

# RC 10 SKYLINE NEWS

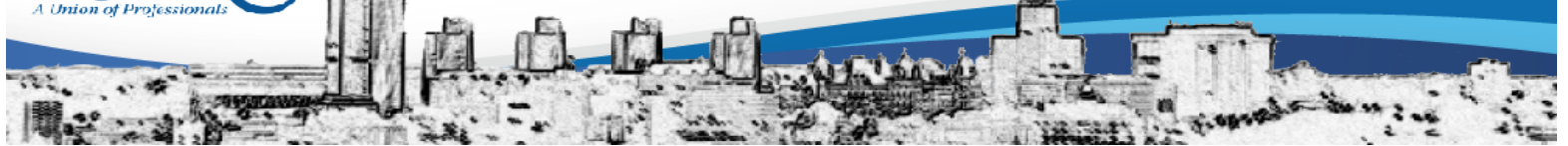
**nysut**  
A Union of Professionals

**NYSUT Retiree Council 10**

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

**TEACHER UNION SOLIDARITY**

**ISSUE 2 for 2017 March-April**



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## **From Your President:**

We live in an ever-changing world and sometimes that reality comes at us in the most unexpected way. RC 10 is facing some radical changes in the way we serve our members. We have a limited range of options to respond to this situation. NYSUT supports our communications with members by publishing six newsletters a year for each RC. We may do fewer but not more. Every three years they mail one newsletter that includes an election notice for us as first-class mail, so that all voters have ample notice of elections.

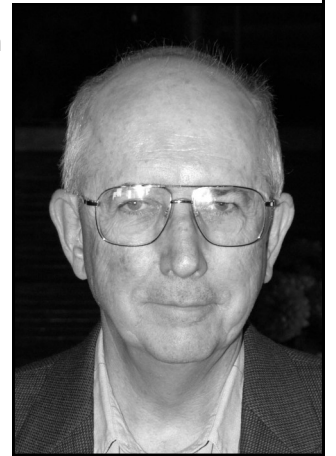
NYSUT is finding it necessary, for economic reasons, to reduce this service to five issues of the printed newsletter per year, counting from *last January!* So what? Well it's not about elections alone; it is about communicating with our members. We face challenges to tenure, dues deductions, the right to organize and many other issues on the federal level. These changes directly impact our ability and effectiveness in NY State. We also confront the issue of possibly having a Constitutional Convention in New York that may threaten our ability to keep our secure pension system. Our newsletter and publications are crucial to our ability to inform and mobilize our members.

We are all vested in the pension system and it cannot be altered or reduced in mid-stream, **now!** If that present language in our state constitution is lost or altered, then all pensions, present and future are at risk. The New York State Teachers Retirement System is now fully funded, which means they have the money they need to fund their existing obligations at all **times**. If that is changed, where does our pension check money come from? In other states they promise pension benefits, but they do not fund them as they go along. Look at New Jersey or Illinois to see how bad that can get and how folks have had their pensions cut or reduced even after they began drawing benefits. Will that be the future of New York pensions? Will we be able to educate our members as the **issue** develops?

If we lose access to frequent newsletters, then what are we left with? Email is one answer, but that confronts the reality that only about one in nine members have registered their email address with RC 10 or NYSUT.

Don't want to hear about political issues we face so you didn't do it? Well how about hearing about saving money? We just put out **an** email notice relaying information from a member that discovered a way to save money buying **theater** tickets in NYC. We got back the largest response we ever had to an email! Folks wanted more info and expressed their appreciation for a way to save! If you did not see that, you can check this issue of the newsletter for the information. Fellow members who did register their email with us had that information a month or more ago.

