

RC 10 SKYLINE NEWS

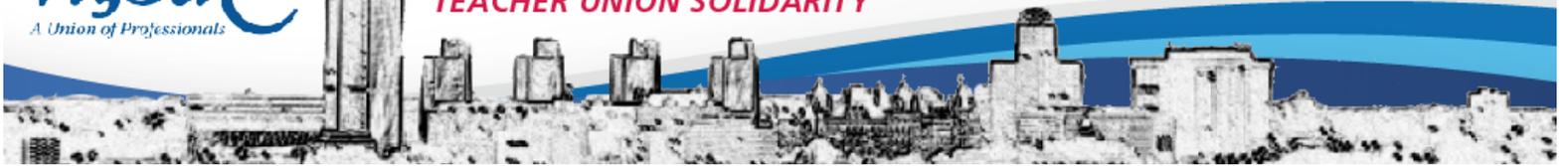
NYSUT Retiree Council 10

ISSUE 1 for 2017-18 Aug-Sep-Oct

Serving Over 9000 Members in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Washington Counties

TEACHER UNION SOLIDARITY

nysut
A Union of Professionals



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

From Your President:

Time rushes by when you are enjoying the warmth of a laid back summer. It is hard to focus upon the real-life problems we will be facing in the fall, but reality is catching up to me. Our reduced printing schedule and the needs of the Travel/Social Committee program pushed us to get a newsletter out to you near the end of August. We lost one annual issue with the need for NYSUT to economize. So now is the time for planning our group fun events for the coming year. It is also the time to face up to the immediate issues members need to keep in mind, no matter how far off they seem right now.

We are seeing calls for lowering the requirements for being a teacher. More of the "anybody can teach" mentality from the owners of charter schools is what it is. They cannot attract enough certified teachers at the pay scale they want to offer. Cheap labor and skilled labor are not synonyms so let's ditch the skill standards so we can pay teachers less. Well, what difference does that make to us? We are retired and not seeking further employment in our fields of expertise. The size of the pool of teachers paying into the retirement system we depend upon does matter. It affects the cost to districts, and lower pay causes future hikes in rates. That feeds the demand for cutting cost at any price.

That in turn feeds into the quest for a Constitutional Convention. Proponents argue it is a chance for citizens to fix problems that career politicians have not been able or willing to do. History demonstrates that most elected delegates to such conventions are career politicians. Why? Because the electorate knows their names and has voted for them before; it becomes "here we go again" time. Millions are spent on the process and voters usually reject the results. Why? The frosting on the cake will look good, but the contents will be poisonous. If you produce a product that looks good but has some bad things deep inside, what then? If it is a take it or leave it situation, they hope folks will take it. Reality is that they often leave it and nothing changes.

There will be one other constitutional change on the ballot this fall, which is an amendment passed by both houses of the legislature during two successive sessions. Yes, they can get change done when they want to! This would take away all pension rights for any major abuse of office by a law maker who seeks to enrich themselves. (The original plan would include any teacher found guilty of any misconduct, but we got that removed). That may be OK if you are not the spouse of such a convicted person. Under federal law, spouses are entitled to one half of their mate's pension. It's a rare instance where a non-office holding spouse would have direct knowledge of the legislative wrong doing of the other spouse. But they will suffer that loss anyway if this is adopted. **We each have to decide how we feel about that, but let's face it; we each need to understand and make our own decision about this issue, with no hidden poison pill.**

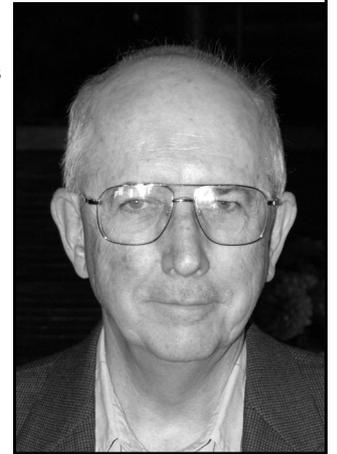
"Don't vote to legalize an electoral shell game!" VOTE NO! on the referendum for a State Constitutional Convention.

Our pensions are based upon a pay as you go plan. When you give a benefit to an employee, you pay for it as their service earns it. It is there when they need it. No one should get to the end and find the pot of money has run out just when they need it. The state must fulfill the promises it made to you for your decades of work for them. They cannot renege after you did the work. You get what you earned in full. Other states promise now and fund later, often finding they cannot afford the cost long after the work was done.

There are many interests at stake in changing constitutional provisions. "Forever Wild" park land, gun ownership rights, labor organizing rights, and many more. If we are able to identify what change is proposed, we make a choice on that issue. If we hide the change under a frosting of good intentions, we can hurt those we want to help and ourselves as well.

The NYS constitution is 300+ pages long. Constitutional conventions produce packages of change that often are a mix of good outcomes and bad ones. Why the package approach? Well, few of us would wade through the legalism of hundreds of changes in state constitutional law before voting. It is not usually fun reading and often obscure in its impact. Most normal folks will not wade through a long set of legalism and inform themselves about the details of a three hundred page document. They therefore focus on one small part and miss the part that would hurt themselves.

When we have one or two changes proposed, we can all grasp that issue and make an informed judgment. When we get a large "package" of changes all mixed together, we lose our ability to digest the conflicting issues and make good judgments. We fall victim to a hard sell ad campaign that does not draw attention to what will hurt us but only to some attention getting frosting that covers a sickening cake of hurt and pain for us all. Clear choices are good for everyone. But only support a system where you know what you are doing; be able to make a choice. Don't vote to legalize an electoral shell game!



DAVID GOLDEN

~David Golden, President



SAVE THESE DATES—TRAVEL AND SOCIAL CALENDAR!!!!

