

NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION/RENY 72ND ANNUAL MEETING & CONVENTION



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“Beauty, Bounty & Bravery”
October 11–13, 2023
Hosted by RENY North Central Zone
Turning Stone Resort and Casino
Verona, New York

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President | Dr. James Newell
Senior Vice President | Gayla LePage
Treasurer | **Leigh Powell*CR**
Secretary | Mary Lou Wood
Friendly Service Vice President | Lois Thornberg
Legislative Action Vice President | Mary Johnson
Membership Vice President | Dell Ford Jordan
Immediate Past President | **Kevin Mulligan*CR**

ZONE PRESIDENTS

Central | Ray Pitcher
Central Western | Mary Beth Tyndall
Eastern | Janice Mullins
Long Island | **Eileen Holmes*CR**
North Central | Elwood “Woody” Lyndaker
Northeastern | Connie LaLonde & Cheryl Dodds
Northern | Gayla LePage
Southeastern | Donna Harness
Southern | Gerardo “Jerry” Tagliaferri
Western | Michelle Claus

SITE COMMITTEE

Chair | **Leigh R. Powell*CR**
 William Tenity
 Dr. James Newell
Anne Flansburg *CR

WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

Chair | Senior Vice President Gayla LePage
Diane Hahn *CR
 Patricia Newell
 Lois Thornberg

NORTH CENTRAL ZONE OFFICERS

President - Elwood “Woody” Lyndaker
 1st Vice President - Rick Morris
 2nd Vice President - Patricia Newell
 Treasurer - Barbara Cole Russell
 Assistant Treasurer - **Carlyle T. Company*CR**
 Secretary - Ann Anderson

NORTH CENTRAL ZONE PLANNING COMMITTEE

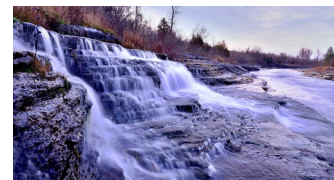
Kathy Allan	Linda Holley
Dick Bushnell	Jackie Maloney
Barb Cole-Russell	Rick Morris
Patty Corey	Dr. Jim & Pat Newell
Pat & Doug Dietrich	Nancy Roberts*CR
Toni Gigliotti	David & Marcia Schryver



72nd Annual Meeting and Convention

RENY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023



2:00 - 5:00pm Registration | Mohawk

Welcome reception: Coffee/tea/cookies. Basket raffle tickets will be available to purchase.

THEME: Beauty, Bounty & Bravery

2:00 - 3:00pm DeCormier Trust Meeting | Oak

3:00 - 5:00pm Community Service Committee Meeting | Tuscarora

3:00 - 5:00pm Insurance Trust Meeting | Seneca

3:00 - 5:30pm Legislative Action Committee Meeting | Canandaigua

4:00 - 5:00pm Friendly Service Committee Meeting | Onondaga

4:00 - 5:30pm Membership Committee Meeting | Chautauqua

4:30 - 5:00pm Credentials Committee Meeting | Oneida

6:00pm Dinner | Oneida

Welcome: Woody Lyndaker

Flag Salute: Rick Morris

Invocation: Dr. Jim Newell

Song Leader: Patricia Corey

Song: America The Beautiful

8:00pm Certificate of Recognition for Distinguished Service Award | Oneida

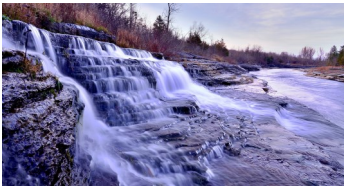
8:30pm Keynote Speaker



KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Michael Ringer A JOURNEY THROUGH THE NORTH COUNTRY Introduced by Patricia Newell

"My work in the North Country began in 1970. My intention was, then and remains, to record the incredible beauty of the St. Lawrence River and Adirondacks through my paintings, drawings, bronze sculptures, and intaglio prints. My introduction to the North Country began when I took a position as a junior high school teacher in Ogdensburg, New York. This is my journey....."

