



## President's Message By Gayla LePage



As I write my first President's Message, I am once more struck by how much I love this organization. It is such an honor to have been elected as your President. Am I apprehensive? Yes, but I will do my best to lead us forward.

I am very lucky to have my husband, Phil, by my side as I take on this venture. (Yeah, he did raise his card and voted No during the election at the convention, but he is always my rock. He may think he is funny.) I am also fortunate to have other great people by my side, I am so pleased that **Judy Farmer\*CR** agreed to be my Vice President. I will have **Dr. Jim Newell** as my Immediate Past-President as well. It also goes without saying that I have our wonderful staff, Kathi Bassett and Kristen Valentine who are only an email or phone call away. I feel, together, we will be a great team.

I have been searching for a particular focus for my Presidency. I have come up with three: a unified membership, a fiscally responsible organization, and a membership revival. The hardest one of course is the membership revival. It will continue to be our main challenge, but together we will hopefully make progress on this.

I hope to visit many of the zones, so please let me know when you are gathering for a meeting so that I may drop in and say hello. I know that Jim visited quite a few and thought this was a very nice thing to do, so I would like to continue it.

In conclusion, I have decided to do a little of our history in each President's message. **Kevin Mulligan\*CR** and my presentation about the history of the New York State Retired Teachers Association was well received as one of the workshops at the convention so I will add snippets from it in each one of my messages. Here is the first. "In the beginning - November 18, 1951, New York State Retired Teachers' Association was formed. Representatives from the 1st six zones (Eastern, Western, Central Western, Central, Southern and Southeastern) met in Rochester, NY to elect officers to serve the newly formed New York State Retired Teachers Association. **Robert R. DeCormier** from Poughkeepsie, NY, in the Southeastern Zone, was elected President, a position he would hold for 15 years, until 1966."



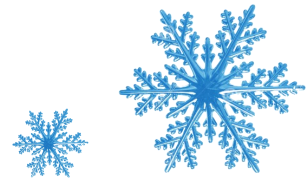
Many members of RENY live in areas that been devastated by the recent hurricanes. If you or any RENY member that you know has been adversely affected financially by these storms, the **Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund is here to help**. The Trust Fund was established to provide monetary assistance to RENY members who are in financial need and certainly this is one of those times.

You can receive additional information and download a Special Grant Application on the website <https://retirededucatorsny.org/financial-assistance/> - This URL will take you to the financial assistance section of our website. You may also obtain an application for a Special Grant by calling the Chair of the Trust, **Anne Flansburg\*CR** at 716-863-3631 or by emailing her at [anneflanswz@aol.com](mailto:anneflanswz@aol.com). The grants not only help those who are affected by the recent storms, they may be able to help you in various other ways. Please visit our site for more information.



## **Vice President's Report**

**by Judith Farmer, Senior Vice President**

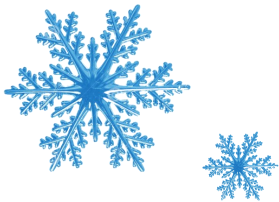


Thank you for choosing me as your Senior Vice President of RENY. I look forward to serving you in that capacity. Aside from supporting our President, one of my more important tasks during my term is serving as the chair of the Annual Workshop Committee. As the chair, I will be responsible for making sure that RENY has quality and informative workshops during our annual meeting that are both informative and interesting for all attendees.

At a special online meeting in November, the Board of Directors voted to change the structure of the 2025 Annual Meeting and Convention. The office staff, the Workshop Committee, the Host Zone, and I are working together to follow this structure as we plan the 2025 Convention.

This year, the Teachers Retirement System, (TRS), will be the keynote speaker, allowing all participants to hear important information and updates concerning their pensions. Four workshops will be offered on the morning of the business meeting. The Central Zone, (this years host zone) will secure two workshops, provide the decorations, and sell the raffle tickets. The office staff and Workshop Committee will be working to secure the other two workshops. And, to allow all of you who are competitive a chance to be "The Winners", we plan to bring back Trivia Night.

We want to make this year's convention productive, interesting, and fun. If you are interested in attending, please contact your Zone President and ask how YOU can be a delegate for your zone and join in on the fun!



