

RC 10 SKYLINE NEWS

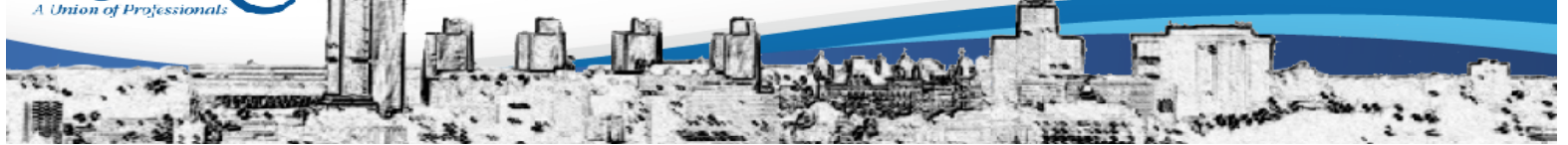


NYSUT Retiree Council 10

ISSUE 6 for 2015-2016/JULY/AUGUST

Serving Over 8000 Members in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Washington Counties

TEACHER UNION SOLIDARITY



RC10 Officers

President - David Golden
dmgolde@nycap.rr.com
518-371-0604 (Vo/Fax)
518-573-1326 (Cell)

1st Vice-President - Jim Stolis
jimnfros@aol.com
518-424-5426

2nd Vice-President -
Ann Cherney
acherne1@nycap.rr.com

Secretary - Laraine Gillette
rc10secretary@hotmail.com

Treasurer -
Paula M. Johannessen
rc10treasurer@gmail.com
518-283-3556

NYSUT Delegates

Daniel Boone,
boonesfarm1976@yahoo.com
Dennis Bouchard
Jane Weihe,
Mweihe1@nycap.rr.com

Alternate Delegates

Bonita Maxon,
bamrdk@aol.com
Vince Pelliccia
Ernie Reis

AFT Delegate

Jim Stolis

AFT Alternative

Bonita Maxon

Membership Director

Beverly A. Harrington
Box 74
Guilderland Center, NY 12085
sharrin@nycap.rr.com

Travel Program

Kathryn Chesterfield
kchesterfield@nycap.rr.com
518-235-0264
Karen Maher
kmaher2@nycap.rr.com
518-477-6746

Webmaster and Newsletter Editor

Ernie Reis

Interim Newsletter Editor:

Deb Escobar
rc10newsletter@gmail.com

<http://rc10.ny.aft.org>

TO UPDATE YOUR
PERSONAL CONTACT
INFORMATION,
CALL NYSUT MEMBER
RECORDS (518) 213-6000

From Your President:

If we are to believe the newspapers, we are all safe again for a few months or the rest of the year. The legislature has closed up and left town! The local press has been totaling up the winners and losers. We get a quick once-over-lightly of what they did or did not do and we are left to rejoice or wallow in the pain of disappointment.

The real problem is not always what is in the headlines but what is in the fine print. Does it target the big crooks they talk about or are you in the line of fire? One such issue is a first, the passage of a constitutional amendment that would strip wrong doers of their pensions if convicted of malfeasance in office. What constitutes misconduct in office and who is subject to this draconian penalty of losing a pension? Are the convicted members of the legislature the only type of person subject to this proposal?

The Assembly version targeted the big fish. The Senate version had provisions that would have included teachers and other civil servants in the group who could lose their pensions if convicted of some wrong doing. Did that make it to the final version or is it only impacting major players? Not to be found in the headlines, but what about the fine print? Stay tuned. And, of course, we must see the identical version passed next year before it comes to the voters.

There is another aspect of this effort that has not received any attention and that is its impact on the spouse of the wrong doer. Under federal law a spouse has a right to some portion of a pension earned during the marriage. They cannot be dumped from a marriage at the last moment for some sweet young thing of either gender and lose what they were entitled to. Not an easy question to resolve but a real one. Do we punish spouses for the wrong doings of their spouses or do we limit the punishment to those who do wrong themselves? How should that work in this case?

Despite possible concern, the approach of an amendment to fix a problem is the right way to go. The voters can see what they are getting if they agree and decide if it is a good deal or not. The broad call for a constitutional convention to review and change the entire constitution in one big take it or leave it package is a bad idea.

