

The New York State
Retired Teachers' Association

# YORK

No. 2 Vol. 69

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



Summer 2019



A Message From Our President...

President John F. Kennedy, in September 1962, made his famous "We choose to go to the Moon" speech. Seven years later, July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the Moon. JFK offered a challenge and the United States of America accepted that challenge.

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#### WINDS OF CHANGE

The only thing in life for sure is change. We see change almost every day in one spot or another. Some changes we accept and some changes we resist. The older we get the harder it becomes to accept change, especially about something that we have ownership in. We have been presented with a change for our name and our logo. A red flag goes up immediately in our mind saying what are they up to now.

Well here's what's up. Our membership is dwindling in a downward spiral; our finances need some new sources. We have some younger officers at the helm who have the vigor and drive to look at, and try new and different approaches to turn our situation around. One of these new ideas is a new name: "Retired Educators of New York", RENY. It's all inclusive and covers all members of our profession; teachers, principals, superintendents, psychologists, and counselors. The logo is completely new and gone is the apple which several organizations use. The idea that comes to my mind with our new logo is the shape of the seed; it makes me think "we're keeping an eye out for YOU".

We will still be the New York State Retired Teachers' Association and our official trademark will be the little red school house but we will be doing business, "dba", as the Retired Educators of New York. Let's get behind this by supporting it and making change work in a positive manner for all of us.





~ Terry Trudeau\* CR. Association Treasurer and President Emeritus

#### Workshop Committee Report; Dr. Jim Newell, Sr. Vice President and Workshop Committee Chair

## 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

#### Wednesday, October 9, 2019

#### 2:00 - 5:00pm

Registration and Vendor Exhibits Welcome Reception; Coffee, Tea, Danish Pastry

#### 4:00 - 5:00pm

#### New Delegate Workshop presented by Jim Newell

This workshop is geared for first time delegates and alternatives and will provide a brief overview of what to expect at the Convention and Annual Meeting.

#### 6:00pm Dinner & Special Presentation

Following Dinner: Certificate of Recognition Awards
Presentation

## Keynote Speaker: Sheila Reed as "Livy" Langdon Clemons

Sheila Reed brings "Livy" to life as she recounts her unusual 19<sup>th</sup> century education and its impact on her marriage, parenting, and partnership with Mark Twain.

Olivia Langdon Clemons was the youngest daughter of Jervis and Olivia Langdon. She married Samuel Clemons aka Mark Twain in the Langdon's home in Elmira in 1870. She bore him four children and was instrumental in his success as a writer, humorist, lecturer, and novelist. Introduced by Nancy Spaulding

#### Thursday, October 10, 2019

Breakfast Buffet Starts @ 7:00am Registration 9:00 - Noon

#### First Session - 9:00 - 10:00am

## 1) A Pioneering Mind of Television: The Life and Times of Rod Serling presented by Lawrence Kassan

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. Introduced by Lynn Hunkovic

#### 2) Collette Travel Tours presented by Colby Yeaton

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. Introduced by Lois Thornberg

## 3) A Famous Battle, A Pile of Dirt, and a Forgotten Line presented by Nancy Spaulding

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. Introduced by Mary Suffern

## 4) Strength, Balance, and Aging presented by Dr. Joel VanSlyke

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. Introduced by Mary Lou Wood

## 5) What's Hot and What's Not in Antiques presented by Robert Connelly

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. Introduced by Vince Smith\*CR

#### Second Session - 10:30 - 11:30am

### 1) TRS Pension 2019 presented by Richard Young and the TRS Team

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

Introduced by President Kevin Mulligan

#### 2) Corning Museum of Glass presented by Robert Cassetti

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.

Introduced by Mary Lou Wood

## 3) Transform Your Home into a Safe Haven presented by Sue Gruber

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.

Introduced by **Debbie Deats** 

#### 4) Composting at Home presented by Holly Wise

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. Introduced by Diane Hahn\*CR

## 5) Homebrewing: How To Do It At Home presented by Bob and Judy Schaeffler

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.

Introduced by Gerardo Tagliaferri



#### Thursday, October 10, 2019 (continued)

Noon - 1:00pm Lunch

1:15 - 5:00pm Session I Annual Meeting

6:15 - 7:00pm Cocktail Party (Cash Bar)

THEME: TBD

7:00 - 8:00pm Dinner (Cash Bar)

8:15pm Trivia



Trivia Night by DJ's-R-Us Entertainment of Cicero, New York-

table and the other 5 spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Mixed zones are also accepted. Prizes will be awarded to those placing in 1st,

2nd and 3rd places. Also, a cash bar will be available.

#### Friday, October 11, 2019

7:00 - 9:00am Breakfast Buffet

8:00am Annual Workshop

**Committee Meeting** 

Includes a representative from Southern Zone, Long Island Zone and the 2022 host, Southeastern Zone, as well as members The 2019 Workshop Committee.

9:15am Session 2 Annual Meeting



#### Friendly Service Report: Judith Corigliano, Vice President Friendly Service

#### Bring on the Smiles......

An especially close friend of mine, another retired teacher happens to be a Friendly service worker for her regional group. Her retirement goals were the same as many teachers, but once in conversation, she voiced a wish to bring joy to friends, old or new. She now excels in bringing joy to retirees just as she did to her many 3<sup>rd</sup> graders that spent a year in her creative and energized classroom. She brings that same energy and warmth in her communications with former colleagues as well as new friends.

Oh yes, bringing joy is one of the nice things that Friendly Service does for our members. Who doesn't enjoy receiving a get-well card, an unexpected phone call or an email, a thank you or a thinking of you note, a hospital visit with a retiree. And of course, the smiles that follow a surprise birthday greeting of flowers /candy/money. A small gesture that may leave one with the warm feeling of joy. It's a connection that makes us feel a part of a community that cares and values its educators even if they have been retired for many years and their older friends have moved or passed away.

