



The New York State
Retired Teachers' Association

YORK State

No. 3 Vol. 69

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

Fall 2019

A Message From Our President...



Kevin Mulligan

School year 2019-2020 is underway. Local sports teams are competing, back to school supplies advertised since early July have all been purchased, and believe it or not, school districts are beginning to prepare for another budget. Governor Andrew Cuomo was able to get a “permanent” 2% tax cap passed last year for all municipalities and school districts to abide by. That, coupled with an uncertain economy, pose some daunting concerns for school boards and superintendents as they look at their budgets for 2020-2021. Cost saving measures are being considered, but for some districts there is not much “meat left on the bone”. A few districts, such as Bay Shore on Long Island, have moved retirees to a cheaper health plan with less benefits. It behooves each and every retired educator to keep informed of their entitled benefits, such as health insurance.

Now is the time for retired educators to keep their eyes and ears open for any possible district provided health insurance changes. Now is also the time to recognize and appreciatively acknowledge the initial twenty one (21) NYSRTA Health Insurance Network Monitors throughout all of New York State. They have agreed to serve as your monitors for school district provided health insurance, but needless to say, many more are needed. There are close to 750 school districts in New York State and most of those districts provide some contractual supported health insurance for retirees. Monitoring all this is a monumental task. Your help to serve as a Monitor, or at least help as the eyes and ears for the Monitor (s) in your area, is very much needed. **THANK YOU** to the initial 21 Monitors for the NYSRTA Health Insurance Network:

Northern Zone

Phil LePage, Kevin Walbridge, and Joe Russo

North Central Zone

Carlyle (Tom) Campany*CR

Northeastern Zone

Robert Joyce*CR and Rod Sherman

Central Zone

**Ray Pitcher, Marilyn Dominick ,
Barbara Collea, and Winifred (Winnie) Dunn-Jones**

Southern Zone

Gerry Tagliaferri, Vince Smith*CR, and Judith Mitrowitz

Continued on page 2

Presidents Report; *Continued*

Long Island Zone

Angelo Grande'*CR , Dominick LiCausi , Robert Svoboda , Joanne McNamara , Fran Hynds , and Pat Metcalf

Central Western Zone

Joan McClure

Eastern Zone

Marjorie Leibowitz

Southeastern Zone

Monitors Needed!!!

Western Zone

Monitors Needed

The President's Appeal, as of September 1, 2019, has raised \$75,401.55. Thank you to all who have contributed. If you have not done so yet, please consider doing so soon.

Thank you,
Kevin Mulligan



NEW YORK STATE
Retired Teachers' Association, Inc.

What is NYSRTA's Health Insurance Network?

Find out more at <https://nysrta.org/health-insurance-information>

Membership Report; Lois Thornberg, VP for Membership

The membership chairs and committees continue to be active and productive in its endeavor to encourage new and past retirees to join **NYSRTA**, however we must all remember that membership recruitment and retention is not only the responsibility of these few individuals, but rather that of each and every member of **NYSRTA**. The projects and initiatives that are completed and put into place need to be shared among the educators who have recently joined the ranks of retirement. Make these possible new recruits aware of our association and our goals.

It is important that all members work on increasing the awareness of **NYSRTA** on their local level. This time of year offers the opportunity to share who we are at local festivals, fairs, and community events. Take the time to host a booth or table and talk with community members about our association; the steps we are taking to ensure that their pensions and benefits will not be jeopardized along with the social and financial benefits we have to offer. Every member needs to realize that it is their responsibility to become a salesperson and sell **NYSRTA**! Personal interaction is the most powerful instrument we have to drum up new members- so "talk" **NYSRTA** up anywhere and everywhere you go.

The Membership Committee continues to work on the project to determine the percentage and number of members who are local unit members, but not members of the respective Zones. These members cannot share in the benefits that **NYSRTA** can offer- especially the financial ones through the DeCormier Fund and Friendly Service or be delegates to our Annual Convention. We need to encourage these unit members to join the State association- the cost is only \$.08 a day, and the benefits are numerous!

In the words of Henry Ford "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. As a team, members of **NYSRTA** need to work together to achieve the goal of increasing our membership.

Health Care Report; Mary Ella Moeller - *Chairperson*

DOCTOR'S VISITS

How many times have you left your doctor's office and realized that you forgot to ask a question or did not really fully understand the instructions you were given? Yes, it happens to all of us. Older or anxious patients may forget as much as 80% of what the doctor told them once they leave the office, according to research. Below are some suggestions to make your visit to your doctor more productive.

