1046  
**LIZ** – Eileen Holmes (631) 722-4504  
**NCZ** – Nancy Roberts (315) 782-5217  
Patricia Newell (315) 773-5862  
**NEZ** – Marti Martin (518) 593-5072  
**NZ** – Linda Crosby (518) 483-4312  
**SEZ** – Maureen Coffey (for Zone News) Patti DeLeo  
Mary Ellen Colombo silverstreakmec@gmail.com  
**SZ** – Debbi Deats (607) 776-7159  
**WZ** – Theresa Pope (716) 838-3193

## RESOLUTIONS

**NZ Chair:** Gayla LePage (518) 483-5014  
**CZ** – Johnnie Jones (315) 865-6357  
**CWZ** – John A. Roy (607) 583-4439 &  
**President Emerita Judy Byndas\*CR**  
**EZ** – Mark Notarnicola (518) 703-0397  
**LIZ** – Bob Svoboda (631) 886-2036  
**NCZ** – Elwood “Woody” Lyndaker (315) 788-6344  
**NEZ** – Beverly Kie (518) 563-1543  
**NZ** – Gayla LePage (518) 483-5014  
**SEZ** – **Leon Harrold \*CR** (845) 292-903  
**SZ** – **Vincent Smith \*CR** (607) 687-2888  
**WZ** – Theresa E. Pope (716) 838-3193  
**Advisors:**  
**CZ** – William Tenity (315) 253-6315  
**NCZ** – Gary Germain (518) 492-2274

## SITE

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**CZ** – William Tenity (315) 253-6315  
**NEZ** – President Kevin Mulligan (518) 846-7855  
**NZ** – **Treasurer: President Emeritus Terry M. Trudeau \*CR**  
(518) 529-7269  
**WZ** – **Anne Flansburg \*CR** (716) 863-3631

## TRUSTS

### THE INSURANCE TRUST

**NEZ** – **Robert Joyce \*CR** (518) 563-6314 (Term Expires 12/31/20)  
**EZ** – Tom Reed, Asst. Treasurer (Term Expires 12/31/21)  
**EZ** – **Diane Hahn \*CR** (Term Expires 12/31/20)  
**NEZ** – **Robert LaFontaine\*CR** (Term Expires 12/31/19)  
**NCZ** – **President Emeritus Tom Campamy \*CR** (Term expires 12/31/21)  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Kathi Bassett, Executive Office Manager

### ROBERT R. DECORMIER MEMORIAL TRUST

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**CZ** – **Secretary – Jackie Moller \*CR** (315) 363-1153  
**CWZ** – Treasurer – David Mapes (585) 335-6643  
**EZ** – Trustee – Alexander Boschi (518) 843-3247  
**NZ** – Trustee – **President Emerita Agnes B. Hudson \*CR**  
(315) 287-0745  
**SZ** – Trustee – **Imogene McKendrick \*CR** (607) 962-0072



# The New York State Retired

NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION					
BUDGET CODE	REVENUES	2017 ACTUAL	2018 PROPOSED	2018 REVISED BUDGET	2019 PROPOSED BUDGET
140	Dues-Annual	\$ 216,258.00	\$250,000.00	\$ 230,000.00	\$ 230,000.00
140A	Refund To Zones Annual Dues	\$ (72,086.00)	(\$83,333.33)	\$ (76,666.66)	\$ (76,666.66)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 144,172.00	\$166,666.67	\$ 153,333.34	\$ 153,333.34
142	Dues-Life	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
142A	Refund To Zones Life Dues	\$ (2,400.00)	\$ (1,666.66)	\$ (2,666.67)	\$ (1,666.66)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 3,333.34	\$ 5,333.33	\$ 3,333.34
139 & 153	Convention & Exhibitor Revenue	\$ 5,289.68	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
133	Dues-90yr.Olds	\$ 2,651.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00
143	General Contributions	\$ 8,353.73	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
144	President Appeal Letter	\$ 101,714.73	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
143A	Insurance Trust	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
149,150A,151A	Interest Income/Dividend	\$ 27,736.24	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
150	Bequest	\$ -	\$ -		
154	Misc. Revenue	\$ 12,972.64	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
156	Travel & Misc.	\$ 5,045.05	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
206	Advertising Revenue	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 2,500.00
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 324,535.07	\$ 311,900.01	\$ 321,616.67	\$ 318,566.68
	EXPENSES	2017 ACTUAL	2018 PROPOSED	2018 REVISED BUDGET	2019 PROPOSED BUDGET
	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>				
159	Rent	\$ 20,400.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
160	Office Operating	\$ 31,678.27	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
161	Office Equipment	\$ 108.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
162-145	Supplies,Print,Postage	\$ 8,028.35	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
164	Salaries	\$ 145,508.87	\$ 152,559.99	\$ 145,376.89	\$ 152,559.99
164A	Stipends	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
164B	Bonus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
165-167, 179	Payroll Taxes	\$ 11,491.09	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
178	Auditing	\$ 11,290.00	\$ 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	\$ 3,215.98	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 1,450.00
180A	Employee Health Insurance	\$ 18,488.64	\$ 19,200.00	\$ 18,252.00	\$ 19,200.00
180B	Employee Life Insurance	\$ 957.08	\$ 1,334.68	\$ 1,334.68	\$ 1,334.68
181	Employee Pension	\$ 16,001.85	\$ 17,615.52	\$ 16,883.29	\$ 17,615.52
184A	EOM's Travel Expense	\$ 260.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
185	Contingency	\$ 961.42	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
186	Special Project (President Appeal)	\$ 8,241.44	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,700.00
187	Credit Card Fees	\$ 1,858.21	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
189	Membership Project Expense	\$ 756.50	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
191	Computer	\$ 1,373.11	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
193	Telephones and Equipment	\$ 3,933.92	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,000.00
197	Website	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 500.00
	TOTAL	\$ 285,552.73	\$ 292,960.19	\$ 293,696.86	\$ 292,960.19