## **Legislative Action Report**

**by Janice Mullins, VP for Legislative Action**



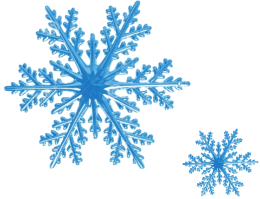
Happy New Year! The RENY Legislative Action Committee is already at work planning our 2025 advocacy priorities. President Trump and his new administration will have the reins. It's early and his campaign promises have left us with so many, "What if's". Often, promises on the surface sound beneficial for retirees but, all too often, the devil is in the details.

What if ...we no longer had to pay taxes on our social security benefit. This tax money currently contributes about 4%, an estimated \$50 billion, in annual revenue to the Social Security Trust Fund. It certainly would put more money in the pockets of retirees. However, without a plan to replace that money, experts say it could reduce the solvency of the social security program from 2033 to 2032. One year doesn't appear too threatening but cuts to our benefits would also begin one year earlier. It could also lead to decrease funding to Medicare pushing its potential insolvency forward from 2036 to 2030. We must be careful what we wish for.

What if...government spending was cut by \$2 trillion dollars. Experts say this could only be accomplished by making cuts to our Medicare, Social Security, and Veteran benefits. The cuts will also affect the size of the workforce that answers our calls to these agencies. How frustrating for seniors would that be?

What if...the Federal Department of Education is eliminated. Most feel that its complete elimination is highly unlikely. However, for NY schools it could mean more limited federal aid affecting special education programs, free school lunch programs, academic assistance programs, even funding to the US Special Olympics budget. It could also put pressure on school boards to cut retiree benefits. Maintaining current programs would certainly require our state legislators to rethink changes to the state's budget for education, foundation aid, and the current school tax cap for 2026.

Your LAC has a daunting task ahead as we monitor the potential for change and its effect on our state, our retirees, teachers, and school children. We are committed to our mission...to further legislation for the benefit of active and retired educators, and all retirees. If you would like to be a part of advocacy for your zone, contact Kristen in the RENY office. The larger our pool of advocates, the greater the number of elected officials we can reach, and the more far-ranging our voices and concerns will be heard.



## Membership Report

by Dell Ford Jordan, Vice President for Membership



We hope all of you, (RENY) enjoyed the 2024 Holiday Season! And are ready to begin 2025 with hope, gusto, and a renewed commitment to grow our beloved organization. We also welcome our newly elected RENY President **Gayla LePage** and are committed to give her all the support we can.

As stated in our last York State article, our 2024 Convention was a success; our theme for 2025 remains “Reconnect, Reclaim, and Recruit” (Reconnect with retired members, Reclaim inactive members and Recruit new members). Our commitment is to re-sell RENY, re-sell the Zone, and re-sell the Unit by sharing the positives of our organization and all of its benefits. All of this valuable information can be found in our updated application, our welcome letter and a list of our key services/benefits given to prospects.

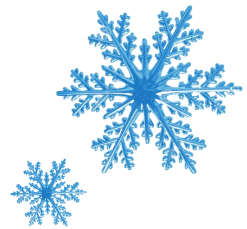
We are still in the process of determining the winners of the three (3) new member incentives for 2024:

1. \$50.00 paid to a member enrolling five (5) new RENY members during the year.
2. A \$500.00 incentive paid to a Zone who enrolls the largest number of new retirees by December 31, 2024.
3. A \$500.00 incentive paid to a Zone enrolling the largest percentage of new retirees by December 31, 2024.

*Stats/Gentle Reminders:* We had 9,703 members on November 30, 2024. This number included 700 90-year-olds and 105 100-year-olds. Our stats also showed a total of 86 new recruits for 2024; we are saddened at the loss of 464 members. As of 11/30/24 we had 360 non-paid members. Effective January 1, 2024 our Annual Dues increased to \$39.00; Lifetime Dues are now \$900.00.

If you have any ideas on how to increase our membership, please share with your Unit Membership Chair and with me at [reny.dfordjordan@yahoo.com](mailto:reny.dfordjordan@yahoo.com).