Before you go, write down exactly what your problem is, when your problem began, your symptoms and what might have led to the problem.

- Gather your medical information. If this is your first visit to a particular doctor, prepare a detailed medical history of your health and your immediate blood relatives.
- Bring a list of any prescription, over-the-counter drugs, and vitamins/supplements you are currently taking.
- During your visit, bring up your main issue first and tell the doctor any recurring problems.
- Listen carefully, take notes, and ask questions. Don't hesitate to ask questions and voice concerns as they occur during your appointment.
- Bring a friend. Having an extra set of ears to pick up on instructions and take notes can be very helpful.
- Get a recap. Before leaving ask the doctor to go over any instructions to make sure you understand your treatment.

This is a great way to build a good relationship with your doctor and be proactive in your health care.

Source: Harvard Medical School

Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust; Anne Flansburg, *Chairperson*

The DeCormier Trust was established to assist retirees in financial need.

The DeCormier Trustees are asking each member, unit, and zone to consider making a donation in the year 2019. A donation of any amount is sincerely appreciated and may be tax-deductible. **YOUR** support is needed, so that the DeCormier Trust Fund can continue to assist our retired colleagues in financial need. Please make the check payable to the Robert DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund and send to: **Imogene Mckendrick** 58 Katie Lane; Painted Post, NY 14870-9004 .

Thus far, **three zones** have contributed in 2019, namely: **Central Western, South Eastern and Western.** The following units have contributed: **Columbia County RTA, Corning Area RTA, CARTA (FS), Eastern Niagara Co. RTA, Greene County RTA, Newburgh Area RTA, Rensselaer County RTA, Saratoga Springs RTA, Schoharie County RTA, Seneca Co. RTA (FS), West Seneca RTA, and Williamsville Assoc. of Retired Teachers.**

Individual donations are sincerely appreciated, and any donation, small or large, will help those in financial distress.

Agnes Hudson, a long-time trustee, has found it necessary to resign, but has agreed to continue to give her support and advice to the Trust. We appreciate her many years of service and dedication, as well as all she has accomplished. **Mary Lou Davis**, SE Zone was nominated by the Executive Committee, and approved by the trustees, and will serve as a trustee. We welcome her and appreciate her acceptance.

Legislative Action Report; Gary Germain, VP for Legislation

With fall season upon us, most if not all visits to state legislators have been completed and reaction sheets turned in. We are always looking for more people to visit legislators. If interested contact your local zone legislative action chairperson.

The legislative action committee met at the annual convention to discuss resolutions and will begin developing priorities for federal legislation.

NYSRTA Sponsored Insurance Programs

For more information or to secure coverage, speak with one of our insurance representatives today.

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Submission Deadlines

Spring (electronic) April 30th

Fall (electronic) August 25

For

Summer (mailed) July 7th

Winter (mailed) November 4

Planning A Move???

Please include us in your moving plans!

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Returned mail results in additional costs



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- ◆ Members Only Information
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<https://www.facebook.com/NYS-Retired-Teachers-Association-109447052428216/>

Friendly Service Report; Judith Corigliano, Chairperson

MY mind on my MIND... musing from FS VP

Admittedly I am a procrastinator...haven't always been, but retirement has put me in the mode so to speak...my inner Scarlet O'Hara, I'll think about that tomorrow. Tomorrow when my brain is on fire with an idea about what to write.

So, weeks ago I planned my strategy. I started asking teachers, retired or active, various educational mentors, my Tai Chi teacher, fitness trainer(young), sailing coach, a spiritual friend, etc. you get the gist. The question asked was, your greatest JOY, your greatest FEAR? Please be spontaneous.

As I was gathering the response, something else was nibbling at my ideas " write about this and keep asking the question, you need more responses. So being a voracious reader of current publications that appear in my USPS mailbox and a fictional book based on dementia, a family living on the shores of Seneca Lake, (a physical book) ...Yes an interesting thread was inviting me to share the following thoughts.

WE are all concerned with our health and extending a quality life and maybe fearful of the deterioration of our bodies and worst of all perhaps our mind. Are we driven by current health trends ,bombarded by pharma ads, concerned about what might lurk in our collective familial /gene pools, or the passing of a friend/colleague?

