Greetings from Your President

“Ask not what Western Zone can do for you,
Ask what you can do for Western Zone.”

This is my quote that sums up how we can increase RENY/Western Zone membership and dedication to the Retired Educators of Western New York. Some of you ask “What can I do?” Below is a short list of ways you can increase your involvement.

The important thing is to take the first step.

- Encourage membership among your active and retired colleagues
- Keep your dues current
- Read the Western Currents (Western Zone newsletter) and the York State (RENY State newsletter); Be informed
- Join a unit. We have 11 to choose from or you can attend Western Zone Board of Directors meetings. (Amherst, Buffalo, Eastern Erie, Genesee, Kenmore, Lackawanna, Lancaster/Depew, Eastern Niagara, Springville/WValley, West Seneca, Williamsville)
- Go online at wzretiredteachers.org; This site is constantly being updated
- While you are on our website, look at the committees we support
- Join a committee that interests you
- Volunteer in your school district or community
- Support Western Zone donation/volunteer projects
- Participate in Friendly Service or Care and Concern helping your fellow retirees/community members

There is a lot going on in Western Zone. You won’t know unless you join and read the communications sent to you. Be informed. The cost is $30 for one year, and $75 for 3 years. Take it upon yourself to encourage non-members to join RENY/Western Zone. A one year membership form can be found on the RENY/Western Zone website (http://mail.wzretiredteachers.org, then the Membership/Join option).

We look forward to seeing you at our Western Zone Annual Meeting on September 21, 2022. Bring a friend. The registration form is in this newsletter. Any questions, call or email me. Come and introduce yourself!

WZ President
Michelle Claus
716-481-5279
joeclaus@msn.com
Nominations Committee Report

This is the first election of WZ Directors since 2019. The 2020 and 2021 Western Zone Annual Meetings were canceled due to the Covid19 Pandemic. Therefore the Directors terms were extended until an election could be held.

The Nominations Committee has received eleven letters of intent to serve as a Board of Director for the term expiring September 2025. The names are:

Ronald Czapla        Carol Cascio        Elizabeth Egan
Anne Flansburg       Beth Green          Maria Hager
Suzanne Lach         Cynthia Mehary      Donna Potter
Vicki Smith          Marie Zafron

The vote will take place at the Western Zone Annual Meeting to be held on September 21, 2022. Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the meeting.

The Election of Officers of the Western Zone Board of Directors was held by electronic means in 2021 and 2022.

The Nominations Committee has received letters of intent to serve as an officer of the Western Zone for the 2022-2023 term from the following:

President                                    Michelle Claus
1st Vice-president                           Michelle Claus
2nd Vice-president                           Maria Hager
Recording Secretary                           Nancy White
Corresponding Secretary                      Audrey Seidel
Treasurer                                     Don Lawrence
Membership Secretary                         Karen Gembar
Past President                                Judy Farmer

The vote will take place at the Western Zone Board of Directors meeting after the luncheon. Nominations can be made from the floor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Farmer
Nominations Committee Chairperson
BYLAWS REPORT

The Bylaws Committee has completed a comprehensive review of the WZ Bylaws. Sixteen proposed amendments and the rationale for the suggested changes are stated below. These propositions have been approved unanimously by the WZ Board. They will be presented to the whole membership at the Zone Annual Meeting to be held on September 21, 2022. Members are asked to study these proposals prior to the September meeting. At the Annual Meeting, these proposals will be voted on by ballot. A 2/3 majority of the eligible voting members present will be required for passage.

KEYS: Current Bylaws language that is NOT being changed is in regular type.

a. Proposed NEW language is in bold type.
b. Language that is to be deleted is in bold and strikethrough.
c. Changes in words or phrases are underlined.
d. ARTICLES, SECTIONS, sub-sections, and page numbers refer to current WZ Bylaws. (To access the current Bylaws, go to www.wzretiredteachers.com).*
e. The propositions are in sequential order as they appear in the current WZ Bylaws.

*If you are unable to access the Bylaws on the website, contact your unit president, any Board Member or the Bylaws Chair (wdkirsch@gmail.com; 585-457-3315).

The WZ Bylaws Committee is composed of Marie Zafron, Patricia Miceli, Marilyn Stephens, Sal Sedita (Parliamentarian), Judy Farmer (Immediate Past President), Michelle Claus (President), Doris Kirsch (Chair).

Proposition 1 - Change of Name

ARTICLE I

NAME page 2

The name of this organization shall be the Western Zone of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc.: hereafter referred to as the "Zone".

The State Association has filed with New York State and will henceforth be known as the New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc. doing business as the Retired Educators of New York (RENY). The Zone and Units are to use the dba RENY as their name of recognition (Example: RENY/Western Zone/Unit Name) and also maintain and use the RENY logo.