***WE THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO AND WILL DO FOR RENY.***



## Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund Report

by Mary Lou Davis , Trust Fund Treasurer and Trustee

The Robert R DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund was started over fifty years ago to help members who have financial needs. The fund is able to help some of our colleagues because of the generous support of the zones, units and individual members of RENY. Thank you to everyone who made donations to the fund. The members who you help with your donations appreciate the support they receive from the fund.

The Trust Fund is a 501 (C3) account. Donations are invested by the Sage Ruddy and Company, Inc. The interest is used to give monthly stipends to five of our members who need our help. Some donations are used for special grants. Special grant requests have been made for dental bills, hearing aids, eye glasses, moving expenses, a generator, a stair lift, insurance, utility bills, house repairs, and storm and hurricane damage.

The “Special Grant Application” is available on the website under Financial Assistance. For help with the form or questions, contact **Anne Flansburg\*CR** at 716-863-3631 or email her at [anneflanswz@aol.com](mailto:anneflanswz@aol.com).

**Donations to the fund can be mailed to the treasurer: Mary Lou Davis, 125 Andrews Road, Lagrangeville, NY 12540 –PLEASE DO NOT SEND DONATIONS TO THE RENY OFFICE.**

NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION					
BUDGET CODE	REVENUES	2023 ACTUAL	2024 PROPOSED	2024 Revised BUDGET	2025 PROPOSED
140	Dues-Annual	\$ 125,247.00	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 175,500.00
140A	Refund To Zones Annual Dues	\$ (41,749.00)	\$ (\$65,000.00)	\$ (65,000.00)	\$ (58,500.00)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 83,498.00	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 117,000.00
142	Dues-Life	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 4,500.00
142A	Refund To Zones Life Dues	\$ (3,000.00)	\$ (3,000.00)	\$ (3,000.00)	\$ (1,500.00)
	Net Total Dues	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
139 & 153	Convention Revenue	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
133	Dues-90yr.Olds	\$ 2,356.50	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,700.00
143	General Contributions	\$ 1,785.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
144	President Appeal Letter	\$ 64,703.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
143A	Insurance Trust	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
154	Misc. Revenue	\$ 2,650.41	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
156	Travel & Misc.	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
206	Advertising Revenue	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES		\$ 229,132.91	\$ 268,500.00	\$ 268,500.00	\$ 242,700.00
EXPENSES		2023 ACTUAL	2024 PROPOSED	2024 Revised BUDGET	2025 Proposed
	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>				
160	Office Operating	\$ 12,140.93	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 17,500.00
161	Office Equipment	\$ 701.98	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
162-145	Supplies,Print,Postage	\$ 7,605.34	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
164	Salaries	\$ 131,990.00	\$ 136,000.00	\$ 136,000.00	\$ 142,000.00
164A	Stipends	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
165-167, 179	Payroll Taxes	\$ 20,547.46	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
178	Auditing	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
178A	Legal	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
180	Insurance / Ins. Disability	\$ 6,275.48	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
180A	Employee Health Insurance	\$ 23,680.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
180B	Employee Life Insurance	\$ 685.40	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
181	Employee Pension	\$ 23,286.78	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,460.00
185	Contingency	\$ 379.70	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
186	President's Appeal Mailing	\$ 9,143.08	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
187	Merchant Service Fees	\$ 2,321.92	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
189	Membership Project Expense	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
191	Computer	\$ 11,203.16	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
193	Telephones and Equipment	\$ 2,059.16	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
197	Website	\$ 185.25	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00
TOTAL		\$ 264,705.64	\$ 257,250.00	\$ 257,250.00	\$ 267,710.00