Biographical Background: The North Country comes alive with the artistic work of Michael Ringer. Many of his creations are focused on the Thousand Islands region. He is well known as the host of the national broadcast PBS show, "The Artist's World with Michael Ringer." Five books have been published on Mr. Ringer's work, and he is a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. His exhibitions have been featured in numerous local, state, and national galleries. His studio is located in Alexandria Bay. His works are on display at his galleries in Clayton and in Alexandria Bay. Beyond a doubt, Michael Ringer has carved out a reputation as one of the foremost artists in the region.



72nd Annual Meeting and Convention

RENY



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023

- 7:00 - 9:00am** Breakfast Buffet | **Oneida**
- 7:30 - 8:00am** Eastern Zone Caucus | **Tuscarora**
- 7:30 - 8:00am** Long Island Zone Caucus | **Onondaga**
- 7:30 - 8:00am** Western Zone Caucus | **Seneca**
- 9:00 - 12:00pm** Registration | **Mohawk**
- 9:00 - 10:00am** Session 1 Workshops (*see page 6 for choices - CHOOSE ONLY 1 TO ATTEND*)
- 10:30 - 11:30am** Session 2 Workshops (*see page 7 for choices - CHOOSE ONLY 1 TO ATTEND*)
- 11:30pm** Lunch | **Oneida**
- 1:15 - 4:30pm** 1st Session Annual Meeting | **Oneida** (*see next page for meeting agenda*)
- 5:00 - 6:00pm** Cocktail Party | **Mohawk (CASH BAR)**
The theme of this years cocktail party is "Masquerade Ball". Bring your own 1920's era mask or any mask you can find and join in on the fun!
- 6:00 - 8:15pm** Buffet Dinner | **Oneida**
Split Club and basket raffle winners announced - Trivia Night information given immediately following dinner
- 8:30pm** Trivia Contest | **Mohawk**



GRAB A FRIEND...

GRAB A STRANGER...

AND GRAB A TABLE IN THE MOHAWK ROOM TO JOIN

IN ON THE FUN!





Thursday, October 12, 2023
Annual Meeting | Oneida Room
1:-15 PM – 4:30PM



Invocation: Gayla LePage
Pledge of Allegiance: **Bob Joyce *CR**
President: Dr. James Newell, presiding
Parliamentarian: Carol Schilansky
Timekeeper: Diane Bonenfant, Finance and Budget Chair

Standing Committee Reports

Bylaws: William Tenity, Chair
Finance and Budget: Diane Bonenfant, Chair
Membership: Dell Ford Jordan, Vice President
Resolutions: Dr. James Newell
Nominations: **Judy Farmer *CR**, Chair

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President: Dr. James Newell
Senior Vice President: Gayla LePage
Secretary: Mary Lou Wood
Treasurer: **Leigh Powell *CR**
Membership: Dell Ford Jordan
Friendly Service: Lois Thornberg
Legislative Action: Mary Johnson

Announcements

Secretary's Report: Mary Lou Wood
President's Report: Dr. James Newell
Treasurer's Report: **Leigh Powell *CR**

Standing Committee Reports Continue

Friendly Service: Lois Thornberg, Vice President
Historian: **Carol Lord *CR**, Chair
Certificate of Recognition: **Carol Lord *CR**, Chair
Health Care: **Mary Ella Moeller *CR**, Chair
Legislative Action: Mary Johnson, Vice President
Credentials: Marti Martin, Chair
Site: **Leigh Powell *CR**, Chair
Community Service: **Eileen Holmes *CR**, Chair
Public Relations: Linda Crosby, Chair

Reports of Trust

Insurance Trust: **Bob Joyce *CR**, Chair
Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust: **Anne Flansburg *CR**, Chair

New Business

Adjournment

SESSION 1 WORKSHOP CHOICES 9:00 - 10:00am

Choose ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CHOICES

Hopenhagan Farms | Tuscarora



Introducer: Pat Deitrich

Presenter: Mary Rumble

Description: Come learn about the adventure of a retired teacher's path into agriculture and how we started a hop and lavender farm on our land. Located in Copenhagen, NY, we are a small scale farm that provides retail and bulk sales along with a storefront, a 20c kitchen, and an authentic tea room. During the presentation, she will be discussing growing, harvesting, drying, and distilling lavender along with many other uses that we implement at their farm.