The questions are all there even if we have just voiced them to ourselves. What if? What can I do, will I know, ??? What are the answers? Not being a medical person, I can't answer that question, but I do read and am somewhat comforted that there are things that can be done. I would like to think I can live cleanly, eat a healthy diet, exercise body and mind, have an active social life learn new things that force me to think and move differently ...learn a new dance, musical instrument, second language, and avoid accesses that might kill more brain cell than help. Still questions abound, do I need brain supplements? That is a question for science, perhaps not slick advertising where ever you might view the hype.

If you are curious, keep reading beyond these musings and check out the article on dementia- supplements in the summer musical issue of AARP magazine and its suggestion for further reading , "practical tips on keeping our brains healthy" check out globalcouncilonbrainhealth.org and stayingsharp.aarp.com. My Thanks to Catherine Alicia Georges, National Volunteer President at AARP (article on brain supplement and a first novel, Dead Letters by Caite Dolan-Leach, Random House, for appealing to me to share. Consider reading her first book on dealing with a family member and caring giving from the point of view of a 25 year old daughter. Its also a glimpse of the real world of younger generation in rural NY.

As "Mind Musings" go, I will share the growing collection of JOYS and FEARS later in a future issue of York State.

Vice Presidents Report; Dr. James Newell, PhD

The ladies in the office asked me to write a few words to fill out the Fall issue of York State and to impart the wisdom I have acquired in the year I have served as Senior Vice-President. To prepare this article, I checked with Google to see what others had said about the office of Vice-President. John Adams called the Vice Presidency "the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived." A very old joke went "once there were two brothers. One ran away to sea, and the other became Vice-President. Neither was ever heard from again."

The Leader's Manual for NYSRTA as revised in 2013 lists four duties for the Senior Vice-President:

- a. In the absence of the President, or whenever the Executive Board shall declare the President incapacitated, perform all duties of that office.
- b. Be Chair of the Annual Workshop Committee
- c. Serve as ex-officio member without vote on the Finance and Budget Committee
- d. Perform such other duties as the President may direct

Vice Presidents Report; *Continued*

This year at the request of President Kevin Mulligan, I attended the Finance and Budget Committee meeting in July 2019. I also participated in two teleconferences interviewing the marketing firms bidding for the contract to revise our organization's name and logo.

The bulk of my time, however, was spent chairing the Annual Workshop Committee. In keeping with past practice, the first meeting of the Annual Workshop Committee was held on the last morning of the 2018 Convention. Twenty NYSRTA members were present at this initial meeting and participated freely in wide ranging discussions about the workshops presented during the Convention as well as plans for the 2019 Convention.

During the rest of the year, I established the meeting dates, wrote and emailed the meeting agendas one week prior, and facilitated discussion during teleconferences held in December 2018, January, February and March 2019. There was great participation and cooperation from the Southern Zone under the leadership of President **Mary Lou Wood**. I wish to thank all those who participated and exchanged their ideas to include **Michelle Claus, Don Cutton*CR, Debbi Deats, Beth Green, Lois Thornberg, Diane Hahn*CR, Eileen Holmes, Lynne Hunkovic, Linda Moore, Pat Newell, Vince Smith*CR, Nancy Spaulding, Mary Suffern, Jerry Tagliaferri** and of course, their fearless leader, **Mary Lou Wood**. A special thank you also to **Kevin Mulligan, Kathi Bassett** and **Kristen Cecala** for their participation and guidance.

As of this writing, we are preparing for what is shaping up as a great Convention. Please remember that the Senior Vice-President continues to keep busy, work for NYSRTA, and serve on your behalf. He hasn't gone to sea or disappeared!

ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER

**50% Profit
To NYSRTA
For Every Book
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**Family in AZ?
There's a book.
Friends in FL?
There's a book!**

Dearest Friends, The New York State Retired Teachers Association recently partnered with SaveAround to help us raise money throughout the year. We have a unique link which will allow our family, friends and colleagues to purchase SaveAround coupon books in over 170 markets all across the country. Each book comes with thousands of dollars in savings, and you can even see what coupons are in the book prior to purchasing it!

You can help in 2 simple ways:

1. Making a purchase ONLINE using this unique web link: <http://www.supportourgrouops.com/GN/263523>, scroll to the bottom and click on "All Coupon Books" and select the State and then the Region. **OR CALL THE OFFICE AND ASK FOR KRIS TO ORDER**
2. **Sharing our unique fundraising link with your friends, family and colleagues** to help support our fundraising efforts. There are easy-to-use sharing features right on our page. SaveAround will ship the books **directly to the buyer**, and NYSRTA will receive credit for each sale made through our page. Please share our unique link (<http://www.supportourgrouops.com/GN/263523>), and select "All coupon books" which can be located at the bottom of our fundraising page. If this link is shared with thousands of people, imagine the amount of money we'll be able to raise for our organization.