Please take time to voice your appreciation to a friendly Service worker in your region, county, unit. They are thoughtfully taking time to bring many...smiles and joy. Currently leading the more than **250 workers** who bring joy are the following zone chairpersons from our 10 regions: **Dell Ford Jordan** - CZ, **Barbara Rosencrans** - CWZ, **Marge Leibowitz** - EZ, **Dee McKinnon** and **Alicia Winowsky** - LIZ, **Linda Holley** - NCZ, **Judy Corigliano**- NEZ, **Donna Harness** -SZ, and **Thomas Giambra** - WZ.

A most heartfelt thank you to President Emerita **Agnes Hudson \*CR,** NZ and **Imogene Mc Kendrick\*CR,** SZ for their many combined years of volunteering and leading their region's friendly workers.

BETTER still, volunteer to be a worker or leader in your region. There may be in great need to fill a vacancy in leadership, consider being a part of Friendly Service. Feeling joy goes both ways, in the giving and the receiving.







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

Summer time and the living is easy... so it has been said for many years since it was first sung in the play Porgy and Bess. However this is not the case for the membership chairs and their committees of NYSRTA. This is the time of year they are most active in the quest to seek out and enlist new retirees to join our organization. Names of new retirees need to be gathered, letters of welcome to retirement, an introduction to NYSRTA and its benefits, and an invitation will have to be sent to all who have now joined our unique group of retired educators. Since it is evident that membership is the life blood of any organization, then recruiting and retention of members needs to be a top priority to guarantee the organization's continued good health.

The quest to increase our membership numbers has to become a responsibility of ALL members of NYSRTA. Take some time to connect with prospective retirees and educators and share the benefits of NYSRTA. We are the only organization in the state that focuses solely on the needs of the retired educator in local, state and federal levels. There are discounts for insurances, travel, and shopping available. Friendly Service sends cards to members for birthdays and support in time of need. When times get rough, financial assistance is available. NYSRTA has a voice in the legislative actions that impact retiree's way of life.

Invite new retirees your next meeting, luncheon, or event. Call them and spend some time to make them aware of us, who we are and what we do. Seek out possible new members at your gyms, exercise classes, local clubs, recreation areas, on your daily walks, around the pool, in libraries, even the grocery stores! With the support of our present members, we can encourage more educators to join our ranks.

Thanks to the hard work and efforts of the members of the Membership Committee, the first phase of the process to identify the number and percent of non-NYSRTA Unit members has been completed. The geographic boundaries and school districts that comprise each unit has been defined and sent to the Albany office. We plan to move on to the second phase shortly- comparing the state roster of members to individual unit rosters. I want to express my thanks to all the members who have worked on this project with me for all your time and efforts.

One final thought- Each and every one of you is the instrument we need to succeed in gaining new members and growing our organization.

Reminder: There are two new membership incentives: 1. Any member who gets 5 new members to join will receive \$50 2. The Zone that gains the most members proportionately will receive \$1000!





#### Bylaws Report: William Tenity, Chairperson

The Bylaws Committee is presenting two proposed bylaw changes for consideration at the 2019 Annual Meeting in October, **Proposition SPBA** (Sequence of Proposed Bylaw Amendments) **2019** and **Proposition DBARENY** (Do Business As Retired Educators of New York) **2019**.

Proposition SPBA (Sequence of Proposed Bylaw Amendments) 2019 was requested by the Board of Directors at it's October, 2018 meeting. The proposed bylaw change is meant to correct the problems that resulted at the 2018 annual meeting regarding the sequence of voting required to change the NYSRTA Bylaws. It is hoped that this proposed bylaw change will avoid this problem in the future. The changes are being made to Article XVI, Amendments, Section 1, which describes the order in which a proposition becomes an amendment, which was not clear before. The order is that the proposed amendment must first be passed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors, then by two-thirds (2/3) of the zones and finally by two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates to the Annual Meeting. If it fails at any point along the way it does not continue any farther. The Bylaws Committee unanimously recommended this proposed bylaw and the Board of Directors voted in favor of it.

Continued on Page 6

#### **Bylaws Report, Continued**

Proposition DBARENY (Do Business As Retired Educators of New York) 2019 was requested by the Board of Directors at it's April, 2019 meeting. At the April meeting, the Board heard a presentation from the marketing firm Engine 7. A recommendation was made to change the name of our organization to avoid confusion with NYSUT (New York State United Teachers) and NYSTRS (New York State Teachers' Retirement System). The suggestion was made to rebrand the organization as RENY (Retired Educators of New York). The change is being made to Article I, which designates the name of the organization as the New York State Retired Teachers' Association. According to the proposed change, the New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc., would be the legal name of the corporation referred to in the Bylaws as the Association. The Association would henceforth be know as New York State Retired Teachers' Association doing business as the Retired Educators of New York (RENY). The Bylaws Committee unanimously recommended this proposed bylaw and the Board of Directors voted in favor of it.

All NYSRTA Zones need to vote on these Propositions at their annual meeting and the results need to be reported to the Bylaws Chair before the Annual Meeting.

Committee Members:

William Tenity— CZ, Chair, Peter Atchinson – NEZ, President Emeritus Carlyle T. Campany\*CR – NCZ, Helen Hoering – SEZ, Rae Louise Tate – NZ

#### Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust; Jackie Moller, Trustee



**President Emerita Agnes Hudson\*CR**, a very active and deeply involved Robert R. DeCormier trustee for many years, announced that she will resign her position as a trustee. A member of Northern Zone, Agnes is still active in her zone and has agreed to offer her continued support and advice to the members of the Trust.

Agnes has been a member of NYSRTA since about 1982. She helped in hosting the Annual Convention three times along with the Northern, Northeastern and North Central Zones. In 1990, Agnes who was the NZ President, suggested they host the Annual Convention by themselves. They did just that in 1990 and again in 1999. When winter of 2000-2003 came along, Agnes was elected as President of The New York State Retired Teachers' Association. She always believed that we should give back to society and not exist just for all of us and she has demonstrated this throughout her life. Before leaving as President, she created a scholarship for students entering the field of education. How happy students were to receive this financial support. Her husband, Ross was a firm supporter of Agnes' endeavors and he served for several years as By-Laws Chair. Together they helped to make NYSRTA a stronger organization for retired educators. One of these special awards is called the Ross Hudson, Jr. Scholarship.