		<i>2023 ACTUAL</i>	<i>2024 PROPOSED</i>	<i>2024 Revised BUDGET</i>	<i>2025 Proposed</i>
	<u>OFFICERS</u>				
183	President's Travel	\$ 258.98	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
184	Other Officer's Travel	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
182	President's Fund Outlay	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 258.98</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
	<u>MEETINGS</u>				
169	Executive Committee	\$ 10,500.36	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
173A	Annual Workshop Expense	\$ 14,004.27	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
172	Annual Convention Expense	\$ 38,201.33	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 62,705.96</b>	<b>\$ 54,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 54,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 54,000.00</b>
	<u>NEWSLETTER</u>				
163	York State	\$ 20,346.96	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 20,346.96</b>	<b>\$ 11,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,000.00</b>
	<i>EXPENSES</i>	<i>2023 ACTUAL</i>	<i>2024 PROPOSED</i>	<i>2025 Revised BUDGET</i>	<i>2024 Proposed</i>
	<u>COMMITTEES</u>				
170	Legislative Action	\$ 908.34	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
171	Friendly Service		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
173	Annual Workshop Committee		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Bylaws		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Certificate of Recognition	\$ 98.87	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Community Service		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Finance & Budget		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Personnel Committee		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
174	Credentials		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
174	Historian	\$ 25.80	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
174	Membership	\$ 550.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
174	Nominations		\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
174	Public Relations		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
174	Resolutions		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
174	Site		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
192	Health Care		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
185A	Adhoc		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,583.01</b>	<b>\$ 9,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,000.00</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 349,600.55</b>	<b>\$ 332,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 332,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 342,710.00</b>

**DIRECTORY 2024 - 2025**  
**RENY - RETIRED EDUCATORS OF NEW YORK**  
**P.O. BOX 490, AMSTERDAM, NY 12010 TEL: 518-482-3509**  
**www.retirededucatorsny.org**

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**LIZ** - Ruth Doroski (631) 722-4316

**NCZ** - Elwood "Woody" Lyndaker (315) 788-6344

**NEZ** - Beverly Kie (518) 563-1543

**NZ** - Linda Crosby (518) 483-4312

**SEZ** - VACANT

**SZ** - Jerry Tagliaferri (607) 724-4952

**WZ** - Suzy Schmidt (585) 343-7346

**ADVISORS:**

**CZ** - William Tenity 315-246-0529

**NEZ** - Roderick Driscoll (518) 569-9115

## **SITE**

**LIZ Chair:** Leigh Powell\*CR (631) 338-4441

**CZ** - William Tenity\*CR 315-246-0529

**NCZ** - President Gayla LePage (518) 569-3612

**WZ** - Anne Flansburg\*CR (716) 863-3631

## **THE INSURANCE TRUST**

**NEZ Chair:** Robert Joyce\*CR (518) 563-6314 (term ends 12/31/25)

**EOM** - Kathi Bassett (518) 482-3509

**EZ** - Diane Hahn\*CR (518) 477-6156 (term ends 12/31/25)

**NEZ** - President Emeritus Ron Wilson\*CR (518) 593-3102  
(term ends 12/31/29)

**NCZ** - President Emeritus Carlyle T. Campany\*CR (315) 686-3098  
(term ends 12/31/26)

**SEZ** - Leon Harrold\*CR (845) 292-6903 (term ends 12/31/26)

## **ROBERT R. DECORMIER MEMORIAL TRUST**

**WZ Chair:** Anne Flansburg\*CR (716) 863-3631

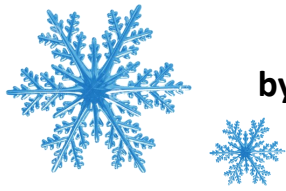
**WZ** - Secretary Beth Green (716) 499-8432

**SEZ** - Treasurer Mary Lou Davis (845) 223-5544

**NEZ** - Trustee Dick Brogowski (518) 561-6573

**NZ** - Trustee Joe Russo (315) 848-5326

**CZ**— Trustee Colette Astoria (315) 591-0491



## Friendly Service Report

by Judith Corigliano, Vice President for Friendly Service

### “Recharging our Batteries”



There’s chicken soup on the stove, a warm fire dancing in the wood stove, and I looking forward to sending the new year’s cycle of birthday cards to family and friends. For me it’s a time to hunker down, revise the winter reading and to-do list, scan the seed catalogs as they arrive in hopes of some new gardening delights. The days will begin to get shorter, and we can think of it as a time to recharge those batteries. Feed the soul, nourish our minds and bodies.

Some of us are like bears, sleeping later, keeping warm, eating comfort foods and hoping for snow without the icy walks and roads. Maybe daydreaming of sunny warmer melt days. Or some of us are like the birds.... headed or are already south to start spring early in warmer climes before the heat of summer and the fly back to home climes.