# Teachers' Association Budget

		2017 ACTUAL	2018 PROPOSED	2018 REVISED BUDGET	2019 PROPOSED BUDGET
	<b><u>OFFICERS</u></b>				
183	President's Travel	\$ 625.24	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 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
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 625.24</b>	<b>\$ 1,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,300.00</b>
	<b><u>MEETINGS</u></b>				
169	Executive Committee	\$ 13,000.87	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
173A	Annual Workshop Expense	\$ 3,180.50	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
172	Annual Convention Expense	\$ 26,915.30	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 43,096.67</b>	<b>\$ 53,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 53,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 53,000.00</b>
	<b><u>NEWSLETTER</u></b>				
163	York State	\$ 19,659.93	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 21,500.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 19,659.93</b>	<b>\$ 21,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,500.00</b>
	EXPENSES	2017 ACTUAL	2018 PROPOSED	2018 REVISED BUDGET	2019 PROPOSED BUDGET
	<b><u>COMMITTEES</u></b>				
170	Legislative Action	\$ 3,098.52	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
171	Friendly Service	\$ 34.17	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
173	Annual Workshop Committee	\$ 85.59	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Bylaws	\$ 588.43	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
174	Certificate of Recognition	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
174	Community Service	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
174	Finance & Budget	\$ 308.50	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 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	\$ 36.45	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Membership	\$ 192.70	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Nominations	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
174	Public Relations	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
174	Resolutions	\$ 925.01	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Site	\$ 521.04	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
192	Health Care	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
185A	Adhoc	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,790.41</b>	<b>\$ 11,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,500.00</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 354,724.98</b>	<b>\$ 380,260.19</b>	<b>\$ 384,996.86</b>	<b>\$ 380,260.19</b>

## Membership Report: Lois Thornberg, Vice President for Membership

The members of the combined Membership Committee and Marketing Committee are continually working to notify any members that have fallen through the gap to come back, along with encouraging the new retirees to join our community. They continue to attempt to contact these members on a monthly basis from a list we receive from the Albany office. Personal contact and interaction has proven to be the most beneficial. An important task for every member in NYSRTA is to work on educating not only each other, but any possible future retirees; what we do, and why, is essential to past, present, and future retirees. Sharing the task of teaching any prospective member why a membership in NYSRTA is important to them will be to our advantage. Remind them not only of the benefits that are offered to members, but also of the work that is constantly being done to enhance all facets of their retirement.

At the July Board of Directors meeting a sub-committee was created to include representatives from marketing, legislation, and health to provide information to retirees on the health insurance benefits that are provided by various school districts throughout the State. The expectation is to inform retirees of the changes in health care and encourage them to join NYSRTA, especially those between the ages of 55-65 that are not eligible for Medicare yet. Finally, funds have become available for the Marketing Committee to proceed to research and interview marketing companies to aid us in creating and implementing a strategy to increase NYSRTA's exposure and membership.

As a final thought, remember that it is the task of ALL members to recruit new members. Personal involvement such as a phone call, or quick chat is the most powerful method to spike the interest to join any organization. Invite someone to your next event and spend the time to share what and who NYSRTA is with them. "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success" - Henry Ford.



## Resolutions Report: Gayla LePage, Chair

At the 2018 Annual Meeting several Resolutions were presented, discussed and voted upon. The following resolutions were passed by a majority vote by the membership in attendance:

### **Resolution B-5-1: School Safety (Western/Central Western Zones)**

**WHEREAS**, school safety is imperative for educational learning to take place; and

**WHEREAS**, school safety is necessary for students, educators, and parents for educational purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, public and private schools throughout the United States have experienced loss of life and property due to vicious armed attacks; and

**WHEREAS**, students, teachers, and parents have joined forces in active demonstrations to protest against gun violence and demand positive legislation for a safer educational climate in all schools; now

Be it **RESOLVED** that the NYSRTA take a strong public stand in the outcry against violence in our schools, and be it further **RESOLVED**, that the NYSRTA voice support for greater safety through various state, zone, and unit publications, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the NYSRTA members, as are able, shall take an active part in reasonable and legal demonstrations against school violence.

THEREFORE, the New York State Retired Teachers' Association resolves to challenge our state legislators to fully fund mandates for school safety in every school building in New York State to its fullest extent.

*Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objective 4*

*(continued on page 9)*



## Resolutions Report, (continued)

### Resolution A-8: Loss of Retiree

#### Benefits (Western Zone)

**WHEREAS**, retirees are persons who have left employment after numerous contractual years; and  
**WHEREAS**, retirees have left employment with the intention of enjoying life and doing various activities, long desired; and  
**WHEREAS**, retirees are to be revered and respected for the dedicated work and service, they have rendered throughout the years before retirement; and  
**WHEREAS**, because they are retired, they should not be ignored and their benefits and health insurance be removed or changed, since they are no longer unionized nor employed; and  
**WHEREAS**, no Board of Education shall group all retirees as one and place them in Medicare Part D, where their benefits have increase deductions; and  
**WHEREAS**, their income is reduced, their medications are changed, and they can no longer get their usual prescribed medications; and  
**WHEREAS**, payment for their prescriptions is based on their retirement income and results in an increase in the cost of prescriptions; and  
**WHEREAS**, retirees cannot be used as pawns to save a school district money; now  
Be it **RESOLVED** that the NYSRTA act on behalf of these retirees to have their health insurance and benefits returned to their prior commitment, and be it further  
**RESOLVED**, that the NYSRTA seek legislation that protects and covers these retirees from discrimination due to retirement.

*Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 1 and 3*

### Resolution D- 23: A Resolution in Support of Greater Protection and Safety for Educational Employees (Central Zone)

**WHEREAS**, there continues to be numerous incidents of violence against school employees by students and adults; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) Act 2000, addresses "violent and disruptive incidents; and  
**WHEREAS**, the NYS Commissioner's Regulation - 8CCR-NY 100.2 (1) (2) Code of Conduct deals with school violence, now  
THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED** that the NYSRTA supports the enforcement of legislation dealing with the issue of violence against school employees, and be it further  
**RESOLVED** that the NYSRTA supports the enforcement of the information in the NYS Compilation of School Discipline Laws and Regulations, and be it further  
**RESOLVED** that the NYSRTA supports the enforcement of the Commissioner's Regulations dealing with the issue of violence against school employees, and be it further  
**RESOLVED** that the NYSTRA supports further legislation and Commissioner's Regulations that address the safety of school employees from violent acts.

*Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 1 and 3.*

### Resolution D-24: A Resolution in Support of Greater Protection and Enforcement of Legislation and Regulations Against Gun Violence in Schools (Central Zone)

**WHEREAS**, the number of violent acts committed in schools and on school grounds with the use of guns to be national tragedy; and  
**WHEREAS**, the Gun Free School Zone Act of 1990 deals with the issue of guns on school grounds; and  
**WHEREAS**, the SAFE Act is designed to keep the public, including our children, safe from gun violence; and  
**WHEREAS**, NYS prohibits the carrying of guns or concealed carry of guns in K-12 schools, colleges, and universities; and  
**WHEREAS**, some members in the NYS Senate called for stronger gun-control laws in NY state and proposed legislation to ban the allowing of teachers to carry gun in schools, now  
THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED** that the NYSRTA supports current legislation regarding the issue of gun violence in schools, and be it further  
**RESOLVED**, that the NYSRTA supports the efforts of legislators to press for further legislation regarding the issue of gun violence in schools, and be it further  
**RESOLVED**, that the NYSRTA supports the efforts of the NYS Commissioner of Education and educators to press the further regulations and legislation with regard to the issue of gun violence in schools.

*Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 1 and 3.*

### Resolution D-25: A Resolution Concerning the Need for Metal Detectors in our New York State Public Schools (Northeastern Zone)

**WHEREAS**, the safety of all students, staff, and teachers in our schools is the preeminent concern of parents, educators, and all citizens including NYSRTA members; and  
**WHEREAS**, the incidents of school shootings has increased drastically across our nation; and  
**WHEREAS**, controlling points of entry into all school buildings is an obvious way to prevent weapons from entering educational spaces; and  
**WHEREAS**, the presence of metal detection systems is an economical, sensible, and attainable step toward school safety and such systems have been proven effective where implemented, now  
**WHEREAS**, the presence of metal detection systems is an economical, sensible, and attainable step toward school safety and such systems have been proven effective where implemented, now  
THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED** that the members of NYSRTA will endorse and support the funding and installation of metal detection systems in our state's public schools, and be it further  
**RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Action Committee for NYSRTA will communicate our endorsement of the implementation of metal detection systems to our elected representatives at the State and Federal levels.

*Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 3 and 4.*

*(Continued on next page)*

## Resolutions Report, (continued)

### Resolution E-20: A Resolution for Raising Concern with AARP about their Excessive Solicitation and Marketing Practices with the Elderly (Northeastern Zone)

**WHEREAS**, the NYSRTA and the AARP have shared a common history of over fifty years and serving the retirees and the elderly in New York State; and

**WHEREAS**, NYSRTA and AARP continue to have a strong relationship for the common good of the retiree as well as addressing the unique needs of the elderly; and

**WHEREAS**, NYSRTA had utilized many of the marketing ideas provided by AARP in addressing recruitment practices and membership concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, both NYSRTA and AARP deal with an elder clientele that tend to be sensitive to and overly concerned with paying bills in a timely fashion and responding to mailings of a solicitation nature. Clientele who suffer from memory loss may be burdened with anxiety and unnecessary financial debt due to over zealous solicitation efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, these solicitations for membership by AARP have significantly increased in the last few years, causing members of AARP to have multiple, unneeded memberships in AARP and/or benefits AARP advertise for; and

**WHEREAS**, the Glens Falls Post Star on April 6, 2018 wrote the article titled "AARP Accused of Hounding Seniors" that questioned the over solicitation practices of AARP. The article stated that "angry members say AARP's barrage of solicitation letters and social media posts can mislead or confuse aging consumers, some of whom struggle with memory and managing their financial affairs," now **THEREFORE**, be it **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors for NYSRTA craft a letter to the leadership of AARP, addressing the aforementioned concerns raised about over solicitation and marketing tactics that lead to confusion and overreaction by the elder recipients, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Legislative Action Committee follow up with further communication to AARP and address the areas of concern and work towards possible resolution.

*Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 1, 2, and 3.*



# BEST OF THE WEST--CHEERS!





### **CENTRAL: Ray Pitcher, President**

The Central Zone is in the process of reorganizing after its general election in September at the Oswego meeting. At that election the following were elected to new rolls on the Zone Executive Board:

President -**Ray Pitcher** from Ilion

VP for Legislation- **Wynne Shaul** from Canastota

Secretary- **Collette Astoria** from Oswego

The Zone reelected:

Senior Vice President-**William Cline** from Binghamton

VP Friendly Service- **Dell Ford-Jordan** from Syracuse

VP Membership- **Mark Granan** from Sidney

Treasurer- **Stella King** from Morrisville

We currently having openings in the following positions: Public Relations/Newsletter, Robert R. DeCormier Trust Fund and Certificate of Recognition Committee and Auditing.

As a zone we wish to thank past President Barb Finley for her leadership and years of service.

Our next zone meeting is scheduled for April the Eighteenth in Canastota.

### **CENTRAL WESTERN: Phyllis Dunlap, PR Chair** **In collaboration with Lynn Hefferon**

**Linda Snyder** reports: Our Yates County unit has recently been celebrating our members' donations of their time, talents and resources to many areas of local community service. In addition to the various causes that we support as a Unit, through proceeds of 50/50 drawings, donations of books, clothing and other items to various agencies, we have found that our members also volunteer in close to forty local endeavors. Four of our members were highlighted in local newspapers for their charitable efforts in their communities. From Dundee, **Ann Shepardson** and our past president, **Robyn Ballard**, were both honored for the many ways they volunteer to make their community better. From Penn Yan, **Richard Ahaver** was recognized for the work he does at Literacy Volunteers helping people work toward their citizenship, and our Friendly Service Chair, **Elaine Gleason** was honored for the friendly service she provides and much more, as she keeps in contact with notes and cards not just with retired teachers, but many of her past students. It is safe to say that our community would be at a loss without our retired teachers!



Retired Penn Yan Elementary teacher, **Elaine Gleason** stays in touch with former students by sending greeting cards, checking in with them on social media and attending their weddings, bridal showers, baby showers and other milestone events.



**Central Western Zone waiting to hand out raffle baskets at the Convention in Verona, NY October 2018**



**Delegates for this years Convention**

#### **Officers:**

Co-Presidents- **Robyn Ballard** and **Mary Ellen Morgan**

Recording Secretary- **Elaine Leasure**

Corresponding Secretary- **Patricia Dick**

Treasurer- **Betty Pilato**

#### **Standing Committees**

Nominations/Hudson-Kramer Awards- **Sandy Kushner**

Membership/Bulk Mail/Newsletters- **Jane Crosby**

Health Care- **Betty Weber-Worden**

Bylaws- **Bruce Croucher**

Legislation- **William Lesniak**

Fund Raising/Presidents' Appeal- **Betty Pilato**

Resolutions- **Bill Lezniak**

Community Service- **Joan Handfield**

Friendly Service- **Barbara Rosecrans**

Public Relations and Historian- **Phyllis Dunlap**

Website- **William Lesniak**

Barrie Fleegel Active Educator Awards/Split Club-

**Ann Czajkowski**

Epke-Meagher Awards- **Joan Irwin**

Immediate Past Presidents -**Jane Behnk & Sandy Kushner**

#### **Sandra Kushner reports:**

This picture was taken on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at our "Not Back to School" fall meeting held in Letchworth State Park at the Glen Iris Inn. As you see by the sign our organization was celebrating 70 years as a group.



**Wyoming RTA Executive Committee**

The organization received a record setting amount of donations to their three ongoing community service projects organized by **Claudia Cerasani**, Community Service Chairman.

Wyoming County Angel Action also received five large boxes of school supplies and non-perishable food items for the backpack programs in area schools.



### Eastern: Pamela Love, PR Chair

Eastern Zone held its Annual Meeting at the Turf Tavern located in Scotia, New York on September 20, 2018. The Officers for Eastern Zone include President, **Rosalie Oliver**; Vice-President, **Janice Mullins**; Secretary, **Patricia Reynolds** and Treasurer, **Jack DeWeese \*CR**. Committee Chairpersons include: Membership, **Rosalind Carron**; Friendly Service, **Marjorie Leibowitz**; State Legislation, **Janice Mullins**; Federal Legislation, **Al Ciejska**; By-Laws, **Rosalie Oliver**; Nominations, **Janice Mullins**; Community Service, **Joyce Notarnicola**; Finance and Budget, **Rosalind Carron**; Health Care, **Doris Bedell**; Historian, **Virginia Madore**; Public Relations, **Pamela Love** and Resolutions, **Mark Notarnicola**.

Those members who attended the 68th. Annual Convention of NYSRTA held at Turning Stone Casino in October included **Jack DeWeese \*CR** as a Delegate At Large and was also the time keeper during the meetings. Other Delegates from Eastern Zone included; **Carolyn Bovee**, **Al Ciejska**, **Gloria Ciejska**, **Patricia DeWeese**, **Diane Hahn \*CR**, **Irene Hauser**, **Marjorie Liebowitz**, **Pamela Love**, **Virginia Madore**, **Joyce Notarnicola**, **Mark Notarnicola**, **Patricia Reynolds** and **Ann Stafford**.