Agnes has been a loving member of the DeCormier Trust. She worked with many trustees to encourage anyone who might need the help of a stipend or an individual who might be pleased to just pay a bill or help with a new roof or needs to fix a car.

We have known Agnes from the beginning when each of us had the opportunity to be a trustee. Agnes was not only a trustee or secretary early with her appointment for the Trust but has always been "everywhere" working on "anything" possible. The remaining six trustees will miss her, and we wish her the best of "everything". Agnes, thank you for all you have done to help the Robert DeCormier Trust be the "heart" of NYSRTA along with others.

(Much of this information has been received from individuals and from materials found in the "On Course" book that was put together for the 50th Anniversary celebration of NYSRTA)

#### Presidents Letter, Continued from page 1

Remember, it was only in 1961 that Alan Shepard became the 1<sup>st</sup> American astronaut to go into space. It took much "out of the box" thinking and creative engineering for NASA to accomplish that challenge made by President Kennedy. On July 20, 2019 we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that monumental accomplishment. Where were you that night in 1969?

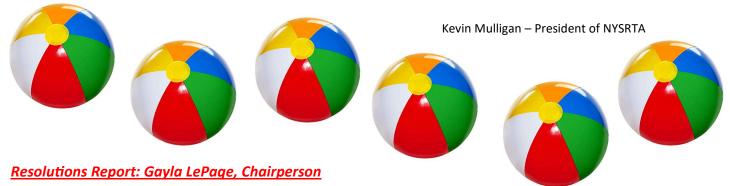
I certainly am no JFK, but as President of NYSRTA, I offer a challenge to the members of NYSRTA. I ask that you support the new name RENY (Retired Educators of NY) and accept the new logo that accompanies it. This challenge poses significant change and creative, abstract thinking, but it also offers a new beginning for NYSRTA. This will hopefully give reason for retired educators, 50 years from now, to celebrate a great organization, first established in 1951, that saw fit to change their name and logo of recognition way back in 2019.

Lois Thornberg, Vice President of Membership, has done a herculean job to gather the identity and geographic boundaries of all the Units associated with NYSRTA. This marks the beginning of our efforts to improve the connection of NYSRTA (State Organization) with the Units. The next phase of this project includes identifying the number and % of unit members that do not belong to NYSRTA or the Zone. This phase also includes me having

teleconference calls with Zone and Unit Presidents in the coming months. The first such teleconference was recently conducted with Southern Zone, and I wish to thank them for providing a good start for this effort.

Dr. James Newell, Sr. Vice President and Chairman of the Workshop Committee, has put much time and effort working with his committee and members of Southern Zone to provide a varied and exciting workshop schedule for the 2019 Convention. Jim will be the first to say that his best mentor in this mission has been his Workshop Committee Member, Pat Newell, his wife/"better half".

The 2019 President's Appeal has realized, as of mid - June, \$70,000 in contributions. To all members of NYSRTA who have contributed, **THANK YOU**. To those who have not made a contribution as of yet, please consider doing so. It has been brought to my attention that my letter for appeal had a misstatement. I stated that some of the monies from the appeal go towards <u>balancing</u> the NYSRTA budget. Technically, they help "offset the deficit" in the NYSRTA budget. Needless to say, year one of my NYSRTA presidency has been quite a learning experience. Thank you!



The Resolutions Committee reviewed the six proposals that were submitted by five different zones. After discussion and some amendments, all six resolutions are recommended for consideration by the delegates at the 2019 Annual Meeting. All NYSRTA members should review these proposals and make their feelings about them known to their zone president, Resolutions chair, and delegates. A complete listing of the resolutions that have already been adopted can be found on the NYSRTA website.

#### Resolution D-26: Supporting the Rebuild America's School Act (Southern Zone)

WHEREAS, many old American school buildings are deteriorating and need to be repaired: and WHEREAS, the present Education Secretary has made it clear that monies should be used for vouchers; and

WHEREAS, the Education Secretary has also make it clear that without legislation requiring money be spent on public schools, it won't be done; now

Be IT RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA support The Rebuild America's Schools Act which has been introduced in both the House and the Senate by informing our Federal Legislators that we want them to support the Rebuild America's School Act.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objective 4

The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend."

#### Resolutions Report, Continued

#### Resolution E-21: Volunteer Tax Deductions (Central Western Zone)

WHEREAS, Volunteers perform necessary roles in our country such as: delivering Meals-On- Wheels to the elderly and shut-ins, working for food pantries, soup kitchens, clothes closets and assisting in literacy programs, and WHEREAS, volunteers same government millions of dollars each year that would be needed to fund these necessary programs, and

WHEREAS, retirees on fixed incomes are responsible for much of the volunteerism in this country: and

WHEREAS, average gas prices across the country continue to increase while IRS deductions for volunteer mileage remain at fourteen cents per mile, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Retired Teachers Association wants to encourage continued volunteerism and participation, now Be IT RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA seek support for federal legislation to increase the IRS volunteer mileage allowance equal one half the annual allowance given for business mileage,

and be further RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA encourage a raise in this allowance each time an increase occurs for IRS business mileage allowances.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 1, 2, 3, 5
The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend."



