



RENEY
RETIRED EDUCATORS OF NY

YORK
STATE

Summer 2026

Vol 75
Issue 3

A Message From Our President, Gayla LePage



Well, I am again writing with pride as your president. I truly am enjoying being President of this organization. At one time someone in my zone said, "Gayla, you will be up there as president one day." I of course replied, "No." Then I had to eat my words, but I am so glad that I did.

Wow! I want to thank all of you who have donated to the 2026 President's Appeal. As of writing this message, we have collected \$61,566! Our goal was \$60,000. This is outstanding.

Our membership does keep declining, but I know that all zones are working hard to increase membership. It seems to be an endless, but necessary job. I have heard that Central Zone is going gangbusters with new members. Keep it up. I like a good competition.

I put a challenge in our Northern Zone newsletter that went out in May. If every member tried to bring in one new member, we would double our membership. I offer this same challenge to all of you. Let's see what we can do in six months!!!

In this message, I am going back to our history lesson of NTSRTA\RENY. This edition will highlight the history of our office staff. This information comes from the book, **On Course**, created by **President Emerita Agnes Hudson*CR** and others on the 50th anniversary of NYSTRA.

In 2001, the Association staff consisted of two Administrative Assistants, a Membership Associate, and an Executive Office Manager. (Prior to this there was also a staff member (s) who dealt with insurance information.) The EOM managed the office as her name states. The two Administrative Associates each had certain zones to which they offered assistance. One of the assistant's responsibilities also included bookkeeping, computer input, and assistance to the EOM. The other focused on Legislative Action as it pertained to the organization. As you can see there was also a Membership Associate who dealt only with membership recruitment and mailings. This associate also was the website manager. The following comes directly from the publication.

"The Albany Office is not just a building, nor is it the Executive Office Manager. It is the dedicated people working there five or six days a week — sometimes logging hours after work and/or during lunch break. The Albany Office provides a voice on the telephone to let you know that your request or concern is being heard and handled or referred. The Albany Office is a center for information. If there is a question that cannot be answered by the staff, it will be passed on the Association President or a committee chair.

We are fortunate to have these few, but fine, individuals as an integral part of the Association."

Fast forward to today, we have the same jobs being done by our **two** dedicated staff members. The office spoken about above is no longer a building, but homes of both of our staff members. This is a huge savings to the organization. If you look at the duties of these four past staff members, you will see that **all** of the same duties are being done by just **TWO** people. How fortunate we are!





SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

By Judith Farmer*CR

Summer has finally arrived, and I hope that you are enjoying the sunshine and warmth that it brings. As your Senior Vice-President, I am pleased that the plans for the Annual Meeting and Convention workshops have been finalized. Many thanks to the Eastern Zone and the office staff for their hard work and dedication to the task.

The members of RENY are very important to me, and it is my sincere desire to meet personally with as many of you as possible. I believe that's the best way for me to understand how I can serve you.

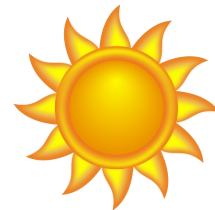
During the spring when **Ray Pitcher** invited **Michelle Claus** and I to attend the All-Committee Meeting of the Central Zone. At that meeting, Michelle shared her plans as RENY Vice-President for Membership, while I enjoyed talking with the group's members. I came away from that experience with a clear understanding that while zones may function differently they still achieve the same goals.

Now, I am looking forward to another opportunity to meet RENY members. In mid-July, Michelle and I will be attending a meeting of the Northeastern and Northern Zones. Then, hopefully, in late summer and into the fall, we will be able to visit other zones.

It would be great to meet you and get to know you. If you invite us, we will come.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Michelle Claus, VP for Membership



The Membership Team has met December 2025, February 2026, April 2026, and June 2026. Hope you had a great Mother's Day and Father's Day.

We are discussing new ways to increase membership. We have discussed how to celebrate our retirees this year. Each zone will be doing a somewhat different method to celebrate their zone retirees! Watch for our articles in your local newspapers congratulating new retirees. A one-year membership to RENY is a great way to celebrate your friends, family, or coworkers retirement. The cost is \$39 and the membership form can be found on our website: retirededucatorsny.org or email me or call me for the form. Have a great summer and I will be back in the fall.

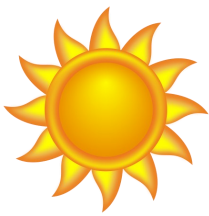
Don't hesitate to reach out to me at 716-481-5279 or joeclaus@msn.com



HAVE YOU MOVED? NO LONGER HAVE
A HOME PHONE NUMBER?

PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN CONTACT YOU!

518-482-3509 EXT #1



LEGISLATIVE ACTION REPORT

By Janice Mullins, VP for Membership

I want to thank all RENY advocates who took the time to speak with our NYS Legislative Representatives and members of Congress. Our conversations addressed protecting our retiree health insurance, increasing funding for our schools to maintain mandated programs, improving our Public Pension COLA formula, fixing Tier 6, addressing those exorbitant utility rate hikes, protecting Social Security and Medicare, the continued reduction in the cost of prescription drugs, and the elimination of taxes on Social Security income.

Thanks to all the advocating efforts by so many groups across the state, the enacted 2026-2027 New York State Budget brought wins for schools, seniors, and future retirees.

School aid increased by approximately \$39 billion to \$40 billion representing a \$1.7 billion increase over the 2025-2026 school year. This budget includes \$27.4 billion in Foundation Aid (a billion-dollar increase) and guarantees a minimum 2% increase in foundation aid for every school district.

A \$1 billion “Protecting Our Wallets Energy Rebate” (POWER) program will send utility rebate checks ranging from \$100 to \$200 to residents with mailing to occur between September and December 2026. The budget raises the income eligibility limit for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disabled Homeowner’s Exemption (DRIE) from \$50,000 to \$75,000. The budget also increases funding for emergency hunger response and the Nourish New York initiative by \$25 million.

A significant gain was made for teacher members of Tier 6. Public school teachers with 30 years of service can now retire at age 58 without penalties, down from age 63. The cumulative Tier 6 improvements since 2022 exemplify that there is power in numbers when advocating for change.

Protecting retiree health insurance and improving our public pension COLA formula, despite our efforts to address these RENY priorities with our State Representatives, remain in limbo.

On June 23, voters headed to the polls to determine which representatives will appear on the ballot in the midterm elections. Only 7% of eligible voters in New York State cast a vote in these primary elections. That 7% essentially determined the choices that the 93% who did not vote or could not vote can make in the midterm elections. Those voters registered as independents do not have a say in primary elections in NYS. This is why it is so important that we choose representatives who have the most common-sense solutions to America’s affordability crisis and the other issues that Americans face as we navigate life today regardless of party.

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During my advocacy experience at the state level, Republican Representatives and Democratic Representatives will not cross party lines to sponsor legislation even if it benefits members of both parties. However, when members of both parties cosponsor legislation there is an increase in the likelihood of a bill advancing. This is why we advocate. Our federal priorities to protect Social Security and Medicare along with continuing to reduce the cost of prescription drugs benefit all Americans. Yet, all the bills RENY supports at the federal level are sponsored and cosponsored by only one party. If all Americans could benefit, why then is the road of bipartisanship the road less traveled?

There is a group of U.S. Congressional members called the Problem Solvers Caucus—split evenly between Republicans and Democrats—who are committed to advancing common-sense solutions to key issues facing our nation by taking the road less traveled.

Continued on the next page...



LEGISLATIVE ACTION REPORT

By Janice Mullins, VP for Membership

This group of nearly 50 House Representatives are putting forward a comprehensive, bipartisan plan not to just talk about affordability, but to do something about it. According to the caucus's press release, their framework includes more than 40 bipartisan bills that can deliver immediate relief to address health care, energy, childcare, and food. Shouldn't every member of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate function like the members of the Problem Solvers Caucus. Party line voting causes polarization and deadlocks over what is best for the country—over what is best for you. Nothing gets solved. However, there is hope. The recent passage of the combined House of Representatives (H.R.6644) and Senate (S.2651) housing affordability legislation—the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act—demonstrates that bipartisanship is possible when representatives work together to find common ground.

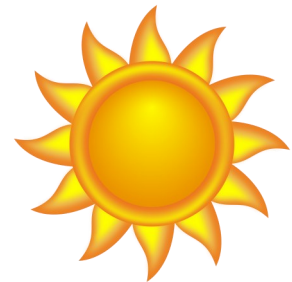
As you head to the polls for the mid-terms, make your vote an informed vote. Let's turn the road less traveled into a highway of bipartisan wins for all Americans.

RESOLUTIONS REPORT

By Jerry Tagliaferri, Chairman

New York Health Act

Proposed Resolution



Whereas: the proposed single payer health care plan introduced as the New York Health Act in 1992 is a same-as bill with the Senate and has passed in the Assembly on a number of occasions, most recently in 2018; and

Whereas: that it continues to be reintroduced annually in both chambers; and

Whereas: the Bill (A1466-Paulin/S3425-Rivera) has numerous co-sponsors; and

Whereas: Single payer health care, called Green Mountain Care, started in 2011 in Vermont and failed as a result of prohibitive cost. It was abandoned in 2014 and is no longer in effect; and

Whereas: Retired educators with supplementary health insurance provided through their school districts would forfeit this important benefit should single payer health care be adopted; and

Whereas: NYS taxes could increase to 13.5% for high earners and 4.5% for low-income New Yorkers should this bill become law. **"First read, March 18, 2019";** and

Whereas: the proposed NY Health Act provides for expensive services not currently provided by Medicare such as dental care and long-term care; and

Be it resolved: that we urge RENY, Retired Educators of New York, to go on record in strong opposition to the New York Health Act.