Rationale: To be in compliance with amendments to the State Association Bylaws made at the 2019 and 2021 NYSRTA Annual Meetings.

**The Bylaws Committee has determined that it is not necessary to change NYSRTA to RENY every time the reference appears in the document. NYSRTA is the legal name and is therefore OK to stand alone in the language of the WZ bylaws.

Proposition 2 - Board Membership

ARTICLE IV

BOARD OF DIRECTORS page 1

SECTION 1. Membership on the Board of Directors may be attained by one of the following methods:

a. Elected by NYSRTA-Zone Members present at the Zone's Annual Business Meeting in September.

b. Appointed by the Board of Directors to fill an unexpired term (due to the death, resignation or failure to elect) of a duly elected Board Member.

Rationale: Explanation of how/when the Board elections are held is covered in another part of the bylaws, therefore the deletion of present at the Zone's Annual Business Meeting in September is appropriate.

Addition of e: Provide for the filling of Board vacancies

Proposition 3: Elections/Terms of Board/Directors
ARTICLE IV
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  page 2

Section 3.

a. Directors elected at the Zone's Annual Business meeting shall take office on that date. Directors may be re-elected.

b. In the event a Zone Annual Business Meeting is not held, the terms of office of the Directors shall be rolled over and extended until an election can be held at a future membership meeting. Under extenuating circumstances the Executive Committee shall make adaptations in the terms of Directors as necessary.

Rationale: Allows for the automatic continuance and extension of terms for the Board of Directors when an Annual Business Meeting is not held.

Proposition 4 - Election of Officers

ARTICLE IV
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  page 2

SECTION 7. The Board of Directors shall:

a. Elect the Officers of the Zone from among the Board of Directors on the date of the Zone Annual Business Meeting. If a Zone Annual Meeting is not held, the election of officers may be conducted in accordance with the electronic meeting and voting procedures set forth in ARTICLE IV, SECTION 8, c & d.

Rationale: Provide for the election of officers when a Zone Annual Business Meeting is not held.

Proposition 5 - Electronic Meetings and Voting

ARTICLE IV
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  page 2

Section 8: Meetings of the Board of Directors shall:

c. Electronic meetings and voting are authorized in accordance with the parliamentary authority identified in ARTICLE XVI of these bylaws and ARTICLE VI, Section 2 of the NYSRTA Bylaws. Electronic meetings must provide an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication among all in attendance. Additional requirements and guidelines shall be developed by the Executive Committee. These guidelines and requirements shall govern electronic meetings that may be held by any board or committee of the Zone.

d. Voting procedures will be established at the beginning of each simultaneous meeting. Such votes shall be considered binding.

e. Meet following the morning session of the Zone Annual Business Meeting to elect the Officers of the Zone. (Current Section 8, c)

Rationale: The Zone must be able to function even if in-person meetings are not possible. This language allows the use of electronic meetings and voting. Flexible guidelines and procedures will be established outside the language of the Bylaws.

Proposition 6 - Change in Officer Name

ARTICLE V
OFFICERS  page 3

The elected officers of the Zone shall be:

PRESIDENT
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
TREASURER
Proposition 7 - Deletion of obsolete language

ARTICLE V
OFFICERS   page 3

Section 1. The elected officers of the zone... is not limited. This shall not apply to any person holding an office at the time of this bylaw amendment passage. (The rest of the current language in Section 1 remains unchanged.)

Rationale: Delete This shall not apply to any person holding an office at the time of this bylaw amendment passage. This sentence is now obsolete.

Proposition 8 - NYSRTA Board of Directors

ARTICLE V
OFFICERS   page 3

Section 2. The PRESIDENT shall:

f. Serve as a member of the NYSRTA Board of Directors

Rationale: Change the name from NYSRTA Executive Committee to Board of Directors in compliance with NYSRTA Bylaws

Proposition 9 - Duties of the President

ARTICLE V
DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT   page 3

SECTION 2 j. Certify the nomination of a Zone member for the Certificate of Recognition Award (NYSRTA). To be eligible for nomination. a member must have outstanding service at the Unit, Zone, and State Levels.

Rationale: Properly places this duty as a responsibility of the President. Clearly states that a nominee must have exemplary service at all three levels (Unit, Zone, and State).

Proposition 10 - Executive Committee

ARTICLE VI
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE   page 5

The Zone Executive Committee shall consist of (all elected officers): President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Vice President for Membership, Immediate Past President and Founders’ Fund Chair.

Rationale: Change the title for Membership Secretary and include two key leaders - Immediate Past President and Founders’ Fund Chair.