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THOSE HARD TO BUY ON YOUR GIFT LIST: MAILMAN, PAPER DELIVERY PERSON, HAIRDRESSER OR ANYONE THAT LIKES TO SAVE MONEY

ZONE NEWS

Central Zone; Ray Pitcher, President

CHENANGO COUNTY: Where do we go from here? As I ponder our future I would be less than honest if I didn't say that I'm worried. I have heard the stories about how strong CCRTA was through the years. Alas, during my tenure there have been some signs of distress. First, our numbers are dwindling due to aging and death. Secondly, very few retirees are joining when they complete their active teaching. Thirdly, there is very little interest in joining our officer ranks. Fourth, our dinner meetings draw half the crowd they once did. Fifth, there is a distinct gulf between those who want us to be active in advocacy and those who simply seek social benefits of our group. Lastly, the current officers have exceeded their terms of office as prescribed in the by-laws.

Simultaneously, Central Zone (to which CCRTA belongs) and NYSRTA (the state organization) are aggressively pursuing legislation and involvement in important issues such as Social Security, health care, Medicare, and our pension security. We are at a cross-roads. In September elections will be upon us. We must have new candidates. I for one, will not let my name stand for President. I plan to remain involved, but Liz and I must back off. I ask for one of three responses from you. Run for office, find a willing candidate, or stir up the under 65 crowd to get involved. The current political climate is potentially very dangerous for public education and retirees. Many of "us" are old enough to miss the carnage, but that isn't as sure for our younger retirees. I know I sound like an alarmist but remember trouble is on the horizon. Talk to us- at the dinner meeting, by phone, e-mail, letter, or Facebook.

Recruit, Recruit, Recruit!! I sound like a broken record. Our average age of "active" members is creeping ever higher. Spread the word about the main reasons for newer retirees to join NYSRTA and CCRTA. They include Trump, DeVos, Cuomo, scary new calls to change major programs such as Medicare, Social Security and our Pension fund. So get involved. It's only \$10 for our CCRTA annual dues and \$30 for NYSRTA annual dues.



ONEIDA-HERKIMER COUNTIES: Members of the OHCRTA recently met with Congressman Anthony Brindisi (District 22). They had a very positive discussion on several legislative issues of importance to the NYSRTA and the public in general. Congressman Brindisi is very concerned about educational issues. Pictured left to right are **Chris Jones, Patricia Soposki, Congressman Brindisi, Judith Schad and Johnnie Jones.**



The Oneida-Herkimer Counties Retired Teachers' Association donated \$350 to the Chemo Bag Program. The program is an initiative that fills decorative bags with practical items that provide relief and comfort to local patients having cancer treatment. The program was started by Poland Central School District teacher **Heather Judd**. Members of the OHCRTA also volunteered to put together the bags. Pictured above from left to right are **Linda Knight, Heather Judd, Judith Schad and Ray Pitcher.**

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ZONE NEWS

Central Zone; Continued

A summary of the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act (S. 151) is 1) Broadens the authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to levy civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per call on people who intentionally flout telemarketing restrictions. 2) Extends the window for the FCC to catch and take civil enforcement action against intentional violations to three years after a robocall is placed. Under current law, the FCC has only one year to do so, and the FCC has told the committee that “even a one-year longer statute of limitations for enforcement” would improve enforcement against willful violators. 3) Brings together the Department of Justice, FCC, Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Department of Commerce, Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and other relevant federal agencies, as well as state attorneys general and other non-federal entities to identify and report to Congress on improving deterrence and criminal prosecution at the federal and state level of robocall scams. 5) Requires voice service providers to adopt call authentication technologies, enabling a telephone carrier to verify that incoming calls are legitimate before they reach consumers’ phones. 6) Directs the FCC to initiate a rulemaking to help protect subscribers from receiving unwanted calls or texts from callers.