ROBERT R. DECORMIER MEMORIAL TRUST REPORT

By Richard Brogowski, Trustee

In 1951, at a meeting in Rochester, New York, retired teachers from six different zones across New York State voted to organize a statewide group, and **Robert R. DeCormier** was asked to serve as its first president. The New York State Retired Teachers Association (NYSRTA) was born.

Robert had two major projects in mind: first, to obtain insurance for retired educators; and second, to provide an affordable retirement home for retired teachers. He successfully established an insurance plan and also saw the completion of a retirement complex in DeWitt, New York, called York Manor. Robert died unexpectedly in 1966. That same year, NYSRTA trustees voted to honor his memory by establishing an irrevocable trust named the Robert R. DeCormier Rehabilitation Center Trust. In 1970, the NYSRTA trustees adopted a resolution to change the name to the one it still carries today: the Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund.

As I write this report on June 18th, the committee has just completed a Zoom meeting during which we reviewed our most recent grant requests, as well as grants that had been approved. We also voted to assist a retired member by helping defray uncovered insurance costs for necessary medical procedures.

The DeCormier Memorial Fund accepts and relies on donations from zones, units, and individuals. If there was ever a meaningful place to make a personal donation of any amount, this is it. Donations, which may be tax-deductible, can be sent to:

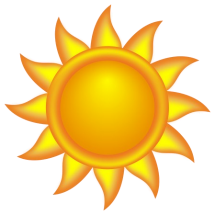
Mary Lou Davis, Treasurer, 125 Andrews Road, LaGrangeville, NY 12540.
PLEASE DO NOT SEND TO THE RENY OFFICE ADDRESS

Since January 1, 2026, the Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund received contributions from six zones. We are grateful for their generosity and thank **Central, Central Western, Eastern, Northeastern, Southern, and Southeastern**.

Eight zones have units or Retired Teachers Associations (RTA's) and several of these groups also contributed. Unit donations were received from: **Chenango, Clifton/Fine/Edwards, Genesee County, Ontario, Oswego, Saratoga Springs, Schuyler County, Seneca County, Sullivan, Wyoming and Retired Teachers Organization of Rochester and Vicinity**.

I personally feel privileged to work with our devoted trustees: **Collette Astoria, Mary Lou Davis, Anne Flansburg*CR, Beth Green, and Joe Russo**, and applaud their dedication.





BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

By William Tenity*CR, Chairperson

The Bylaws Committee is presenting the following proposed bylaws, as requested by the BOD at the March 2026 meeting, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in 2026. The BOD voted to approve both Bylaw proposals at it's July meeting. Both of them need to be voted on by each of the Zones so that they may be voted on at the Annual Meeting in October. Please note that changes are in red print.

1. **Proposition MEMBERSHIP 2026**
2. **Rationale:** At the October Board of Directors meeting, the Bylaws Committee
3. was directed to add the term Domestic Partner to the classes of membership in
4. RENY.

1. Main Amendment

2. **Presently** **ARTICLE III** *In Bylaws booklet p 2*
Membership

7. **Section 2.** **There are three classes of membership: Educator,**
8. **Associate and Spouse.** A person who has been convicted
9. of a crime that would, under New York State Education
10. Law, have barred him/her from holding State Education Department
11. Certification as an Educator, whether or not he/she actually
12. holds said certification, is not eligible either become a member
13. or to continue to hold any kind of membership in NTSRTA.

14. (a) Educator membership is open to all retired or active
15. educators who indicate an interest in promoting the
16. objectives of the Association. Educator members have
17. all privileges of membership including the right to vote
18. and to hold office.

19. (b) Associate membership in the Association is open to all
20. non-certified staff who work in, or are retired from, an
21. educational institution. Associate members must
22. indicate an interest in promoting the objectives of the
23. Association. Associate members, by paying Annual or
24. Life membership dues, shall be entitled to all privileges
25. of membership except the right to vote or to hold office
26. at the zone or state level.

27. (c) **Spouse. If a spouse of a member or deceased member**
28. **does not meet the Bylaws qualifications as an Educator or**
29. **member, by paying Annual or Life membership dues**
30. **shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership except**
31. **the right to vote or to hold office.**

Continued on next page



BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

By William Tenity*CR, Chairperson

32. Main Amendment

33. NEW

ARTICLE III *In Bylaws booklet p 2* Membership

34. **Section 2. There are four classes of membership: Educator,**
35. **Associate, Spouse and Domestic Partner.** A person who has been
36. convicted of a crime that would, under New York State Education
37. Law, have barred him/her from holding State Education Department
38. Certification as an Educator, whether or not he/she actually
39. holds said certification, is not eligible either become a member
40. or to continue to hold any kind of membership in NYSRTA.

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43. objectives of the Association. Educator members have
44. all privileges of membership including the right to vote
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47. non-certified staff who work in, or are retired from, an
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49. indicate an interest in promoting the objectives of the
50. Association. Associate members, by paying Annual or
51. Life membership dues, shall be entitled to all privileges
52. of membership except the right to vote or to hold office
53. at the zone or state level.

54. (c) **Spouse and Domestic Partner. If the spouse or domestic**
55. **partner of a member or deceased member does not**
56. **meet the Bylaws qualifications as an Educator or**
57. **member, by paying Annual or Life membership dues**
58. **shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership except**
59. **the right to vote or to hold office.**

60. Proposition MEMBERSHIP 2026

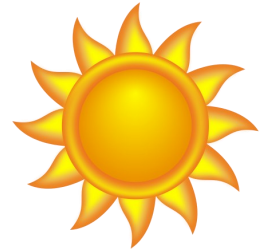
61. **Rationale:** At the March Board of Directors meeting, the Bylaws Committee
62. was directed to change Article VII, Section 1, regarding the date the delegate
63. count is due from July 1st to May 31st. The following reasons were given:

64. 1. The count report needs to be distributed at the July meeting of the
65. BOD. With the July 4th holiday, they only gives the EMO a few days to
66. complete the report. This can lead to delegate count errors. Changing
67. the day to May 31st, gives the EOM ample time to ensure the
68. correct count.

Continued on next page

BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

By William Tenity*CR, Chairperson



69. 2. The TRS deceased members report is distributed bimonthly. It is
70. sent in June. This may reduce the amount of delegates a zone may
71. receive. Compiling the report at the end of May will give the zones
72. more members for the count and ensure that we have enough
73. delegates for the Annual Meeting.

74. Main Amendment

75. **Presently**

ARTICLE VII *In Bylaws booklet p 10*

76.

Annual Meeting, Annual Workshop, and Annual Convention

77. **Section 1.** The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be
78. held during the month of October or at such time and place
79. as the Board of Directors may designate. Voting members at
80. the Annual Meeting shall be called delegates. Delegate
81. count is based upon membership that is current on **July 1st**
82. of the year in which the Annual Meeting is held. The presence
83. of a least two-thirds (2/3) of the accredited delegates in attendance
84. at the Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum for each business
85. session.

86. **Main Amendment**

87. **NEW**

ARTICLE VII *In Bylaws booklet p 10*

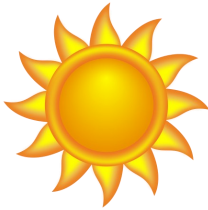
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Annual Meeting, Annual Workshop, and Annual Convention

89. **Section 1.** The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be
90. held during the month of October or at such time and place
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92. the Annual Meeting shall be called delegates. Delegate
93. count is based upon membership that is current on **May 31st**
94. of the year in which the Annual Meeting is held. The presence
95. of a least two-thirds (2/3) of the accredited delegates in attendance
96. at the Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum for each business
97. session.

Dictionary definition of Domestic Partner: Either member of an unmarried cohabitating couple especially when considered as to eligibility for spousal benefits.

Respectfully submitted, Chair: **William Tenity*CR CZ, Pete Atchinson NEZ, President Emeritus Carlyle T Campany*CR NCZ ,Bruce Croucher CWZ, and Helen Hoering SEZ.**



FRIENDLY SERVICE REPORT

By Judith Corigliano, Chairperson

Possibilities into Realities, the Art & Science of Speculation

Throughout history art and science have played important roles as turning points and breakthroughs moments. Artists imagine the possibilities that don't exist. and Scientists imagine both the present and future problems and the possible solutions.... both have affected and changed the world we live and work in.

So, let's think like an artist / scientistand imagine if every able bodied RENY member would honor just one retired colleague with a phone call, a friendly occasion card or just a hello I'm thinking of you message or card. Best, if it's a "been awhile since we" person.

Imagine if you offered a ride to a zone luncheon or to pay for a prospective member's lunch or even better buy them a year's membership.

Imagine if everyone donated a wee bit to your local zone scholarship and grants funds what a difference that would make. Some zones/ members already do give in memory to a member who has passed.

Imagine if a member would step up to the plate and say, "I'll take that leadership role or I'll join that committee" We can speculate that wonderful things and ideas will develop!

Imagine if members would educate themselves as to what's happening in their school district (former or present residence) and vote to support their needs. It is our future.

Imagine if members, emailed / mailed in writing their legislators concerns that would affect our daily lives or futures of our kids/grands.

Imagine if a member (s) helped guide a Retiree in financial distress, to make use of funds available... through application to the Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust.

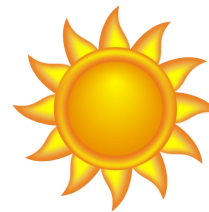
Imagine if members would actively support membership (recruit new members) and Friendly Service (active communication with members)

Reflecting....the possibilities are not just to be imagined, but with working solutions can be realities. It does take a team effort, there are small jobs and big jobs and dollars given, always helps.... Examples- paying RENY's yearly dues and donating to the president's appeal.

