



Working together to support and strengthen
the quality of life for all retired
educators, their families, and communities.

YORK STATE

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Fall 2020



Kevin Mulligan,
President

A Message From The President...

Weather wise, the summer of 2020 has been pretty spectacular. I have always tried to be an individual that looks at the positive side of things. As I write this article, it is mid August and schools are beginning to open, or will be opening soon. My six grandchildren, one son, and one daughter in law will be part of this worldwide experiment that bears social, political, economic, and medical implications, as well as consequences. May God bless all involved in this worldwide experiment.

The summer of 2020 has allowed me the time to reflect on the future of RENEY. This organization has served its members in many different ways, dating back to its inception in 1951. Throughout those 69 years, social interaction for retirees has been at or near the top of the reasons to join NYSRTA/RENY. The "Pandemic of 2020" has pretty much eliminated that most valued commodity that we all seek and need. In the midst of all this, the July membership for RENEY rests at 13,163. Needless to say, these are very tenuous times for all of us, and for RENEY too.

Part of my RENEY reflections in the summer of 2020 include Article IV, Section 2 of the Bylaws for RENEY which clearly explains the subdivisions or Units of the Zones. "Each zone shall recognize subdivisions within its geographical area which choose to organize NYSRTA/RENY units and to conform to the Bylaws of the zone." In Article IV, Section 1(e) "The Bylaws of each zone shall be consistent with the Bylaws of the Association...". I can only assume that these sections of our Bylaws date back to the 1950's or early 1960's, when NYSRTA was ever growing in membership and new zones. Today we have 10 zones and 56 units scattered throughout NY State. All but 2 zones, NEZ and NCZ, have at least one unit or more.

The "Unit Project " led by **Lois Thornberg**, VP for Membership, **Kathi Bassett**, EOM for RENEY and yours' truly began to identify the number and geographical boundaries for the units. In the last year efforts have been made to determine the number of unit members that **ARE NOT MEMBERS of THEIR RESPECTIVE ZONE, HENCE RENEY/NYSRTA**. There are even 3 units that have Unit Presidents that don't belong to their zone. Thus far 23, of the 56 units have complied with our repeated requests to provide numbers and names of unit members that are not members of their zone. On average a "whopping" 88% do not belong to the zone. This oversight of enforcing our own bylaws has been going on for years, perhaps shortly after the aforementioned bylaws were written. Somewhere along the long line of NYSRTA, new members were encouraged to join a unit and joining the zone was considered an afterthought. Well guess what? At least 88% chose not to. It is time that these infractions be addressed or RENEY will cease to exist. I don't know about you, but **I am not a DINOSAUR and neither is RENEY**.

The July Board of Directors meeting for RENEY saw two proposed Bylaw amendments get overwhelmingly passed by the BOD. One of these proposed amendments addresses this membership debacle with clarifying language and direction. There still remains the fact that both the zone and their unit (s) leadership need to clean up their "house". In this edition of York State, Bylaws Chairperson **Bill Tenity** explains the proposed Bylaw change titled ASZAUM (Association State, Zone and Unit Membership)2020.

Read more from our President on the next page....

...Presidents Report, continued

Apparently there are a number of generous members out there that also don't consider themselves dinosaurs. The President's Appeal, in spite of the Pandemic of 2020, has seen contributions just shy of \$64,000! Thank you to all those who have contributed, and those who have not, please consider doing so.

Without a doubt, 2020 has shown us that our world and country are rapidly changing and the needs and advocacy for our retirees is oftentimes overlooked. In the 90's, NYSRTA successfully advocated for the passage of the COLA for the Teacher's Retirement Pension. RENY today has the Health Insurance Information Network, a very active Legislative Action Committee that advocates solely for retired educators, and the mainstays of Friendly Service and the DeCormier Trust Fund.

Positivity Rules: We are not dinosaurs, we are retired educators, who happen to be "the salt of the good earth".

Thank you,
Kevin R. Mulligan -
President of Retired Educators of NY



QUESTION: What type of books do owls like to read?

ANSWER: Hooooo-dunnits



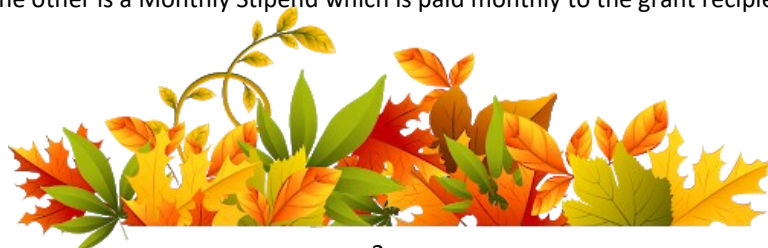
Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund Report By Imogene McKendrick*CR



Are you in need of financial assistance? Have you been able to balance your monthly budget without leaving an item or two to be paid next month? The Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund has financial assistance available to help you. It is available to all NYSRTA (RENY) members who are in need of financial help, but you must complete an application for it. Call (716) 863-3631 or email Anne Flansburg at anneflanswz@aol.com for more information and an application.

- ~ **Has the cost of your medication become too expensive, so that you have eliminated taking a prescription pill without the doctor's permission?**
- ~ **Are you eating less healthy because the price of food is too much?**
- ~ **Have you been "putting off" that dental appointment because you don't have the money to pay the dental bill?**
- ~ **Do you have some repairs that need to be done to your home before winter arrives?**

These are just a few of the items for which the DeCormier grant funds can be used. There are two types of DeCormier Grants. One is the Special Grant which is a lump sum amount. It is paid to the merchant who has performed the task, after the project has been declared acceptable by you. The other is a Monthly Stipend which is paid monthly to the grant recipient for as long as a need is shown.





Membership Report

By Lois Thornberg, VP for Membership



This has been a trying time for all of us- being unable to socially interact with family, friends, and acquaintances. We have not had the opportunities to live our daily lives as we are accustomed to- going out to functions, dinner, shopping, movies and even just walking in the park! However we will get past this and come out of it and go on again like we did before. This pandemic has affected not only our personal lives, but the ongoing activities of RENY also- lunches, dinners, fairs, community events, the annual convention, in general almost all social gatherings have either been cancelled or postponed, resulting in the inability to communicate personally with each other and recruit possible new members.

The membership committee has however continued to work on the present project of identifying members of local units that are not members of the state organization of RENY itself. We have discovered from the responses we have received from various units that approximately 88% of these unit members are NOT members of their respective Zones- thus not RENY members. With RENY's membership declining rapidly due to members renewing, death, and new members joining it is of utmost importance that we reach out to these non-RENY unit members to join their Zones hence RENY.

At this time of uncertainty I am asking to **ALL** members of RENY to reach out to those unit members and inform them of what RENY can do for them- items that they are not benefiting from by being only a member of the local unit. Share the list below with them and remind them that all these could be available to them for only 8 cents a day.

SOME KEY SERVICES RENY PROVIDES ITS MEMBERS

A Legislative Action Committee advocacy of behalf of the members at both the state and local levels.

A Health Care Committee providing information about what is contained in legislation that pertains to our health-related issues and updating you on current health related developments.