Proposition 11 - Friendly Service Committee

ARTICLE VIII
STANDING COMMITTEE   page 6
The Zone Standing Committees shall include: Friendly Service.

SECTION 11 (Page 8) The responsibility of the Friendly Service Committee shall be to:

a. Attend "special meetings" of the NYSRTA Friendly Service Committee
b. Organize a Committee of Area Unit Friendly Service Chairs for the purpose of preparing a network of activities of the Friendly Service program
c. Use the funds provided by NYSRTA Insurance Trust to improve, promote the quality of life and the well-being of retired educators in need.
d. Determine the merit of each grant request.
e. Solicit from Area Unit Friendly Service Chairs and Presidents the names and addresses of 80 year old members (and over), who live as nursing home residents and shut-ins.

Rationale: a.b. The correct terminology is Friendly Service (Not Services)
c. Delete Insurance Trust because funds for Friendly Service do not come from the Insurance Trust.
e. Delete 11e as this is a function of the Unit Friendly Service Committees.

Proposition 12 – Awards Committee

ARTICLE VIII
STANDING COMMITTEES page 7

Section 6. The responsibility of the AWARDS Committee shall be to:

a. Select and present to the membership at the Zone Annual Business meeting member(s) who has/have shown outstanding contribution, leadership, participation and service for the betterment of the Zone (Citation Award).
b. Select and recommend an outstanding Zone member for the NYSRTA Award

Rationale: Clearly identifies the Zone award as the Citation Award. Delete "b". This is not the responsibility of the Awards Committee. It has been added to the list of responsibilities of the Zone President (ARTICLE V, SECTION 2j)

Proposition 13 - Candidate resume form

ARTICLE VIII
STANDING COMMITTEES page 9

Section 14. The responsibility of the NOMINATIONS Committee shall be to:

h. Prepare a new resume and biographical data form that reflects changing times and different needs of the Zone. Review the form and make appropriate changes every 5 years. Request resume updates on a yearly basis from prospective candidates.

Rationale: Requiring a new form to be prepared and implemented every 5 years provides a definite, timely structure to this process.

Proposition 14 - Nomination Procedure

ARTICLE XII
ELECTIONS page 11

Section 2. The Nominations Committee Chair shall move acceptance of the slate. Another Nominations Committee will second the announced slate.

Rationale: Delete the second sentence as a second is not required.

Proposition 15 – Fiscal Year

ARTICLE XIV
FISCAL YEAR page 12
The fiscal year of the Zone shall be July 1st to June 30th of the following year in conjunction with the NYSRTA fiscal year.

Rationale: Delete *in conjunction with the NYSRTA fiscal year*, as the fiscal year of NYSTRA is January 1st – December 31st. The Western Zone fiscal year will be unchanged (July 1 – June 30).

Proposition 16 – Bylaws Revisions

ARTICLE XVII
REVISIION OF BYLAWS  page 13


Rationale: If any/all of the proposed amendments are approved in September 2022, they will be included in the next revised printing of the Western Zone Bylaws.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR RENY MEMBERS

Do you know of a retired educator, or the spouse of a retired educator, who is experiencing difficulty in meeting the increased daily expenses of everyday living and has a need for financial assistance in paying fuel, medical, dental, homecare or other bills? Or do you find yourself in such a situation yourself? There is assistance available! In memory of its first President, Robert R. DeCormier of the Retired Educators of New York, RENY established a fund that continues to provide financial aid to retired members and spouses who are members of RENY and are facing this dilemma. In some cases, a monthly stipend is granted, which enables an individual to continue to meet the daily expenses of living. In other instances, a “special grant” is given that provides coverage for an unexpected financial burden. If you know anyone that is a member of RENY and is in need of financial assistance, or for additional information, please contact the Chair, Anne Flansburg at 716-863-3631. You may also download an application and/or learn more about the fund at RetiredEducatorsNY.org. On the home page, click on “Membership” and then “Financial Assistance” under “Member Benefits”. Please share this information with others who may not be familiar with this valuable resource.
Cordially invites members and guests to attend

The Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Altons Columns Banquet Hall  2221 Transit Road, Elma, N.Y.

9:30-10:00  Registration, Split Raffle Tickets Sale to benefit DeCormier Fund,
Fruit, Pastries, Coffee and Tea

10:00-10:45  Program: Steve Bell---Unity Through Rhythm/Drumming Experience

11:00-12:00  General Membership Meeting

12:15  Luncheon and Split Drawing followed by Board Meeting

Choice of:

1.  Chicken Cordon Bleu  $33.00
2.  Salmon w/ Lobster Dill Sauce  $35.00
3.  Vegetable Lasagna  $30.00

Reservation Deadline: Friday September 9, 2022

Checks Payable to: RENY/Western Zone

Mail to: Maria Hager, 898 Geer Road Arcade NY, 14009 (716-307-3083)

_____________________________________________________________

Detach and mail lower portion only.  Keep upper portion as your reminder.