The Senate sponsors are Thune from SD and Markley from Ma. In the picture below, from left to right are **Ray Pitcher, Judy Schad, Senator Schumer, Pat Soposki, Johnnie Jones, Chris Jones.**



ONONDAGA COUNTY:

We hope you have all had a safe and happy winter! Very soon we will be surrounded by beautiful flowers and trees and the beauty of our gardens! Your OCRTA Council has been busily preparing for our 2019 luncheons. Our first luncheon will be on May 15th at Twin Trees III and will feature a presentation by the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department. We surely will get some good tips for remaining safe, so don't miss it. Do consider bringing a friend with you to share this valuable information. As you know, **Evelyn Davis** has stepped down from her position as our Membership Chair and Treasurer. We are scrambling to pick up the slack and assume many of the duties she managed for us. We would be most appreciative if anyone would be willing to help us with this smooth transition. Please contact **Marilyn J. Dominick or Dell Ford Jordan.**

OSWEGO COUNTY:

After twenty two continuous years of holding office in OCRTA President **Michelle Lonergan** is resigning as President. **Colette Astoria** has agreed to become the next president. The offices of Vice President and secretary will need to be filled.

It's the time of year when we notify our local high schools about the scholarship opportunities that we offer and you support so generously. Letters have been sent to the guidance departments and we have already begun to receive some applicants. The deadline is coming soon so we are hoping to have continued positive interest in our awards.

In addition, our Scholarship Committee has been discussing the possibility of offering a grant each year to an active teacher who wishes to do a special project but would not otherwise have the funds to do so. Let us know what you think of this idea! It would benefit both teachers and their students but would also give us more presence in our schools.

Continued on next page

ZONE NEWS

Central Zone; *Continued*

And! One Last Word.

If you belong to OCRTA but not NYSRTA, our state organization, please consider joining both. NYSRTA continues to advocate for the preservation and enhancement of the legal rights for retired educators. Our health insurance, pensions and other issues are continually being argued in Albany. We need our legislative committees to fight for us and to monitor what goes on. Your support is invaluable.

Central Western Zone; Phyllis Dunlap PR Chair assisted by Lynn Hefferon

Ann Czajkowski reports that the 45th Anniversary of the Orleans County RTA was celebrated this past fall at the Knowlesville Fellowship Hall under the leadership of President Frank Berger. It was a time to meet newly retired educators and renew old friendships. A homemade luncheon was prepared and served by the ladies of the UMC of the Abundant Harvest and an amazing anniversary cake was provided by our newly elected Vice President, Georgia Thomas.

Our Community Service Chair, **Penny Nice**, arranged for the program presented by **Don Synder** from Orleans Recovery, Hope Begins Here, Inc. Information was given on the opioid epidemic and how their group responds. Donations from OCRTA will aid their efforts to get individuals into recovery, support those in recovery and provide education to combat the opioid epidemic.

OCRTA has also donated to the Camp Rainbow Fund for nineteen consecutive years. Camp Rainbow, operated each summer for five weeks by the ARC of Genesee Orleans, gives boys and girls with and without disabilities in Orleans County the opportunity to attend camp. Many of these children would not have the resources to attend a camp otherwise.

Other community service organizations and projects that OCRTA has contributed towards include: the Albion Middle School Service Learning Class taught by Tim Archer to assist in restoring historical markers and a mural along the Erie Canal; the Genesee-Orleans Ministry of Concern; Orleans County Family Literacy Services; the Charles Howard Santa School Monument and Museum and the NYS Blue Bird Society in Orleans County.

With the guidance of our newly appointed Community Service Chairperson, **Barbara Filipiak**, OCRTA will continue assisting the communities of Orleans County for many years to come!



Ann Czajkowski, Chair of the Split Club/Barrie Fleegel Active Educator Awards working to get CWZ Newsletters ready to mail out



Jane Crosby CWZ Membership and Bulk Mail/Newsletters Chair guides Bruce Croucher Bylaws chair and wife Sharon, Co-Presidents of Ontario County addressing CWZ newsletters



Mary Ellen Morgan, Co-president of CWZ works diligently with CWZ Executive Committee members to address CWZ newsletters

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ZONE NEWS

Central Western Zone; Continued

Teresa Stephens, President of Steuben County reports that the Steuben County Retired Teachers' Association had their Spring Meeting and Luncheon at the Kanestio Historical Society in Canisteo, NY. **Robyn Ballard** introduced **Joan McClure** from Geneva who is representing the Steuben County for the Health Insurance monitoring. Joan spoke about how the Geneva School District changed the retiree insurance benefits by changing the retirees' benefits that were originally covered. NYSRTA helped support the retired teachers from that District to keep track of their benefits since the school districts are struggling to uphold the original contracts.