RENY's "Health Insurance Information Network"- As health insurance becomes increasingly expensive and politically under attack, it is important that retirees keep informed as to what may be happening to their entitled benefit. RENY is working on building a network of information specialists (monitors), for each Zone/Unit, who will monitor the area school districts and health consortium (s). These Zone/Unit Monitors will periodically report pertinent information that may impact retiree health benefits.

Discounted Insurance Plans

Senior Life Insurance-The plan can help pay for final expenses including medical bills, funeral costs, credit card debt, and other expenses.

Hospital and Home Care Recovery Insurance- helps you cover the costs of hospital stays and any home care that may be needed for recovery. If your hospital stay and home care services are taken care of, you'll be able to put more money toward groceries, utility payments, and other daily living expenses.

Pet Insurance-Insurance policies cover medical problems and conditions related to accidents and illnesses (including cancer). Coverage is available for dogs, cats, birds, and other exotic animals. This plan can help pay for lab fees, treatments, prescriptions, surgeries, and more after a low per-incident deductible.

Vision Insurance- can help you care for your eyes while also providing assistance with the rising cost of eyewear.

Dental Insurance- Routine preventive services are covered, while more complex procedures require copayments

Financial Assistance

Robert R. DeCormier Trust has monies available. See page 2 for an overview of available assistance.

RENY's Friendly Service Program

Offers assistance to qualified retired educators facing financial challenges.

...more from Lois Thornberg can be found on the following page

...Membership Report, *continued*



Hearing Aid Assistance/Discounts

HEAR IN AMERICA- As a RENY member, you are entitled to the following benefits with FREE enrollment, and NO premiums:

- Free Annual Hearing Screenings for you and your extended family

- Access to a nationwide network of 2,200+ hearing locations

- Discounts of 30 - 70% off MSRP on top quality hearing aids from 9 different manufacturers

- 3 Year Repair Warranty, loss and damage coverage, hearing aid cleaning and check-up service, free batteries for every hearing aid purchase

- No-interest Financing Available

- Extended warranties available to purchase for your current hearing aids

Discounted travel through Collette Travel-Vacation tours to locations such as Europe, U.S. National Parks, South Pacific, China & more. We partner with travel providers to offer adventures to destinations in the U.S. and abroad.

A Friendly Service Committee that continually helps members in need, providing visits and gifts of necessary items to shut-ins and nursing home residents, sends birthday and holiday cards, and offers assistance to members facing financial needs.

A Community Service Committee providing a coordinated volunteer service program for members looking to serve their communities during retirement.

YORK STATE- a quarterly magazine that reports news and important information from the Zones, with updates on the actions taken by RENY on important State and Federal legislative issues, and Health Care issues.

We need to come together in whatever way we can to work towards bringing new life into the association. Each and every member needs to get involved and promote RENY, what it has accomplished, and what the plans for future involvement are. Take time to share that this organization, which focuses on the retired educator, has and will continue to see that our pensions and health benefits will not be jeopardized along with the social and financial benefits that are afforded to the members. Please everyone, become an active salesperson and sell RENY. Reach out to all members of your local units and encourage them to become a member of their respective Zone hence RENY. Try to find ways to educate recent retirees about RENY and persuade them to join. With everyone's involvement RENY can and will grow.

"Unity is strength. When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved"- Mattie Stepanek



Health Care Committee Report By Mary Ella Moeller*CR, Chair



Doctors are advising everyone to get a flu shot this year, as it may be key to avoiding a "twin pandemic," or coronavirus *and* the flu. As the world continues to confront the outbreak of COVID-19, we all must take steps not only to protect ourselves but others. The flu shot is available now, earlier than usual, at most doctors' offices and many pharmacies. The CDC recommends that people get a flu vaccine no later than the end of October, because it takes a few weeks for the vaccine to be fully protective, but recommends older people wait until mid-fall to get their shots in order to last throughout the flu season. People over 65 should get Fluzone High-Dose or FLUAD, because it provides better protection against flu viruses. Research indicates that such high-dose flu vaccines have improved our protection against the flu. The flu shot can reduce the severity of your symptoms, if you do come down with the flu despite getting vaccinated, making your symptoms tolerable and keeping you out of the hospital. *Please* get a flu shot this year and help avoid a "twin pandemic."



**Same passion
New address**



RENY
RETIRED EDUCATORS OF NY

P.O. Box 490

Amsterdam, New York 12010

518-482-3509

Friendly Service Committee Report By Judith Corigliano, VP for Friendly Service

SURVING AND LIVING LONGER....

"Some people are old @ 18 and some are young at 90....time is a concept that human created. ", Yoko Ono, American Artist, still going at 87.

A couple of years ago, I received a pamphlet in a Health newsletter was entitled, "Living to 100", something to contemplate, and recently a national women's magazine featured an article addressing the ideas of staying "active, sharp, and connected well into your 80's"...so here goes the highlights from of the latter of the readings... and take time to reflect on longevity, good health and survival. ...into old age.

Keep moving as much as possible within your health /or ability allows.

As times are not normal, and Gym memberships, Free exercise workshops once available are no longer accessible or open to the greater population. Here are some possibilities . If you have electronics, guided tapes on yoga, Tai Chi, dance, aerobics, are all available for a variety of platforms. No need for spending \$\$\$ for equipment that require space or an addition to your home. Example: Walking further from stores in parking lots, walk your yard/ neighborhood or social distancing a local park area. Or walking your dog, gardening, even walking around your home, climbing stairs (slowly and safely) dance or wiggle to peppy music you love while doing household chores. Mix it up from movement to weight training, balancing 3 days with 2 day of the muscle building exercises.

No real weights available. Grab 2 canned goods or 2 filled gallon bottles can be used to work muscles. (weigh the items on your scales to know their approximate poundage. Resistance bands that are very portable...can work muscle groups) Safe and consistent exercise helps burn calories and will possibly help with **better sleep**.

Exercise your brain cells by challenging yourself with a new skill (learn something that is hard " or rekindle or sharpen an old skill... as a new language, a musical instrument, rekindle a new or old passion for a craft or art form. Read or explore by TV travel programs...investigate an unknown subject matter....you are never too old to learn something new, even if you are rediscovering a former passion.

Eat more veggies, and plant-based proteins and careful balance of animal proteins! Be cautious of your portions. The "New" American plate has changed in even my 70 plus years. Some of us aware that super-sizing might mean super sizing your bodyunless you are burning calories of a marathon runner or loading summer hay on a farm. Your better health will thank you if you eat only your needs to stay healthy. Think real food over pills (except as individually recommended by physicians). Explore ethnic foods, learn how to use herbs and spices to spark your food. Watch sugar and salt contents. Your favorites can still be enjoyed in smaller amounts! All things in moderation.

Stay connected....cards, letters, telly-calls, emails, smart phone and computer face – time, ZOOM, social distancing (masks as a new part of our wardrobes) virtual hugs. Staying connected with family and friends has never been more important than during the times. William Chopik, PhD, Michigan State University whose research indicates that, " as we get older, friendships may be particularly important. Family relationships can be obligations...keeping friends around...helps us feel good." ***

If you made it this far in my writing, you know that none of this is new to many of you, only the recognition that you already knew this... Yes, but it's never too late to adopt or change to a healthier life style...and it's time that we so need to revive survival attitudes and habits... do with what you have at hand, recycle, rethink, resource what we do, keep friends and family close and work to change the things that we can change to make a better world.