About Presenter: Mary Rumble has an Associate of Applied Science from SUNY Morrisville, a Bachelor of Science from SUNY Oswego and a Master of Science in Education-Literacy from SUNY Potsdam. She has experience of fifteen years in the dairy industry and twenty-five years in education at Carthage Central School District. She currently is a specialty crop farmer.

Economic Update from High Probability Advisors | Canandaigua/Chautauqua



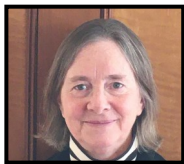
Introducer: Leigh Powell*CR and Diane Bonenfant

Presenter: Dr. Jeff Coon

Description: The volatility of the last few years has brought anxiety back into the market for individuals and institutions alike. As Chief Risk Officer of Institutional Services, Dr. Coon is uniquely equipped to diagnose and speak to current economic conditions and how they are impacting the investment landscape. Please join us for a presentation, as well as a Q and A period with an industry expert.

About Presenter: Jeff has over thirty years of investment industry experience, serving a wide variety of investment-related and management-related roles at the firm, including as a C-suite executive, a research director, a risk manager, an investment strategist/economist, a quantitative and fundamental portfolio manager, and an investment consultant. Jeff's academic background includes a BA in Economics from the University of Rochester and a Ph.D. in economics from Temple University

Lost Villages of Fort Drum | Cayuga



Introducer: Woody Lyndaker

Presenter: Dr. Laurie Rush

Description: In 1940 when Fort Drum expanded, over 350 families lost their farms. The citizens of five villages lost their homes and indigenous people could no longer hunt and fish on land they had used and managed for thousands of years. This presentation will introduce and discuss this important piece of regional history.

About Presenter: Dr. Rush has a BA from Indiana University and a Ph.D. from Northwestern. She has been the Army Archeology and Native American Liaison at Fort Drum for over twenty years. Her research specialty is Native Americans of the Great Lakes, and she is an internationally recognized authority on protecting cultural heritage. She is a fellow of the American Academy in Rome, a University of Pennsylvania Consulting Scholar, and a Smithsonian Research Associate.

Aging Gracefully and Faithfully - Things You Need to Know....From Head to Toe | Seneca



Introducer: Jackie Maloney

Presenter: Dianne Ferrucci - RENY member since 2011

Description: This program is for anyone who is aging, caring for a loved one, or is experiencing a compromising lifestyle and want to experience fully the joy of aging gracefully and faithfully. Diane will teach you ways to navigate through your aging journey with dignity, grace, and faithful new powerful practices. You will learn to adapt to realistic effective behaviors that will empower you to fully enjoy this chapter of your life. Suggestions will be discussed for things you need to know from head to toe. Aging gracefully and faithfully is a holy invitation to embrace this sacred season of your life.

About Presenter: Diane graduated from SUNY Brockport, and got her masters at Nazareth College. She taught Physical Ed in the Rochester City Schools for 31 years. She is a Certified Personal Trainer, a Professional Life Coach, and a Nutrition Specialist. She developed a weight loss program that was featured on the Dr. Phil show. Diane is also a trained Reiki, specializing in holistic health and wellness. As an Intentional Disciple Minister, licensed brain technician, end-of-life care specialist, and certified to work with mentally challenged clients. She practices everything she has learned on her 90-year-old husband, Michael, and both are reaping the benefits of aging gracefully and faithfully.