John and Susan Babbitt, retired Canisteo teachers, presented a slide show, "Rural School Houses in Steuben County". The Community Service was a monetary donation to the Canisteo Historical Society.

Tara Buck, a First-Grade teacher at Bradford Central School, was the Steuben County's recipient of the Barrie-Fleegel Active Educator Grant. Tara has been actively involved in the Bradford School and community. She is currently pursuing her Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration through SUNY Brockport.

Sherry Waltman-Kramer, a Kindergarten teacher from Wayland-Cohocton School District, was a winner of the Epke-Meagher Award. This award is given to a 2019 retiree (s) who has demonstrated exemplary service and leadership in their school and community.

The Steuben Unit had its Fall Meeting on September 14, 2019, at Simply Autumn's Café in Wayland. The Wayland Paranormal Group gave a slide presentation of paranormal activities in the Wayland area. The Community Service Project was a monetary donation to the annual St. Thomas Episcopal Church Scholarship Fund (\$1000 to a deserving first generation student who is attending college-either two or four year institution) that **John Roy** actively supported. **John Roy**, who passed away last Christmas, was very active in our CWZ as a Resolutions Representative and held many positions in the Steuben County Unit.



Left to right: Katheryn Ellison, Bradford Central School building principal; Tara Buck, First Grade Teacher; Teresa Stephens, President of the Steuben County Retired Teachers'



Robyn Ballard, CWZ Co-president and Joan McClure

ZONE NEWS

Central Western Zone; Continued

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Kanestio Historical Society (front entrance)

We regret that we have lost **Gordon H. Link Sr.**, 87, on June 17, 2019. He was in the USAF for 30 years and retired as a Colonel. After earning B.S. and M.S. Degrees he taught children at Letchworth Central School. He also created the CWZ Annual Newsletter named the Link, which is still used at our Annual Meetings.

We will also miss **Dean M. Morgan**, 80, who passed away on June 10, 2019. He was the husband of our Co. President, **Mary Ellen Morgan**. He taught 26 years at Elmira Free Academy and Southside High School. He and Mary Ellen retired to Keuka Lake near Penn Yan.



ZONE NEWS

Eastern Zone; Pamela Love, Public Relations Chair

The various zone units are preparing to start their fall meetings in September and October. As Public Relations Chair, I would appreciate updated information concerning your unit's activities and news for all of us to share. For this report, I will give you news concerning the Rensselaer County Unit which just held their fall meeting on September 11th. President, **Marge Leibowitz**, opened the luncheon meeting. She was happy to see some new members as well as older members who are still involved and enjoying the luncheon meeting. Since this Unit has members from other counties coming to our meeting, the unit may consider a name change.

Scholarship Chairperson, **Mary Ellen Caporta** talked about the two scholarship winners that received awards from the unit. They were **Grace Wysocki** who received \$500 and **Skyelyn Haynes** who received \$100. Both girls plan to be teachers and both received their Scholarship awards at Hoosick Falls H.S. during the awards presentations on June 27th.



Grace Wysocki, with RCRTA Scholarship Chairperson, **Mary Ellen Caporta**



\$100 Scholarship Winner, Skyelyn Haynes

Joyce Notarnicola, Eastern Zone's Community Service Chairperson, is seeking retired teachers of Eastern Zone to volunteer three hours of their time on Friday, October 25th. from 9:00 a.m. to noon at The Regional Food Bank located at 965 Albany Shaker Rd. in Latham, NY. If you can volunteer for this, let Joyce know by Friday, Oct. 18th. She can be reached by calling her (518)929-6151 or email her at jnotar50@hotmail.com.

The Annual Meeting for 2019 was held at the Turf Inn in Scotia, NY on Thursday, September 19th. 2019. President, **Rosalie Oliver**, presided over the meeting. Election of Officers was held and the following slate of officers elected will preside at our Eastern Zone November meeting which will be held November 12th. at the Turf Inn, Scotia New York. The President will be **Janice Mullins**, Vice-President will be **Rosalind Carron**, Vice President of Friendly Service will be **Marge Leibowitz**, Vice President of Federal Legislation will be **Al Ciejka**, Secretary will be **Patricia Reynolds** and Treasurer will be **Jack DeWeese*CR**. Other committee chairs will be appointed by the new President, **Janice Mullins**. Following lunch, **Tor Shekerjian**, grandson of **Robert DeCormier** was the program speaker. He presented the story of his grandfather's life and his important part in forming the New York Retired Teachers Association as well as his leadership role in helping improve social security funds for certain retired public employees of New York State. President, **Rosalie Oliver** was presented with **Robert DeCormier's** Leather Desk Pad by **Tor Shekerian** at the end of his program.