Thanking all our Friendly Service leaders and workers, because they often wear multiple hats and perform amazing feats in their zones....think 2,155 physical greeting cards. Join us—men are welcome.

Imagined by an artist /teacher who loves and supports Stem/Steam, acknowledging the need to fully educate our child in all disciplines in service to a better world.

Welcome, New Retirees!
Copied with permission from: Resource/NYSTRS
Compliments of your RENY Membership Team



If you are a recent retiree, we'd like to wish you a warm welcome. We hope you are enjoying your retirement so far – and enjoying these years should be the goal!

The transition to retirement is an exciting but often overwhelming change for educators. To help, we've highlighted some things you can do as a new retiree to assist you with this transition.

Find Purpose in Retirement

Careers have structure, purpose and connection built in. Your job has probably brought you a certain level of satisfaction and met many emotional needs. In retirement, these needs may still be there.

To make a successful transition to retirement life, strive for an enjoyable balance of activities for your time. Consider what responsibilities you might be taking on now that you've retired. Will you be providing care to a family member? Do you plan to volunteer in your community? Next, think about what hobbies or activities might fill your remaining hours of free time. Will you learn a new skill, travel or join a local organization? By planning ahead and with intention, you can start to build a fulfilling and enjoyable life in retirement.

Take Care of Your Body and Mind

Aging and long-term physical health are influenced by many factors: lifestyle, environment, family history, attitude and mental health. While we can't do anything about genetics, we can take more control over our lifestyle and make healthy choices. No matter what your age, having a positive attitude, remaining active, finding a sense of purpose, and being able to adapt are all components of good health. Stress management, seeking help from professional counselors or support groups all play a role in staying mentally and emotionally fit. Consider taking steps to maintain your physical and mental health.

Some things to think about:

- Stay physically active. Even moderate amounts of daily physical activity can make a difference.
- Keep your mind engaged. Pursue hobbies, take courses in your community, or explore free online classes.
- Eat balanced meals. Good nutrition lowers the risk of disease, some cancers and diabetes.
- Keep up to date with your health. Regular visits to your doctor will give the latest information about your health, and may provide you personalized guidance on diet, exercise and health.

Remember: You Have Pension Security for Life

At NYSTRS, we are committed to providing you with retirement security. As a NYSTRS retiree, you will receive your pension payment – on time and in full – for the rest of your life. You can count on it!

AD HOC HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by President Emeritus Angelo Grande*CR and Marilyn Dominick

The Ad Hoc Health Insurance Committee asked Marilyn and I to do research on health issues affecting senior citizens. The article is entitled, "Study Sheds Light on Habits to Extend Your Life". The article appeared in the New York Daily News on Sunday, May 17, 2026 and was written by Bill Murphy Jr. We thought it was an interesting article and was well documented

DAILY NEWS NYDailyNews.com

Sunday, May 17, 2026 31

Study sheds light on habits to extend your life

By Bill Murphy Jr. | INC.

This is a story about proven, science-backed habits to help you live longer from a big study of well over 100,000 people. In the 1970s, a Harvard researcher named Frank Speizer was trying to understand the long-term effects of oral contraceptives. So, he did what a health researcher would do in those days. He asked male doctors to have their wives answer questions about their health.

Immediate problem: many doctors just filled out the forms on their wives' behalf.

So Speizer and his team tried to think of how they could find a massive audience of women who were medically literate, conscientious and willing to participate.

"Um, hello?" replied the entire U.S. nursing profession, metaphorically speaking.

The result: Speizer's team sent letters to more than 170,000 women nurses in 1976, and 121,700 of them — more than 70% — agreed to answer questions about their health every two years for the rest of their lives.

The result has been one of the most important and productive research programs in the history of public health.

THE STUDY THAT KEEPS GIVING

The study is now run by Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Brigham and Women's Hospital, with continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health.

A companion study enrolling more than 51,000 men was added in 1986, and some of the findings that follow here draw on that combined dataset.

But the nurses came first. Without their participation, none of it exists. Here's part of what their 50 years of data tells us: seven simple habits for a longer life.

Don't smoke: This one has never changed. A 2018 analysis of the combined dataset found that nonsmokers lived significantly longer across every demographic studied. Other research has put the average cost of smoking at roughly seven years of life.

Maintain a healthy weight:



DREAMSTIME

The same 2018 analysis found that maintaining a body mass index in the healthy range was consistently associated with longer life. Excess weight is tied to inflammation, cardiovascular strain, and metabolic disruption, all of which compound over decades.

Exercise at least 30 minutes a day: Moderate daily physical activity was flagged one as well. Regular movement keeps your cardiovascular system efficient, your muscles functional, and your metabolic health in check. Separate research using the same dataset has found that consistent exercisers function biologically younger than their chronological age.

Drink alcohol only moder-

ately, if at all: The research consistently found moderate drinking — loosely defined as up to one drink per day for women, two for men — to be neutral to mildly beneficial compared to heavy drinking. This finding carries ongoing debate in the broader scientific literature, so maybe treat it as a general signal rather than a prescription.

Maintain a healthy diet: The 2018 analysis defined this as scoring in the upper 40% on a diet quality index — which in practice means prioritizing vegetables, fruits, whole grains and lean proteins, and limiting processed foods and added sugar.

Vary your exercise, not just the volume: A more recent analysis of the same dataset,

published in BMJ Medicine in January found that people who engaged in the broadest variety of physical activities — walking some days, lifting weights on others, gardening, cycling, playing tennis — had a 19% lower risk of premature death compared to those who exercised the same total amount but stuck to the same routines.

Drink two to three cups of caffeinated coffee a day: Another study published earlier this year in JAMA, also drawing on the Nurses' Health Study and Health Professionals Follow-Up Study, found that people who drank two to three cups of caffeinated coffee daily had an 18% lower risk of developing dementia compared to those who

drank little or none. Tea showed similar patterns. Decaf did not.

THE HONEST CAVEAT

None of these findings prove causation. People who exercise in varied ways, drink moderate coffee and eat well may share other traits — stronger social connections, better sleep, lower chronic stress — that also contribute to longer lives.

But after 50 years and more than 100,000 participants, they established patterns that are very hard to dismiss.

The nurses who answered Frank Speizer's letter in 1976 are mostly in their 80s and 90s now — or gone. But they gave the world a cleaner picture of what a longer life tends to look like.

THE RENY 75th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by Eastern Zone

Turning Stone Resort Casino

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday October 14-16, 2026

Registration Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2026
Tower rooms are very limited and are on a first come first served basis. Once tower is full, guests will be placed in the hotel.

Wednesday: REGISTRATION BEGINS 2:00pm

* Welcome Reception – Coffee,
Tea, and Danish pastry @ Registration

*Keynote Speaker

Thursday

* Breakfast
* Workshops
* Lunch
* Annual Meeting – Session 1
* Cocktail Party (cash bar)
* Dinner
*Entertainment

Friday

* Breakfast
* Annual Meeting – Session 2

REGISTRATION FORM – ANNUAL CONVENTION --- OCTOBER 14 – 16, 2026

NAME _____ TELEPHONE # _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ (confirmation will be emailed to you)

SHARING ROOM WITH _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

FULL PACKAGE - Wednesday and Thursday Nights

(Includes dinner Wednesday evening, all meals Thursday, breakfast on Friday)

TRIPLE: \$471 Per Person _____ DOUBLE: \$535 Per Person _____ SINGLE: \$749 Per Person _____

All rates include applicable sales tax and dining room gratuities.

A CREDIT CARD WILL BE MANDATORY UPON CHECK-IN

NON-SMOKING _____ SMOKING _____ HANDICAP _____

DAILY RATES - Daily Rates include overnight accommodations, plus dinner, breakfast, lunch

TRIPLE: \$259 Per Person _____ DOUBLE: \$291 Per Person _____ SINGLE: \$398 Per Person _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

Please clip and mail completed form to:

Turning Stone Resort Casino

Attn: Accommodations Dept. 5218 Patrick Road, Verona, NY 13478

Upon receipt of a confirmation letter from Turning Stone Resort Casino, please call 1-800-771-7711 with your confirmation number to guarantee your room with credit card.

Cancellations must be made prior to September 30 to avoid penalty of forfeiture of the food and beverage portion of the package.

If you would like to attend the Annual Convention as a Day Guest
please fill out the form below

REGISTRATION FORM – DAY GUEST ONLY
TURNING STONE RESORT CASINO
THE NYSRTA 75th ANNUAL CONVENTION
ANNUAL WORKSHOP & ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 14th – October 16th, 2026

NAME _____ TELEPHONE # _____

ADDRESS _____

Please check the appropriate meals.

WEDNESDAY ☐ Dinner (\$100)

Dinner Choice:

The Corporate Buffet _____

THURSDAY ☐ Breakfast (\$36) ☐ Lunch (\$45) ☐ Dinner (\$100)

Dinner Choice:

Evening Gathering Dinner Buffett _____

FRIDAY ☐ Breakfast (\$36)

*Please clip this form and mail with a check made out to NYSRTA
for the total amount to:*

Kathi Bassett, EOM
RENY
63 Stewart St
Amsterdam, NY 12010

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

NYSRTA—75th ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

TURNING STONE RESORT AND CASINO, VERONA, NEW YORK

“HONORED ZONE” IS THE EASTERN ZONE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026

2:00-5:00pm Registration and Vendor Exhibits | Grand Ballroom C & D

Welcome reception – Coffee, Tea and Danish Pastry.

Raffle tickets will be available to purchase. Trivia Team registration at registration table.

THEME: “GLITTER and GOLD”

Celebrating 75 years of NYSRTA and Showcasing the Capital Region in Screen Entertainment.