What ever your winter months look like... keep in mind you can feed your soul and body with recharging activities, yes, volunteer to help where help is needed, teach someone or yourself a new skill. Remember a friend in need, with healing thoughts and prayers.

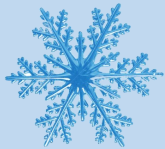
Keep smiling, a grin to a total stranger, a thank you when a door is held open, a generous tip, a simple phrase, “can I help you” .... will go a long way to brighten your world and someone else’s. In the end we can all be models in kindness in the communities we live or visit.

Remember to recharge by staying active, eating a healthy diet and exercising your mind.

Our RENY membership services always need volunteers, to recruit /renew memberships, join in with community service resourcing, and participate in Friendly Service mission. (they can always use cards, stamps and help with addressing and sharing statue and address changes)

Humbly yours, Judith Corigliano, VP Friendly Service

*Title and healthy Ideas borrowed from Daily Ohm and bright focu.org/ADR, respectively.*



# ZONE NEWS

## CENTRAL ZONE

**Submitted by Ray Pitcher, Zone President and Dr. Mary Ann Luciano, Public Relations Chair**

By this time, we will have information about the RENY Annual Meeting and Convention theme and will be sharing this information soon. The Central Zone worked diligently to determine this and to plan for their responsibilities on the pilot convention changes.



For community service, the Zone’s units focused on raising funds for local and county food banks. RENY Cayuga County had its fall dinner/meeting where a collection was taken and \$175 was raised for a local food pantry. RENY Chenango gave \$600 Community Service Funds, raised over two years of raffles and donations, to a county-wide food bank. At their Holiday Tea, the unit began fund raising for the next community service project. RENY Chenango Treasurer **Steve Runion**, President **Mary Ann Luciano**, and Events' Coordinator Member-at-Large **Sharon Wilson** present Catholic Charities Executive Director Robin Cotter a check for their Roots & Wings Food Bank that serve residents throughout the county

With the holidays, all units’ Friendly Service Committees were busy sending cards, Christmas and New Year’s to our older retirees. Our Friendly Service Key Workers are essential; aging does not mean being less active as our 80+ members continue to contribute to RENY’s valuable purposes.

Winter is a quiet time after the bustle of the holiday season and members leave for warmer places. However, in January the Chenango Unit held a Valentine & Friendship Card Making Workshop, in February will have a legislators’ letter and post-card writing get-together, and a March 14th National Pi Day Celebration with pizza pies.

The units have organizational meetings for the coming year, email updates, send out information on future educators’ scholarships, choose community service projects, arrange for future meetings, along with newsletter deadlines and mailings, and visit and write state legislators and congressional members. We will be active working in collaboration with other education partners on federal and state legislation topics that are important to retirees and current educators as RENY’s birth started with state policy change.





## EASTERN ZONE

Submitted by Pamela Love, Public Relations Chair



As Public Relations Chair of RENY/Eastern Zone. I want to thank the outstanding contributions of three of RENY/Eastern Zone current officers. They are, pictured at right, **Janice Mullins**, Zone President; **Marjorie Leibowitz**, Treasurer and **Lisa Devaren**, Secretary.

**Janice Mullins** has been President of RENY/Eastern Zone for a number of years, has chaired the Zone's State Legislative Action Committee for even longer and is now the State RENY Vice President for Legislative Action .

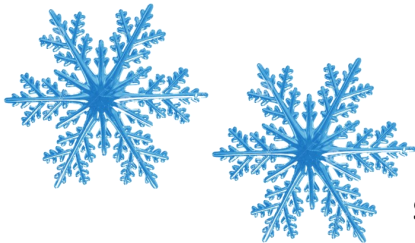
**Marjorie Leibowitz** has just become the Treasurer of RENY/Eastern Zone and still is the zone's Friendly Service Chairperson which she has held for a number of years. On the local unit level, she has been President of the Capital Region (RCRTA) Unit for a few years.