ZONE NEWS

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

"Summer afternoon - summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language." **Henry James**

NCZ members are making the most of these beautiful summer afternoons. Under the planning of Travel & Leisure Committee Chair, **David Schryver**, a fieldtrip to the Adirondack Experience Museum on Blue Mountain Lake took place on July 17th. Nine adventurous souls joined David and his wife, **Marcia Schryver**, for this excursion. David drove the group in a mini-bus and stopped at such sights as Hoss' Country Corner, an Adirondack landmark, in Long Lake. The group enjoyed a hearty dinner at The Lumberjack Inn in Tupper Lake. Although rain prevented the viewing of Buttermilk Falls and Bog River Falls, it was a day full of wondrous discoveries shared with friends.

The fieldtrips continued on sunny July 29th when David & Marcia took NCZ President, **Dr. Jim Newell**, and his wife, **Patricia Newell**, for a tour of four waterfalls in St. Lawrence County. **Marjorie Davis**, Marcia's mother, also joined the expedition for part of the tour. This band of explorers viewed Lampson Falls in the town of Clare, Sinclair Falls in Degrasse, and Cascade & Rushton Falls in Canton. It was a journey that called for sturdy sneakers, plenty of sunscreen, and even insect repellent! Pat & Jim felt very lucky to view these falls under the skillful guidance of David who is the co-author of the book, *Waterfalls of New York State*. The scenic beauty of the North Country is awesome and inspiring. These waterfalls are refreshing treasures waiting to be discovered.

Speaking of scenic beauty, **Dick Bushnell** and his wife, **Carol Bushnell**, have been involved in a labor of love in their own backyard. By landscaping with borders and stone walkways, they have created a very peaceful, artistic setting. Dick, a retired science teacher, has combined his love of nature with his creative artistry. The groupings of vibrant flowers and landscape stones are stunningly beautiful. Dick says that the work is not necessarily relaxing, but it is "mentally pleasing." If you are in the area, stop by the Bushnell's home in Adams, NY for an impressive garden tour.

Indeed, NCZ members have been involved in many interesting pursuits over the summer months. **Hope Marston** together with **Gerald Borland** conducted an eight week workshop. This writing workshop on "How to Write a Great Story" took place at the Black River Library during the months of July and August. Hope's 30th book entitled *The Walls Have Ears, A Black Spy in the Confederate White House* was released last fall. Gerald is affectionately considered to be the Poet Laureate of Carthage, NY. The workshop was such a great way for this writing duo to share their time and talents with others eager to learn.

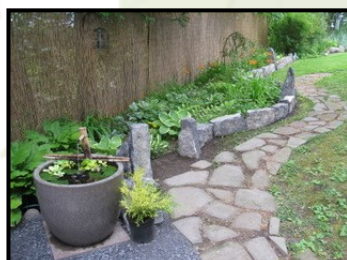
We enjoyed our Fall Business Luncheon which took place on September 17th at the Ramada Inn in Watertown. The Riverside Brass Trio was our featured entertainment. **Paul Buell**, a retired music and band director from Sackets Harbor Central, will be played his sweet trumpet, along with two other musicians on the trombone and French horn. This fall luncheon supported the community service project, Coats for Kids, under the direction of **Patty Corey** and **Toni Gigliotti**. NCZ members were asked to contribute new coats, hats, & mittens for children or to make a monetary contribution to this worthy cause. The winter goods will be distributed in Lewis County during the month of October. **Pat Dietrich** will oversee the "Love Your Public Library" fundraiser. The fall luncheon is indeed a celebrated event.

Dates to Remember:

Executive Council Meeting, November 6, 2019, Watertown BOCES, Admin. Building, Conf. Rm. C



Bushnell's Gardens; Adams, NY



(L to R) Pat & Jim Newell, David & Marcia Schryver, Marjorie Davis



Hope Marston & Gerald Borland

ZONE NEWS

Southern Zone; Debbi Deats, Public Relations Chair

Happy Fall!!!