*** Inspired by the writing of Jennifer King Lindley, "Live the Lifestyle of a Super Ager", including the Chopik quote available for in depth reading in article in REAL SIMPLE, September 2020.magazine.ppg.83-90.

Note, know that everybody can be RENY Friendly Service worker... Reach out to a retiree!





Bylaws Committee Report By William Tenity, Chair



The Bylaws Committee is presenting two proposed bylaw changes for consideration at the 2021 Annual Meeting, **Proposition ZUUORENY** (Zone/Unit Use Of RENEY) 2020 and **Proposition ASZAUM** (Association State, Zone And Unit Membership) 2020 as requested by President **Kevin Mulligan** and the Board of Directors at the April 2020 board of directors Meeting. The proposed bylaws were presented at the July Board of Directors Meeting and approved by the Board. The proposed Bylaws now go to the zones for approval. If 2/3 of the zones approve them then they will be presented for approval at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The rationale for **Proposition ZUUORENY** (Zone/Unit Use Of RENEY) 2020 is that a considerable amount of money has been spent to create and market a new name for NYSRTA - RENEY, and the creation of a new logo, therefore all zones and units need to adhere to the use of RENEY and the new logo. Zones need to change their names to RENEY/Zone name (example: RENEY/Central Zone). Unit names would be RENEY/Unit name (example: RENEY/Cayuga County). Any checking accounts, stationary, etc. with the old names could still be used but new orders would have to have the new name.

The rationale for **Proposition ASZAUM** (Association State, Zone and Unit Membership) 2020 is that based on the fact that a considerable number of zone and unit members are not dues paying members of the Association and that in some zones and units there are elected officers and committee chairs that are not members of the Association the following Bylaws changes are being proposed. All zone members and all unit members must also be dues paying members of the State Association.

Respectfully submitted, **William Tenity** - CZ Chair, Bylaws Committee

Committee Members:

Peter Atchinson – NEZ

Bruce Croucher - CWZ

President Emeritus Carlyle T. Campany*CR – NCZ

Helen Hoering – SEZ

Patricia Miceli - WZ

Rae Louise Tate – NZ

Legislative Action Committee Rod Driscoll, VP for Legislation



Since the pandemic arrived in the middle of our two week advocacy window at the end of February, the legislative landscape has certainly changed dramatically. We have been operating exclusively through email and phone calls. While our original slate of action items is still on the table, the present situation forces us to focus on a more limited set of priorities.

- **COVID -19 testing and treatment** is available. The cautious approach to opening up the state economy has certainly proven to be effective. The number of infections continues to move downward.
- **Minimizing cuts in state aid to public education.** We are all dependent upon our district retiree health plans, Medicare and Medicaid. We encourage all of our members to contact Federal and state legislators to try to ward off short-sighted cuts that may put seniors in financial or health-related jeopardy.
- **School aid cuts on the order of 20% are likely,** according to Governor Cuomo. This would be devastating for districts that are already tightly budgeted and would put pressure on school districts to make significant cuts which could affect school district specific retiree benefits.
- **Reopening of schools.** The Governor has left it up to districts to formulate plans regarding bringing kids back to schools this fall, within CDC guidelines. The plans were due this week. Some districts are considering fully or partially reopening schools, which could result in “super spreading” of Covid-19. Needless to say this could jeopardize kids and adults. Seniors are extremely vulnerable to the virus and could be endangered by contact with family members who contract the disease at schools. We need to weigh in with Albany and local districts regarding the danger of reopening schools while the pandemic is still widespread.

Read more from Rod and the Legislative Action Committee Report on page 7...

...Legislative Action Report, *continued*

- **Federal stimulus aid.** The House Heroes Act, which passed the House overwhelmingly, would give significant relief to state and local governments, plus it earmarks specific aid to school districts, hospitals and first responders. It will also extend unemployment benefits, give additional aid to small businesses and give a second stimulus check to all adults. Senate Republicans and the White House have failed to act on the House measure and have been unable to come up with an alternative of their own. It's an election year, so it's likely that the Heroes Act will be addressed in the Senate at some point. The President has indicated he's in favor of the second stimulus check.
- **Prescription drug costs.** HR 3, the "Lower Drug Costs Now" Act, was passed by the House and is awaiting action by the Senate. Senate Republicans have indicated that they will not bring this bill up for a vote. If passed and signed by President Trump, it would end massive price increases of prescription medications and cap out of pocket costs for seniors on Medicare.

The Senate Democrats are already on board with the stimulus and prescription drug price bills. We would ask all of you to reach out Senator McConnell and Senate Republicans to support these important pieces of legislation. Again, it's an election year and politicians would be very likely to take heed of our concerns.

Please take the time to contact members of the Senate and the President regarding the need to pass these bills into law as soon as possible. Contact Governor Cuomo regarding school reopening plans and cuts to education.

Thanks to: Kevin, Kathi, Kris, the RENY Legislative Action Committee members and the RENY Board of Directors, for all their hard work, help and support through these difficult times.

The links to find a legislator, the Governor or the President are:

<https://www.nyasembly.gov/mem/search/>

<https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator>

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

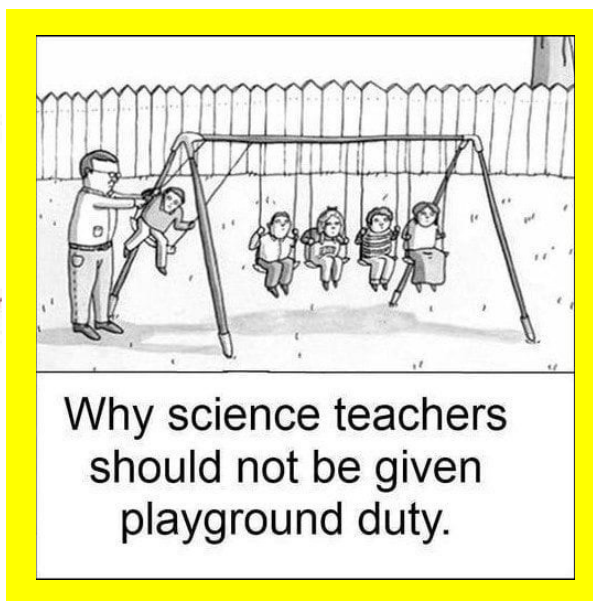
<https://www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm>

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/contact/NYCitizensCampaign/index.php>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>



~If links don't work, copy and paste to your browser~





Resolutions Committee Report Gayla LePage, Chair



The Resolutions Committee reviewed the two proposals that were submitted by five different zones. After discussion and some amendments, both resolutions are recommended for consideration by the delegates at the 2021 Annual Meeting. All RENY members should review these proposals and make their feelings about them known to their zone president (s), Resolutions chair, and delegates. A complete listing of the resolutions that have already been adopted can be found on the RENY website.