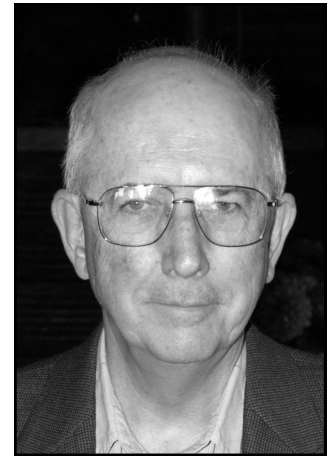
If you had a problem with your house, would you get a contractor to fix that problem the way you agreed upon or just turn him loose to do anything he wanted to do? Could he make major changes to the bathroom while he is about fixing the front door? Can he tear out the heating and air-condition systems when you thought he was there to fix the leak in the roof? Does he have a blank check to do what he wants to because you agreed some repair was needed? For most of us the answer is obvious. You are only going to do what I want done to my house and you are only going to charge what I have agreed to pay. No blank checks.

Why then do we consider giving a blank check to the "contractor" who proposes to fix our governing document? The need for repair is often evident but never a justification for a blank check or wide open work order authorizing endless tinkering or changes put in a big bundle with some attractive item in the basket of changes.

Why not get some new faces to fix our governance problems? Well, who do you think is going to get elected to the constitutional convention as a delegate? Most people will vote for someone they know and have a sense of their worth to serve. Who is that most often? It is some public servant, elected official or some office holder who they have seen on a ballot before. The "Mr. Smith goes to Washington" type of thing just does not occur or is so rare that it makes no difference. With the sweeping authority of a constitutional convention, this means that a political fox is in charge of the hen house. They can bargain for future support for the person or party they represent as the price of not destroying your interest. The fox can and will divide us from our natural allies and then we become the feast, not the feasters.

The political process takes time and often we get impatient with what it takes to make changes we want. There is a good side to that arrangement as well. We get to learn about the fine print, understand the unintended consequences and shape our efforts for program improvement and success, not just race quickly to make changes which are not really what we wanted at all.

Continued on page 3



DAVID GOLDEN

NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT RC9/10

Barbara McCarthy 518-783-7977 (bmccarth@nysutmail.org)

ENDORSEMENT CONFERENCE



In early August, Dave Golden will attend the NYSUT Endorsement Conference where he will participate in the endorsement process for political candidates at the State and Federal levels running for election this November in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Washington Counties. Please share your thoughts about the candidates who you feel should be endorsed and why. Contact Dave at dmgolde@nycap.rr.com to voice your opinion.

SAVE THESE DATES– TRAVEL & SOCIAL CALENDAR!!!!

Thursday, October 6, 2016, Fall Luncheon. Come welcome our new teacher and SRP retirees at the fall luncheon which will be held at Longfellows, 500 Union Avenue, Saratoga. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Don Levy, director of the prestigious Siena College Political Research Institute. His presentation will include state and national polling trends, the status of the political candidates, and other relevant topics relating to this important and exciting Presidential election. This event will be of great interest to all. **DON'T MISS IT!!!** The noon luncheon will be preceded by a business meeting at 11:30 a.m. The choices for this \$24 per person luncheon are Pot Roast, Crusted Tilapia, and Vegetable Ragout (gluten free and vegan). Please complete the reservation form and send it with a non-refundable check (payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 10) to Erica Berger, 91 Pheasant Ridge, Schenectady, NY 12309. The deadline for registering is September 28. Please reserve early in order to be included in this event.

May 11–20, 2017, Discover Ireland. This 10-day trip to Ireland, which will be led by **Doug Porter**, begins with two days to the north through Dundalk and Calingford, and Belfast, Northern Island. Then, traveling across the Irish midlands to Galway, where we spend two more days sightseeing through the Connemara region. Then on to the Cliffs of Moher and travel to Killarney for two days, where we take in the spectacular views of The Dingle Peninsula, or have an **option for a round of golf** at the Killarney Golf and Fishing Club. On our way to Dublin you'll have a chance to kiss the Blarney Stone and have photos at the Rock of Cashel. For our final two nights, we stay at Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel in Killiney, with easy access to Dublin, for our last two days offering many sights, including the Guinness Storehouse, Whitefriars Church, and Trinity College, and a "few" pubs. **Tour cost: \$2,293** includes air. Additional costs include the pre-registration fee to RC 10 and fees for optional tours and golf. For detailed information and pre-registration form, contact Doug Porter; e-mail: dporter1950@aol.com. Phone: 518-669-3433.

