

69th Annual Convention

NYSRTA



Mark Twain's Study at Elmira College

“A Journey Through the Southern Tier”

October 9 – 11, 2019

Hosted by the Southern Zone

Turning Stone Resort and Casino

Verona, NY



Taughannock Falls - Trumansburg, NY



Corning Museum of Glass - Corning, NY



Spiedie Fest & Balloon Rally - Binghamton, NY



Finger Lakes Wineries



National Soaring Museum - Big Flats, NY



Watkins Glen State Park - Watkins Glen, NY




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Program cover designed by Kathy Crane, Don and Lois Cutton's (SZ) Daughter





Welcome to the 69th Annual Convention

The Southern Zone welcomes you to the Turning Stone Resort and Casino, in Verona, NY on October 9 – 11, 2019. Our theme is “A Journey through the Southern Zone”. The Southern Zone is comprised of six units: Eastern Broome, Corning Area, Cortland Area, Elmira Area, Schuyler Area, and Western Broome/Eastern Tioga. We are located in South - Central New York State. It is an extensive area that covers over 5,617 square miles and lies along the banks of the Susquehanna, Chenango, and Chemung Rivers and two of the Finger Lakes.

The Southern Zone has many technological industries located in the Southern Tier, for example, Corning Glass, Inc. There are many others. We are proud of our apples, beer, and wine. Our educational facilities include Binghamton University, Cornell University, Elmira College, SUNY Cortland, Ithaca College and many community colleges. Located in our area are the Triple Cities of Binghamton, Endicott and Johnson City, known as the Carousel Capital of the world. Watkins Glen is the home of Watkins Glen International where NASCAR racing takes place.

In the History of the Southern Zone, there are several well-known names. U. S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Collins, a graduate of Elmira Free Academy and Corning Community College, became our nation’s first female Commander of a Space Shuttle. She commanded the Space Shuttle Columbia, July 23-27, 1999. Carl Sagan, a noted astronomer and author, taught at Cornell University. Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) and his wife Olivia Langdon are our cover story. Our keynote speaker, Sheila Reed as Olivia Langdon Clemens, tells the story of this author and his wife. Rod Serling, graduate of Binghamton Central High School, created the TV series “Twilight Zone”, and taught at Ithaca College.

Several retired teachers from the Southern Zone have become authors. Matt Christopher of Lansing wrote story books for young people. Angeline Endicott wrote sports books. Edith Cutting of Johnson City authored folklore and children’s books. Rose Orlando of Owego is co-author of children’s language arts activities books. Nancy E. Spaulding, one of our retired members and president of the Elmira Area Retired Teachers’ unit, is the majority author of *Earth Science* in a 1985 edition and still in print. Nancy is also asked each year to write questions for the Earth Science Regents Exam.

The Southern Zone has the honor of having four recipients of the New York State Retired Teachers’ Association’s “Certificate of Recognition”. They are Imogene McKendrick CR, James Parsons CR, Donald Cutton CR, and Vince Smith CR. We are so glad they are still working in our association.

Our materials are from the *Our Southern Zone History Book*. We hope we have given you time to look into who we are in this “Journey through the Southern Tier and Zone”. Enjoy the workshops and the 69th Annual Convention, and have a safe trip home!

~ Don Cutton*CR

THE NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



Association Officers

President | Kevin Mulligan
Senior Vice President | Dr. James Newell
Secretary | **Judith Farmer*CR**
Treasurer | **President Emeritus Terry Trudeau*CR**
Friendly Service Vice President | Judith Corigliano
Legislative Action Vice President | Gary Germain
Membership Vice President | Lois Thornberg
Immediate Past President | **Angelo Grande*CR**

Zone Presidents

Central | Ray Pitcher
Central Western | Robyn Ballard/Mary Ellen Morgan
Eastern | Rosalie Oliver
Long Island | **Fred Conway*CR**
North Central | Dr. James Newell
Northeastern | Bonnie Gregware
Northern | Gayla LePage
Southern | Mary Lou Wood
Southeastern | Anthony Colombo
Western | **Judith Farmer*CR** (Acting)

Site Committee

Leigh Powell*CR, Chair
William Tenity
Kevin Mulligan, Association President
President Emeritus Terry Trudeau*CR
Anne Flansburg*CR