L-R: Virginia Madore, Patricia Reynolds, Marjorie Leibowitz, Ann Stafford and Rosalie Oliver



L-R: Patricia DeWeese, Diane Hahn\*CR and Jack DeWeese\*CR

LIZ held its annual Fall luncheon/meeting on September 26, 2018 at the Bellport Country Club. Officers for 2018-19 were sworn in and **Dave Keefe**, President of the Board of Trustees of TRS spoke on the security of our teacher pensions and the projections for coming years. Community Service Chair **Eileen Holmes** introduced special guest **Keith Caputo**, a young man from Center Moriches with Down's Syndrome who founded Helping Makes U Happy. This nonprofit helps needy families with food, clothing, school supplies, scholarships and more. With groups of school-age children and adults who collect, sort, deliver and work for him in so many ways, Keith has become a Long Island symbol of what can be accomplished with effort and spirit. His organization was the LIZ Community Service project for the year and Keith was presented with a monetary contribution from LIZ, along with a gift box of books and cassettes for his giant Chinese auction in October.



Jackie Moller\*CR and Leigh Powell\*CR



Keith Caputo and Eileen Holmes

### Long Island: Eileen Holmes, PR Chair

Congratulations to the Western Zone for hosting a great 68th NYSRTA convention! Sixteen LIZ members attended and were very impressed with the workshops, speakers and Trivia Night. It was a lot of fun for the LIZ team to go from middle place into the final round of Trivia to wind up winning first place!

Congratulations to NYSTRA Site Chair (and life-long Long Islander) **Leigh Powell \*CR** on being awarded a well-deserved Certificate of Recognition for his years of service to our organization. Leigh joins **Angelo Grande\*CR**, **MaryElla Moeller\*CR** and **Fred Conway\*CR** to the list of active LIZ members who are honored with this recognition and we are proud of them!

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

North Central Zone hosted a very successful luncheon and annual meeting on September 18th with 83 paid reservations and several guests. We enjoyed a spectacular song and dance presentation by 13 talented students from "Stage Notes" directed by **Ticia Aumell**. We were thrilled with their performance!

The following officers for NCZ were elected: President, **Dr. James Newell**; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, **Elwood "Woody" Lyndaker**; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, **Lorraine Wiggins**; Secretary, **Kathy Allan**; Treasurer, **John Gaffney**.

*(continued on page 13)*

## North Central, continued...

We honored Community Service Chair, **Patricia Dietrich**, as she retires after many years serving both NYSRTA on the State level and NCZ at the local level. We thank her sincerely for her tireless work with the many community service projects she initiated including: Coats for Kids, Love Your Public Library, NYSRTA Walkers, Food Pantry collections and organizing our volunteers for the WPBS Book Fest. We thank you, Pat, for your dedication to our communities and North Central Zone.

Enthusiastic volunteers manned a NYSRTA booth at Senator **Patty Ritchie's** Senior Health & Wellness Fair on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The fair was held at the McVean Student Center on the JCC campus in Watertown. North Country attendees were greeted by **Dick Bushnell, Dr. George Forbes\*CR, Pat & Jim Newell**, and **Marcia & David Schryver**. These NCZ members passed out candy, bookmarks, and smiles to almost 1,000 people who turned out for this popular event! They also offered membership forms to retired teachers and encouraged them to attend the NCZ June and September luncheons.

Our new Travel and Leisure Committee, chaired by **David Schryver**, has taken off with a very enjoyable trip to Salmon River Falls near Altmar in July. Fifteen people attended the Ogdensburg Command Performance of "3 Red Neck Tenors" on October 11th. We enjoyed a leisurely dinner at Gran View Restaurant on the St. Lawrence River, a chat time with the 3 personable tenors, and then a wonderful musical and comedy show by these three talented opera singers turned "red necked" for our enjoyment. Laughing is certainly good for the soul!

In October, NCZ member **Hope I. Marston** announced publication of her new book, The Walls Have Ears—A Black Spy in the Confederate White House. This is her first e-book, and is available in Kindle version as well as Barnes & Noble NOOK book format as well as in paperback. Hope has authored more than 30 books and received many notable awards for some of her books. We congratulate her for this most recent publication!

We sent six delegates to the NYSRTA Convention in October. We congratulate **Dr. James Newell**, our own NCZ President, who is the newly elected Senior Vice President of NYSRTA. We wish you success in your new role on the NYSRTA Board of Directors.

### Future Dates to Remember:

Executive Council Meeting	Tuesday, April 23, 2019
BOCES Wellness Clinic	10-noon
Spring Scholarship Luncheon	Tuesday, June 11, 2019
Ramada Inn	Watertown



Patricia Dietrich



2018 NCZ Convention Group: L-R: Elwood "Woody" Lyndaker, Dick Bushnell, Shirley Parker\*CR, Kathy Wallace, Pat & Jim Newell



L-R: Lorraine Wiggins, Elwood "Woody" Lyndaker, Jim Newell, John Gaffney, Kathy Allan

## Northeastern: Marti Martin, PR Chair

The winner of the NEZ Kramer Educator \$500 Award is **Kathryn Brown**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English teacher from the Chazy Rural Central School. Her students will have their cumulative writing professionally published, entered in the Library of Congress, and assigned an ISBN number. Each student will receive a copy of the book and the community will be able to purchase the book. The school and town libraries will receive a copy for their collections and NEZ will receive a complimentary copy as well. What a fine way to motivate students to write! We are thrilled to sponsor her class project and are looking forward to reading the students' literary work. This award is made possible by member contributions.