**Lisa Devaren** is the Secretary of RENY/Eastern Zone as well as Secretary of Capital Region (RCRTA) Unit.



Community Services Chairperson, **Joyce Notarnicola**, has set up a Facebook Page for Eastern Zone. If you are using Facebook, log into your page and in the search bar type in Eastern Zone of RENY. It will display a green circle with a dark green capital E, that's our Facebook page. Click like, and follow! The goal is to attract new members to RENY and Eastern Zone.

**Ellie Cusick**, Co-President of Greene County Unit, said that her unit had a Luncheon Meeting in October which included committee reports and a program commemorating the 80 years of D Day in Greene County. The unit will have their next luncheon meeting in May 2025.



## LONG ISLAND ZONE

Submitted by Eileen Holmes\*CR, Zone President



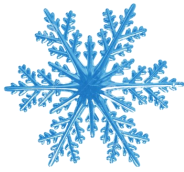
The Officers and Board members of the Long Island Zone held their first 2025 organizational meeting on January 29th at the Hauppague Diner. Setting the calendar for 2025, reviewing the LIZ budget, and deciding on community service projects and possible guest speakers were high on the agenda. It was a pleasure to invite four new RENY/LIZ members to this breakfast meeting and give everyone a chance to meet.

On a beautiful fall day around Thanksgiving Time, The West End unit enjoyed a wonderful outing to Little Shelter Animal Sanctuary and Rescue in Huntington. The shelter has over 300 kittens and cats and 40 dogs at the Huntington facility. Little Shelter also runs an upstate sanctuary for rescues deemed 'unadoptable' and assists the Huntington Town shelter on a daily basis. Along with a guided tour, a first-hand chance to see how organized and well-run the shelter is and an opportunity to make a well-deserved donation, WERTA members got a lot of good tips on the benefits of seniors adopting senior cats .

The East End unit enjoyed a gala Holiday Party on December 4th at the Villa Paul restaurant in Hampton Bays, complete with a visit from Santa Claus, a sing-along, a mega Christmas lottery raffle board, won by **Diana and Jim Davies**. The EERTA unit 's next planned get-together will be in the spring, when the snowbirds have returned and the weather has mellowed.

Pictured is **Fred Conway\*CR**, **Lesley Conway**, Santa and **Sue LiCausi**.





## NORTH CENTRAL ZONE

Submitted by Nancy Roberts\*CR and Patricia Newell, Public Relations Co - Chairs

NCZ website: [www.renyncz.org](http://www.renyncz.org)

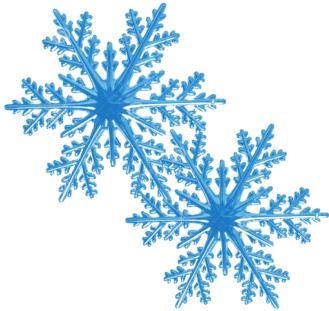


As this is written in December, Jefferson and Lewis Counties have been hit with two major lake effect snow storms this month with white out conditions and snow days for many of our schools. A tree farm in Copenhagen, Lewis County, closed their fields and was not letting people cut their own trees for safety reasons after the two storms piled up 103 inches of snow!

Our "Coats for Kids" committee with **Patty Corey** and **Toni Gigliotti** as Co-Chairs, have been busy distributing coats, boots, hats and snow pants to children in need. The picture shows **Toni Gigliotti**, on the right and Jessica Briones, site coordinator for Adirondack Central School, delivering 40 pairs of boots, 8 coats, and 28 hats to the school. So far this year, Patty and Toni have distributed a total of 59 coats, 59 pairs of boots, 6 snow pants and 28 hats. They work through schools, churches, County Social Services, Lewis County Opportunities, and Prenatal/Perinatal NNY Council to find children in need of winter items. This program is greatly appreciated in the local communities.



"Love Your Public Library" is another favorite community service project. At our September meeting Chair, Pat Dietrich, led a drawing of raffle tickets. Tickets are one dollar each. Enough tickets were sold to have five drawings resulting in fifty dollar awards. The libraries which received these awards were Brownville Glen Park library, Henderson Free Library, Brantingham Greg Reading Center, and Watertown Flower Memorial library received \$100. We are happy to support our local libraries.