Resolution E-23: Marijuana (North Central Zone)

WHEREAS, numerous studies have found that use of marijuana often leads individuals to use even more harmful drugs such as methamphetamines, cocaine, heroin, and others; and

WHEREAS, smoking or vaping of marijuana can lead to respiratory problems and permanent lung damage; and

WHEREAS, use of marijuana in some individuals can precipitate the onset of mental disorders such as depression and schizophrenia; and

WHEREAS, use of marijuana can impair an individual's ability to drive and operate machinery; and

WHEREAS, children and young people may not appreciate the harmful effects of marijuana use if adults may legally use marijuana, now,

Be IT RESOLVED, that we urge RENY to go on record in opposition to the legalization of marijuana, except for medical use approved by the Food and Drug Administration of New York State Law, and continue to work toward the education of children, parents, families, and community members regarding the harmful effects of recreational marijuana use.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objective 2

The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend."

Resolution C-21: Disability Residences (Central Western Zone)

WHEREAS, New York State has over 200,000 people with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, many of them reside at home with aging parents ;and

WHEREAS, senior citizens cannot provide care forever; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing waiting list of people to enter facilities that provide services for intellectual and other developmental disabilities, now

Be IT RESOLVED, that RENY supports New York State legislators to adequately finance and increase the number of these residential options.

Reference: NYSRTA Bylaws, Article II, Objective 5

The Resolutions Committee voted "To Recommend."



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offered to RENY Members by Cigna Dental



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Choice 1 Retiree Dental Care Program is a managed dental health program that offers you significant savings over traditional dental plans. The plan offers low out-of-pocket costs while providing access to from Cigna's network of over 30,000 participating dental providers. Routine preventive services are covered, while more complex procedures require co-payments. All participating dentists are held to Cigna's high standards, as defined by their quality management program criteria.

Choice 1 lets you pick a network dentist and there are no charges for most preventive services. With CHOICE 1, you have no waiting periods, deductibles, annual dollar maximums and no claim forms to fill out.

- Available to members, spouse/domestic partner, & dependent children.
- The network general dentist you choose will manage your overall dental care.
- No charges for most preventive services.

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More complex procedures will require a preset co-payment.

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Member Only	\$ 30.99
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Family Coverage	\$101.64

Contact Pearl Insurance Representatives at 877.217.4153

**for more information or to enroll in the
Choice 1 Dental Program by Cigna Dental.**



CHOICE 2 DENTAL

offered to RENY Members by Met Life



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CHOICE 2 Retiree Dental Care Program is a more traditional dental benefit plan. You are never locked into any specific dentist and if you choose to visit a participating dentist, it may help you to maximize your benefit plan savings and reduce out-of-pocket expenses.

With Choice 2, participating dentists agree to accept negotiated fees as payment in-full for services they provide. The fee typically ranges from 30% to 45% less than average fees charged by dentists in the same area for the same services.

- Available to members, spouse/domestic partner, & dependent children.
- Provides first-day coverage for preventative services.

No Deductible for Preventive Services In or Out of Network

- Examinations • Routine Cleanings • X-rays

\$50 deductible per person/calendar year up to \$150 max for family.

\$1,500 Annual Maximum per person

**CHOICE 2 by MetLife Rates are determined based on zip code.
Rates are guaranteed from April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021.**

**Contact Pearl Insurance Representatives at 877.217.4153
for more information or to enroll in the
Choice 2 Dental Program by Met Life.**



ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Central Zone Ray Pitcher, Zone President

My units seem to be riding out the pandemic. Years ago I remember sitting at a board of education meeting listening to a presentation on “distance learning”. At that time it was on site with cameras a microphones. My superintendent agreed to the plan provided that a regional agreement was put into place. Such an agreement was hammered out between NYSUT and the interested districts. At that time we as a district did not proceed until it was in place.

Now the pandemic, from last March until today many of our contracts have been beat to death and totally disregarding the language that we wrote and fought for. If your current contracts have this old language It will give a blueprint for, various plans that are being tried this fall.

In March just as things were falling apart, I received the guidelines for the RENY Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant. I approached every superintendent in Herkimer County. Only one passed it along to his building principals. Only one application was sent back. I am waiting to be scheduled at a faculty meeting this fall.

If you plan on being a substitute this fall, please be very careful and make sure that your school is safe.

Our annual meeting was a zoom meeting on September 14, at 9:30.

Chenango - Bill Cline President

1. We will remain CCRTA for now after discussing change to RENY of Chenango.
2. Awarded \$600 scholarship to Brennan Finnegan (female) of Oxford Academy.
3. Instigated a push in our newsletter for joining both state and unit. We are also seeking more e-mail addresses so we can trim our mailing costs.
4. We featured an article on the importance of this election and the use of mail-in voting.
5. We wrote an article on the RENY legislative priorities.
6. We postponed our fall dinner meeting and set next spring for our next general meeting. We also suspended our rules on officer elections and will keep all officers in place till next fall.

Oneida Herkimer Retired Teachers Association- Johnnie Jones-President

Shortly we will be publishing the RECESS our newsletter. This fall our Community Service donations will go to the 4 food banks. We are sending the OHCRTA RECESS newsletter and invitation to join our Unit and the RENY to 149 new retirees. Our fall meeting will be via zoom.

SEE MORE FROM THE CENTRAL ZONE ON PAGE 10



ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Central Zone, Continued

This Year, You Can Vote This Way

If you are already a registered voter, follow one of the methods below.

VOTE EARLY *Sat., October 24 - Sun., November 1*

To find out where to early vote, check your local Board of Election website. For example, if you live in Herkimer County, you can vote early at 100 Reservoir Rd., Herkimer, NY 13350. However, daily times vary, so be sure to check. I googled "Early Voting in Herkimer County, Herkimer, NY" to find the info.

VOTE-BY-MAIL *Request by October 27; Return by November 3*

If you want to vote-by-mail, remember that the postal service has been slowed by the removal of sorting machines. Request your ballot as early as possible. How about today? Once you receive your ballot, sit down, vote immediately, and mail in the ballot. Temporary illness includes being unable to appear due to the risk of contracting or spreading a communicable disease like COVID-19.

To request a ballot go to <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html> Download the application in PDF on this page. You can fill it out online, print it on your printer, and mail it to your local county board of election ASAP. If you want to make sure it will get to the office of your local elections board, you can deliver it yourself. There are other application methods listed on the website page given above.

PLEASE VOTE on Election Day *Tuesday, November 3*

Check the Board of Election for your county to determine the times and locations of voting.

If you are not registered, New York offers [online voter registration](https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/MotorVoter/) at Motor Voter <https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/MotorVoter/>. You can register by mail to vote in New York by printing a voter registration form, filling it out, and mailing it to your local election office. You can also register to vote in person if you prefer. Applications must be postmarked no later than **October 9, 2020**, and received by a board of elections no later than **October 14, 2020**, to be eligible to vote in the General Election. You may also register in person at your county Board of Elections.

However you do it---- JUST DO IT!!!!



Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant Recipient

Johnnie Jones President of the Oneida-Herkimer Retired Teachers Association presented to Amy Ambrose the Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant. She is a teacher at Richfield Springs CSD. In the photo, **Ray Pitcher**, Amy and Dr. Rene Wilson Elementary Principal.

Amy's project is Building Resilience in Students impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences. She is expecting to purchase some books with the funds.

Amy was selected via a email vote by the exec committee and unit presidents of the central zone.

ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS



Central Western Zone
Phyllis Dunlap, Public Relations Chair
Assisted by Lynn Hefferon



Teresa Stephens, President of Steuben County RTA reports that the Unit has been on a pause since March. Even though the Unit did not have its Spring Meeting or a newsletter, it is planning a newsletter for September and hopefully a Fall meeting in October. Steuben has been updating its directory and sending out letters to the 2019-2020 retirees inviting them to join our Retired Educators of New York along with our Steuben Unit.

Steuben is pleased to announce that it had two recipients for the 2020 Barrie Fleegel Memorial Active Educators Grant: both from Wayland-Cohocton Central School!



Molly Moon, K-12 school social worker and Hali Shepard, elementary music teacher are presented their certificates by Teresa Stephens.

Even though the Steuben Unit did not have a Spring Community Project, the local group--Wayland -Cohocton Retired Teachers' Association-- raised over \$4,000.00 for the three food pantries within the school district since April!!! Fantastic!!!!

Barrie Fleegel Memorial **Active Educator Grants 2020**

Ann Czajkowski updates us that the CWZ is in its fifteenth year of providing **Barrie Fleegel Memorial Grants** to full time educators who are enrolled in graduate level classes. The applicants are judged on financial need, non-paid school involvement, service to their communities and exemplary achievements. One hundred forty-five educators have claimed a total of \$21,500 in **Grants** between 2006 and 2019.

The dedicated committee comprised of **Carol Lord CR***, **John Hogan CR***, **Judie Byndas CR***, **Gene Czajkowski** and **Ann Czajkowski** have awarded twelve more **Grants** in 2020 for a total of \$1650 pushing the total **Grants** over \$23,000.

The presidents of our ten counties or their designees present certificates, provided by **Carol Lord*CR**, to **Grant** winners at faculty events in their home school districts. They also provide news releases which help to promote CWZ and RENY. **Grants** are mailed to recipients upon providing proof of successful completion of a graduate level class in the current year. CWZ members are reminded to send their donations for 2021 **Grants**. Thank you to all who support this program!

KEEP READING ON THE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE NEWS FROM THE CWZ...

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Central Western Zone, continued



Georgia Thomas, V. President from Orleans County says “Hello from Orleans County Retired Teachers Association!” During this time of “keeping our distance” our group has not been active. I thought it would be interesting to tell you a little about our county and places around it where one can go and enjoy our history.

The first thing that comes to mind is the Cobblestone Museum on Rt. 104 in Childs, NY. The museum is listed on the National Historic Register because of the unique building material – field and lake stones! Cobblestone masonry has many patterns and one can see them traveling the Ridge. Cobblestone construction began in the 1820’s and continued into the 1860’s until the Civil War took the work force away and the method was discontinued.

The main building of the museum is the church; it was built in 1834, making it the oldest cobblestone church in North America. They are giving tours, but reservations are needed so call ahead (585) 589-9013. The neatest building is the one room school-house! It was built in 1849. When it closed in 1959 the door was locked, and the museum got it in its original condition! It makes one think of how hard the teachers of yesteryear worked. They hired women mostly because they could pay them less than men.

Next on traveling around our lovely country county – Medina! It was home to a First Lady – Frances Folsom, who went to high school there. After graduating from college, she married President Grover Cleveland in the White House. It was the first wedding in the White House, and she had the first baby born in the White House, daughter Ruth. They say the Baby Ruth candy bar was named for her.

Medina was a canal village and grew during the building of the canal and by 1825 was thriving. Our lovely Main St. is on the National Register with many of the buildings having their original store fronts and tin ceilings inside. The shops have all sorts of delights and our Blissett’s is wonderful for wedding finery and infant wear. We have many fine restaurants for all tastes. If you go across the Horan Rd. (off State St.) you can walk the tow path and see Medina Falls where many early manufacturing companies began. You will be walking on cement - it really is a dam for the canal and is one of the longest dams in the world. During the construction of the canal they discovered a building grade of sandstone. A local man and early sandstone quarry owner, **Mr. Ryan** began mining sandstone and shipping it all over and the story goes that someone asked where it came from and they were told Medina – thus the name for all sandstone quarried in the county is Medina Sandstone. Our state capital has a million-dollar stairway of Medina Sandstone.

Medina has the only road that goes under the canal on Culvert Rd. just east of town. Do not forget to honk your horn for luck when you go through!

There are many other towns, Albion is our county seat with a lovely Court House Square. Holley and Clarendon both have waterfalls too! Lyndonville is known for their 4th of July celebration. Kendall by the lake is the home of where Barn’s Quilts began in our area. We also have many fine wineries and a mead works. If you like miniature trains the Railway Museum in Medina is a must for all ages.

Orleans County is a farming community and there are many farm markets to buy fresh produce. Robert’s on Rt. 31 has wonderful cider in season. Circle R on Rt. 18 has ice cream along with fruits and veggies. Medina has a farmer’s market on Saturday’s across from the Post Office on East Center St. I call Orleans County the “Foodie Capital”. You can get so many wonderful foods here! I hope someday you can come to our county and visit our museums, shop our Main Street and enjoy some farm fresh goodies.

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Eastern Zone Pamela Love, Public Relations Chair

Janice Mullins, President of Eastern Zone submitted the following notes for our York issue. "In the beginning, no one ever thought that the COVID crisis would follow us through our summer and now, into the Fall. Yet here we are. For those of you in Eastern Zone and all of RENY who have suffered loss during this pandemic, our hearts go out to you with deepest sympathy. We have missed our usual gatherings with family, friends and RENY retirees. And even though technology has made it possible for us to see those near and dear to us on our computer screens, there is nothing like a hug to let us know that we will be O.K. We will be O.K. Schools found ways of honoring our graduates safely. Members have celebrated milestones in their lives-Be it without fan fair, celebrated none the less. You have found ways to exercise and stay healthy. While I am sure, many of you have continued in your volunteer efforts. I hope you enjoy our photos as we share a milestone with you . Most importantly, know that we are here for you even if it is just to say hello. We Care!"



Happy Anniversary

Tom & Jan Mullins
Celebrated
45 years
of Marriage
on
August 16th, 2020



Ann Marie Dufresne, President of the Amsterdam County Unit said that their Unit gave two \$1,000 scholarships to students that are majoring in elementary education. The Unit also collaborated with Amsterdam Teachers' Backpack Program that continued to supply food to families weekly after the school year ended in June. The Amsterdam Unit donated \$1500 to purchase food for this.

Joan Mattson, President of the Columbia County Unit is staying in touch with unit members to discuss possible projects for the future and also sending information on coping with the pandemic as well as information on possible scams.

Bill Naple, President of the Fulton County Unit , said that Amanda Cline, a teacher at Boulevard Elementary School, received \$500 from the unit in early Spring to complete her Masters Degree.

Marge Leibowitz, President of the Rensselaer County Unit said that **Mary Ellen Caporta**, our RCRTA Scholarship Chair, applied to Pioneer Bank for a Community Grant of \$500 so the unit could increase their yearly student scholarship to \$1,000. In January 2000, the unit received the grant from Pioneer Bank. The unit then awarded \$1,000 this past June to a graduate of Hoosick Falls High School who will be attending SUNY Potsdam Crane School of Music this fall. As Unit President, Marge is very thankful to **Mary Ellen Caporta** for her tireless hours she devoted in obtaining the community grant and finding a qualified recipient of our \$1,000 scholarship.