~Continued on Page 3



**DAVID GOLDEN**

## **RC 10 NEEDS YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!**



**"What you don't know can hurt you. When your rights and interests are being attacked, ignorance is not bliss. Protect yourself by getting on our email list. Send your e-mail address to [nysutrc10@gmail.com](mailto:nysutrc10@gmail.com)."**

~David Golden, President

TO UPDATE YOUR  
PERSONAL CONTACT  
INFORMATION,  
CALL NYSUT MEMBER

## **NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT RC9/10**

Barbara McCarthy 518-783-7977 ([bmccarth@nysutmail.org](mailto:bmccarth@nysutmail.org))

**SAVE THESE DATES— TRAVEL & SOCIAL CALENDAR!!!!**

**\*\*APRIL 21-29, 2017, CULINARY DELIGHTS AND HISTORIC TREASURES ON THE SEINE; MAY 11-20, 2017, DISCOVER IRELAND; AND SEPTEMBER 2-14, 2017, PORTUGAL AND THE DOURO RIVER—THESE TRIPS ARE FILLED.**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017, NEW YORK CITY ON YOUR OWN.** Indulge yourself with shopping, a show, or a visit to a museum. If you want to visit the 911 Museum, you must send for tickets. Upstate Travel will leave from Saratoga at Wilton Mall (on the left side of Dick's by light pole 2) at 6:30 am; Latham at Latham Farms in front of Sam's Club at 7 am; Albany at Crossgates Commons lower level of Walmart's at 7:30 a.m. The bus will stop in NYC at Bryant Park, Sixth Avenue at West 42 Street, at 11 am. **EVERYONE WILL BE PICKED UP AT BRYANT PARK AT 7 PM.** Return will be around 10 pm. Price is \$40 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Price is \$45 for guests and members who have not paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Reservations must be made by May 10, 2017. Make your non-refundable check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 10 and send to **Kathy Chesterfield, 12 Heritage Court, Cohoes, NY 12047.** Any questions: contact Kathy at **518-235-0264.**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017, ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON.** The Annual Spring Luncheon will be at the Shaker Ridge Country Club (802 Albany Shaker Road in Colonie, near the Albany County Airport). The noon luncheon will be preceded by a business meeting at 11:15 am. The highlight will be the celebration of the RC 10 scholarship winners and RC 10 honorees. Entrée selections will be Turkey Breast, Sliced Roast Beef, or Baked Atlantic Salmon and will include salad, dessert, and coffee/tea. The price, including tax and gratuity, is \$26. Please complete the reservation form and send it with a non-refundable check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 10 to **Kathryn Chesterfield, 12 Heritage Court, Cohoes, NY 12047** by May 25, 2017. Telephone: **518-235-0264.**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017, CULINARY INSTITUTE OF AMERICA ANNUAL SPRING TRIP.** This year's attendees will be enjoying a three-course meal at the Caterina de'Medici Restaurant, the Italian Restaurant at the CIA. The first course will be "Asparagi E Riccia," an asparagus salad with frisée, egg and smoked bacon. The main course will be "Spalla Di Vitello," roasted veal with mixed seasonal vegetables and potatoes. For dessert, we will have "Budino Al Fichi," armagnac-fig bread pudding with creme fraiche and candied nuts. Includes coffee, tea, or iced tea. A one-hour guided tour of the CIA complex is scheduled prior to lunch. The afternoon Hudson River Mansion tour by the National Park Service will be the Frederick Vanderbilt's "Gilded Age" home and estate in Hyde Park. Charter bus departure points will be 7 am from Aviation Mall in front of Sears, 7:15 am from Northway Exit 15 Park and Ride in front of Dick's, and 8 am from the rear of Crossgates Commons near Pet Smart. The bus should be back in Albany around 5:30. The price including the meal, transportation, fees, taxes, and tips is \$90 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Price is \$95 for guests and members who have not paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Using the form below, be sure to list your place of pickup and house and cell phone numbers. Make your non-refundable check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 10 and send to **Dan Boone, 187 Aldous Road, Granville, NY 12832** by May 30. Any questions, call Dan at home in the evenings: **518-642-1075.**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017, GLIMMERGLASS IN COOPERSTOWN, NY.** Enjoy a summer day at Glimmerglass listening to Porgy and Bess, George Gershwin's classic "folk opera" that deals with the attempt of Porgy, a disabled beggar, to create a home for himself and Bess, a young woman whose troubled past threatens to consume her present. Porgy and Bess is one of the pillars of the American opera repertory, with unforgettable melodies including "Summertime," "Bess, You Is My Woman Now," and "I Got Plenty o' Nuttin." The buffet lunch will be at the Otesaga Hotel. UPSTATE TRAVEL will pick up at Wilton Mall by left side of Dick's by light pole 2 at 9 am and Latham Farms in front of Sam's Club at 9:45 am. The price is \$155 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Price is \$165 for guests and members who have not paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Please complete the reservation form and send it with a non-refundable check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 10 to **Kathryn Chesterfield, 12 Heritage Court, Cohoes, NY 12047**, by July 15. Telephone: **518-235-0264.**