Workshop Committee

Dr. James Newell, Chair
Diane Hahn*CR
Patricia Newell
Lois Thornberg

Southern Zone Officers

President | Mary Lou Wood
Recording Secretary | Bonnie Stratton
Treasurer | Lois Cutton
Membership & Resolutions | **Vincent Smith*CR**
Community Service | Mary Suffern
Friendly Service | **Imogene McKendrick*CR**
Legislative Action | Mary Johnson
Public Relations | Debbi Deats
Immediate Past President | **Vince Smith*CR**
Health Care Coordinator | Sue Pierce
Bylaws & Scholarships/Nominations | **Don Cutton*CR**

Unit Presidents

Debbi Deats | Corning Debbie Carlone | Cortland
Lynne Hunkovic/Steve Cornell | Eastern Broome Branch (EBB)
Nancy Spaulding | Elmira Linda Moore | Schuyler County
Vince Smith*CR | Western Broome/Eastern Tioga

Southern Zone Planning Committee

President and Chairperson | Mary Lou Wood
Secretary | Bonnie Stratton
Treasurer | Lois Cutton

Additional Members:

Vince Smith*CR, Jerry Tagliaferri, **Don Cutton*CR**,
Nancy Spaulding, **Imogene McKendrick*CR**, Mary
Suffern, Linda Moore, Lynne Hunkovic, Debbi Deats





WELCOME TO THE 69TH ANNUAL NYSRTA CONVENTION

Hosted by the Southern Zone
Turning Stone Resort & Casino · Verona, New York

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

2:00 - 5:00pm **Registration and Vendor Exhibits | Mohawk**

Welcome reception: Coffee, tea and cookies.

Raffle tickets will be available to purchase. *Trivia teams registration at raffle ticket table.*

THEME: "A Journey Through the Southern Tier"

3:00 - 5:30 **Legislative Action Meeting | Canandaigua**

4:00 - 5:00pm **New Delegate Workshop: *All new delegates are encouraged to attend.* | Tuscarora**

This workshop is geared for first time delegates and alternates and will provide a brief overview of what to expect at the convention and annual meeting. *Presented by Dr. Jim Newell, Senior Vice President*

6:30pm **Dinner*** | Oneida** ****Special presentation has been moved to Thursday at lunchtime*

Greetings/Introductions: *Mary Lou Wood, President of Southern Zone*

Invocation: *Mary Suffern*

Pledge of Allegiance: *Jerry Tagliaferri*

Song: "America"

Song Leader: *Vince Smith*CR*

Immediately Following Dinner

Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service Awards Presentation | **Oneida**

Split Club winners to be announced

There will be a table set up in the front left of the Oneida Room for sock donations. Bags will be labeled by Zone . The table will be set up for the duration of the convention. Socks will be donated to community service efforts within each Zone.



Sheila Reed

Keynote Speaker: Sheila Reed
Introduction By *Nancy Spaulding*
Title: Olivia "Livy" Langdon Clemens

Sheila Reed has taught children from ages 3-13 at the Chemung Valley Montessori School in Elmira, NY since 1976, and is currently its Academic Dean. Sheila is a teacher educator and board member of the Montessori Elementary Teacher Training Collaborative(METTC) in Lexington, MA. She first took on the role of Olivia Langdon Clemens for a "Salute Your Favorite Woman in History" program at the Chemung Valley History Museum in Elmira a decade ago, and has portrayed her to local civic groups ever since. Sheila was part of an ensemble production at the Park Church in Elmira in 2018 entitled "Close to Clemens," which included reenactments of eight members of Mark Twain's circle of friends. Sheila welcomes the opportunity to speak at the Annual Workshop as an occasion for further research into Livy's full and fascinating life.

Thursday, October 10, 2019

Breakfast Buffet starts at 7:00am | Oneida

Registration 9:00am - Noon

———DON'T FORGET TO HAND IN YOUR TRIVIA NIGHT SIGN UP SHEETS AT BASKET RAFFLE ———

Session 1

9:00am - 10:00am

Choose one of the five workshops offered



1. A Pioneering Mind of Television: The Life and Times of Rod Serling | Onondaga

Introducer: Lynne Hunkovic

Presenter: Lawrence Kassan

Description: Rod Serling, one of the early pioneers of broadcast television, was proud to call Binghamton and the Southern Tier his hometown. This presentation will highlight his childhood, his war years, and the role he played in television's "Golden Age." It will also explore the role of corporate interference and censorship that led to the creation of the iconic television series, The Twilight Zone.