SEE PAGE 14 FOR FROM PAMELA AND THE EASTERN ZONE...

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Eastern Zone, continued

Ken Bollerud, President of the Saratoga County Unit, wants to give a special thanks to **Nancy Moran** who heads the unit's Friendly Service as well as her friend Sue Moore. Together, they hand make cards as well as maintain a birthday list. Their cards are sent to those celebrating a birthday, having a personal illness or an illness in the family.

Rosalind Carron, President of the Upper Montgomery County Unit, said that they plan on holding their fall luncheon meeting on September 16, 2020. Their executive board decided to resume their schedule in a limited fashion. There will be no program and a limited business meeting to discuss necessary items. CDC guidelines will be strictly followed. The Holiday Inn has the capacity to hold our meeting with appropriate spacing of people. New retirees will be sent an invitation and will be our guests. There will be some "interesting prizes given at their 50 x 50 raffle. Their 50 x 50 raffle funds their "Out Reach Grant" to a classroom teacher. The unit also gives an annual \$500 award to a graduating senior. These "awards" are solely funded by their membership.



Long Island Zone

Eileen Holmes, Public Relations Chair



On November 1, 2020 the Long Island Zone will have new leaders at the helm: **Eileen Holmes** will become President and **Val Stype** will serve as Vice President. **Alicia Winowsky** and **Dom LiCausi** will continue as secretary and treasurer, respectively. Meetings are being planned as teleconferences and it's looking like May 2021 will be the earliest date for a LIZ luncheon to be arranged at an indoor venue.

While we plan ahead 6+ months for activities to start up, let's look back to the 2018 NYSRTA convention. The Long Island Zone submitted a resolution written by **Eileen Holmes** calling for NYSRTA to support NY state legislation requiring **all** passengers, including teenagers, young adults and seniors to buckle up in rear seats. New York state had been the *first in the nation* to require front seat safety belts but was now lagging behind dozens of other states in mandating all passengers of all ages to wear seat belts in both the front and rear seats. RENY approved

the resolution and in August 2020, we saw SUCCESS when Governor Andrew Cuomo signed this bill into law. Back seat safety belts go a long way in lessening the severity of injuries from car accidents, particularly rear end crashes. This is a great step towards increased passenger protection!

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North Central Zone

Nancy Roberts and Patricia Newell, Co-Public Relations Chair

The gorgeous summer weather has been nature's gift to us. NCZ members have taken full advantage of it. It has helped them to stay well, healthy, and young in the midst of this pandemic.

Patti Stephens has been spotted biking around the historic village of Sackets Harbor situated on scenic Lake Ontario. Patti resides in this quaint village and is a retiree from Sackets Harbor Central School. She attended a "Pandemic Birthday Celebration" on July 20th for a former colleague on the lawn of the Sackets Harbor 1812 Battlefield. Other attendees were NCZ members **Kathy Allan**, **Jeannie Greenwood**, **Pat Newell**, and **Mary Hall**.



Patti Stephens



Pandemic Birthday Celebration



Jim Newell

St. Paul's Church in Black River, NY re-opened on Father's Day, June 21st. **Jim Newell** serves as an usher and also a lector for the church. He has also spent time playing tennis in Cape Vincent this summer and has been seen kayaking on the St. Lawrence River. Cape Vincent is that lovely, French village where Lake Ontario meets the St. Lawrence River.

NCZ President, **Elwood "Woody" Lyndaker**, has been engaging in his #1 sport...golf! One of his favorite courses is the Seaway Golf Course in Clayton. Woody along with fellow NCZ members **Albert Roberts**, **Dennis Nortz**, and **Richard Parker** from the "Fearsome Foursome." After their outings, these lucky golfers are sometimes treated to homemade pie compliments of **Nancy Roberts**! No wonder golfing is so popular this summer!!

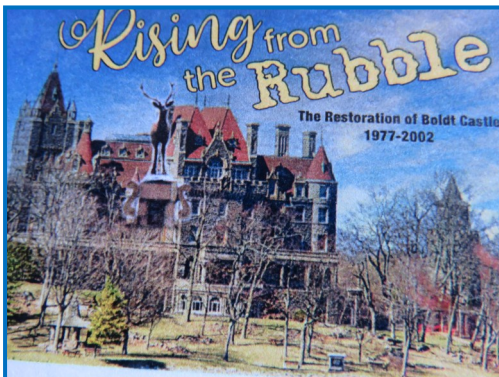


Fearsome Foursome

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North Central Zone, continued

Although her classes are temporarily on hold, **Linda Holley** still practices Tai Chi at home. She will be in top form when classes hopefully resume in the fall.



That hard working gal, **Hope Marston**, has published her 31st book! Isn't that amazing? It is a collaboration with her good friend, Gerald Borland, and also Dale & Carol Fikes. The book is entitled Rising from the Rubble: The Restoration of Boldt Castle. The book recounts the challenges that Dale Fikes faced while working for 25 years with the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority. Fikes was responsible for overseeing the Wellesley Island properties and the restoration of Boldt Castle. The book is filled with fascinating anecdotes about the restoring of the castle according to George Boldt's dream plans. It is a work that still continues to the present day. Ordering information is available at www.HopelrvinMarston.com.

During their teleconference on August 5th, the NCZ Executive Council voted to cancel their Fall Business Luncheon which is typically held at the Ramada Inn in Watertown, NY. This difficult decision was made in the interest of the health and safety of NCZ members during this extraordinary time period. Plans are already underway for the NCZ Scholarship Luncheon to be held in June 2021.

Date to Remember:

NCZ Executive Council Meeting- November 5, 2020, 10am, Watertown BOCES/Teleconference (TBD)



Northeastern Zone
Glenda Smith Rowe, Zone President



We're all in this together –

Dickens said it: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness..." For all of us it has been both, where we have found hope and grace in all those who answered the call to serve, to donate, to bring peace. Darkness fell when the pandemic overtook us, spiraling down in sadness, frustration and loss. We will overcome and rise in new and better ways.

The pandemic has brought changes to all of us, and NEZ is no exception. Little did we think, as we reluctantly canceled our June luncheon meeting that we would be looking into fall and having to cancel our September luncheon. Loss of social interaction with our members has been frustrating and disappointing. We're crossing our fingers and toes that our area will have a green light to hold our December gathering.

Our Board of Directors has learned to attend Board meetings via teleconference, "mute our phones" and complete a full agenda within two hours. What an incredible group guiding NEZ through this unprecedented time; they move forward with positive attitudes as they express concern for our members and share the load to make NEZ a strong voice to retirees of the North Country.

MORE FROM GLENDA ON THE NEXT PAGE...

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Northeastern Zone, continued

The scheduled September meeting, our annual meeting, has been canceled due to safety and health concerns for our members. It was necessary to hold our election and pass the budget via mail-in ballot which was distributed through our newsletter, *The Nor'easter*.