**SEPTEMBER 12 TO 14, 2017, A TASTE OF THE FINGER LAKES TOUR.** We'll travel by Yankee Trails Bus to visit five prominent wineries in Seneca and Keuka Lakes area, as well as distinguished sights of interest. A thorough orientation to wine making, as well as tastings, will be included. Particular highlights will include lunch at Belhurst Castle, the Glenn H. Curtis Museum, The Rose Hill Mansion, and both the National Women's Hall of Fame and The Women's Rights National Historic Park. We will stay two nights at the Best Western PLUS Vineyard Inn and Suites in Penn Yan. There will be a departure from Wilton Mall (from the Park and Ride at Dick's) at 8 am and Latham Farms (in front of Dick's) at 8:45 am. We should return to those locations at approximately 5 pm and 6 pm on September 14. Activities are moderately strenuous. Shoulders and elbows should be in good shape! This tour will fill quickly, so don't delay! **COST:** Price is \$370 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Price is \$390 for guests and members who have not paid the annual sustaining membership fee. If you're traveling as a single, there would be an additional cost of \$136. Most meals are included, as well as gratuities. **Costs Not Included:** one lunch and any possible purchases of alcohol. A minimum **deposit of \$100** is due by May 1 with the balance due by July 15. Make your non-refundable check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 10 and send to **Doug Porter, 9 Blakley Court, Troy, NY 12180.** To register or if you have any questions, contact **Doug Porter 518-669-3433** or e-mail [dporter1950@aol.com](mailto:dporter1950@aol.com).

**APRIL 16-26, 2018, ESSENTIAL HOLLAND: TULIPS IN SPRING.** Join RC10 and Alice Schielke for a captivating nine-night river cruise from Amsterdam, Holland, to Brussels, Belgium, during spring's magical tulip time. This cruise offers an exceptional mix of beautiful landscapes, UNESCO heritage cities, history, art and cultural connections. Enjoy a canal cruise and a guided tour of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. Visit the UNESCO city of Kinderdijk, where you'll visit a working windmill and tour the Dutch countryside. Feast your eyes upon a sea of tulips at the famed Keukenhof Gardens and visit a bulb grower farm to learn about the flower trade. Tour Antwerp and Bruges, where you'll be treated to another canal cruise. Grab a complimentary bike to view the sights on your own. Choose between an art museum or WWII history museum, listen to a lecture on transatlantic relations at the Roosevelt Study Center, enjoy an aperitif in a local home, opt for sampling Belgian Culinary Delights or even an optional tour of the famed Red Light District of Amsterdam—truly something for everyone!!! All of this while traveling in comfort with Vantage Deluxe World Travel on the Ms. River Splendor, a ship designed with the American traveler in mind. (Warning: don't come planning to diet!) Priced at an exceptional \$4,048 per person (Cat. D, shared cabin), including air from JFK, all meals, daily excursion gratuities. Registration fee to NYSUT RC10 additional (\$50 or \$100, depending on status). Bus from Albany to JFK will be arranged; approximately \$130. Option for 10 percent discount prior to April 16, 2017, enrollment! Limited singles available; supplement applies. Much more than can be listed here. For flyer and registration information, contact: **Alice Schielke: aliceschielke@gmail.com or 518-368-9009.**