#### Resolution D-27: Teacher Residency Program (North Central Zone)

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there has been as much as 35% reduction in the number of students entering college as education majors over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, there currently exist teacher shortages in every state, including New York, in many subjects and especially in the areas of science, math, special education and English as a Second Language; and

WHEREAS, these shortages can be harmful to student learning when positions go unfilled or are filled temporarily by unqualified or under-qualified personnel; and

WHEREAS, the short length of student teaching assignments before being hired, as well as professional mentoring after hiring that may not be extensive enough are cited for poor morale among newer teachers who leave the profession; and

WHEREAS, several stated have passed laws creating "teacher residency programs" in an attempt to attract more students to consider teaching and to support and retain new teachers entering the profession; and

WHEREAS, "teacher residency programs" are defined as teacher education and preparation programs in effective teaching theory along with a year-long in school 'residency" alongside and effective teacher-mentor; and new teacher residents receive stipends and commit to teaching in district for three or more years beyond the residency; now

Be IT RESOLVED, that the NYSRTA urges the New York State Legislature to create, pass, and adequately fund a "teacher residency program" to train and retain teachers in high-need school districts and subject areas.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 2 and 4

The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend."

#### Resolution E-22: Protection Against Elderly Victimization (Western Zone)

WHEREAS, the elderly are most often vulnerable to scams or frauds; and

WHEREAS, the elderly have the most history of being victims or money and other fiscal schemes; and

WHEREAS, the elderly are open to sharing personal information; and

WHEREAS, they may be easily confused by callers and unable to distinguish legitimacy; and

WHEREAS, because they are greatly concerned for the welfare of others, they can easily be scammed; now

Be IT RESOLVED that the NYSRTA seek legislation to protect the elderly and other victims by increasing the penalty for scams and frauds.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objectives 1, 3, and 5
The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend."









#### Resolutions Report, Continued

#### Resolution C-20: Staffing of Elderly Care Facilities (Western Zone)

WHEREAS, many elderly require assisted living and/or nursing home facilities: and

WHEREAS, the staffing of many facilities is inadequate to provide proper care; and

WHEREAS, the elderly require assistance for basic bodily functions; and

WHEREAS, many staff are not sufficiently trained to respond to the increase in need as the patients age and their illness progresses; and

WHEREAS, insufficient staffing results in an extensive delay to providing urgent care; now

Be IT RESOLVED that the NYSRTA support legislation to insure and adequate ratio of staff to the resident.

Reference: NYSRTA Article II, Objectives 1, 3, and 5
The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend."

#### Resolution D-28: School Attendance (Long Island Zone)

WHEREAS, regular school attendance is important for educational learning to take place; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli reports that absenteeism is high in New York State schools at 19%; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for more certified attendance teachers in our schools; now

Be IT RESOLVED that the NYSRTA take a strong stand to enforce the state attendance laws and account for all children attending schools in our state.

THEREFORE, the NYSRTA resolves to request our state legislators to provide funds to allow school districts to hire more certified attendance teachers.

Reference: NYSRTA Article II, Objective 4.

The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend."





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#### Central Western Zone - Phyllis Dunlap Public Relations Chair

**Sharon Croucher** reported that the Ontario County Retired Teachers Association continues to be active holding a luncheon meeting in the fall and in the spring with an average attendance of 35. Members are strongly encouraged to make their voices heard regarding any legislative issues affecting retirees. Programs have included a presentation on the Seneca White Deer found at the Army Depot in Romulus and "A Child's Experience in Germany during WWII". A strong membership effort has resulted in a gain in membership this year.

Joan Handfield, Community Service Chairperson has spearheaded two community service projects. In the fall, needed items and monetary gifts were collected and donated to The House of John, a hospice facility in Clifton Springs. Lollypop Farm (Humane Society) was the recipient of cash and pet need items at our spring gathering. These donations are greatly appreciated and give members an opportunity to serve. Finally, we are pleased to be presenting a Barrie Fleegel Memorial Active Educator Award from the Central Western Zone to a teacher in the Bloomfield School District in Ontario County to Caitlin Chan.

Marge Wood and Mary Beth Tyndall, Co-presidents from RTO/Monroe County submitted the following article; *Congratulations and Thank you--*Nancy Hagenbach, Janet Herman, and Mary Ellen Spennacchio-Wagner all received recognition from CWZ for outstanding service to our organization. Nancy facilitates all the Activity Groups and Janet has held many leadership positions, but most recently has organized the luncheons. Mary Ellen is the newsletter editor. We extend our gratitude for their wonderful efforts!

Many enjoyed the Card Making sessions and the Flower Arranging classes. Ongoing activities include: Hiking/Walking, Bird Watching, Bicycling, Caroling/Singing, Garden Club, Book Review Club, and Recorder Lessons. This fall will bring a day trip to the Merry-Go-Round Theater in Auburn, Carolina Reed Snowflake creations, and cookies decorating. New ideas are always welcome!

Jennifer Costello from East Irondequoit School District and Sonja Griffin from the Rochester City School District were awarded the 2019 Barry Fleegel Memorial Active Educator Grant from Monroe County. We wish you much success in completing your academic endeavors! Eli Marcus from Wellsville, NY in Allegany County is a Secondary School Earth Science teacher. He also received the Barrie Fleegel Memorial Active Educator Grant from (NYSRTA) Central Western Zone. Other winners were Victoria Converse from Seneca County, Tara Buck from Stueben County and Oona Atwater from Wayne County. A total of \$2,100 was presented by CWZ to 7 Active Educators to use on a teaching project they designed and applied for.



Sandy Kushner, N.Y.
State Retired Teachers'
Association CWZ,
presenting the HudsonKramer Memorial Grant
to Caledonia-Mumford
teachers Mary Burns and
Rita Merlo.



Hiking Group May 2019

We remember fondly Stanley Smith (husband of Margaret Smith) 11/12/18, Nancy Pike 11/26/18, Bernadette Lally 3/15/19, Paul Van Der Meid (husband of Ginger Van Der Meid) 5/27/19. May they rest in peace.

We continue to have open positions on our board. Anyone interested in President-Elect, Secretary, Legislation, Bylaws, Historian, and Nominations are encouraged to join the fun!

#### Eastern Zone: Pamela Love, Public Relations Chairperson

At Eastern Zone's May Meeting, President **Rosalie Oliver** was presented an official document of the State of New York's Executive Chamber which included the pen that was used in approving Assembly Bill, Introductory Number 1347, Print Number 5001: "An Act to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to the payment to certain retired public employees" Became a law April eleventh, Chapter 581 of the laws of 1958.