We did not go on site to the supermarkets to solicit food or donations from shoppers for our Community Service food drive, chaired by **Laurie Parsons**, as we thought it was unsafe for all concerned. Instead, the voting ballot also provided space for members to make a donation to the food shelf of their choice, and those contributions will be distributed by our treasurer, **Diane Bonenfant**.

We bade a fond farewell to **Marti Martin** who did such fantastic work as our PR person. She's spending more time with family, but we know we can call on her for advice and to join us at our meetings.

In the meantime, we've learned to Zoom, enjoy a staycation, have dinner with family and cook creatively. We've cleaned closets, tended the garden and read more books than we ever imagined.

Such an UPHEAVAL --- social, economic, political and natural disasters to punctuate our lives. Until we can all meet in person and share a funny story or two, be well, stay safe.

We're all in this together.

Northern Zone Linda Crosby, Public Relations Chair

As Summer's multitude of bright colors fade away and Fall begins to flame its earthy shades, it seems to be the time to wish all teachers, staff, and children a good school year. Although the return to school will not be a normal one, I'm sure all retired teachers are hoping for the most positive results possible for our working colleagues, our school children and their parents as they face many difficult decisions in the days ahead. We are thinking of you all as you navigate the troubled waters of a new kind of school year. Keep the boat steady. Paddle hard. Do your best. Stay well. Stay strong.

NZ members are pleased to announce the names of the 2020 high school graduates who are the recipients of our two NZ scholarships of \$400 each. The students will receive the funds after successful completion of their first semester of college.



In Franklin County, the Janet P. Dana Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Brynn LaPage, daughter of Bryan and Vitaline LaPage from Brushton, N.Y. Brynn graduated with third place honors from Brushton-Moira Central School District. While maintaining a heavy course load and a 96+ average, Brynn participated in volleyball (Captain), softball, and cheerleading; she earned many athletics awards such as Sportsmanship-All Northern, Academic All-Northern, Presidential Award and Athlete of Distinction. She was President of National Honor Society, Secretary of the Class of 2020, Vice-President of Varsity Club, as well as a volunteer for her church, the Brushton-Moira American Legion, poll elections, and many school clubs. She participated in dance at All That Jazz Studio for over 11 years and, recently, has worked as a waitress. As you can see in her photograph, Brynn is very happy to be attending St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y. in the fall and is planning on a degree in Secondary Math Education. On her application, she stated that "my students will be helping me learn just as much as I educate them."

MORE FROM THE NORTHERN ZONE ON PAGE 18...

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Northern Zone, continued



In St. Lawrence County, Erin Dickinson was presented with the Ross C. Hudson Memorial Scholarship of \$400. The daughter of Maria and Jason Dickinson of Norwood, N.Y., Erin graduated from Norwood-Norfolk Central School District with an Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors and a 96 average. Erin was very active in high school; she participated in Cross Country, Indoor Track, Outdoor track and Varsity Club (Secretary) for multiple years earning Second Team All Conference designations for Cross Country and Track. She was also named a NYSPHSAA Cross Country State Championships Qualifier (three years) and Cross Country Academic All-Northern (three years); she earned a Sportsmanship Award in 2016. Erin participated in All County H.S. Chorus, Vocal Select Ensemble, Area All State Choir, Whiz Quiz, NNCS Spring Musical, NYSSMA, Drama Club (Treasurer) and National Honor Society, while volunteering in her community church youth group, the Norwood Public Library Teen Advisory Group (Vice-President) and the Norwood Village Concert Series. She was Yearbook Editor of the 2020 yearbook, a National Merit Program Commended Student, a University of Rochester Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award winner, and earned many Scholastics Art and Writing Awards (gold, silver and honorable mention-multiple years). She has recently worked at the Potsdam Public Library and Potsdam Price Chopper. Erin will attend St. John Fisher College to earn a degree in English-Secondary Education with dual Special Education certification. She wrote that she wants “to teach not just the English language, but, kindness and human decency as well. Our world needs more kindness and empathy.”

President **Joe Russo** and Historian **Alice Galvin** of the Clifton-Fine-Edwards Unit of RENY/NZ reported that although their annual summer membership meeting was cancelled (due to corona virus), they did award their annual P.A.Miranda Scholarship(\$1,500) to 2020 CFCS graduate Melanie Peabody, the daughter of Greg and Mabel Peabody of Oswegatchie, N.Y. in a special ceremony at the Clifton-Fine Central School on August 11 where Joe and Alice personally congratulated Melanie for her exemplary achievements in high school. Melanie will be attending SUNY Potsdam this upcoming school year. She plans on majoring in early childhood education.

Our NZ members are lucky to have so many worthy, dedicated and gifted students in our two counties; it makes choosing scholarship recipients a very difficult job. We wish all the 2020 graduates much success and happiness in college, in the military and in the work force as they move on in their lives.



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Southeastern Zone Maureen Coffey, Public Relations Chair



When Thomas Paine wrote, “These are the times that try men’s souls” in “The American Crisis”, he was referencing events that took place during our American Revolution. No matter where we stand on today’s political landscape, I would venture to say the words still ring true!

To take a break from it all, Kristen, the assistant editor suggested we keep our column on the lighter side. To this end, I reached out to members and asked that they share a favorite teaching story. It could be funny, rewarding, inspirational or emotional. It was totally up to them which memorable moment they wanted to share. Here, **in their own italicized words**, are their stories.

*My name is **Raymond Leduc**. I was employed by the Newburgh Enlarged City School District from 1965 to 1998. I taught middle school social studies for eleven years, had a self-contained classroom for disruptive students at the middle school level for two years, was a social studies academic specialist at the elementary level for five years, and a school counselor at the middle school and high school for fifteen years.*

During my teaching career, I had many rewarding experiences. One was taking elementary school students from Newburgh who were studying French or Italian to Montreal, Canada. The students spent several days in the home and school of elementary school students who spoke English, French, and Italian. It was an amazing experience for the Newburgh students as well as for myself.

Helen Hoering shared a most humorous story.

It happened in my Kindergarten classroom during rest time. The room was darkened and everyone was resting on their blankets. As I worked (in the dark) at my desk, little Billy kept moving all about the room with his blanket. I told him to settle down and I didn’t want to see him moving anymore. He said OK and settled down for about 2 seconds. He then wrapped himself up in his white blanket and proceeded to crawl across the room. There it was, a white lump moving across the room! I asked him, “Billy, what did I tell you?” This little voice answered, “But you can’t see me. I’m covered.” I had to laugh, but needless to say, Billy came to rest next to my desk.

Mary Ellen Colombo shared a story with a problem ... and her solution to it.

I always loved the book Stone Fox but cried in the last chapter always. The story always got around so the whole class were most anxious for my tears. So I got smart and had my teacher friend or a good student read the end. I had to leave the room because the kids all watched me!

*My name is **Maureen Coffey** and I was a Special Ed resource room teacher in Chester Elementary School. For many years, it was a tradition in Chester that the high school graduation was on Friday night and the elementary school Moving Up ceremony was the night before. On that Thursday, the students went home early and we spent the rest of the day packing up our classrooms. It was on one of these Thursdays that I had one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. A former student came by and gave me the biggest bouquet of flowers I’ve ever seen. As I stood there crying, he said to my aide, “Tomorrow night I’m graduating from high school and in September I’m heading off to college. None of this would be happening if it wasn’t for Mrs. Coffey. I put her through hell everyday, but she never gave up on me!”*

We all have students we’ve touched in beautiful, meaningful and life changing ways. Some of us, like me, were lucky enough to be told about it. Thank you, James!