Runner-up, **Heidi Mather**, second grade teacher at Saranac Elementary, has created a reading 'library' with a pond theme in her classroom to promote reading as a leisure activity. Our members donated \$93 toward her project at our September meeting. We have received a video from her class introducing us to the students, explaining what they love about second grade and an emailed photo "Thank You" note expressing their appreciation to their 'retired teacher friends'.

Our goal is to establish a relationship with the active teachers in our area so they know we appreciate and support their efforts in the classroom.

At our Fall meeting held at The Barracks Golf Club, four members received the Distinguished Service Award; **Rita Cote Bedard, Sandy Lashua, Robert 'Bob' Mooso** and **Lois Wilson** have devoted 88 collective years to the local chapter and each has served in various capacities of membership and leadership both at the local and State levels. *(continued on next page)*





### Northeastern, continued...

**Rita Cote Bedard** taught in the Altona school years before it merged with Lyon Mt and Ellenburg to become Northern Adirondack Central School. When she retired from teaching in 1980 she became a LIFETIME NEZ member!!!! She served in the capacity of Historian for ten years.

**Sandy Lashua** joined NYSRTA in June Of 2001 after 34 years in the Plattsburgh City School District. She immediately joined the Membership Committee and after a few years, assumed the title of VP of Membership. Sandy attends the yearly NYSRTA Convention sharing ideas with other zones about how to attract and maintain active membership. Sandy participated in the Adopt-A-Highway cleanups most years, co-chairs the annual Book Sale held as a Scholarship fundraiser, and she heads up the local Food Drive in her town of Peru.

**Robert Mooso** joined in 2002 when **Paul Vogan** came to him and told him of the organizations goals. Bob stepped into a leadership position of Exec VP in the local chapter right away and would follow **Ron Wilson\*CR** as President the following year. Under Ron's tutelage, Bob took on the responsibility of Resolutions Chair. Bob volunteered to Chair the State Public Relations Committee and served for four years. After a hiatus, he returned to chair the ad hoc committee to determine the criteria for evaluating the applications for the \$1000 **Hudson Kramer** Scholarships that are given to active teachers.

**Lois Wilson** retired from the Peru School District in 2001 and was introduced to NYSRTA by her husband Ron. Since then she has assisted with registration at Fall conferences, taught several quilting workshops and has been a delegate. Lois served in many NEZ capacities. In 2006, she led the Community Service committee. Lois assumed the role of NEZ's Secretary in 2004 and continues to serve in this capacity today.

NEZ sent 9 representatives October 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> to the **NYSRTA Annual Convention**. Several members of our NEZ Board of Directors are Chair people of State Committees; **Gary Germaine**- Legislative, **Bob Joyce\*CR**-Insurance Trust, and newly elected **Judy Corigliano**-Friendly Service as well as our President, **Bonnie Gregware** were in attendance. **Sandy Lashua**, **Marti Martin**, **Barbara Mulligan** and **Glenda Rowe** served as delegates.



Kathryn Brown, NEZ Kramer Educator Award winner and students at Chazy Central receive their 'check' from Bonnie Gregware and Marti Martin



NEZ 2018 Distinguished Service Award Recipients: Lois Wilson, Sandy Lashua, Rita Cote Bedard and Bob Mooso

### Northern: Linda Crosby, PR Chair

Members of the Northern Zone enjoyed friendly comradery, good food, great conversation and a wonderful guest speaker at the Fall 2018 membership meeting on September 25. NZ member **Fran Goodrow**, with technical assistance from her husband, Paul, (NZ member, also) did a presentation on what life was like in Nazi-occupied France during WWII for French citizens and her mother, **Germaine Bessard**, who was a heroic member of the French Resistance. Fran brought signed copies of her book, *The Resistant*, in which she wrote her mother's story. Also, at the fall meeting, President **Gayla LePage** asked for help from everyone with membership; please ask retired educators to join us! She said that, this year, NYSRTA will focus on ways to protect current health care benefits for retirees. Community Service Chair **Alice Galvin** asked for reports from NZ members about their activities that help their communities and for new C.S. ideas that NZ could support. She said that members generously donated \$330 at the meeting for our scholarship fund. Health Care Chair **Joe Russo** reminded members to keep reporting their mileage for walking/biking; he distributed copies of "10 Challenges To Quick Start Your Path To Great Habits", which was full of helpful, common-sense suggestions. Bylaws Chair **Rae Louise Tate** said we will soon align our NZ Bylaws with the recent changes in the NYSRTA Bylaws. NZ members also voted on the 2018 resolutions that will be presented at the NYSRTA convention at Turning Stone Casino. NZ Treasurer **Roxann Finley** reported that a \$100 donation was sent to The **Robert D. DeCormier** Trust fund. All members are welcome to attend the next NZ Executive Board meeting on November 14 (snow date-Nov. 20). Delegates for the 2018 convention were **Gayla** and **Phil LePage**, **Tom** and **Betty Cook**, **Roxann Finley**, **Alice Galvin**, **Rae Louise Tate**, and **Linda Crosby**. They enjoyed terrific convention activities thanks to the super efficient efforts of host Western Zone. WZ folks lined up many fascinating workshops, an extraordinary keynote speaker who spoke on his adventures canoeing the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany and a friendly competition at the Trivia Night. The workshops highlighted the Western Zone from "The Very Nostrils of Hell" in Buffalo (depicting the transition from wild frontier town to U.S. 8th largest city where trade, immigration, a rough waterfront and a red light district exploded due to the construction of the Erie Canal) to the exciting new museum, The National Comedy Center, in Jamestown, N.Y. My book club (five of us are NZ members) saw first-hand the streets of Buffalo in a wonderful three day trip there after reading *The City Of Light* by **Lauren Belfer**. It's a city that heroically and carefully works very hard to preserve its history, its art and architecture, and its character. Don't forget to join us for the 2019 convention hosted by the Southern Zone. We always have a great time.