**Rosalie Oliver and Paul Dunleavy** 



Shirley Gibbons, Mary Ann Shook, Nadine Rumke, Viola Bramkamp, and Joan Burger

Mary Boice of the Columbia Retired Teachers Unit reported that their unit has started The "First Baby-First Books" project and gave a beginning library of books to the first baby born in 2019 at the Columbia Memorial Hospital in Hudson. Encouraging literacy from birth sparked the idea of this project, Donna French, also of the Columbia Retired Teachers Unit reported that their Unit (CCRTA) at their May meeting honored several long time active retirees at Kozel's Restaurant in Ghent. Their Friendly Service Coordinator, Mary Ann Shook and President, Jane Miller organized this special event. The honorees were presented with a rose and a copy of the poem "Why God created Teachers" which Mary Ann Shook read aloud to all present.

**Joyce Notarnicola**, Eastern Zone's Community Service Chairperson reported that on May 29th, she and **Ginny Madore**, **Caroline Pfleger**, **Kris Monteverd**, **Donna Wexler** and **Mark Notarnicola** volunteered ant the Regional Food Bank in Latham for a couple of hours.

#### North Central Zone: Nancy Roberts and Patricia Newell, Public Relations Co Chairs

North Central Zone, as in 2017, is again experiencing a very wet, cool spring, with severe flooding along the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. The weather has not dampened the spirit and energy of NCZ members as we work together on fun and worthwhile projects.

Legislative Chair, **Dick Bushnell**, and NCZ President, **Dr. Jim Newell**, attended the "Coffee with your Congresswoman" in April with our representative, Elise Stefanik. They were able to ask her questions concerning Social Security and the cost of prescription drugs.

Ready, Set, Fun 2019 Book Fest, sponsored by WPBS-TV, was held on May 11 at Salmon Run Mall. This year **Kathy Allan** did a superb job of organizing and recruiting volunteers to man the tables. Children of all ages were delighted to select a new book and also to participate in a book exchange. Kathy had ten volunteers with a total of over 300 years of teaching experience! Those volunteers included **Alicia Bach**, **JoAnn Clarke**, **Patti Fallon**, **Diane Ferrucci**, **Judy Gilligan**, **Anita James**, **Krista Juczak**, **David & Marcia Schryver**, and **Sally Scott**.

Our June Scholarship luncheon was very successful with 70 members and guests attending. NCZ, in partnership with the Northern New York Community Foundation, awarded \$1,000 scholarships to **Daniel Mayer** and **Abigail Rockwood**, both 2019 graduates of Lowville Academy and Central School. **Mary Perrine** from NNYCF presented the awards. We are very proud of these outstanding future educators. We thank Chair **John Gaffney** and his committee including **Bruce & Candice Buckingham, Dr. George Forbes**\***CR, Willis Haller, Marianne Malatino, and Tom VanEmmerick** for their dedicated work, There were 33 applicants from 9 school districts this year. Our program for the afternoon was "The Family Love Letter" presented by **Gregory Ronneburger** and **Steven Wisniewski** from AXA Equitable with important information about estate planning strategies.

Continued on next page

#### North Central Zone: Continued

NCZ Leisure and Travel Committee Chair, **David Schryver**, presented four possible trips for this summer. The last two dates would fit in with the publication of this article. The first would be a trip to Gananoque for a play on August 28<sup>th</sup>, and the second a ride on the Adirondack Scenic Railroad on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both trips would include a meal. We are looking forward to enjoying leisure and fun as we travel with David and his wife, Marcia.



L-R:Dick Bushnell ,Elise Stefanik and Dr. Jim Newell



L-R: Diane Ferucci, Kathy Allen, Sally Scott and JoAnn Clarke



L-R: President Newell, Daniel Mayer,
Abigail Rockwood and
NNYCF Rep Mary Perrine

#### **Future Dates to Remember:**

Executive Council Meeting, Thursday, August 1, 2019 10:00 a.m. BOCES, Watertown NCZ Fall Business Luncheon, Tuesday, September 17, 2019 Ramada Inn, Watertown NYSRTA Convention, October 9-11, 2019, Turning Stone, Verona, NY

#### Northeastern Zone: Marti Martin, Public Relations Chair

The June meeting of the Northeastern Zone was held at UNO restaurant in Plattsburgh with 35 members in attendance on a beautiful Spring day! After the business meeting and the favorite buffet lunch, **Ms. RaeAnn McLaughlin**, Executive Director of Pine Harbor spoke to the to our attendees about managed senior care options in the area and in general, and Pine Harbor in particular. Her message "come visit for a tour unannounced, ask a lot of questions- if it's for you, put your name on the waiting list with no obligation to move in if you're not ready when your name comes up... your name is always on the list." She had a great presentation and wonderful jokes that we (as retirees) all understood!!

Membership Chairperson, **Sandy Lashua** is diligently collecting the names of recent retirees from the seventeen districts in our BOCES. Each will get an application and an invitation to join our organization. A personal invitation to our September meeting from a former colleague will follow.

This year's Senior "6 over 70" awards sponsored in part by the Senior Citizen's Council of Clinton County went to three public school educators and three individuals who have spent many years around education. The members of NYSRTA NEZ awarded this year are: Anne Bailey, former French and German teacher at four area public schools, Clinton Community College and Plattsburgh State; Richard and Jackie Sabourin, Math teacher at Peru Central and Art Teacher at Northeastern Clinton Central, respectively; Roy Perry, a volunteer Reading tutor; Stan Ransome, former Director of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library system; and Calvin Castine, videographer extraordinaire who MUST have millions of hours of recorded events at North Country schools. Your lives have been so rich and you have given so much to the community! Congratulations to six well-deserved individuals! Did someone say, "Seventy is the new fifty"? Tell the body that!