Stay well and be safe!

“Til next time!

ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Southern Zone Mary Lou Wood, Public Relations Chair

Fall is now here with winter right around the corner. During this pandemic we've painted the exterior of our houses, cleaned our closets and cupboards, walked all over our areas, written letters, and called friends and family members. My hummingbirds have flown to warmer weather, however my squirrels, blue jays, and cardinals are still around. We'll be saying goodbye to our snowbird friends and wishing them safe travels to warmer destinations.

SZ President **Jerry Tagliaferri** held a Spring meeting with the SZ Board of Directors via teleconference. Units have expressed concerns regarding membership and the need for folks to fill officer positions. Units continue planning for January in hopes of being able to resume activities.

Our units are keeping in contact with their members. We missed socializing at our Southern Zone annual meeting which would have been held at the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel on Seneca Lake. Our thanks go to SCRTA President **Linda Moore** and her host committee for being flexible during this pandemic.

The winner of this year's Hudson-Kramer Grant is John Liquori of the Horseheads Intermediate School where he teaches 6th grade. He was presented his grant by **Donald Cutton*CR**, SZ Scholarship Chairperson, **Lois Cutton**, SZ treasurer, and **Mary Lou Wood**, SZ Past President. Scholarships were also awarded to four high school seniors planning careers in education from CARTA-Corning.

More from MaryLou on the next page...



2019 RENY Convention Team



Debbie Deats and Bonnie Stratton



Front: Lois Cutton, Imogene Mckendrick*CR, Mary Suffern. Back row: Donald Cutton*CR. Nancy Spaulding, Vince Smith*CR Mary Lou Wood, Jerry Tagliaferri



Nancy Spaulding



SZ officers: Scholarship Don Cutton*CR, President Jerry Tagliaferri, Public Relations Mary Lou Wood, Membership Vince Smith*CR, Secretary Mary Suffern, Treasurer Lois Cutton

ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Southern Zone, continued

Committee work has been limited due to the pandemic. Legislative efforts have included some phone contacts and mailings. The SZ Health Care Coordinator, **Daryl Hartzell**, has focused on response to COVID and advocacy for absentee voting in the November elections. **Mary Lou Wood** has taken on the role of Public Relations/Historian and is in the process of compiling photo albums. (Jerry Tagliaferri reports)

We missed seeing everyone at the RENY 2020 convention but the educational and enjoyable programs will be in place next October. Visiting with our state friends will be welcomed.

As retired teachers, we are all concerned about the school year and not just for teachers but for students and parents as well as they deal with both the pandemic and the resulting unique school schedule. The apple below represents a message of good luck from EARTA and from all of our units to all of them! (Nancy Spaulding)



Stay healthy and we'll meet in 2021. Keep walking, talking, socializing, and be happy.



Fall Recipes: Easy Butternut Squash Soup

Prep Time: 10 mins

Cook Time: 35 mins

Total Time: 45 mins

Serves 6

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
 - 1 large yellow onion, chopped
 - ½ teaspoon sea salt
 - 1 (3-pound) butternut squash, peeled, seeded, and cubed
 - 3 garlic cloves, chopped
 - 1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage
 - ½ tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
 - 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger
 - 3 to 4 cups vegetable broth
- Freshly ground black pepper



Instructions

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onion, salt, and several grinds of fresh pepper and sauté until soft, 5 to 8 minutes. Add the squash and cook until it begins to soften, stirring occasionally, for 8 to 10 minutes. Add the garlic, sage, rosemary, and ginger. Stir and cook 30 seconds to 1 minute, until fragrant, then add 3 cups of the broth. Bring to a boil, cover, and reduce heat to a simmer. Cook until the squash is tender, 20 to 30 minutes. Let cool slightly and pour the soup into a blender, working in batches if necessary, and blend until smooth. If your soup is too thick, add up to 1 cup more broth and blend. Season to taste and serve with parsley, pepitas, and crusty bread.

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Western Zone
Michelle Claus, 2nd Vice President



A LOOK AT WORLD TEACHERS' DAY- OCTOBER 5, 2020

What a year 2020 has been for teachers all across our region, in fact, all across the country and the world! How do they transform from in-person learning to remote? As teachers, we look into the eyes of our students, there hoping to see the recognition of understanding. Can you do that remotely? Teachers adapt, learn to use the technology, ask questions, prepare lessons, and all in a completely foreign setting.

There is no touch to soothe the fears of little ones who are missing Mommy and Daddy. There is no eye contact with the teens that struggle with their identity and may need a reassuring word. There is no after-class explanation of a difficult concept for the high schooler who hopes to ace the exam. They are all remote in the truest sense of the word – distant, isolated, inaccessible, excluded. But teachers rally. They talk to each other and learn the best ways to engage in this new format. They adapt the lessons and adjust the material to fit this challenging time.

The weather was very hot one day last week, so the Physical Therapist working remotely with a special education student asked grandma if the child could do her therapies in the pool, knowing that an adult was there to supervise. Of course this was an unusual circumstance, but the adaptation was a welcome engagement that the child could not have enjoyed on the floor of the family room. Teachers do that: they adapt, they challenge, they engage, they excite, they care!

On social media, in the past 6 months, parents realized how difficult teaching could be, especially since it was no longer in person. Cute posters and messages appeared, applauding teachers and what they do every day in the classrooms. In recognizing the many ways teachers care for their students every day, now is the time to show kindness, patience, and gratitude. As difficult as it may be for you to navigate the technology, it is equally, or perhaps more difficult for your child's teacher to do that as well, and now without the in-person feedback that is so essential in education. Make no mistake, computers will never replace a master teacher. Just ask the millions of Moms and Dads, Grandmas and Grandpas, Aunties and Uncles doing their best to fill in during this stressful time in our world.

As retired teachers, we applaud all of you!

Vincenetta Ventresca O'Donnell
Member Western Zone, Retired Educators of New York



Submission Deadlines

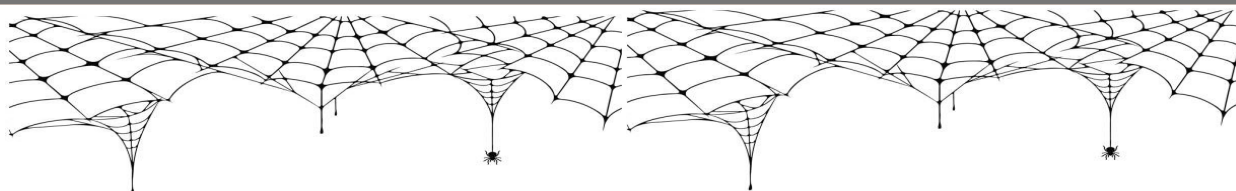
Spring (electronic) April 30th

Fall (electronic) August 25

For York State

Summer (mailed) July 7th

Winter (mailed) November 4



Thank goodness for Halloween, all of a sudden, cobwebs in my house are decorations!