### From Your President (Cont'd. from Page 1)

Bus day trips, overseas trips, food functions, Driver Ed saving programs, local speakers options, and many **other** opportunities for fun and growth go out via our Email system. Much information comes to us with limited advanced notice, but email gives you a chance to take advantage of those offers. We never have had space for all the information on a big trip in the newsletter, but our email system and website did have the ability to send full information to those who wanted it. If you were on the email list, you got it promptly, **but** if not you had to wait for the newsletter to know it was there! Then you could go to the website and check it out. Those who depended on the print form got information four to six weeks after those who registered their email address. They also got the full newsletter as a pdf attachment that early. If we cannot communicate, we cannot serve.

The challenges we face may have a severe impact on NYSUT's ability to protect your interest and **its** effectiveness in doing so. We need to start now to put in place every tool to protect our self-interest. It's not about political party affiliation or upstate/downstate divisions. It's about your right to protect your interest and join with other likeminded people to do so. But it depends on our ability to reach members, and the number of members we represent. If we cannot communicate, we cannot protect. You can always delete a message you do not like or don't want to read, but that requires you get it so you make the final choice.

What you don't know can hurt you. **When your rights and interests are being attacked, ignorance is not bliss. Protect yourself by getting on our email list.** Send your e-mail address to [nysutrc10@gmail.com](mailto:nysutrc10@gmail.com). Check the RC 10 website for other options on how to do this. Don't be left in the dark.  
~David Golden, President

### GENERAL NOTICE TO MEMBERSHIP

The Nomination and Election Committee has been appointed by the Executive Committee to accept nominations for the positions of: President; First Vice-President; Second Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; Delegates and Alternates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly; Delegates and Alternates to the NEA Convention; and Delegates and Alternates to the AFT Convention. The term of office is from July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2020. The election will be held on June 1.

If you would like to nominate someone, please contact Bob DeMarco, 66 Cobble Hill Drive, Gansevoort, NY 12831, by April 1, 2017. A nomination form is available on the website at:

<http://rc10.ny.aft.org/news/notice-nominate-rc-10-officers-2017-election>

#### Numbering of Skyline Newsletters

To accommodate the change in the NYSUT printing schedule for RC 10 newsletters that is discussed in our President's column (see page 1), we will be numbering issues by calendar year instead of by academic year, starting with this issue.

RC 10 wanted to give its members advance notice as to what trips are being planned for 2018. Pricing will not be available until the spring of 2017, but we make our best efforts to find quality programs for a good price. Keep an eye on future newsletters, emails, and the website for more information about these trips.



#### MARCH 2018, OUT AND ABOUT IN NEW ORLEANS: JAZZ, JAMBALAYA, AND JOIE DE VIVRE.

Enjoy 6 days/5nights at an historic hotel in the French Quarter. See the magic of New Orleans: Jazz on Bourbon Street, a miraculous bowl of gumbo, a Garden District mansion. Discover the literary landmarks of Tennessee Williams, meet a Mardi Gras Indian, learn the secrets of creole cooking from a local chef, etc. Visit the WW II Museum and the Museum of Art, and have an expert lead exploration of the Garden District. Have time on your own to stroll Bourbon Street, walk the levee, eat beignets and Muffaletta sandwiches or ride a streetcar named Desire.

#### MAY 2018, ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES.

This 15-day excursion will include two days in London; two days in Cheltenham Village (incl. Oxford, Cotswalds Village, Bath, and Stonehenge); two days in Snowdonia, Wales; three days in York; one day in the Lake District to the northwest; and three days in Edinburgh, Scotland.

**OCTOBER 11-30, 2018, JEWELS OF BOHEMIA: CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY.** This 15-day trip will be limited to 16 people. Included will be 30 meals, all gratuities, all land transportation, accommodations for 13 nights, 18 small group activities, and roundtrip airfare.