### Dates to Remember:

NCZ Executive Council Meeting May 7, 2025, 10 a.m. at NNYCF

Spring Luncheon June 19, 2025 at Hilton Garden Inn

## NORTHEASTERN ZONE

Submitted by Cindi LaFountain, Public Relations Chair

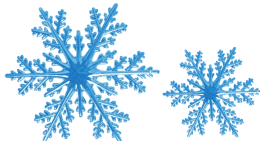


Our year ended with a wonderful luncheon meeting. We brought unwrapped toys to be donated to The Christmas Bureau to start it off. **Tracey Howard**, our new president, ran a very efficient meeting for her first time. She filled us in on convention updates and reports for members who were unable to attend. **Connie Lalonde**, the community service chair, reported that at each meeting there will be a collection for certain items to help those in our community. She also encouraged us to support *Enlisted for Life* and gave us volunteer opportunities that are available. Great ways to get our name out there.



After we had our meeting and lunch we were entertained by *The Towne Meeting* band. It is made up of mostly retired teachers. They sang some "new to us" Christmas songs and encouraged us to sing along with carols they played. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

We look forward to 2025 to invite new members, volunteer and spread good cheer. May it be a wonderful one for you all.



## NORTHERN ZONE

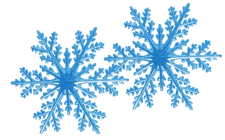
Submitted by Linda Crosby, Public Relations Chair



Snow is falling in the NZ!! A foot of the frosty concoction has covered yards this week in time for a white Christmas. Before the snow and cold arrived, our Fall Membership Meeting occurred on September 26th at the Nicandri Nature Center in Massena. Members took a quick tour of the nearby new Seaway Welcome Center, hoping to see a ship go through the locks on its way up the St. Lawrence River. The meeting began with a welcome by NZ President **Gayla LePage** and continued with minutes, treasurer's report, president's report and committee reports. Gayla reported on the March and July state meetings, 2024 convention plans and future conventions. She said the RENY Insurance Trust helps fund York State, the membership incentive awards and the Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant. Two membership incentive awards (\$500 each) will now be given, one to the zone with the highest number of new members and one to the zone with the highest percentage of new members. *More from Linda on the next page....*

## NORTHERN ZONE

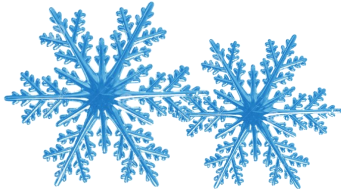
Submitted by Linda Crosby, Public Relations Chair



Gayla stated that the delegates to the convention were **Phil LePage, Gayla LePage, Tom Cook, Betty Cook, Ron Boyea, Helen Boyea, Diane Bonanfant, and Alice Galvin**. The membership voted to donate \$50 to the DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund. Many generous members donated \$1,100 to the NZ President's Appeal and \$430 to the NZ high school scholarship fund this fall. The membership voted in the following officers; President **Gayla LePage**, Vice-President **Rae Louise Tate**, Treasurer **Roxann Finley**, and Secretary **Betty Cook**.

Many thanks to the members of the Insurance Trust for increasing the five Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grants to \$2,000 each, given to five zones every year, to be presented to an active teacher in a N.Y. public school. They recognized the high cost of supplies and programs.

Finally, we would like to extend best wishes to our NZ President **Gayla LePage** as she begins her new journey as RENY President. As seen in the photo, **Alice Galvin** presented to Gayla a certificate of appreciation for her many years as our president (to be continued) and **Betty Cook** presented a beautiful flower arrangement to thank Gayla for all she has done for our zone.



## SOUTHEASTERN ZONE

Submitted by Maureen Coffey, Public Relations Chair

Well, here we are with our first York State in 2025. Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings, was always depicted with two faces, one looking forward and one looking back. Like Janus, all of us are looking ahead and making plans for this new year, but let's also look back at how we celebrated the holidays as we said goodbye to 2024.