On Wednesday, September 18th at the Elmira Riverfront Holiday Inn, the Southern Zone held its annual meeting. Our new slate of officers for the coming year was approved. **Don Cutton*CR** swore in the following officers: **Jerry Tagliaferri**, President; **Mary Lou Wood**, Vice President; **Vince Smith*CR**, Membership; **Mary Suffern**, Secretary; and **Lois Cutton**, Treasurer. We also had a presentation and discussion on the possible new name and logo for NYSRTA. This was led by State President **Kevin Mulligan**.

One highlight of our meeting was our awarding of the Southern Zone Special Recognition for 2019. Since 1977, we have honored forty-six state, zone, and locally active members. This year, the award was given to **Mary Lou Wood**, a tireless worker for all areas of NYSRTA. Besides being our out-going zone president, one example of her dedication is that she has chaired the SZ committee responsible for our State Convention this October. In addition to a beautiful certificate designed by **Lois Cutton**, Mary Lou received a gift certificate and flowers. Congratulations and many thanks go to Mary Lou for her well-deserved honor.

We would like to thank **Kevin Mulligan** and his wife for attending our meeting. A big appreciation goes to **Nancy Spaulding** who was our featured presenter after lunch. Nancy spoke of the "Wineries, Waterfalls, and Other Cool Topics" which make our SZ so special. And, we would like to thank all who have worked tirelessly to make the state convention a success.

Enjoy AUTUMN – the time of year when we have cooler weather and nicer sleeping!



Southern Zone Special Recognition



L to R: Don Cutton*CR, Jerry Tagliaferri, Mary Lou Wood, Vince Smith*CR, Mary Suffern and Lois Cutton

Western Zone; Theresa Pope, Public Relations Chair

Western Zone, as it readies for the fall season, opened with its annual conference at Salvatore's Italian Gardens, Depew, New York. The theme, of which, was " WNY Educators are Active Seniors". The theme was true. Among the audience were featured walkers, readers and travelers, pianist, golfers, and a Tai Chi instructor. **Dr. Rohan Bhoir**, a geriatric medical doctor, reiterated the theme, enlightening and reinforcing the seniors' knowledge of aging and similarities they might have.

At the luncheon special tribute was given to the late **William Loockerman**, who would usually open the WZ zone meetings with a patriotic song. His wife received a special award in his honor, as his family and luncheon attendees looked on.

At the business meeting, **Judith "Judy" Farmer*CR**, new president, and others were elected to their new or ongoing positions. Special thank you was given to **Michelle Claus**, WZ annual Meeting Chairman, for her organization of the annual conference. All were pleased with the 32 vendors and their variety of prize presentations. Over 200 attended the annual conference.

See following page for pictures from Western Zone

ZONE NEWS

Western Zone; Continued



Mr. William "Bill" Lookermann



Mrs. Lookermann and family member receive special award as tribute to the late William "Bill" Lookermann



WZ group listens to medical doctors presentation at the annual conference

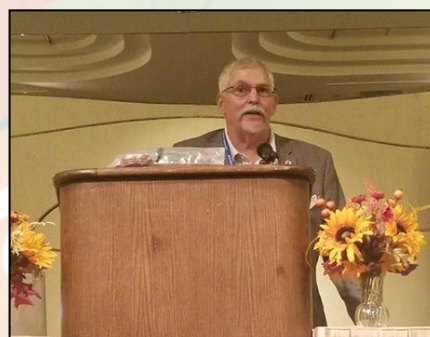


ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION 2019

The 69th Annual Meeting and Convention was held on October 9-11, 2019 at Turning Stone Resort and Casino; Verona, NY
Southern Zone did a phenomenal job hosting this year and everyone had a good time. Here are some photos from the 3 days we gathered.



Jackie Moller*CR receiving an Appreciation Award for her dedication to the DeCormier Trust



President Kevin Mulligan addressing the membership



Patricia and Jack DeWeese*CR



DeCormier Trust booth

L-R: Imogene McKendrick*CR, Anne Flansburg*CR and Mary Ella Moeller*CR



We had a great turnout for the convention



CWZ Attendees

NEW MEMBER ENROLLMENT FORM AND PROFILE

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (____) _____ Date of Birth _____ Email _____

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

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

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

Spouse Enrollment

Referred by: _____

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

Date of Birth _____ Email _____

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

School Dist./College/University Retired From _____

Payment Options

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

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

Print your name clearly as it appears on your card _____

Authorizing Signature _____

JOINING IS EASY

Member Dues: \$30.00

Lifetime Dues: \$450.00

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works solely on behalf
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