September 2-14, 2017, Portugal and the Douro River. Looking for a trip a little off the beaten track? Why not PORTUGAL AND THE DOURO RIVER? Road Scholar's 5 star trip Belo Portugal: Wine, History, and Landscapes Along the Douro River will be offered to RC10 members September 2-14, 2017. Aboard a smaller river cruise ship, we will visit national parks to port wine vineyards and villages abundant with Baroque and Gothic history, folkloric culture, and natural splendor. We will spend a day visiting Salamanca, Spain and 3 days in the heart of beautiful Lisbon. Cost include cruise/land program, 30 meals, 7 lectures, 14 field trips, 1 performance, beverages including local wine and beers, taxes, gratuities, Road Scholar Travel Assistance Plan (\$3395 - \$3695). Air rates will not be available until the fall. Contact: Karen Maher, kmaher2@nycap.rr.com. Phone: 518 588-4083 for more detailed information. Exclusive reservations will be held for RC10 members until November 1.

July 2017 tentative 3-night and 4-day stay at the Great Camp Sagamore. Approximate cost will be \$850 per person double occupancy with twin beds. Included in this price are bus, all meals, gratuities, and cruise on Raquette Lake. If you are interested in this trip, please contact Karen Ferris-Fearnside at apqueeny@aol.com or call 518-372-2370.

April 21-29, 2017, Paris & The Heart of Normandy River Cruise. With options for a Provence pre-extension and a Paris post-extension, this trip led by Alice Schielke **SOLD OUT** prior to this newsletter via email notification. To not miss future trips, send your email contact to Secretary Laraine Gillette: rc10secretary@hotmail.com.

When registering for a trip, please remember that a **member of RC 10** is anyone who has retired from a NYSUT local that is located in Albany, Saratoga, Rensselaer, or Washington counties or is a Social Member who has retired from a NYSUT local in some other part of the state and has paid member fees to his/her Council and a social membership fee to RC 10. Anyone who did not retire as an in-service member of a NYSUT local is not eligible for sustaining or social membership and must pay the guest registration fee. A **sustaining member** has paid the annual sustaining membership fee for the fiscal year that is from July 1 to June 30.

GET TRIP INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORMS ON THE WEB! Here's how: 1) Log on to <http://rc10.ny.aft.org>. 2) Click on ACTIONS & EVENTS menu, and 3) Click the Travel & Social tab. The generic travel/form (printed below) is a pdf file on this page.

TRAVEL/SOCIAL GENERIC REGISTRATION FORM

(If you are signing up for more than one activity, or will be taking a guest, please copy this form and fill in the appropriate information.)

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone* _____
*Take phone to event

Email _____ Registering for: Event & Date _____

Check One: For 2015-2016,
 RC10 Member who has paid the annual sustaining membership fee
 Guest or Member who has not paid the annual sustaining membership fee.

Event Selections:

For Luncheons/Meals, Entrée of Choice _____ For Trips, Pick Up Location _____

Other notes (Keep it Simple): _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

NYSUT is working on improving the ability of our members to take an active part in efforts to protect teachers and other professionals we represent. We live in a prime area to help with that effort. Albany is just a short drive away; and while we do not relish wandering our way through the Capital corridors we are uniquely able to do so quickly and effectively. It is not the sort of thing you would be asked to do every day or week, but there are times when only a concerned citizen can convince the legislator that the folks who vote in their district want them to stand up for them. When you see the appeals, give it some serious consideration. You cannot only help yourself but many other colleagues. Effective political action takes the participation of actual voters who show up when they are really needed. You alone can do that. Give a bit of your time and presence to help us all. For political action to be successful, it takes all of our efforts, not just the work of our legislative staff. Do your part when asked.

~David Golden, President

RC 10 SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP FORM
July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017
PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION AND FILL IN ALL BLANKS

SEND TO: Beverly A. Harrington, P O Box 74, Guilderland Center, NY 12085
Questions: sharrin1@nycap.rr.com

Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (Cell) _____ Email: _____

I retired in (year) _____ from _____ School District in _____ County

as a _____ Teacher _____ Counselor _____ Medical _____ SRP

in (area—elementary, middle school subject, high school subject, etc.) _____

I served in the capacity as _____ in my local Union chapter.