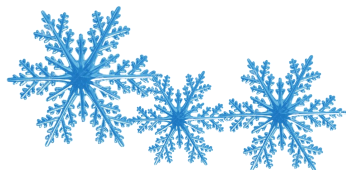


MARTA (Mid-Hudson Area Retired Teachers Association) celebrated their holiday party at Christopher's Bistro in Chester on December 3rd. Activities included Holiday Bingo and a holiday raffle. Groceries and \$150 were collected for the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. MARTA members also brought gifts to be delivered to RAPP (Relatives As Parents Program) which is an ongoing education and support program for grandparents and other relatives who are providing primary care for other family member's children. A 50/50 gave one happy person some extra holiday cash while the remainder went to MARTA's scholarship fund. **Barbara Topps**, President of MARTA, handmade a Christmas gift to give each person who attended. The smiles indicate everyone had a good time.

SCRTA (Sullivan County Retired Teachers Association) had their holiday party at Casa Mia in Hurleyville on December 11th. Their special guest of honor was outgoing assembly woman, Aileen Gunther. She was presented with a plant and thanked for being a friend to education.

NARTA (Newburgh Area Retired Teachers Association) held their holiday luncheon December 5th at Temple Hill Tavern in New Windsor. After a brief business meeting, members enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch. A 50/50 put a smile on one member's face while also benefitting their scholarship fund. Socks were collected for shelters and veterans and toys were donated to Toys for Tots.

*We in Southeastern Zone wish everyone a happy and healthy 2025.*



## SOUTHERN ZONE

Submitted by Mary Lou Wood, Public Relations Chair



It's winter! Our snowbird friends are enjoying the warm sun while we shiver through the cold air. But that's okay. We're here taking care of the winter birds, the possums, and our furry friends.

Our RENY/Southern Zone units celebrated 90+ birthdays. From CARTA we wished a Happy Birthday to **Jo Andrysick**.

*Read more from Mary Lou on the next page...*





## SOUTHERN ZONE

**Submitted by Mary Lou Wood, Public Relations Chair**

At the CARTA luncheon **Mary Johnson\*CR** spoke on the importance of getting involved with RENY, and all it has to offer our retirees.

With the hurricane affecting Asheville, NC and the surrounding area, a number of retired educators and religious people from our area donated food, clothing, heaters, water, blankets, and other necessary items for the people to survive. John & **Mary Lou Wood** transported the items and delivered them to Pamela Popeil, M.Ed. retired school administrator for her to deliver to the Swannanoa area. When Christina Wood returns to Asheville, she will transport winter apparel, and library and school books. Even though we are retirees, we continue to help those in need. What a great feeling it is to assist other families in need. Stay safe, keep moving, socialize, and help those in need.



The New York State

Retired Teachers' Association

DBA Retired Educators of New York (RENY)

P.O. Box 490

Amsterdam, NY 12010

PH: (518) 482-3509

**Dated Material—Do Not Delay**



## WESTERN ZONE

**Submitted by Nancy White and Audrey Seidel,  
Public Relations Co - Chairs**



Congratulations are in order! We congratulate, WZ past President, **Judy Farmer\*CR**, as the new Senior Vice President of RENY! Judy has always been a very active individual in our organization. She is Nominations Chair of WZ, past President of WZ, a recipient of the WZ Citation Award, past Secretary of RENY and recipient of RENY'S Certificate of Recognition.

In this issue of YORK STATE, we would also like to highlight the WZ Travel Committee. This committee is very familiar to our members. It allows members to travel far and wide.

The Travel Committee is comprised of the following BOD members: Chairperson **Anne Flansburg\*CR**, **Ann Marie Wik**, and **Betty Browne**. The committee began in 2005 when WZ President 2003-2005, **Anthony Vetrano** planned the first trip. This

busy committee plans educational and enjoyable trips, promoting life experiences and adventures for its members. In recent years, the Travel Committee has provided trips to Lancaster, PA to experience Sight and Sound productions, New York City to view the sights of the Big Apple including the National 9/11 museum, Mackinac Island and the Upper Peninsula, Baltimore and Annapolis, Pittsburgh, the Smokey Mountains, and the list goes on. The friendships formed, the memories maintained, and the excitement of the trips are indeed a treasure to all. They are currently planning a three-destination trip in June 2025 which will include Lancaster, PA, Washington DC, and the Flight 93 memorial. In September 2025, a trip to the Biltmore Estate, and the surrounding area is being planned.

Western Zone is an active and growing organization that has so much to be proud of. We look forward to the new year and continued new opportunities.