### Northern, continued...

Thank you to the NZ members who donated items for our convention raffle baskets: **Alice Galvin, Joe Russo, Tom and Betty Cook, Agnes Hudson\*CR, Linda Crosby, Roxann Finley, Anne Ray, Fran Goodrow, Holly Chorba and Gayla LePage.**



**Alice Galvin (left) receives signed book from Fran Goodrow (right)**



**Roxann Finley, Gayla LePage and Phil LePage enjoy the convention cocktail party**

### Southeastern: Maureen Coffey, PR Chair

Well, the clean crisp air of autumn finally arrived and signaled many familiar rituals, one being our annual convention. Southeastern Zone would like to take a minute to thank the Western Zone for a fantastic three days. Catching up with colleagues from all over the State is just plain fun! Many of our business resolutions focused on ways to improve safety in schools. I'm sure most of us would agree that when we began our careers in education we never could have imagined the world we live in today ... but here we are! NYSRTA will continue to support the wellness, education and safety of all students and teachers.

Fall also ushers in new activities for our SEZ members and this year is no exception. Art classes, bridge lessons, hiking, bowling, lectures, breakfast meetings, lunch get togethers, lunch and classic movies, Broadway plays, day trips, ... no matter where your interests lie, there's something for you. Grab your planner, sign up, and watch the fun begin!

And, we can never forget that November 11th is Veterans' Day. It's a day that's very special to many of us so I asked some of our members to share stories. **Patti DeLeo** shared a story about her dad: "My father, **Joseph Rohme**, was in WWII and served in active duty in Italy. He received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star after rescuing a soldier from a POW camp; he would never talk about that. He did, however have one "enjoyable" assignment. He was **Cary Grant's** chauffeur for two weeks when Cary visited the troops. He posed for a picture that was sent home to my mother along with a note and autograph. He always said he was a true gentleman and very respectful of the men. He personalized lots of things for mothers, wives, and girlfriends: previously sent letters, envelopes, scraps of paper."

My dad was also in WWII in the Navy Air Corps. He was on a bomber plane that flew missions in Europe. He too wouldn't discuss that, but his favorite memories were being stationed in Casa Blanca in Morocco, Africa. He loved it there. Of course one of his favorite movies was ... you guessed it ...

Casa Blanca. The first time Ed and I watched it we were with my dad and it quickly became one of our favorites, too. A thrill for us happened in 1996 when we got to visit Casa Blanca and Marrakech.

**Mary Ellen Colombo** shared a story about her dad: "My dad served in WWII but rarely would speak about it. The only story I remember is about the bridge at Remagen. It was captured by US forces in March of 1945 enabling our forces to cross the Rhine and hasten the end of the war. However, to save the bridge from the Germans trying to destroy it, our forces constantly fired above the bridge to protect it. Because of the constant vibrations, the bridge collapsed just ten days after it was captured killing 33 US engineers and injuring 63. The Germans tried everything to destroy the bridge but we had it long enough to build alternates and cross many troops to end the war earlier. Dad was there. They made a movie about this bridge. By the way, that was the only story he ever told us. He loved the irony of it."

**Harriet Beers\*CR's** hubby was in the infantry in 1944 and 1945 and active in the cleanup operations in France and Germany. He was awarded the Bronze Star for Bravery so she knows he must have had some hand to hand and artillery combat on his way across Europe. Harriet wrote, "Who knows what he must have seen at 18 years of age? He never wanted to talk about what went on or what he did to earn the Bronze Star."

My hubby, **Ed Coffey** was in the Navy, in fact he was a member of the original crew of the USS WS Sims, a Destroyer Escort equipped with some of the Navy's earliest sonar equipment. He has a harrowing tale of being at battle stations while chasing a Russian submarine out of Miami Harbor! In May we plan to attend a Sims' reunion in Virginia. As an original crew member on the Sims, Ed is a plank owner which will make this reunion truly special.

My brother, Bob, was a U.S. Marine who served in Vietnam. He was stationed in Khe Sahn during the TET Offensive. Like so many before him, we never heard his stories.

These are but a few of the brave people we have to honor and thank on Veteran's Day. To all of our NYSRTA members, God Bless all who served and God Bless all of the families and friends who supported them! And God Bless America!



Call us at 518-482-3509— Please help defray the costs of returned mail!