It's OK to Scream In The Shower | Onondaga



Introducer: Gayla LePage

Presenter: Holly Chorba - RENY Life member since 2004

Description: Do you believe that you, or your significant other will live forever? So how do you possibly manage when the inevitable comes? How can you be proactive, regardless of who survives? How do you carry grief, yet carry on? Holly will share information and resources that led her from pervasive grieving, to calm surviving, to actual thriving in the years following the death of beloved spouse of 30 years. Learn how to address future practical needs for immediate action following loss as well as gather resources for regaining equilibrium and moving forward to acceptance and constructive contentment.

About Presenter: Holly Chorba has been a North Country resident and educator since she began her teaching career at Brushton-Moira Central School in 1971. She enjoyed 30 years in formal education, including teaching biology, chemistry, serving as Curriculum Coordinator, Director of Instruction, and Jr/Sr High School Principal at BMC and Potsdam Central School. She retired in 2004 and continues learning and teaching, primarily through her work as a photographer, video producer, and writer. Her book, It's Okay...Scream in the Shower, published in 2021 pays forward the support she received from spiritual insight, family, friends, and media.

SESSION 2 WORKSHOP CHOICES 10:30 - 11:30am

Choose ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CHOICES



Ft Drum & The 10th Mountain Division | Tuscarora

Introducer: Woody Lyndaker

Presenter: Kent Bolke

Description: This will present the history of Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division.

About Presenter: Kent Bolke grew up in an army family in El Paso, Texas and served in the Coast Guard. He has a Bachelors Degree in history from the University of Texas at El Paso and a Masters Degree in museum studies from the University of Oklahoma. He has served with the Army's Air Defense Artillery Museum at Fort Bliss, the 1st Infantry Division in Wurzburg, Germany, and the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Museum since December 2006. He is currently the Director of the Museum.



TRS | Canandaigua/Chautauqua

Introducer: Kevin Mulligan*CR

Presenter: Richard Young & The TRS Team

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



Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust | Onondaga

Introducer: Dr. James Newell

Presenter: Mark Pacilio and Linda Gibbs

Description: The presentation will provide an overview of the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, including a description of its conservation easements on more than 22,000 acres of farm and forest lands in six counties of the region. It will include an overview of its community outreach and education programs.



About Presenters: Linda Gibbs, Community Programs Director, is a graduate of SUNY CESF, Syracuse (B.S. Forestry and Wildlife Management), and Antioch New England, Keene, NH (M.S.T. Environmental Education). She has worked as an environmental educator and natural resources specialist in New York, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Colorado. Linda joined Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust as its Community Programs Director in 2018, having worked for the land trust previously in its younger years. She enjoys helping others learn about their natural surroundings, find joy in its complexity, and take action to steward the planet more sustainably.

Mark Pacilio, Executive Director, has had a long career in nonprofit management and in local and state government. He came to Tug Hill in August of 2022 after the departure of their long-time Executive Director. Mark has a B.S. from Utica College of Syracuse University and an M.P.A. from the University of Delaware.



Garden Smart - Tips for an Eco-Friendly Garden | Cayuga

Introducer: Diane Hahn

Presenter: Rosanne Loparco

Description: The aim of any gardener is to have a healthy and productive garden that has minimal impact on our ecosystem. It takes more thought, but you'll save precious resources while making a positive impact on the environment. Learn about proper plant choices, smart ways to garden, using resources efficiently, and how to incorporate native plants into your garden.

What is an organic pesticide? You will learn how to identify them and what choices are better to use. Finally, learn how to reduce, reuse, and recycle items around your home and turn them into garden treasure.

About Presenter: Rosanne Loparco is a Master Gardener Volunteer with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County. She's been an active volunteer for the last fifteen years as well as a member of the Cornell Board of Directors. Rosanne is retired from the Air Force Research Lab in Rome, NY where she served as the Senior Business Manager. She recently worked as a garden associate at George's Greenhouse in Clinton, NY as well as a customer service representative at Bonide Garden Products in Oriskany, NY. Now, she is COMPLETELY retired and enjoying talking to the public about responsible gardening.