**OCTOBER 2018, SANTA FE AND TAOS: A TALE OF TWO CITIES.** The highlights of this trip will include collections of pottery, weaving, baskets, jewelry, paintings only seen by the public via special invitation at the Indian Arts Research Center; a lecture about the life and art of Georgia O'Keeffe and a tour of her museum; a day in Taos and a visit to Taos Pueblo, the only living Native American community designated both a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and a National Historic Landmark; and visits to Santuario de Chimayó, Santa Clara Pueblo, Poeh Museum will introduce us to chilis, Hispanic weaving and Pueblo Pottery. And much more!

**WATCH FOR NEWS ON A NEW SERIES OF TRAVEL TRIPS—VISIT THE CITIES OF THE USA.** In the upcoming years, RC 10 will sponsor trips in the spring and fall that will focus on educational and enlightening experiences in the cities of our country. Trips will be approximately one week in length and will usually feature a single stay hotel in the heart of the featured city. Keep an eye on future newsletters, emails, and the website for the cities we will be touring.

**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 2016-2017,

( ) 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_



The Theater Development Fund (TDF) is a not-for-profit organization that exists to support theatrical works of artistic merit and encourage diverse

audiences to support the arts by subsidizing ticket costs for eligible members. Retirees (older than 62) are eligible for discounts of up to 70% on a number of live theater and dance productions.

To register, go to <https://secure2.tdf.org/join/>. You will have to prove your eligibility by sending a copy of your drivers license along with a copy of an official pension or retirement letter from your former employer or NYSTRS. If you do not have a pension or retirement letter, TDF accepts a copy of a pension, retirement benefits or Social Security benefits pay stub, or a copy of your Medicare card. Please edit out or obscure any sensitive information.

### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FORUM

The Schalmont Teachers' Association and Schenectady Federation of Teachers will be hosting an informative Constitutional Convention Forum on Tuesday, April 25, at 4 p.m., at Schalmont High School, Duanesburg Road, Schenectady, NY. Andy Palotta will be presenting facts about the fallout of a potential convention, and why we must vehemently oppose it. Please attend this important event and pass the word to others.

**VOTE NO! ON A NYS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND SPREAD THE WORD TO OTHERS**



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

### VOTE COPE 2016 REPORT

The final report for the January 1-December 31, 2016, VOTE COPE campaign has been distributed; and because of your efforts and those of the active members throughout the state, the results were outstanding!



Statewide contributions were up 6.72 percent and a total of \$10,101,097 was collected. This total is a new high for statewide VOTE COPE contributions! The results for the Capital District Regional Office, which includes Election Districts 10, 12, and some of 9, were even more impressive. The total contributed by both active members and retirees affiliated with their former local was 18% more than last year in our region. As one of the Capital Region's VOTE COPE Coordinators, I would like to take this op-

portunity to thank those of you that understood the importance of VOTE COPE and contributed last year!!

As we look forward to the 2017 campaign, there is still much work to do. Threats to public education, defined benefit retirement plans, health care, social security and unions are becoming more real every day. And, we can't forget the negative effect a vote in support of a statewide Constitutional Convention might have on some of those things listed above, especially retirement benefits! When asked to contribute, please consider how any change in any of these things could impact you.

Contribute to VOTE COPE, it is the most selfish thing you can do!!

Submitted by Bob DeMarco, CDRO VOTE COPE Coordinator

### SAVE THE DATE!

The NYSUT Regional Conference for Retiree Council 10 will be held on **May 10, 2017**.

Speaker topics will include: Social Security, Estate Planning, an update from a NYSUT Officer, and day trips to the Catskill Region. Our day will start at 8:15 and end at 2:00. We'll serve a Continental Breakfast, a hot lunch, and our day will end with door prizes.

**Watch for the flier in the mail and think about inviting a former colleague to reconnect with and share the day.**