2. Collette Travel Tours | Seneca

Introducer: Lois Thornberg

Presenter: Colby Yeaton

Description: Collette Travel is a third generation, family owned company with offices in the United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom. Collette has been providing travelers with comprehensive land tours, river cruises, rail journeys, small group tours, family trips, garden holidays and more since 1918.



3. A Famous Battle, A Pile of Dirt, and a Forgotten Line | Cayuga

Introducer: Mary Suffern

Presenter: Nancy Spaulding

Description: The Battle of Newtown was a battle of the Revolutionary War that took place near the present-day city of Elmira. The location of the battle was determined by a glacial deposit. This battle was significant because it opened up this part New York State for settlement. The Preemption Line was the demarcation that determined the area in New York eligible for settlement.



4. Strength, Balance and Aging | Tuscarora

Introducer: Mary Lou Wood

Presenter: Dr. Joel VanSlyke

Description: Dr. Joel is the lead physical therapist and owner of Choice Physical Therapy, LLC in Corning, New York. He will provide specialized knowledge about how our bodies age and how we can maintain our strength and balance as we age. He has done wonders to shape up and condition one of our dedicated NYSRTA members.



5. What's Hot and What's Not in Antiques | Canandaigua/Chautauqua

Introducer: Vince Smith*CR

Presenter: Robert Connelly

Description: Bob Connelly is a senior member of the American Society of Appraisers and a certified member of the Appraisers Association of America. He has conducted over 2000 auctions and was on the Fox television show, "The Collectibles Show" for 5 years. **Attendees are encouraged to bring one or two small items to be appraised.**

Thursday, October 10, 2019

Breakfast Buffet starts at 7:00am | Oneida

Registration 9:00am - Noon

———DON'T FORGET TO HAND IN YOUR TRIVIA NIGHT SIGN UP SHEETS AT BASKET RAFFLE ———

Session 2

10:30am - 11:30am

Choose one of the five workshops offered



1. TRS Pension 2019 | Canandaigua/Chautauqua

Introducer: Kevin Mulligan, Association President

Presenter: TRS Team

Description: As in past years, representatives from TRS will provide information about the current status of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System.



2. Corning Museum of Glass | Tuscarora

Introducer: Mary Lou Wood

Presenter: Robert Cassetti

Description: Robert Cassetti has developed and championed a series of signature programs including the popular 2300 events, live hot glass demonstrations and the Hot Glass Show, mobile glass blowing initiatives and Glass lab that have transformed the public profile of the Corning Glass Museum. He will provide highlights of these programs in his presentation.



3. Transforming Your Home Into a Safe Haven | Onondaga

Introducer: Debbi Deats

Presenter: Susan Gruber

Description: Sue Gruber is a certified aging in place specialist and national instructor for the National Association of Home Builders. She will describe how Universal Design features can be incorporated into homes to make them more accessible while maintaining the integrity and beauty of their living spaces.



4. Composting At Home | Cayuga

Introducer: Diane Hahn*CR

Presenter: Holly Wise

Description: Holly Wise works as a Consumer Horticulture Resource Educator for Oneida County Cornell Cooperative Extension. She invites you to come and learn about the basics of composting in order to help reduce landfill space. The presentation will describe the compost process, recipes for compost, types of composting and the uses of your finished product.



5. Homebrewing: How To Do It At Home | Seneca

Introducer: Jerry Tagliaferri

Presenter: Bob and Judy Schaeffler

Description: This presentation will cover the basics of homebrewing. It will include a brief history of brewing and touch on everything from equipment and ingredients to the brewing process and final storage of your finished product. Information on where to find brewing supplies, equipment, and recipes will be provided. A variety of resources available to the homebrewer will be included. At the conclusion of this presentation, attendees should have the basic knowledge and appreciation of what is involved in brewing beer at home.