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

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

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

4:00-5:30pm Membership Committee Meeting

6:00pm Dinner | Grand Ballroom A & B

Greetings/Introductions: Janice Mullins

Invocation: Patricia Reynolds

Pledge of Allegiance: Lisa Devaren

Song: You're a Grand Old Flag

Song Leader: Marge Leibowitz and Ginny Madore

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – William “Billy” Spillane - “Let Us Entertain You”



Having a love for Chemistry and Entertainment might seem like an unlikely pairing but having a passion for both has served Bill well. Recently retired as a chemist from the Troy Water Treatment Plant, Bill has worked as an actor, singer, dancer and musician on local, regional and European stages as well as in commercial radio, television and film. Presently he is a member of ‘Act Two’, a singing group delighting audiences in many of our local senior facilities. Bill is also a member of a local band, Progeny, which has played around the capital region. He has had major roles in many of

Schenectady Light Opera performances and has danced in the Nutcracker at Proctors Theater. Get ready to clap, sing along and laugh as this versatile entertainer comes to our convention.

NYSRTA –75TH ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

TURNING STONE RESORT AND CASINO, VERONA, NEW YORK

HONORED ZONE / EASTERN ZONE

Thursday, October 15, 2026

7:00-9:00am Breakfast Buffet | Grand Ballroom A & B

9:00-10:00am Session 1 Workshops

10:30-11:30am Session 2 Workshops

9:00-NOON Registration & Basket Raffle Ticket Purchases
| Grand Ballroom C & D

11:30-1:00pm Lunch | Grand Ballroom A & B
Delegate seating for luncheon will be by Zones. Designations will be on the tables.

1:15-4:30pm Session 1 Annual Meeting | Grand Ballroom A & B

4:30pm Board Meeting

5:00-6:00pm Cocktail Party | Grand Ballroom C & D
“Take a Walk on the Red Carpet”. Suggested attire is to wear something glittery and/or gold. (Cash Bar)

6:00-8:15pm Dinner | Grand Ballroom A & B
Invocation: Patricia Reynolds
Pledge of Allegiance: Lisa Devaren
Song: This Land is Your Land
Song Leader: Marge Leibowitz and Ginny Madore

*****Basket Raffle winners to be announced during dessert*****

8:30pm Trivia Night
Which teams will take home the Oscars?



SESSION 1
9:00 – 10:00 AM

Choose one of the sessions this workshop is offered.



Workshop Title: Filming the HBO Series

“The Gilded Age” in Historic Troy

Introducer: Marge Leibowitz

Presenter: Kathryn Sheehan

Kathryn Sheehan is the Executive Director of the Hart Cluett Museum and the Rensselaer County & Troy City Historian. A native of Troy, NY, Kathy’s career at the museum began as an intern from the Public History Program at SUNY Albany. She is currently working on a publication titled: “Architecture Worth Saving in Rensselaer County Revisited, 50 years Later”. Kathryn has lectured on various local history topics including, Uncle Sam the Man & the Legend, the Underground Railroad, Public Health, Woman Suffrage, Agriculture and the changing landscape of the county. Recently Kathryn has been a location and historic background advisor for HBO’s production, The Gilded Age. She has appeared on national and international shows including CSPAN, the History Channel, Russian and Japanese T V. She has appeared locally on WMHT, CBS6 and WNYT. Kathy can be often seen giving tours through downtown Troy, and Oakwood Cemetery.



Workshop Title: An Overview of the History of NYSRTA/RENY
(1951-2026)"

Introducers: The presenters will introduce each other.

**Presenters: President Emeritus Kevin Mulligan*CR and
Association President Gayla LePage**

Description: NYSRTA, doing business as RENY is the oldest organization of Retired Educators in New York State. How it started and progressed will be discussed in the workshop. The insights and oversights of the founder and 15 year President of NYSRTA will be discussed. Have we lived up to his vision?

About Presenters: Kevin served as President of RENY from 2018-2021. He currently serves as the Chairperson for the Ad Hoc Health Care Committee, a member of the Finance and Budget Committee and is the Chairperson for the Insurance Trust Committee. He was a social studies teacher for 20 years and a school administrator for 14. Gayla is the current President of RENY and President of the Northern Zone. Gayla was an English teacher at Brushton-Moira CSD for 32 years primarily teaching seventh grade English.



SESSION 2
10:30 – 11:30 AM

Choose one of the sessions this workshop is offered.



Workshop Title: Filming the HBO Series

“The Gilded Age” in Historic Troy

Introducer: **Marge Leibowitz**

Presenter: Kathryn Sheehan

Kathryn Sheehan is the Executive Director of the Hart Cluett Museum and the Rensselaer County & Troy City Historian. A native of Troy, NY, Kathy’s career at the museum began as an intern from the Public History Program at SUNY Albany. She is currently working on a publication titled: “Architecture Worth Saving in Rensselaer County Revisited, 50 years Later”. Kathryn has lectured on various local history topics including, Uncle Sam the Man & the Legend, the Underground Railroad, Public Health, Woman Suffrage, Agriculture and the changing landscape of the county. Recently Kathryn has been a location and historic background advisor for HBO’s production, The Gilded Age. She has appeared on national and international shows including CSPAN, the History Channel, Russian and Japanese T V. She has appeared locally on WMHT, CBS6 and WNYT. Kathy can be often seen giving tours through downtown Troy, and Oakwood Cemetery.



Workshop Title: New York State Teachers Retirement System

Overview/Update

Introducer: **Immediate Past President Dr James Newell**

Presenter: Members of the TRS

Established in 1921 by the New York State Legislature, the New York State Teachers’ Retirement System (NYSTRS) provides retirement, disability and death benefits to eligible New York State public school teachers and administrators. The System is among the 10-largest public pension funds in the nation based on total assets. NYSTRS is one of the most secure and well-funded public pension plans in the country. They serve more than 272,000 active members and more than 182,000 retirees and beneficiaries. Membership in NYSTRS is mandatory for all full-time teachers, teaching assistants, guidance counselors and administrators employed in New York State public schools (excluding New York City), Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), and eligible charter schools that opted to participate as an employer in NYSTRS. Membership for teachers employed less than full time is optional. Employers are required to notify part-time teachers in writing of their right to membership in the System.

Teachers employed by a New York State community college or SUNY (excluding graduate assistants or teaching assistants) may elect membership in NYSTRS or the Optional Retirement Program.

ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Central Zone

By Ray Pitcher, Zone President & Mary Ann Luciano Ed.D., Public Relations Chair

In April, the Central Zone members met in Canastota at Theodore's Restaurant. This was the Zone's annual all committees meeting. We were excited to welcome our guests, RENY President **Gayla LaPage**, RENY Senior Vice President **Judy Farmer*CR**, and Vice President for Membership **Michele Claus** who joined us. This gave the state officers an opportunity to see and hear from our committees as they joined the various committees' deliberations.



This year, the Zone was responsible for the Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant to active educators. Working diligently before and during the Zone meeting were Committee Members **Mary Ann Luciano Ed. D.**, **Brian Brennan Ph.D.**, **Chris Granan**, and Zone President **Ray Pitcher**. It was a tough choice given 10 applications. Chosen for the grant was PreK teacher Josh Conover, Guilford Elementary School in the Bainbridge-Guilford CSD for technology teaching in PreK and kindergarten. The grant was given to him in early June with most of the committee members attending the award ceremony at his school.

Also at the spring committee's meeting, the Zone voted to continue its contribution to the Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund. This RENY fund provides non-contractual aid and relief for needy retired teachers through payments and grants.

RENY now has a new Ad Hoc Insurance Committee. Central Zone representatives are **Marilyn Dominick** and **Ray Pitcher**. This Committee's purpose is to give RENY members another avenue to address health insurance issues. As always, the Committee members highly recommend that if you receive Medicare through your employer, DO NOT change your policy. If you have questions or issues with your plan, please reach out to Marilyn or Ray or other Insurance Committee representatives.

This is an off-election year. We have contested elections for the Congress, Governor, State Senate, and State Assembly. Please vote by mail, early, or on election day Tuesday, November 3rd. Make your voice heard. We need a strong voter turn-out.

The RENY Annual Meeting & Convention will be at the Turning Stone Resort this fall, October 14, 15, and 16. Registration forms are included in this edition of *York State*. Plan on attending this stimulating convention as a delegate or regular state member. The Thursday morning workshops are informative and fun, and the evening dinner and programs stimulating. Join one of the committee meetings or the coffee/tea reception after registering on Wednesday afternoon to find out what is happening around the state and participate or view the delegates meeting on Thursday afternoon and sometimes on Friday morning to really feel part of RENY. Please attend!

To be a delegate, you must speak with **Ray Pitcher** as there is a cost to be a delegate. If you wish to just drop by the welcome reception, any workshop as a RENY member or sit in on the annual meeting you are welcome to do so free of charge. You will not be able to vote on topics unless you are a RENY delegate. If you wish to join us for lunch, you must fill out a Day Guest Registration Form.

On July 14th, the Central Zone Executive Committee, which includes all executive committee members of the units plus other state members who want to attend will be meeting via Zoom. The Zone's Annual Meeting will be on September 15th at the Rogers Environmental Center in Sherburne, New York hosted by RENY/Central Zone/Chenango County.

RENY/Central Zone/Cayuga held their spring meeting/dinner on Tuesday, June 2nd at the Knights of Columbus in Auburn. The social time was followed by a business meeting and then dinner catered by the Downtown Deli. A collection of money donations from the 21 members attending the meeting was delivered to a local food bank. Two newly retired teachers from the unit's area attended as guests and they joined as state members in addition to joining the RENY/Central Zone/Cayuga County Unit.