This year's Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant Winner has been chosen among twenty-one (21) applications!! **Amy LaPoint** will use the \$1000 to purchase robotics materials for the newly created PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade STEM class at Northern Adirondack Central School. Runner-up, **Erin Stepowany**, applied for the funds on behalf of her 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team colleagues for the materials needed for implementing interdisciplinary portfolios with the incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders in the Fall. Erin and her fellow teachers will receive \$500 from the NEZ Kramer Educator Award. There'll be more on both projects in the next issue of <u>York State</u>.

Continued on next page

#### Northeastern Zone: Continued

Mary Clapper was inducted into the Peru Central School's Hall of Fame. Rah! Rah!

Finally, **Kathryn Brown** and the class of 2024 brought their poetry writing project to fruition when their student-created collection was sent to be professionally published this Spring after a year dedicated to the writing, editing, and publishing process. Kathryn was awarded the inaugural 2018 Hudson-Kramer Educator Award last Fall for this project. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, the hardcover editions of <u>Gotta Love Those Panthers</u> arrived just in time for the evening Open House Book-Signing event. NEZ leadership **Bonnie Gregware**, **NYSRTA President Kevin Mulligan**, and **Glenda Rowe** were there to applaud the students' achievements and to receive a complimentary copy, naturally autographed by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade poets. Congratulations on a job well done!

Have a safe Summer filled with adventure and memorable moments!! Disclaimer... photos have been lost to the cloud....

#### Northern Zone: Linda Crosby, Public Relations Chair

Northern Zone members gathered for the annual Spring meeting at The Haven (old SUNY Potsdam camp) on beautiful Star Lake in St.Lawrence County for a membership meeting, luncheon and a fascinating, historical presentation on Civil War medical practices by re-enactor **Les Buell** who engagingly portrayed a Civil War doctor. Les, a graduate of the NYS Ranger School in nearby Wanakena, SUNY Plattsburgh (B.S.), and SUNY Brockport (M.S.) is a retired history teacher (Williamson CSD).

At the meeting, NZ members generously donated to their H.S. scholarship fund and to one of this year's NZ community service projects, the Malawi Early Literacy Team (MELT, based in Watertown, N.Y.), for educational supplies and teacher training in the northern region of Malawi, Africa. The NZ is pleased to announce that two new members, **Peter Allen** and **Patt Hooker**, have joined us. Welcome, Pete and Patt!

At the meeting, the NZ budget for 2019-2020 was approved. President **Gayla LePage** reported on health care benefits safeguards being proposed. The new state marketing plan was discussed; members liked the proposed new name, but, didn't like the proposed new logo. Membership incentives were discussed. **Rae Louise Tate** provided a legislative action report. The state bylaws revisions were approved. Thanks to the CFE Unit and **Alice Galvin** for providing a.m. refreshments.



Les Buell demonstrates a penetrating shoulder wound on Alice Galvin.

The Clifton-Fine-Edwards Unit President **Joe Russo** reported that they are planning for the annual P.A. Miranda Scholarship Award (Chair **Sally Capone**) and their annual summer meeting on August 14 with guest speaker **Paula Towne**, a Gouverneur artist/author; all NZ folks are welcome. The CFE Unit's banner and light committee is designing new banners and flags for Star Lake, N.Y. streets. Their members are helping the food pantry, collecting bottles for the scholarship fund and participating in their award winning walker's club, church and other club activities.

NZ members sadly note the passing of our colleagues **Geraldine Casey**, **Rosanne Collins**, **Dorothy Madden**, **Charles Smith**, **Lodene Farden**, **Rudolph Sovay**, **Jon Hazen**, **John Sutter** and **Rita Ann Trippany**. Our heartfelt condolences go to their families and friends.







#### **Northern Zone: Continued**

The Northern Zone is pleased to announce our 2019 recipient of The NYSRTA Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant of \$1,000; the grant committee members, **Jean Theobald**, **Marcia Thompson**, and **Linda Crosby** chose **Kylie Pinkerton** of Ogdensburg, N.Y. Kylie is a one-woman show at Colton-Pierrepont Central School in Colton, NY, where she teaches Spanish, single-handedly, to students in grades 5-12. She is planning on using the grant money to purchase Spanish student technology programs, classroom furniture and supplies, teacher training technology, and Spanish literature books. She is a very enthusiastic team player who cares deeply about her school community. She was thrilled to receive her grant award on June 25 during a special ceremony at her school in front of all her k-12 colleagues. After giving a short speech, P.R./Grant Chair **Linda Crosby** presented the grant check and framed grant certificate to Kylie with NZ President **Gayla LePage** also offering her congratulations.



Pictured is Linda Crosby with Award winner Kylie Pinkerton and Zone President Gayla LePage



We would like to offer special congratulations to long-time NZ member, **Dr. William Cullen**, of Wilmington, North Carolina, who celebrated his milestone 100th birthday on February 11, 2019. Bill taught English for 17 years at the Chateaugay Central School District and for 17 years at SUNY Potsdam. NZ member **Tom Cook** (a former student of Bill Cullen) said that Bill was an excellent classroom teacher who directed the Senior Play every year and who highly motivated his

students. Tom called Bill "a legend in our area."

Happy 100th Birthday, Bill!

#### Southeastern Zone: Maureen Coffey, Public Relations Chair

I hope everyone is enjoying those beautiful summer afternoons! A lot has been happening in Southeastern Zone.

**Tony Colombo**, President of SEZ, has had morning meetings at the Americana Diner and Denny's to keep us up to date on happenings at the state level.