Thursday, October 10th

11:45pm

Lunch and Special Presentation | **Oneida**

Delegate seating for luncheon will be by Zones. Designations will be on the tables

1:30pm

Session 1 Annual Meeting | **Oneida**

Invocation: **Mary Ella Moeller*CR**

Pledge of Allegiance: **Ron Wilson*CR**

President: *Kevin Mulligan*

Parliamentarians: *Carol & Mark Schilansky*

Reports:

Secretary's Report: **Judith Farmer*CR**

President's Report: *Kevin Mulligan*

Treasurer's Report: **President Emeritus Terry Trudeau*CR**

Standing Committee Reports:

Finance & Budget: **Jack DeWeese*CR, Chair**

Bylaws: *William Tenity, Chair*

Site: **Leigh Powell*CR, Chair**

Nominations: *William Cline, Chair*

Election of Officers

Friendly Service: *Judith Corigliano, Chair*

Health Care: **Mary Ella Moeller*CR, Chair**

Membership: **Lois Thornberg, Chair**

Legislative Action: *Gary Germain, Vice President for Legislation*

———If time allows, we will continue on to Fridays meeting agenda———

5:45 - 6:45pm

Cocktail Party | **Mohawk**
Cash Bar

THEME: "A Stroll Through Mark Twain Country"

6:45 - 8:00pm

Dinner | **Oneida**
Invocation: *Linda Moore*
Pledge of Allegiance: **Don Cutton*CR**
Song: *America The Beautiful*
Song Leader: **Vince Smith*CR**

Bring sock donations. Bags will be set up on a table in the front left of the Oneida Room, by Zone. Socks will be collected to help community service efforts in each Zone.

Split Club and basket raffle winners announced - Trivia Night information given immediately following dinner

8:15pm

Trivia Night | **Mohawk**
(Cash Bar Available)



Upper left: Mark Twain @ Quarry Farm
Lower left: Mark Twain and his wife Olivia's grave markers
Centered: Sullivan's Monument
Upper right: Clemens Center for The Arts
Lower right: Chemung County Court House

Friday, October 11, 2019

7:00 - 9:00am Breakfast Buffet | Oneida

8:00am Annual Workshop Breakfast Meeting | Oneida (*far back table—look for Jim Newell*)

Members of the Workshop Committee, a representative from Southern Zone, LIZ; the 2020 hosts and North Central Zone, the 2021 hosts need to attend.

9:15am Session 2 Annual Meeting (*if necessary*) | Oneida

Standing Committee Reports (*continued*)

Public Relations: *Linda Crosby, Chair*

Certificate of Recognition: *Anne Flansburg*CR, Chair*

Historian: *Carol Lord*CR*

Community Service: *Eileen Holmes, Chair*

Credentials: *Fred Conway*CR, Chair*

Workshop: *Dr. James Newell, Chair*

Resolutions: *Gayla LePage, Chair*

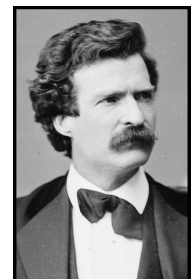
Trust Reports

Insurance Trust: *Bob Joyce*CR, Chair*

Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Fund: *Anne Flansburg*CR, Chair*

New Business

Adjournment - **SAFE TRAVELS HOME...SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**



Olivia Langdon Clemens was born Olivia Louise Langdon on Nov. 27, 1845, in Elmira, N.Y., the daughter of Jervis and Olivia Langdon. Olivia was called “Livy” by her friends and family, and by her husband, Samuel L. Clemens, whom she married on Feb. 2, 1870.

During the summer of 1868 the Langdons invited Clemens to visit their home in Elmira. Their courtship, marriage and love for one another are much documented in the correspondence they exchanged throughout their marriage. For a time Mark Twain’s copyrights were transferred to her to preserve the family income from creditors. Olivia was also an active participant in her husband’s writing. Olivia’s intellectual and progressive upbringing would be a major influence on Samuel Clemens and his writing. He left pages of manuscript by her bedside for her to read and review. He often, though not always, accepted her suggestions. Visitors in the Mark Twain House today hear the story of how the children would sit by Mama as she read Papa’s writing, and how she would turn down the pages when she saw something that needed more work. Their children would cry out because Mama wanted to cut out some of the parts the girls thought were most “delectable.” Clemens remembered in his autobiography how he liked to insert phrases and incidents which he knew Olivia would not approve – just to see her reaction.