Name__________________________________________________________

Address________________________________________________________________________

NYSRTA/RENY Member?  Yes  No  Local Unit_____________________________

E-Mail address_________________________________________Meal Choice_________________

Guest__________________RENY Member?  Yes  No  Meal Choice___________________
Western Zone pays tribute to educators who passed away from July 1, 2019 to May 31, 2022. These recently departed friends and colleagues guided and inspired us, and served as role models and mentors. They instilled knowledge, taught skills and nurtured a love of learning in countless students whose lives they touched in their many years of teaching. May they rest in eternal peace.

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<th>DECEASED</th>
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<th>EDUCATORS</th>
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Schumacher, Linda**  
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Slivan, Barbara  
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Smith, Dorcas M.*  
Snyder, Harold R*  
Soeder, Cathy  
Songin, Margaret  
Spitzer, Donald J.*  
Stalling, Mildred  
Stanton, Nancy J*  
Starkey, Sheila  
Stein, Myra (Bobbie)  
Stephan, Lois*  
Stephan, Norma B.*  
Stephan, Paul  
Stephan, Rita Dianne*  
Stephens, Lillie  
Steverson, Florence*  
Stiegler, George J.*  
Stoddaro, Susan  
Storey, Wilbur*  
Strong, Jean  
Sutton, Gary  
Sutton, Joan E  
Szaworski, Dorothy  
Szczepura, Frank Edward*  
Szypelman, Mary Ann*  
Tarantino, Amelia*  
Thompson, Marie Ella  
Thompson, Sybrnee  
Thorne, Lois*  
Thursam, Nancy  
Tober, Bonnie F.*  
Toepfer, Conrad  
Torrey, Catherine  
Turnbull, Llewellyn*  
Turner, Eileen  
Turton, Allen  
Uncapher, N. Willard  
Urban, Bettie  
Vaidhyathanant, Vish  
Vales, Clara*  
Vanderhelte, Gerald  
Vinal, Mary  
Vitello, Evelyn  
Vodraska, Florence  
Voit, Richard*  
Vossler, Joanne  
Waddell, Marjorie  
Wahlenmayer, Gerald*  
Wahlgren, Margaret*  
Walker, Jeanne  
Walker, Lois*  
Waltz, Catherine  
Ward, Mary Lou*  
Warmbrodt, Evelyn S.*  
Warmbrodt, William*  
Weaver, Adrian  
West, Delcene  
Whitwell, Doris  
Wiatrowski, Linda M.*  
Wilson, Frances*  
Wilson, Richard  
Winiecki, Paul*  
Winkler, Patricia*  
Witzleben, Elizabeth*  
Wojdyla, Gerald J.*  
Wrobel, Stella*  
Wylkstra, Marion H.*  
Yates, James IV  
Zanghi, Ruth  
Zdarsky, Orfina  
Zerkowski, Frances H*  
Zerkowski, Frances*  
Ziegelhofer, Paul F*  
Zielinski, Genevieve*  
Zogaria, Molly  

WESTERN ZONE  
DECEASED  
RETIRED  
EDUCATORS  
JULY 1, 2020 –  
JUNE 30, 2021  

*NYSRTA/RENY member  
**Honorary Board Member  
***Board Member

Adams, Bruce  
Adams, Laura  
Airey, Laura  
Allenbach, Marilyn  
Anding, Meredith  
Anelli, Michael*  
Arbocast, Betty  
Auglio, Louis*  
Baddlato, Louis*  

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<th>Allen, James</th>
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<td>Allen, Jeanne</td>
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<td>Costanzo, Jane*</td>
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<td>Coyne, Michael</td>
<td>Crawford, Celeste*</td>
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Western Zone Fall Trip

There are currently four seats available on Western Zone’s September 25-30, 2022 bus trip to the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. The trip will feature four spectacular high energy shows, a guided bus tour of the Smoky Mountains as well as a trip to the Titanic Museum, the Alcatraz East Crime Museum, and other points of interest. For additional information, call Anne Flansburg at 716-863-3631.

Anyone with good knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order- please call Michelle Claus at 716-481-5279

Save the Date: Western Zone Annual Meeting, September 21, 2022. The reservation form is included on page 15.

Please be current on your RENY dues. Any questions, please call/text/email Michelle Claus, 716-481-5279. joeclaus@msn.com