See more on the next page....

ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Central Zone

By Ray Pitcher, Zone President & Mary Ann Luciano Ed.D., Public Relations Chair

RENY/Central Zone/Chenango County's spring dinner social meeting was held on May 7th at the Old Mill Restaurant with tables facing the Unadilla River. Commendations and thank you were given for the work done by the Executive Committee; the Friendly Service Committee with its Key Workers, the Future Educators' Scholarship Committee, and **Sharon Wilson**, Member At Large who coordinates the RENY Chenango Unit's events in addition to the upcoming Central Zone's Annual Meeting. Pictured at left are members **Kay Thomsen and Brian Brennan, PhD.**



Information on a "Call to Action" to support proposed draconian changes of Chenango County's Agency on Aging, the unit's Community Service 2025-2027 recipient, was provided. The initial draft of the unit's bylaws proposed changes was presented resulting in a vote by members present to increase Chenango's dues for the coming year.

The program concluded with presenting the 2026 Future Educators' Scholarship Award to Clark Vischi, a senior at Sherburne-Earlville High School. Clark plans to attend SUNY New Paltz to become an English teacher and drama coach. He is very active in the drama programs at his school and is a lead

member of the Odyssey of the Mind team that this year participated in the World Competition. Pictured at right is Clark Vischi and **Stephen Runion**, RENY/Central Zone/Chenango Unit Treasurer.



This summer, RENY/Central Zone/Chenango County will be busy preparing for September 15th on its own Annual Meeting, which includes bylaws changes, unit election of officers, as well as the Central Zone's Annual Meeting, developing the raffle basket for the RENY Annual Convention, and planning an informal get-together.

RENY/Central Zone/Onondaga County held its first luncheon of the season during the month of May at the Twin Trees III restaurant in North Syracuse. Those in attendance enjoyed a presentation from the NY State Attorney General's Office on how to protect ourselves from scams and identity theft. It was very informative and eye opening!

There was also a presentation from Eastern Farm Workers on the plight of migrant workers and how ICE has negatively impacted their food work that benefits all of us. Again, a very interesting and heart rending presentation. RENY/Central Zone/Onondaga County provided monetary support of the Eastern Farm Workers.



A July luncheon was held at the Spinning Wheel restaurant, when 90+ year old members were honored along with the unit's scholarship winners. This is always a wonderful time of celebration!

More on next page...



ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Central Zone

By Ray Pitcher, Zone President & Mary Ann Luciano Ed.D., Public Relations Chair

RENY/Central Zone/Oswego County each year gives scholarships to seniors in high school from around Oswego County who will be pursuing a degree in education. This year, four \$500. scholarships were awarded. Included in this photo are Brodie Wood (Oswego), Gabriella Bickford (Mexico), Hagen Strong (Fulton), and Josie Metcalf (Mexico). Also included in the photo is the Scholarship Committee Chair **Darlene Jarvis**, far right. The scholarships were awarded at a recent luncheon hosted by the RENY Oswego Unit. Jarvis commented, "We thank the many students who applied for our scholarships and congratulate these young adults on their achievements. We wish them the best for their futures."



One can see that each of these Central Zone's unit's meets RENY's objective *to work for the advancement of education in the state and nation* through awarding scholarships to future educators

Central Western Zone

By Carol Lord*CR, Public Relations Chair

As the eight counties of RENY comprising Central Western Zone rejoiced at the departure of winter in the Finger Lakes under the leadership of **Mary Beth Tyndall** each got to work planning their spring meetings.

RENY/Central Western Zone/Wyoming County Board of Directors (picture shown) met and decided on Community Service donations which were given to the Attica Food Pantry; three area Comfort Care homes; and Operation Gratitude.

RENY/Central Western Zone/Livingston County is happy to have Beth Peck step up to the President's position and organizing the county Board. They have always been an active group. Their meeting was held at the Big Tree Inn in Geneseo with **Mary Beth Tyndall** speaking on RENY and CWZ. They are pleased to continue their camaraderie after the sudden passing on of their dedicated leader **Mary Corey**.



Acting President **Laura Janas** welcomed **RENY/Central Western Zone/Ontario County** members to their meeting at Cosentino's Ristorante in Geneva. Kimberly Ward from FLCC (Finger Lakes Community College) presented an informative meeting concerning their GED program and ACT -Work Ready Community (K-College) initiative. Plans were given for their Fall get-together.

RENY/Central Western Zone/Seneca County's President **Marie Scoles** welcomed members to their meeting at the Seneca Falls Country Club. They were thrilled to welcome "The Breadman" Chet Frey. Chet.. a retired educator...presents an uplifting message on Kindness giving each attendee a homemade loaf to bread. His checklist for life....everyday.....Be Kind to You, Be Kind to Others, Keep Order, Share My Life, Find Your Happy Place, Universal Truth. Have a fantastic Summer fellow RENY members!!

Eastern Zone

By Pamela Love, Public Relations Chair

RENY/Eastern Zone Executive Committee met for their Spring meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at Gateway Diner in Albany. President, **Janice Mullins** presided over the meeting. Executive Committee Reports were given. The Zone's Facebook page has been updated by **Joyce Notarnicola**. Zone donations have been made to 2026 Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund, 2026 President's Appeal and 2026 Regional Food Bank. RENY/Eastern Zone Community Service Chairperson said that there will be an opportunity to volunteer at the Regional Food Bank (965 Albany Shaker Rd. Latham) on Tuesday, August 28th. If interested, contact Joyce by calling her (518) 929-6151. New Business included Ad Hoc Health Committee Chairs for EZ as **Mark Notarnicola** and **David Christopher**, Lickem/Stickem mailing on July 21 at Gateway Diner in Albany, Zone Annual Meeting on September 17 at Turf Tavern in Scotia, plans for hosting the RENY Annual Meeting & Convention at Turning Stone Resort and Casino October 14-16, 2026 and Fall Zone Executive Meeting date on November 10, 2026 at Scotia Diner.

Unit news includes:

RENY/Eastern Zone/Capital District (RCRTA) President, **Marjorie Leibowitz**, said that their unit held their Spring Meeting on June 10, 2026 at the Gateway Diner in Albany. **Mary Ellen Caporta** reported that Shea Kelly from Averill Park High School was the winner of RCRTA's 2026 \$1,000 Education Scholarship. She is committed to Keuka College and plans to major in Special Education K-2. Shea has a 97% average and is a member of the National Honor Society. She is an athletic trainer, developed a Unified Basketball team (students with special needs). One of her teacher's said that Shea exemplifies the values of scholarship, leadership service and character.

RENY/Eastern Zone/Delaware County President, **Pat Reynolds**, reported that her unit had their Spring meeting at The Schoolhouse Restaurant in Downsville. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance and the patriotic song "America" observing the 250 years of USA. Membership is a big concern of the unit. The speaker, **Caren Shapiro**, now a retired educator who taught underprivileged students in the Bronx and engaged her students in theatrics. Union of South Africa was the focus of her talk, featuring animals of the wild and people seeking out a living by selling homemade crafts, etc.

Spotlight: Albert Ciejka: Al retired after teaching for thirty-five years, thirty-four of the years in Saratoga Springs, NY. During his teaching years, he served or chaired on a number of curriculum or other educational committees. For twenty-five of those years, he also served on or held several positions (manager/treasurer and supervisory and loan committees) for the Saratoga Teachers Federal Credit Union. Albert also coached basketball and tennis at the local high school as well as officiated high school soccer games. After retiring, he joined the Saratoga Springs Retired Teachers Association and NYSRTA which is now RENY. Albert has been state and federal legislative chairman for the Saratoga unit for many years and also has been Federal Legislative Action Chairperson of RENY/Eastern Zone for a number of years. Besides his leadership in educational pursuits, Albert has been a family man, married to Gloria for more than fifty years and they both are involved as Eastern Zone voting members at RENY/NYSRTA Annual Meetings. Albert also has a gift for storytelling. He has been featured at popular Saratoga Springs, Caffe Lena during open mic nights. Albert also has been a storytelling coach for a program called True Songs, a special program of Caffe Lena. When the weather is nice, one can find Al and Gloria, out cruising in their restored 1956 Thunderbird.



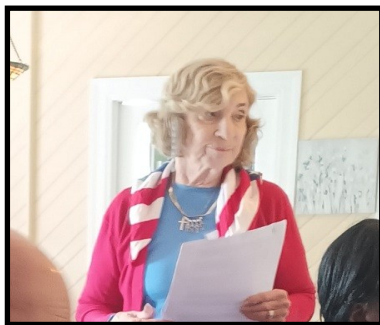
ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Long Island Zone By Eileen Holmes*CR, Zone President

The Long Island Zone is proud to announce the 2026 Hudson-Kramer grant has been awarded to Jennean Jessup-Leavitt, a high school science teacher, and Richard Kleinert, high school special education science teacher. Both are full-time faculty members at Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School. Pictured is Copiague High school Principal Joseph Agusta, Hudson Kramer grant winners Richard Kleinert and Jennean Jessup-Leavitt and LIZ President Eileen Holmes



The \$2,000 grant will support two inclusive after-school programs: the Sewing and Crafting Club, led by Jennean, and the Jewelry Making Club, led by Richard. These clubs provide a welcoming environment for students of all abilities to develop new skills. Currently, sewing club members are learning to hem, alter, and upcycle clothing, while jewelry club members create necklaces, bracelets, and rings. The funds will be used to service and recondition sewing machines, as well as to purchase specialty fabrics, beads, crystals, and wiring materials. This grant ensures these creative programs can continue to grow and eventually incorporate new student-led challenges, such as quilting.