**Barbara Topps**, President of the Mid Hudson Area Retired Teacher's Association (MARTA) reported that on May 15th, at a celebratory breakfast at Kuhls Highland House, MARTA awarded four scholarships, each worth \$3,000 to four very deserving recipients. **Jacquelyn Koenig**, Washingtonville High School, will attend Binghamton University in the fall and is planning on majoring in math and minoring in Education. Her goal is to become a certified secondary education math teacher. **Adeline Rajnert**, Minisink High School, will attend SUNY New Paltz to pursue a degree in Education. Her goals are to teach morals, perspectives, differences and new ideas to students through literature. **Gillian Warn**, Washingtonville High School, will attend SUNY Geneseo to pursue a degree in Special Education. She intends to teach elementary special education. **Rebecca Whitney**, Port Jervis High School, will attend SUNY Oneonta to pursue a degree in Adolescence Education focused in Mathematics.

She also shared that members "had a lot of fun in our Ceramics, Sip N Paint, and Swing Dance classes as well as enjoying the tour of Ringwood Manor, playing billiards, and seeing Broadway shows. Most important was the Department of Defense/National Guard presentation on Citizen Preparedness. Everyone in attendance came away with exceptional knowledge of how to be ready for any disaster that might come our way."

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#### Southeastern Zone: Continued

MARTA's fall luncheon will be at Eagle's Nest on October 2nd, 2019.



Ray Leduc, President of the Newburgh Retired Teacher's Association (NARTA) reports that NARTA awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Kerry O'Connell, a graduating senior from Newburgh Free Academy. Kerry will be attending SUNY Oneonta, majoring in childhood education with a minor in special education.

NARTA will have their kickoff breakfast on Thursday, September 5th at Valley Diner in Middlehope. Their fall luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, October 10th at Lakeview House in Newburgh. They will be honoring 17 members who are 85 or older.

**Leon Harrold\*CR**, President of the Sullivan County Retired Teacher's Association reported that at their June meeting at White Sulphur Springs Inn, **Gordon MacAdams** and **Paul Lounsbury** gave an interesting update on the "One Room Schoolhouse Project" in the town of Thompson. Special markers have been placed where the twenty-one (21) schoolhouses once stood.

On September 11th, NYS Senator **Jen Metzer** will speak to the Sullivan County group on Educational and Legislative Issues in NYS. This meeting will be held at the Lazy Pond Bed and Breakfast.

outside?

So that's about all for now. Enjoy what's left of those summer afternoons! 'Til next time...

#### Southern Zone: Debbi Deats, Public Relations Chair

Article submitted by Mary Suffern, SZ Community Service Chair

Southern Zone is vibrantly active on many levels. First, SZ is finalizing plans as we are hosting the 2019 NYSRTA Convention. Our theme is centered on the author, Mark Twain, and his influence even today! Do you remember the many youths that he featured in his writings? Well, to honor these barefoot and perhaps not formally educated individuals, SZ is suggesting that during the Convention cocktail hour, attendees bring a pair of youth socks and/or a new or gently used children's/youth's book. These items will be distributed to area school districts. By donating, we can bring comfort and help sustain the continued joy of reading for our young people. Also, please continue to support your own zone's 'Socktober' collection.

Secondly, under the guidance of **Donald Cutton\*CR** and his wife **Lois**, (Schuyler County RTA) application forms for the SZ's scholarship for educators sent to all SZ school districts. **Don and Lois Cutton** presented the completed applications from 6 outstanding teachers. Using a rubric, the SZ scholarship committee selected **Alexis Halstead** who is a teacher in the Windsor SD as our 2019 winner. She is actively involved in developing curricula in agriculture for her district. Congratulations to Alexis as she embarks on her quest to present a quality educational experience for her students. SZ would also like to thank **Don Cutton\*CR** who joined NYSTRA in 1992 and **Lois Cutton** who retired in 1998 and then joined our statewide group. Between them, this duo brings 48 years of service.

The six units in SZ are very active in Community Service. These units support financially as well as providing volunteers to 37 different school programs, charities, food pantries, and support groups. Most notable are the reading programs that each unit supports. Also awarded this June were 6 scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are pursuing a degree in education. Five of these were \$100 awards given by Corning Area RTA.

Continued....

#### Southern Zone: Continued

The Greater Elmira RTA will be hosting the SZ annual meeting in September. EARTA's President **Nancy Spaulding** will be presenting the program "Wineries, Waterfalls and Other Cool Topics." Nancy earned a geology degree from Syracuse U and retired from teaching earth science in the Elmira SD. If you haven't heard her speak before, attendees are in for a treat!

SZ is looking forward to the Annual Conference of NYSTRA on October 9th-11th. In the meantime, SZ extends bests wishes for a happy and healthy summer!!

#### Western Zone: Theresa Pope, Public Relations Chair

Summer has come and Western Zone is very alert, active, and busy. It knows that the annual meeting is this fall, followed by the state convention (NYSRTA). Still the zones are happening. It seems there is always something to do: service to be rendered, and the community and teachers to be reached.

What's been happening? WZ has reached out to the "Network in Aging". The event, "On the Boardwalk", supports retired teachers and seniors (retired or actively employed, but reached the age designated as being a senior citizen.)

The Hudson/ Kramer Memorial Grant awarded \$1000 to a teacher at the Buffalo Culinary School (Emerson) in the Buffalo Public School District. The grant would create a club" Positively Printing", engaging (fridge kids) deeply introverted students to participate or involve themselves. This grant was awarded to the first grant selected competitive winner out of 32 submitted from counties in Western Zone.

Community Service has been awarded to "Hearts for the Homeless of WNY, Incorporated"; toiletries that were collected were donated to this organization. The future awards includes books or cash to Project Flight. Socks will be collected in the fall for distribution.

Units have reported their activities. Among them are: Speakers (Williamsville, Springville/West Valley, Lancaster Depew, and Eastern Erie). Books/ socks, or other donations (Lancaster Depew, and Williamsville).

Travel has been an ultimate experience in Western Zone. Members are still talking about the WZ sponsored trip to Savannah, which was well attended by members, friends, and spouses. Travel was by bus. WZ members **Anne Flansburg\*CR** and **Judy Klug** organized and led the trip. See pictures below.