If you are interested in volunteering with RC 10, please contact
rc10secretary@hotmail.com.

Membership. Make Membership checks payable to: **NYSUT Retiree Council 10**
Please place an X before the correct statement:

_____ I have been retired 20 years or less and am including \$20.

_____ I have been retired 20 years or less, have an annual pension of less than \$25,000, and am including \$10.

_____ I have been retired 21 years or more (since 1996 or before) and wish to still receive information from RC 10 by sending in this completed membership form with no fee.

_____ I have been retired 21 years or more (since 1996 or before) and I am including \$_____.

_____ I am enclosing \$_____ as a donation for the **Scholarship Fund**. Please enclose a **SEPARATE CHECK** made payable to **NYSUT Retiree Council 10 Scholarship**. (The bank requires a separate check.)

This section is for Retired New York State Teachers and SRPs who are members of another Retiree Council in New York State or Florida.

_____ Social I would like to become a Member for trip discounts and am including \$20. I am a FEE PAYING MEMBER of RC____. FEE PAYING MEMBERS of other RCs are eligible to join RC10 as social members.

Office use: Date Paid: _____ Check Number: _____ Amount: _____



Keep this section as your 2016-2017 RC 10 Membership receipt.
No Membership Card will be issued.

Date Paid: _____ Check Number: _____ Amount: _____

For another form and/or more RC 10 information: www.rc10.ny.aft.org

RETIREES HONORED AT RC 10 SPRING LUNCHEON

It is not often in a professional career that one gets to see the juxtaposition between those individuals who deserve accolades for their long service and dedication to teaching and their union activities and those who have distinguished themselves in high school and are entering college with a goal of someday becoming a teacher. RC 10 members had such a privilege at the Spring Luncheon on June 2, where we honored four of our very worthy colleagues, while also celebrating Scholarship Award winners.

Diane Grego retired in 1996 from Cohoes CSD, with her teaching concentration in Business Education 9-12. Her union activities have included posts as building representative and member of negotiations committee. After retirement, she has served as ambassador from Cohoes to the RC 10 Board of Directors. She has also chaired the Scholarship Committee for many years.

Dennis Bouchard retired from Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake CSD where he taught Earth Science and was Science Department Chairman. He served as building president, chief negotiator, and delegate to NYSUT RA. He is presently a member of the RC 10 Board of Directors, delegate to NYSUT RA, member of Committee of 100 lobbying group, SALT representative and Co-Chair of the Activist Committee.

Ernie Reis retired in 2006 from Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene BOCES, where he helped students earn their GED. He was involved with RCG BOCES Teachers' Association, elected delegate to the Troy Area Labor Council, and was a delegate at the NYSUT RA. Within RC 10, Ernie has been an Ambassador and elected delegate to NYSUT RA. He has served as both the Editor of the award winning Skyline News, as well as Webmaster of our award winning website.

Barbara McCarthy retired from Hartford CSD, where she taught 4th grade and elementary AIS math and was the coordinator of the gifted/ talented program. She was president of the Hartford Faculty Association, served on negotiations and grievance committees, and was VOTE/ COPE coordinator. She has continued to remain active in retirement and serves as the NYSUT RC 9/10 Retiree Services Consultant.

RC 10 ON LINE
<http://rc10.ny.aft.org>

RC 10 luncheons are a wonderful opportunity to connect with other retirees and support union activities. Please consider joining us for our fall luncheon on October 6. You can find more information on page 2.

From left, RC 10 honoree Dennis Bouchard from Saratoga County; Saratoga scholarship winner Maja De Garay from Saratoga County-Saratoga Springs High School; Diane Grego RC 10 honoree from Albany County; Albany County student scholarship winner Madeline Reilly from Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School; Barbara McCarthy, RC 10 honoree from Washington County; and Jeanne Bush, Scholarship Committee Chair. Rensselaer County Honoree Ernie Reis and scholarship winners Mackenzie Aldous (Washington County, Granville Jr./Sr. High School) and Alexandra Stuto (Rensselaer County, Maple Hill High School) are not pictured.