On June 18, 2026 the Long Island Zone held its Spring meeting at Villa Paul Restaurant in Hampton Bays, NY. A highlight of the gathering was RENY member Rosemary McKinley's (pictured at left) presentation of the life of Ezra L'Hommedieu, a Southold Revolutionary War patriot. We learned many facts about life during this wartime period and interesting details about this family: L'Hommedieu's wife Charity was the sister of Long Island's only Declaration of Independence signer William Floyd. Their other sister Ruth was married to the famous LI Revolutionary War hero Nathaniel Woodhull. Quite a family of patriots! Pictured at right is **Lois Thornberg*CR** and **Alicia Winowsky** at the Spring Luncheon.



RENY/Long Island Zone/WERTA (West End Retired TA) celebrated its first ever Summer luncheon at the home of **Leigh Powell*CR** and **JoAnne Powell** in Centerport. Sharing delicious food and stimulating conversation was the theme of the afternoon, highlighted by the presentation of the 2026 WERTA scholarship to Julianne Martin. Julianne earned her BA in English literature in May 2025 and will receive



her MA in English Adolescent Education (7-12) and certification in Literacy (all grades) this summer. Pictured with Julianne is Community Service Chair **Kathryn Grande*CR** and WERTA President **Jo Anne Powell**. There were two WERTA scholarship winners this year. Regretfully, the other winner Aleah Tiwiri was unable to attend the luncheon. Aleah is pursuing a degree in childhood education as well as TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) certification. Both Julianna and Aleah are hoping to secure teaching positions on Long Island or in NY City. Pictured on left is WERTA luncheon attendees **President Emeritus Angelo**



Grande*CR, Kathy Grande*CR, Eileen Holmes*CR, Alicia Winowsky, Leigh Powell*CR, JoAnne Powell, Bill Bogatz, David Keefe and Lynn Volp.

ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

North Central Zone

By Nancy Roberts*CR and Patricia Newell, Zone Co-Public Relations Chairs

NCZ Website: www.renyncz.org

“Summer’s lease hath all too short a date.”

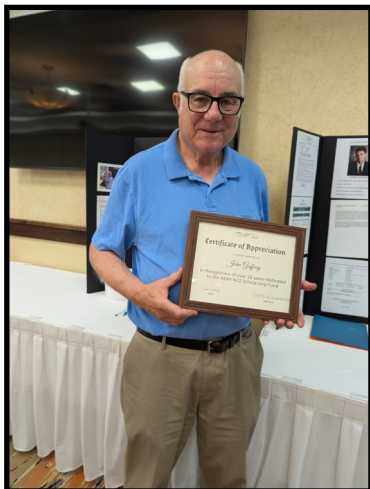
By William Shakespeare

As we welcome summer, nature has spread a beautiful palette of shades of green in Jefferson and Lewis Counties. The newly planted corn fields, lush green lawns, green leafed trees in all their glory, green plants with colorful blooms, all celebrate summer’s arrival.



We welcomed 49 members and guests to our June 11th Scholarship luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown. It was exciting to watch Scholarship Chair, **John Gaffney**, introduce our 2026 Scholarship winners. Cohen Hunter, son of Jennifer Dean and stepson of David Dean, from General Brown Central School, plans to attend SUNY Brockport to major in secondary mathematics. Ronald Zehr, son of Sarah and Gregory Zehr from Belleville-Henderson Central School, plans to attend SUNY Potsdam to major in secondary social studies. Gwyn Monnat, Northern New York Community Foundation Director of Scholarships and Programs, presented \$1,000 awards to our Future Educator winners.

Also, exciting on this special day, was the privilege of awarding the State 2026 Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant of \$2,000 to Active Professional Educator Kaylee Hall-Bethel from Watertown City School District. Ms. Hall-Bethel is a first year teacher working at Case Middle School with 7th and 8th grade special education students. **Immediate Past President Dr. James Newell**, past NCZ and RENY President presented the award, pictured at right.



NCZ President, **Rick Morris** presented **John Gaffney** a framed “CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION IN RECOGNITION OF OVER 20 YEARS DEDICATED TO THE RENY NCZ SCHOLARSHIP FUND”. John was the inspiration for beginning our scholarship program, and has carried it forward all these years. John gladly accepted **Douglas Dietrich’s** idea of doing a raffle at each of our luncheons. This raffle grew to be very popular and significant in raising funds. John also turned to Randy Richardson, Executive Director of NNYCF, who has totally supported our scholarship program through the years. NNYCF has been an immensely important partner in growing our investments beyond our expectations. This has been a close and significant partnership over the years. John has gathered a devoted group of retired teachers for the Scholarship Committee, who are focused on carefully reading applications each year. They are considering new ways to help future teachers, active teachers and those who may be working in a school system who dream of becoming a teacher, but do not have the means to make that dream come true. We

would like to thank Kenneth Eysaman, NNYCF Director of Communications, who comes to our luncheons each June to take photos of our scholarship winners. We appreciate his help.

More on next page...

ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

North Central Zone

By Nancy Roberts*CR and Patricia Newell, Zone Co-Public Relations Chairs

NCZ Website: www.renyncz.org



Our program was very well received! John Morrow, a former art teacher at Ogdensburg Free Academy, and now a renowned artist for over 50 years, was with us to talk about his journey with nature in the Adirondacks, light in all its facets, various kinds of mediums, and the connections between humanity and nature. We were each gifted with an extraordinary booklet produced by the New York State Council on the Arts featuring Mr. Morrow's history and works over the years. It is a wonderful and inspiring book with stories of how Mr. Morrow's painting has evolved over the years. The book included 140 photos of his paintings. Mr. Morrow's paintings were on display last year at the Frederic Remington Art Museum in Ogdensburg. Mr. Morrow also generously donated one of his paintings, "October Morning", framed and wrapped, for a gifted drawing. **Kathy Allan** was the delighted person to receive this special gift! Mr. Morrow is a very talented and humble man with a rare sense of humor. We sincerely thank our program chair, **Pat Newell**, for inviting Mr. Morrow to join us and share his story and paintings. It was an inspiring experience.

As one of our Community Service projects organized by **Pat Dietrich**, the names of four libraries were drawn in the "Love Your Public Library" raffle at the luncheon. The winners were Depauville Free Library, Flower Memorial Library, Hay Memorial Library and Macsherry Library. Each library was awarded \$50 to help build their collections. NCZ supports literacy.

On June 17th NCZ members and friends set out for a day of waterfall hiking in the North Country. **David Schryver**, co-author of Waterfalls of New York State and five other books on waterfalls in the North Country, led this band of adventurous souls. David designed the day to include selected waterfalls in Lewis County and also several in Oneida County. With temperatures in the low 60s, the hikers felt energized and ready for exploring. The first nature stop was Roaring Brook Lower Falls outside Lowville. From there, the group moved on to Roaring Brook Falls on the Glendale Road. Lush green foliage and the sound of rushing water greeted the explorers. They viewed beautiful sights such as Swan Falls, Hidden Falls, and Eatonville Falls in the Otter Creek State Park. Some of the waterfalls had unique names such as Fish Creek Falls and Singing Water Falls. The majestic beauty of Sugar River Falls at Tacottville was an impressive sight.

After a busy morning, the group stopped for lunch at Capri Pizzeria in Boonville. The lunch was tasty, and the company was jolly. In the afternoon, the adventurers entered Oneida County. They attempted to view New Bakers Falls, Lansing Kill Falls, and Lock 64 Falls. The overgrown trail made these wonders inaccessible for now. They were able to view Pixley Falls. Due to the recent drought, however, there was only a trickle of water instead of a mighty rush. Such is nature...always changing, always interesting.

On the journey home, the group stopped at Mercer's Dairy outside Boonville for their traditional ice cream treat. This feature of each outing is a delicious way to relax and to reflect on the events of the day. Under the leadership of **David Schryver**, NCZ members and friends had an opportunity to witness the beauty of the North Country. The tranquility of nature has a way of restoring one's soul. This day filled with excitement, wonder, and friendship was no exception.



Dates to Remember

Executive Council Meetings for 2026: November 5, 2026; **Fall Business/Luncheon Meeting:** September 16, 2026
Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown; **RENY State Convention:** October 14-16, 2026

ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS ZONE NEWS

Northeastern Zone

By Cindi LaFountain, Public Relations Chair

Summer has finally arrived and we are enjoying the beauty of the North Country. Lots happens around here and it's the same with our Northeastern group.

Two of our awards were presented last month before the end of school. The Dr. Karl R. and Ruth Kramer Northeastern Zone Retired Educators of New York Education Scholarship has been awarded to Maddison Mero, pictured on right. She is a graduate of Peru Central High School and plans to attend SUNY Brockport in August 2026 as an education major. Jennilee Corrow, a special education teacher in Peru High school, has been awarded the Northeastern Zone (NEZ) of Retired Educators of



New York Kramer Memorial Educator Award for the upcoming 2026-27 school year. The grant will fund Corrow's innovative new project, "Virtual Reality for Real-Life Readiness," which brings cutting-edge technology directly into the classroom to support student independence. Pictured on left is Jennilee Corrow, standing with Principle Matt Berry, Alison Brown and **Simone Lutz**, was awarded the RENY NEZ Kramer Memorial Educator Award. Congratulations to them.