### *Southern: Debbie Deats, PR Chair*

Eleven Southern Zone members attended the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual NYSTRA Convention October 17-19. The planning by the Western Zone hosts was exceptional. On the last morning, the Southern Zone convened with the members of the out-going Western Zone planning committee to help us continue our design for hosting the 2019 Convention. Also included were the steering committee from Long Island for the 2020 convention.

Southern Zone has chosen "A Journey Through the Southern Tier" for our theme. This will cover our Corning Museum of Glass (CMOG), our **Mark Twain** connection, the wineries and breweries, the Finger Lakes, and many more sites too numerous to mention. Our group has many initial plans and welcomes any additional suggestions.

The officers for the SZ remain the same for 2019 as for this year. They include **Mary Lou Wood**, President; **Vince Smith\*CR** as VP for Membership; **Bonnie Stratton** for Secretary; **Lois Cutton** for Treasurer; and **Debbi Deats** as Public Relations VP.

### *Western: Michelle Claus, PR Chair* *In Collaboration with Irine Denis Zinter*

Without a doubt, the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention has proven to be one of the BEST IN THE WEST, according to the verbal and written evaluations. Our co-chairs, **Doris Kirsch\*CR** and **Michelle Claus** began planning, with the core committee, in 2017. Day 1 began with the welcome reception and registration. A special new delegate meeting was planned for this afternoon. Other committees also scheduled afternoon meetings on the first day. That evening, a delicious dinner was served followed by the awarding of the State Certificate of Recognition Awards. These two recipients received the awards because of their Distinguished Service to NYSRTA. Our own **Judith Farmer\*CR**, State Secretary, received one of the awards. The second recipient was **Leigh Powell\*CR**, State Site Committee Chair. The keynote speaker, **John Baronich**, a retired industrial arts teacher and administrator from our unit- Springville-Griffith Institute Central School District, presented a canoe trip on the Erie Canal under the guise of Jacques B, a French fur trapper.

Day 2 featured a morning full of workshops that our chair, **Beth Green** organized. There were ten workshops to choose from. Attendees could choose 2 workshops from this list: Aging Optional, The Very Nostrils of Hell, The Legacy of Robert H. Jackson, The Family Love Letter, Cooking with The Farm House Kitchen Chef, The Made in America Store, National Comedy Center, The Buffalo Story, Creative Small Space Gardening, and TRS Pension 2018.

The Annual Meeting commenced with reports from officers and standing committees. Election of officers was voted on by the delegates. Of the resolutions discussed, the following were accepted by the membership: School Safety B-5-1, Loss of Retiree Benefits A-8, Resolution in Support of Greater Protection and Safety for Educational Employees D-23, A Resolution in Support of Greater Protection and Enforcement of Legislation and Regulations Against Gun Violence in

Schools D-24, A Resolution Concerning the Need for Metal Detectors in our NYS Public Schools D-25, A Resolution for Raising Concern about Excessive Solicitation and Marketing Practices with the Elderly E-20.

During the convention, we had winners in the split club each evening, basket raffle winners on the second day, and centerpieces given to one lucky person at each table. Our cocktail party, "Cheers to Our Friendship", was a great success. We ended the convention with an evening of Trivia Teams Competition. Special thanks to our chairs, committees, and attendees. Great things are accomplished by the perfection of details.

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## Health Care Report: Mary Ella Moeller, Chair

### NYSRTA Health Insurance Survey

The purpose of the survey is threefold: 1. Identify who is covered by school district health insurance, 2 identify who manages health insurance for your school district (consortium of several districts etc.), 3. Identify the person (s) in your unit/zone that have a good working knowledge of area district insurance. Who are the “watchdogs” for your district’s health insurance.

I hope that those instructed to complete the Health Insurance Survey have done so. If not there is still time to do so.

Directions: Zone/Unit Presidents and Zone/Unit Health Care Program Chairperson(s) are asked to complete and/or distribute this survey to those Zone and/or Unit members who have a good working knowledge of their managed health care plan. Please return all COMPLETED SURVEYS TO THE ATTENTION OF Kevin Mulligan, President of NYSRTA; 8 Airport Park Blvd.; Latham, NY 12110-6414

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Position in NYSRTA \_\_\_\_\_

Question #1. What Zone and/or Unit do you belong to? \_\_\_\_\_

Question #2. As a retiree, do you have school district provided health insurance? \_\_\_\_\_

**IF NO, SKIP TO QUESTION 3**

**If YES** – What school district do you receive health insurance from? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the school district health insurance plan provide coverage for you **BEFORE** you became Medicare eligible? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the school district health insurance plan provide coverage for you **AFTER** you became Medicare eligible? \_\_\_\_\_

Question #3. Who manages your school district health insurance plan? \_\_\_\_\_

*Example: In Northeastern Zone there are 17 school districts with the same health insurance plan(s). The 17 school districts belong to The Clinton, Essex, Warren and Washington BOCES Consortium which manages the Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Care Plan. So, NEZ would answer CEWW BOCES Consortium.*

Question #4. Who in your Unit or Zone has a good working knowledge of your school district provided health insurance plan(s)? Please provide name(s), email address(s) and phone number(s). It is hoped that the names provided will make up a network of information specialists we are seeking at NYSRTA.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Zone or Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Zone or Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Zone or Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to the request. NYSRTA truly wishes to serve retired educators, therefore we need to focus our attention to health insurance.

~ Kevin R. Mulligan, President of NYSRTA



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