DELEGATES AT LARGE: NYSRTA ANNUAL CONVENTION 2019

William Cline
Linda Crosby
Jack DeWeese*CR
Anne Flansburg*CR
Eileen Holmes
Robert Joyce*CR
Carol Lord*CR
Mary Ella Moeller*CR
Leigh Powell*CR
William Tenity

CENTRAL ZONE DELEGATES 2019

President - Ray Pitcher

Gwynne Bodle
Liz Cline
Marilyn Dominick
Barbara Finley
Lynn Grandjean
Dell Ford-Jordan
Janice Hedglon
Darlene Jarvis

Johnnie Jones
Stella King
Michelle Lonergan
Myron Phillips
Peg Reding
Judith Schad
Pat Soposki
Vera Wolczek

Alternates

Colette Astoria
Christine Granan
Mark Granan
Jane Hicks

CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE DELEGATES 2019

Co Presidents - Robyn Ballard and Mary Ellen Morgan

President Emerita Judie Byndas*CR
Jane Crosby
Bruce Croucher
Sharon Croucher
Phyllis Dunlap
Mary Hanlon
John Hogan*CR
Elaine Leasure

Jack Leasure
Bill Lesniak
Rita Lesniak
Linda Snyder
Mary Beth Tyndall
Elizabeth Weber-Worden
Carol Westlake
Marge Wood



EASTERN ZONE DELEGATES 2019

President - Rosalie Oliver

Penny Bellinger
Carolyn Bovee
Al Ciejska
Gloria Ciejska
Patricia DeWeese
Diane Hahn*CR
Pamela Love
Virginia Madore

Janice Mullins
Tom Mullins
Joyce Notarnicola
Mark Notarnicola
Patricia Reynolds
Ann Stafford
Mary Ann Sturm

LONG ISLAND ZONE DELEGATES 2019

*President - Fred Conway*CR*

Agnes Dansereau
Diana Davies
Jim Davies
Carrie Gilbert
Kathryn Grande
Dominic LiCausi

Susan LiCausi
Dee McKinnon
Joel Reitman
John Ruggiero
Lucretia Ruppel
Virginia Schulze

Ginny Stype
Val Stype
Robert Svoboda
James Wightman
Alicia Winowsky

NORTH CENTRAL ZONE DELEGATES 2019

President - Dr. James Newell

Kathy Allan
Dick Bushnell
Carlyle T. Company*CR
Woody Lyndaker
Patricia Newell
Shirley Parker*CR

Alternate

Barbara Cole-Russell





NORTHEASTERN ZONE DELEGATES 2019

President - Bonnie Gregware

Martha Martin
Sue Rothermal
Glenda Rowe
Lois Wilson
Ron Wilson*CR



NORTHERN ZONE DELEGATES 2019

President - Gayla LePage

Holly Chorba
Betty Cook
Tom Cook
Roxann Finley
Phil LePage

Alternate

Rae Louise Tate



SOUTHEASTERN ZONE DELEGATES 2019

President - Anthony Colombo

Robert Brady
Edward Coffey
Maureen Coffey
Mary Ellen Columbo
Mary Lou Davis
Patricia DeLeo
Martha Diederich
Jacqueline Gerken
Leon Harrold*CR
Helen Hoering
Joan Schauer





SOUTHERN ZONE DELEGATES 2019

President - Mary Lou Wood

Pat Almeida
Don Cutton*CR
Lois Cutton
Debbi Deats
Lynne Hunkovic
Mary Johnson
Linda Moore
Vince Smith*CR
Nancy Spaulding

Alternates

Elizabeth Reiter
Mary Suffern
Gerardo Tagliaferri



WESTERN ZONE DELEGATES 2019

Acting President - Judith Farmer*CR

Betty Browne
John Cardarella
Therese Clarke
Michelle Claus
Don Flansburg
Russ Gervasi
Tom Giambra
Maria Hager
Joyce Jones

Pat Keller
Sandra Kelly
Doris Kirsch*CR
Judy Klug
Suzanne Lach
Joe Miceli
Pat Miceli
Barbara O'Shea

Theresa Pope
Judy Toner
Delores Scanlon
Vicky Smith
Nancy White
Ann Marie Wik
Marie Zafron
Irene Zinter





Ross Park Carousel - Binghamton, NY



Rockwell Museum - Corning, NY



Seneca Lake - Watkins Glen, NY



Wings of Eagles Discovery Center - Big Flats, NY



**Eileen Collins - Astronaut
Elmira Native**



She-Qua-Ga Falls - Montour Falls, NY



Southern Zone

Broome

Chemung

Cortland

Schuyler

Steuben (part)

Tioga

Tompkins