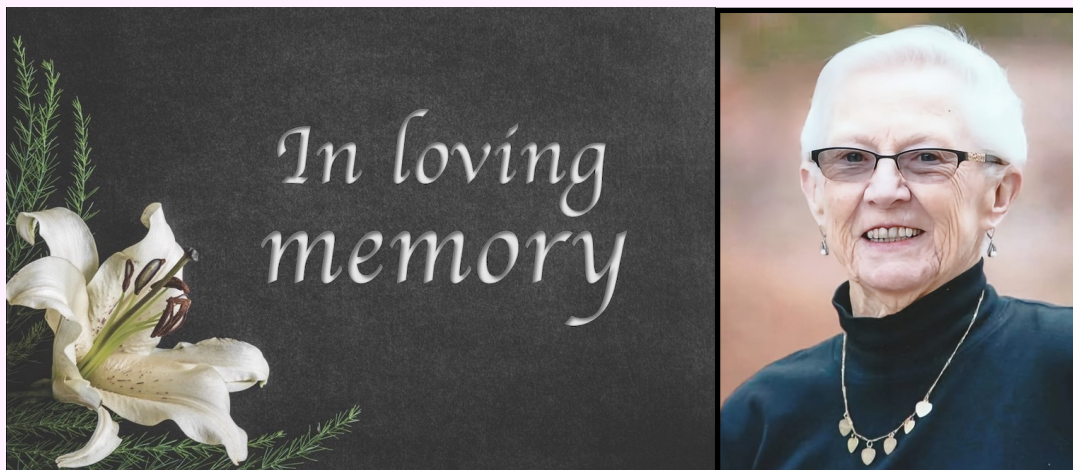


We had a very successful food drive, in June, with a total of 353 lbs. of food and \$216 in cash. (2025 was 180 lbs. and \$125) Helpers were **Charlie** and **Penny Neyenhouse**, **Kim Quinn** and Sully, **Janet Booth** and **Kathy Caron**. One donor even returned to buy more groceries to donate! What a wonderful group of retired educators helping our local community. Pictured at left is **Janet Booth**, **Charlie** and **Penny Neyenhouse** collecting for our food drive.



We end this with a very sad note. Our energizer bunny and dear friend, **Sandra Lashua**, died last week surrounded by her family. Anyone that knew Sandy knew that she was very spiritual, a friend to all, hardworking, funny and most of all loving. She enjoyed life to the fullest right up to the end. When it came to RENY, she shined in everything she did. Sandy was awarded many times for what she did for our organization and humbly accepted them.

Always reminding us that it takes a team to be successful. She is already sorely missed by us and those whose lives she touched. Heaven gained an amazing angel and the world is a better place because she lived.



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Northern Zone

By Linda Crosby, Public Relation Chair

Oh, whew, it's feeling too much like summer! I'm not ready for the onslaught of intense heat. Hope you all have a body of water close by--jump in and cool off! Just make sure you first read below the latest news from NZ.

At an April 23 meeting, our NZ BOD whipped up plans for our Spring membership meeting on June 25, where guest speaker, Kim Maercklein, from the NYS Department of State Division of Consumer Protection, presented a program on Fraud and Identity Theft. After the business meeting and a delicious lunch at the Potsdam Golf Club, Kim expertly surprised us all with a lot of revealing facts and sage advice, such as; if you still write checks, it's more secure to use a gel pen!

At the business meeting, the Fall 2025 meeting minutes were presented by Secretary **Betty Cook**. Treasurer **Roxann Finley** explained her report and the new budget; all were approved by the members. Roxann thanked the many NZ members who recently generously donated \$435 for our H.S. Senior scholarships. NZ President **Gayla LePage** gave the latest RENY and NZ news; she asked for help with NZ positions open and waiting for the expertise of volunteers like you! NZ will be honored at the 2028 convention; please help!

Many committee reports were given. As P.R.Chair, I reported that NZ's 2025 Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant recipient, Angela Brown, sent an update on the Yoga/Meditation Room established at her high school in Canton this past school year. The grant paid for yoga equipment; her students look very happy in her photo which was viewed by NZ members. **Holly Chorba** advised all retirees to get help from RENY, NYSUT and/or School Administrators Association of NYS if the school district from which you retired tries to not honor the health care provisions of your last contract; support from these groups can make a difference and save you a lot of money from your pension.



Gayla asked for help with inviting new retirees to RENY membership. She will pay for the first year membership dues for newly retired teachers from her school district. **Betty Cook** sends a note about the Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund in her Friendly Service cards; she would appreciate donations of birthday cards. **Rae Louise Tate**, pictured at left, gave a Legislative Action report on RENY State/Federal goals and Tier VI improvements. RENY/Northern Zone/Clifton-Fine RTA President **Joe Russo** welcomed all to attend their summer meeting in August in Star Lake.

Scholarship Chair **Gayla LePage** thanked **Tom** and **Betty Cook** for reviewing all the applications and choosing recipients. She reported that, for Franklin County, 2026 Malone C.S.D. graduate Michael Perrigo received the Janet P. Dana Memorial Scholarship of \$400. From Burke, NY, Michael is the son of Brian Perrigo and Leanna Perrigo. He will be attending Cornell University to major in Secondary Education-Aerospace/ Aeronautical Engineering with the goal of teaching at the college level while doing research. Michael maintained a 99.15 average and graduated third in his class of 192. He began his high school career in grade 8 at Malone Middle School where he earned 3 H.S. credits and continued with a heavy course load at Franklin Academy.



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Northern Zone

By Linda Crosby, Public Relation Chair

He enjoyed participation in Jazz, Symphonic and All County Bands, Spanish Club, Student Council, Rotary Inter-act, Robotics (Coach, VP) while serving as treasurer of Epsilon, National Honor Society and his senior class. He earned many academic awards and honors. Michael also joined the soccer and golf teams. He volunteered at his church, did fundraising for band and community service projects, and was a leader for science research projects. He wants to not only "teach formulas," but also encourage students to feel capable of using them.

The Ross C. Hudson Memorial Scholarship of \$400 was awarded to St. Lawrence County resident Jenna Larrabee, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Larrabee, of Canton, NY. Jenna will attend St. Lawrence University to pursue study in Elementary Education. She graduated from Hugh C. Williams H.S. in the Canton C.S.D. with a 97.4 average in sixth place in her class of 78 seniors. Jenna earned an Advanced Regents Diploma, many honors, credits in many AP courses, and college credits in Psychology and Statistics from St. Lawrence University. She served in leadership roles in Honor Society, as Class Secretary, Student Council VP and community softball coach. She provided childcare for many local families. For many years, Jenna has been a member of the National Thespian Society and appeared in numerous musicals and plays. She performed in Band, Jazz Band, Chorus, and Area All State (Vocal and Clarinet). She also played on the Softball (Captain), Track, and Soccer (Captain) teams. Her volunteer activities included grade four P.E. assistant, Book Buddies (gr K), sports concession, SLU campus kitchen, blood drives, fundraising, and Co-founder of Canton Kids Care (service to many community needs). As a teacher, Jenna will strive to provide a "sense of belonging and support" to her students.



With deep sadness, we announce the passing of a dear friend, **Donna Finnerty*CR**, on February 8, 2026 in Owego, NY. Formally of Gouverneur, NY, Donna was a NZ member for decades, an NZ BOD member, and a long serving NZ President who steadfastly supported RENY and NZ with kindness, caring, intelligence, and great respect for her fellow colleagues. Although she faced health challenges in recent years and moved downstate to be near her sisters, those friends who visited her always brought back photos of her wonderful smile. Donna had always been very active in her Richville church, her community and her Richville elementary school. She was known as a dedicated, hardworking, and cheerful teacher. She greatly enjoyed being a daughter, sister, wife, mother, and grandmother in her close, loving family.

On behalf of NZ, Gayla presented to **Alice Galvin** (NZ Community Service Chair, Meetings & Programs Chair, Convention Delegate, and Roving Photographer) a gift, lunch, and a sincere farewell tribute; Alice will be moving soon from Star Lake to Buffalo to enjoy the closeness of her large family. We wish her good times and lots more fun with her siblings and their families in her hometown! We will greatly miss Alice, her outstanding support for RENY, NZ, & RENY/Northern Zone/Clifton-Fine RTA and, especially, her longtime friendship!



Donna at the 2010 NYSRTA Meeting & Convention
Photo credit-Alice Galvin

I hope you all have safe and scintillating summer adventures!

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Southeastern Zone
By Maureen Coffey, Public Relation Chair

"I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it"
~Thomas Jefferson

Every year, writing an article for this edition of York State is a pleasure. Sharing the past accomplishments and future dreams of some of our graduating seniors is an honor. This year we have eight students and one administrator whose hard work definitely contributed to their good luck! (You've made our third president proud!)

Patti DeLeo, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee for Southeastern Zone, submitted write-ups that display her pride in our zone's winners.

"While teachers are instrumental in teaching life lessons, sometimes it is the person himself or herself whose personal experience is the best teacher. The winner of our scholarship is a Beacon High young lady who learned through her own personal experience...and as a result...has determined that emergency medical services might be her career calling. After observing them in action, she believes she has the desire, passion and abilities to be one of those people who helps in an emergency medical crisis. We are happy to present Samiria Fareera with a \$2000 award from Southeastern Zone so she may pursue her studies and exploration in Emergency Medical Services."

"But there are also teachers and administrators who first engage students with the opportunities to discover post secondary education and career paths. Many students don't have the opportunity to witness life after high school. RENY is delighted to award Dr. Corey Dwyer, principal of Beacon High School, with a Hudson Kramer Grant for \$2000 to pursue acquainting students with college and campus life, post secondary educational opportunities and career paths. Students will visit institutions offering commuter and resident options."

In addition to our SEZ winners, our local units also presented awards.

RENY/Southeastern Zone/Newburgh Area Retired Teachers' Association (NARTA) awarded two scholarships, each in the amount of \$2,000. Debra Mahusky, Chairperson of their Scholarship Committee, submitted a beautifully written paragraph for each recipient.

