



CALENDAR

January 3, 2024 Board mtg ...cancelled
no further dates are yet available

DIRECTORY

President Eileen Holmes
Vice President Valentine Stype
Secretary Alicia Winowsky
Treasurer Dominick LiCausi
Awards Chair Mary Ella Moeller
Awards Co-Chair Jo Anne Powell
Bylaws Chair Jo Anne Powell
Community Service Angelo Grande
Finance & Budget Chair Leigh Powell
Friendly Service Chair Alicia Winowsky
Friendly Service Co-Chair Dee McKinnon
Health Advocacy Chair Jo Anne Powell
Historian Valentine Stype
Legislation Action Valentine Stype
Membership Chair Ruth Doroski
Nominations Chair Kathy Grande
Program Chair Valentine Stype
Public Relations Chair Eileen Holmes
Resolutions Chair Ruth Doroski
Newsletter Editor, Website Jo Anne Powell
EERTA President Dominick LiCausi
WERTA Acting President Jo Anne Powell

Now that we have an email service,
sending out bulletins has been facilitated.
If you are reading this on the RENY
website, please send your email address
to KCEcala@nysrta.org (and your news to
lizonenews@gmail.com) in order to receive
LIZ NEWS BULLETINS directly!

Featured Educator

With the continued hope that no news is good news, our monthly newsletter has added an occasional feature article. In this issue, we highlight the career of Huntington educator, **Jack Abrams** (1930-2020).

Jack was a '48 graduate of Andrew Jackson High School, served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in Korea, graduated from New Paltz with an Education major, and received advanced degrees from Hofstra and Columbia.

His 57-year career in Huntington began as a sixth grade teacher at Woodbury Avenue Elementary School (sadly demolished in 1987), where he filled his classroom with fascinating artifacts and excited his students with lively scientific topics. He then served as the district's Elementary Schools Science Co-ordinator, as well as the principal at Nathan Hale, Woodbury, Washington, Village Green, Woodhull, and Jefferson Elementary Schools, as well as Toaz/Finley's Sixth Grade School, where he introduced sixth graders to the program at Camp Greenkill in Huguenot for four days & three nights of hands-on outdoor educational activities. Loving time spent in the classroom, he spent a year teaching fifth grade at Sidcup, Bexley, in London, through the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program - as well as another year as a third grade teacher in Northport while on sabbatical.

In his 1987 retirement, he founded and curated the Huntington Schools Heritage Museum, which houses over 1,500 historic artifacts from its union free schools. After 25 years in that position, Mr. Abrams retired again in 2012, and he and his wife, Eileen, divided their time between East Northport and Florida, until her death in the following year.



In 2008, the Huntington School Board voted to rename Huntington Intermediate School in honor of Jack Abrams. The formal dedication attracted several hundred students, colleagues, and family members.

His two daughters, Kathi Abrams and Jodi Donohue, his extended family of Anthony, Nicole, Dustin and Jack (for whom he landscaped personal dynamic paths through his adventurous backyard), as well as retired colleagues (to whom he mailed interesting newsletters), and the numerous students he inspired (many of whom he stayed in touch with) remember him fondly, as evidenced by the massive turnout at his memorial!

If you would like an outstanding teacher recognized, please send the information & permission to Lizonenews@gmail.com.

Legislative Action

N.Y.S. Senate bill S8388A and Assembly bill A 07866 would protect retirees and their dependents from public employers diminishing health insurance benefits. The bill is currently in the Senate Civil Service & Pensions Committee and amended by the Assembly last month. Please write or call in support of these bills to your state assemblyman (nyassembly.gov/mem/search/), state senator (nysenate.gov/find-my-senator) and Governor Hochul (518-474-8390).