Strength Balance & Aging | Seneca

Introducer: Patricia Newell

Presenter: Dr. Joel Van Slyke

Description: Dr. Joel VanSlyke is the lead physical therapist and owner of Choice Physical Therapy, PLLC in Corning, NY. He will provide specialized knowledge about how our bodies and aging and how we can maintain our strength and balance as we age.

About Presenter: Dr. Joel is a board certified clinical specialist (GCS) with specialized knowledge pertaining to how our bodies age. This includes diagnosis and treatment of arthritis, back pain, balance and safety issues, and general strength, endurance and mobility. In his 20 years practicing as a physical therapist, he has worked with all ages (0-107!) in many settings. He enjoys sharing his experience to groups like RENEY. Personally, Dr. Joel enjoys spending time with his two children and learning the joys of raising teenagers. His hobbies include volleyball, skiing, hiking, casual running and bike riding, kayaking, or virtually anything outdoors. He also plays trumpet and loves



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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

7:00 - 9:00am

Breakfast Buffet | Oneida

9:00 - 11:30AM

Annual Meeting Session 2 (if needed) | Oneida

Time Pending
Based on Meeting

Executive Meeting | Canandaigua/Chautauqua

On behalf of the Retired Educators of New York
and the North Central Zone



Barb Cole Russell, Woody Lyndaker, Pat and Dr. Jim Newell, Jackie Maloney and Rick Morris

We wish you safe travels and good health!

Delegates

CENTRAL ZONE

Colette Astoria	Lee Beals	Marilyn Dominick
Lynn Grandjean	Jane Hicks	Darlene Jarvis
Stella King	Mary Ann Luciano	Pat Soposki
Peg Reding	Judith Schad	Vera Wolczek
	Laural Artz *ALT	Brian Brennan*ALT

CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE

Pat Dick	Deb Dorgan	Meena Gehani
Kathy Grandjean	John Hogan*CR	Elisa Keating
Elaine Leasure	William Lesniak	Rita Lesniak
Linda Locklear	Sue Nellany	Annette Schiano
	Carol Westlake	Betty Weber Worden

EASTERN ZONE

Ken Bollerud	Carolyn Bovee	Albert Ciejka
Gloria Ciejka	Lisa Devaren	Diane Hahn*CR
Marjorie Leibowitz	Pamela Love	Thomas Mullins
Rosalie Oliver	Ann Stafford	

LONG ISLAND ZONE

Fred Conway	Lesley Conway	Agnes Dansereau
Ruth Doroski	Angelo Grande*CR	Kathryn Grande
Dominick LiCausi	Susan LiCausi	Rosemary McKinley
Jo Anne Powell	Bob Svoboda	Alicia Winowsky

NORTH CENTRAL ZONE

Jacqueline Maloney	Richard Morris
Patricia Newell	Barbara Cole-Russell

NORTHEASTERN ZONE

Kathy Caron	Judith Corigliano	Bonnie Gregware
Tracey Howard	Jim Howard	Sandy Lashua

SOUTHEASTERN ZONE

Bob Brady	Janet Carey	Ed Coffey
Maureen Coffey	Mary Lou Davis	Patti DeLeo
Cheryl Fischer	Geri Grammas	Leon Harrold*CR
Helen Hoering	Joan Schauer	

NORTHERN ZONE

Helen Boyea	Ron Boyea	Holly Chorba
Betty Cook	Tom Cook	Phil LePage

SOUTHERN ZONE

Debbi Deats	Lynne Hunkovic	Jean McCormick
Vince Smith*CR	Nancy Spaulding	Bonnie Stratton
	Mary Suffern	

WESTERN ZONE

John Cardarella	Carol Cascio	Karen Gembar
Russ Gervasi	Tom Giambra	Beth Green
Maria Hager	Sandy Kelley	Doris Kirsch*CR
Suzanne Lach	Cynthia Mehary	Pat Miceli
Joe Miceli	Barbara O'Shea	Donna Potter
Audrey Seidel	Richard Siegel	Cindy Siegel
Judith Toner	Vicki Smith	Nancy White