"The first recipient was Matthew Bogaczyk from Marlboro Central High School. He is the son of Jacob and Kristi Bogaczyk. Matthew will be attending Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, NY and will pursue a degree in Physical Education. His parents, teachers, and experiences in gym and sports have encouraged him to persevere and not give up. 'Some of the most meaningful lessons in my life have come from athletics'. Matthew wants to provide a 'supportive and inclusive environment' for his students, where 'all children feel valued and encouraged'."

"The second recipient was Bianca Martelli from Cornwall High School. She is the daughter of Loren Martelli. Bianca will be attending a University in Florida and will pursue a degree in Education. Her own experiences in the classroom played a major role in her confidence and outlook on learning. Bianca aspires to provide a 'welcoming encouraging atmosphere for her students'. She has learned that 'teaching is more than delivering lessons; it is about inspiring students, creating safe spaces, and leaving a lasting impact'."

Mary Lou Davis reports that the Dutchess County and NYS Southeastern Zone Retired Teachers Association awarded a \$750 scholarship to Kaitlyn Dones. Kaitlyn's goal is to open a preschool center and get a four year degree in education. When she was in her twenties, she adopted three siblings. Always placing a great deal of emphasis on education certainly paid off: one child became the class valedictorian, another the class salutatorian. Kaitlyn shared that "Receiving this scholarship reassures me that I am not alone and that my experiences can be a source of strength rather than limitation."

More on the next page...

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Southeastern Zone **By Maureen Coffey, Public Relation Chair**

Once again, **RENY/Southeastern Zone/Mid-Hudson Area Retired Teachers Association (MARTA)** awarded four scholarships, each worth \$3000 to worthy and deserving seniors.

Moira Griffin ran track and participated in wind ensemble while at Washingtonville High School. She plans to attend Siena University where she will earn her Bachelor's Degree in Physics. Moira hopes to one day teach high school or college.

Chanel Carty, a graduate of Middletown High School, will attend SUNY Albany. She hopes to earn a degree in Early Childhood and Childhood Education and become an elementary school teacher and speech pathologist.

Olivia Grogan, another graduate from Middletown High School, plans to attend Florida Gulf Coast University where she will pursue a degree in Special Education. Olivia has taken almost all of the art classes offered in high school including a college level introduction to art course. She would like to spend a year studying abroad.

Anthony Russo, also from Middletown High School, will attend SUNY Brockport to study Physical and Health Education. His goal is to become a phys ed teacher and a coach. Anthony was a three sport varsity athlete while still being one of the top ten in his class, so he truly understands what it means to be a scholar athlete.

So there we have it... Nine young people on their way to making the world a better place for all of us! We are so proud of every one of you and wish you our best.

Godspeed to all of you.

'Til next time...

Southern Zone **By Mary Lou Wood, Public Relation Chair**

I cannot believe summer is almost over, but our RENY/Southern Zone members have been extremely busy.

The awardee for the Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant for 2026 is Suzanne E. Scibek, elementary teacher and Social Worker of the Big Flats Elementary School located in Big Flats, New York. This school is part of the Horseheads CSD. The award was presented to Suzanne in June, 2026, pictured a right. Southern Zone President **Gerardo Tagliaferri** and **Mary Lou Wood**, Past President of Southern Zone and Public Relations Chair, were the presenters. **Debbi Deats** and **Mary Suffern**, members of the Scholarship Committee, were unable to attend.

RENY/Southern Zone/Schuyler County Retired Teachers Association's (SCRTA) **Lisa Frost**, Co-President, will host this year's RENY Southern Zone Annual Meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. Set against the stunning backdrop of Seneca Lake, the event will take place at the Hotel Laurel in Watkins Glen, NY. Keynote Presentation: Dr. Gary Emerson will present "Steamboats on Seneca Lake". The cost for the event is \$35 per person. More information will follow. More on the next page...



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Southern Zone

By Mary Lou Wood, Public Relation Chair

RENY/Southern Zone/Elmira Area RTA: **Nancy Spaulding**, President : Their June meeting served two purposes. We honored our 90 year olds, as we always do in June, and we paid tribute to Community Leader Jim Hare who was to have been our speaker at the meeting but who died unexpectedly in April. Jim's old friend and former Chemung County Executive, Tom Santulli, took his place and moved us all with his fond memories about Jim. The photograph shows everyone we honored. In the front row are **Jean Schaffler** on the left and **Alta Stevenson** on the right. From the left in the rear are **Jean McCormick**, Alicia Hare, widow of Jim Hare, Tom Santulli, our speaker, and **Lou Coccagnia**. They also welcomed Mike Martino, a local lawyer, who educated us in elder care, finances, living wills, and preparing us for future living accommodations. He gave us his undivided attention for two hours.



RENY/Southern Zone/Corning Area Retired Teachers (CARTA), President **Debbi Deats** had wonderful and educational programs. Sue Gruber, retired teacher and Certified Aging in Place instructor accompanied by friend, Mike Hurley from Gerould's Healthcare, educated us on "**Reducing and De-cluttering**". They gave us a fact sheet of where we can donate these items such as books, puzzles, furniture, etc.

The Unit also awarded 3 scholarships to local students going into teaching. Emmalyn Lafler, Bath CSD; Kennedy Harris, Campbell Savona SD; and Sydney Layton, Corning Painted Post SD. Congratulations

RENY/Southern Zone/Eastern Broome Branch (EBB)/Western Broome Eastern Tioga Branch(WBET): The second annual Stephen J. Cornell Memorial Scholarship was awarded on June 3, 2026, to Binghamton High School salutatorian Tatev Dadian. She speaks multiple languages, including Armenian, French and English. Tatev was in the International Baccalaureate Program and earned the Pathway Seal of Biliteracy. She will attend Binghamton University and plans to major in biochemistry. Stephen J. Cornell was a member of the Binghamton Central High School Class of June 1964. He served in the U. S. Army during the Vietnam War and was a translator at Guantanamo Bay. Steve taught French and Spanish in the Binghamton City School District for over thirty years, beginning in 1971. He was Co-President of EBB.

Pictured at right is Zone President, **Gerardo Tagliaferri**, Legislative Chair, **Mary Johnson*CR**, and Membership Chair **Vince Smith*CR** who met with Senator Lea Webb promoting RENY's legislative agenda. Senator Webb represents all of Cortland and Tompkins County's, and part of Broome County which includes the City of Binghamton."



Members of the **RENY/Southern Zone/Schuyler County RTA (SCRTA)** gathered on June 5th to enjoy a chicken barbecue, discuss current issues facing retirees, and plan the Southern Zone Annual meeting. We awarded our annual \$500 scholarship to Erin Snow, a Watkins Glen graduating senior who plans to study psychology.



The SCRTA officers have been meeting monthly to plan upcoming events and find ways to increase member participation. Pictured at a recent meeting are **Suzanne Walker** and **Lisa Frost**, Co-Presidents; **Ann Shepardson**, VP for Legislative Action; **Susan Lemak**, Treasurer and **Clarice Miles**, Secretary.

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Western Zone

By Kathleen Cansick & Joanne Wheaton, Co-Public Relations Chairs

Summer - What a joy, to feel the sun's warmth while lounging outdoors or strolling along garden paths!

-What joy to partake in outdoor picnics, barbecues, and bonfires!

-What joy to laze around the pool or a take dip in a refreshing lake!

- What joy to sleep with fresh air gently circulating around you!

Summer - Much too short!

Western Zone units are very active and social. An involved unit in Western Zone is our **RENY/Western Zone/Lancaster/ Depew** Unit with **Karen Gembar** as President. The meetings are twice a year, once in May and then again in October after the RENY Annual Meeting & Convention. The meeting consists of a luncheon, a speaker, and a 50/50 raffle. Recently, the unit donated to the Lancaster Opera House for Stage Ed Programs and Trinity Food Pantry. The May speaker, Brian Wirth from Clarity Group personally matched the unit's donation to both non-profits. Karen and her officers are willing to work especially hard to make their unit successful.

To increase membership **Karen Gembar** encourages members to bring friends to the meetings as well as sends a personal letter to new retirees inviting them to the October meeting. This unit is successfully working to be a participating part of RENY.

Michelle Claus, Western Zone's Membership Chair and RENY Vice President for Membership, is working hard to increase membership for both Western Zone and RENY but, she needs everyone's help! Michelle and her committee are planning to celebrate the new retirees of 2026 and all retirees who haven't joined RENY/Western Zone. This event is being planned for September 15, 2026 which will include a buffet, dessert, and a short presentation. RENY/Western Zone wants all perspective new members to know what we stand for and what we do for schools, educators, students, and the community.

RENY/Western Zone's Teacher Grant Committee recently announced the 2025-2026 recipients. The grants are sponsored by RENY/Western Zone's Retired Educators Founders Fund Inc. A \$1000 was awarded to each of the deserving teachers from public schools in Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, and Niagara Counties.

For this academic year the five recipients were:

*Jaclyn Long & Kayla Wdowka - Iroquois Middle School - The Cardboard Arcade Engineer Challenge - pictured on top right with **Carol Cascio and Maria Hager***

*Darcie Pawlewski - Alden Primary School - Kinder Creators: A Collaborative Storybook Makerspace - pictured on bottom right with **Maria Hager***

Jennifer Schmitt - North Collins High School -- From Tank to Table: A School-Based Aquaponics Research Laboratory

Kathleen Reis - Newfane Elementary School - From Imagination to Innovation: Bringing 3-D Printing to Elementary Learners - Pictured in middle photo with Sandy Kelley and Maria Hager

Jenn Deton - Pavilion Central School - Illuminating Early Math: Integrating LED Light Panels to Enrich Universal Pre-Kindergarten Mathematics Instruction

Congratulations to all of the wonderful educators who were recipients and the students who will benefit from these outstanding projects!