# **Upcoming Trips Offered By**

(800) 581-8942



(800) 581-8942

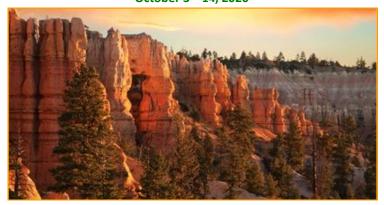
Discover Spectacular South Africa - Culture & Nature in Harmony February 20—March 3, 2020



Discover Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria May 7—16, 2020



National Parks of America October 3—14, 2020



Call Collette and tell them you are a NYSRTA member to get a special rate! Friends and Family can get your special rate as well!!

Discover The Outback to the Glaciers March 16— April 5. 2020



Iceland's Magical Northern Lights
November 9—15,2020



## If you would like to attend the Annual Convention as a <u>Day Guest</u> please fill out the form below

#### **REGISTRATION FORM – DAY GUEST ONLY**

## TURNING STONE RESORT CASINO THE NYSRTA 69<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION ANNUAL WORKSHOP & ANNUAL MEETING

**OCTOBER 9 – October 11, 2019** 

NAME		
ADDRESS		
Please check	the appropriate meals.	
WEDNESDAY	☐ Dinner (\$70)	
Dinner Choice:	Chicken Francaise with Lemon White Wine, Fennel Roasted Fingerling Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable Medley	
	OR	
	Braised Short Rib with Roasted Shallot Jus-lie, Fennel Roasted Fingerling Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable Medley	
THURSDAY	☐ Breakfast (\$30) ☐ Lunch (\$25) ☐ Dinner (\$70)	
Dinner Choice:		
	Fennel Crusted Supreme of Chicken Breast with Rosemary Jus-lie, Marquis Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable Medley	
	OR	
	Filet Mignon with Cabernet Demi-Glace, Marquis Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetable Medley	
FRIDAY	☐ Breakfast (\$30)	

Please clip this form and <u>mail with a check made out to NYSRTA</u> for the total amount to:

Mary Kathleen Bassett, EOM NYSRTA 8 Airport Park Blvd Albany Airport Park Latham, NY 12110 Registration
Deadline
September 8, 2019

#### THE NYSRTA 69th ANNUAL CONVENTION

#### Hosted by Southern Zone **Turning Stone Resort Casino**

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday October 9 - 11, 2019 Registration Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2019** Tower rooms are limited and are on a first come first served basis. Once tower is full, guests will be placed in the hotel.

101	DECIGEDATION	DECINIO 0.00
wednesday.	REGISTRATION	BEGINS / HIDDE
Wcancoday.	KEOKKIKATION	DECINO 2.00pm

- \* Welcome Reception Coffee,
- Tea, and Danish pastry @ Registration
- \* Vendor Exhibit
- \* Dinner
- \*Certificate of Recognition Presentation
- \* Keynote Speaker

#### **Thursday**

- \* Breakfast
- \*Workshops
- \* Lunch
- \* Annual Meeting Session 1
- \* Cocktail Party (cash bar)
- \* Dinner
- \*Entertainment

#### Friday

- \* Breakfast
- \* Annual Meeting Session 2

NAME	TELEPHONE #					
ADDRESS						
EMAIL ADDRESS		SHARING ROOM WITH				
		ACCOMMOD	<u>ATIONS</u>			
FULL PACKAGE - We	•	Thursday Nights lesday evening, all meals T	hureday broakfast o	r Friday)		
(Inc	iddes diffier wedi	lesuay evening, an meats 1	nui suay, di cakiasi di	i Friday)		
TRIPLE: \$360 Pe	All rates A CREDIT C	DOUBLE: \$419 Per include applicable sales to CARD WILL BE MAN OKING SMOK	ax and dining room gr IDATORY UPON	CHECK-IN		
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<b>DAILY RATES</b> - Daily	Rates include ove	ernight accommodation	s, plus dinner, brea	kfast, lunch		
TRIPLE: \$180 Per	Person	DOUBLE: \$209.50 P	er Person	SINGLE: \$309 Per Person		
ARRIVAL	. DATE		DEPARTU	JRE DATE		
PLEASE MAKE DINNE	R SELECTION	NS AND RETURN W	ITH YOUR RESE	ERVATION FORM		
Wednesday Dinner – Chicko Vegetable Medley	en Francaise with L	emon White Wine, Fennel	Roasted Fingerling Po	otatoes and Seasonal		
Braised Short Rib with Roas	ted Shallot Jus-lie,	OR Fennel Roasted Fingerling	Potatoes and Seasor	nal Vegetable Medley		
		n Breast with Rosemary Ju OR : Demi-Glace, Marquis Pota		s and Seasonal Vegetable Medley		
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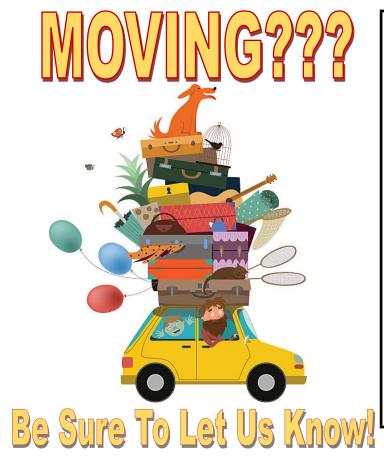
Please clip and mail completed form to:

Turning Stone Resort Casino

Attn: Accommodations Dept. 5218 Patrick Road, Verona, NY 13478

Upon receipt of a confirmation letter from Turning Stone Resort Casino, please call 1-800-771-7711 with your confirmation number to guarantee your room with credit card.

Cancellations must be made prior to September 30 to avoid penalty of forfeiture the food and beverage portion of the package.



The New York State Retired Teachers' Association 8 Airport Park Blvd Latham, NY 12110-6414 PH: (518)482-3509

Dated Material—Do Not Delay

#### Submission Deadlines For York State

Spring (Electronic) April 30th
Summer (Mailed) July 7th

Fall (Electronic) August 25th

Winter (Mailed) November 4th

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