SEPTEMBER 2-14, PORTUGAL AND THE DOURO RIVER—THIS TRIP IS FILLED.
SEPTEMBER 12-14, A TASTE OF THE FINGER LAKES TOUR—THIS TRIP IS FILLED.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, SHELBURNE MUSEUM AND SHELBURNE FARMS. A one-day trip at the peak foliage season to the Shelburne Museum located in Vermont’s scenic Champlain Valley.

This museum is one of the finest, most diverse and unconventional museums of art and Americana in New England. There are over 39 buildings open, with 21 beautiful gardens and the old side wheel steamboat Ticonderoga, just to name a few of the many attractions. At 3:30, we will travel to Shelburne Farms, where we will have a guided tour of the Webb (Vanderbilt) country estate, as well as the cheese-making operation and other parts of this property designed by Frederick L. Olmstead, who designed Central Park. We will have dinner at a restaurant on Shelburne Road (all costs are included) before returning to Albany around 9:30-10:00 p.m. The bus pick-ups will be at three locations: Albany at 7:15 a.m. at the lower level of Crossgates Commons, Saratoga at 8:15 a.m. at Exit 15 Park and Ride (Wilton Mall close to Dick’s Sporting Goods), and Glens Falls at 8:30 a.m. at the Aviation Mall in front of Sears. The total cost, including dinner, transportation, tips, and admission is \$88 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Price is \$93 for guests and members who have not paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Reservations must be made by September 15, 2017. Make your non-refundable check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 10 and send to Daniel D. Boone, 187 Aldous Road, Granville, NY 12832. Any questions: contact Dan at **518-642-1075 in the evening.**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, FALL LUNCHEON AT NYSUT. Retiree Council 10 will hold its annual fall meeting at NYSUT Headquarters, 800 Troy Schenectady Road, Latham, from 10 am to 1:30 pm. **SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION.** Mail your check and the form below to Laraine Gillette, 9 Cortland Drive, Albany, NY 12211, by September 28. Any questions: rc10secretary@hotmail.com.

APRIL 16-26, 2018, ESSENTIAL HOLLAND: TULIPS IN SPRING. THIS TRIP IS FILLED.

NOVEMBER 30 TO DECEMBER 8, 2018, DANUBE WALTZ RIVER CRUISE—HISTORY, MUSIC AND CHRISTMAS MARKETS! Join Alice Schielke on this seven-night Danube River cruise for a multi-country voyage heightened by the magic of the holiday season in Europe. Sail from Budapest, Hungary to Regensburg, Germany via Bratislava (Slovakia), Vienna, Salzburg or Linz (Austria), and Passau (Germany). Opt for the Pre-extension to see more of Budapest or the Post-extension to visit Prague (Czech Republic). Enjoy a special concert at the Kursalon Music Hall in Vienna (frequent venue of Johann Strauss), a church organ concert, a rehearsal of the Spanish Lippizaner horses and a tour of the Palais Liechtenstein in Vienna. Visit any or all of six different Christmas markets, or use the time to wander among the beautiful architecture through which you're traveling, and let its history seep in. Special group price of **\$2,716** includes air from Boston (charter bus from Capital Region to be arranged at an additional cost), all port taxes, all activities as described in promotional flyer, daily excursion guide/driver gratuities and ALL meals. Limited singles are available with zero single supplement! **If interested, don't delay**—the ship is already more than 50 percent sold, as is my inventory (blocked for me through August). Early registration also affords opportunity for 10 percent discount for registrants paying in full. For detailed flyer, please contact **Alice Schielke** at aliceschielke@gmail.com or **518-368-9009**.

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.

CHECK PAGE 4 OF THIS NEWSLETTER FOR INFO ON TRIPS THAT ARE IN THE WORKS FOR 2018

At present, we're undergoing a significant loss of volunteers who have served our Travel Committee admirably for many years, but now must move on. We are in need of more manpower if we're to continue to serve our membership as we have to date. If you've enjoyed our activities, consider joining our Committee to help make them happen. You don't need previous experience ... start with a luncheon or an afternoon outing or a day activity. You probably have ideas of your own. Our meetings are regularly held the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 AM, at NYSUT headquarters in Latham. Interested? Please contact Karen Maher, kmaher2@nycap.rr.com.



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 2017-2018: () 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 \$ _____

RC 10 SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP FORM July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

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-elem., ms, hs, 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

***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 1997 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 1997 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 for this donation.)

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: _____

A LIFE SPENT AS A UNION TIGER, JOSEPHINE SANO 1920-2017



By DEB ESCOBAR

On July 17, 2017, **Josephine Sano** passed on from this mortal life at the age of 97. A lifelong union activist, her achievements and leadership are an example for all of us and will be remembered long after her death.

A diminutive figure physically, the power she exerted as a teacher and a leader was formidable from a young age. According to her son Joseph, her core values of "Family, Faith, and Union Family" were the foundation of Josephine's life, and she passed those values on to her three sons Joseph, John, and Jim.

Sano taught in Albany School District for 44 years and served as the President of the Albany Public School Teachers Association from 1971-1981. In the 70's, Mayor Erastus Corning II appointed school board members, but according to Josephine's son Joe, his mother "immediately went toe-to-toe with Corning about wages, working conditions, and class size." At the time, teachers' unions were dominated by administrators, but according to past APSTA President Bill Ritchie (now the President of the Capital Area Central Federation of Labor), Sano "turned it from a bosses' union to a workers' union and led their executive committee to become the strongest in the region. Contracts in Albany were without comparison, and working conditions improved." Under her leadership APSTA supported the fledgling firemen's union and many other local unions working to organize.

"Things like maternity leave and tenure are not birthrights, but hard-fought gains."
Josephine Sano

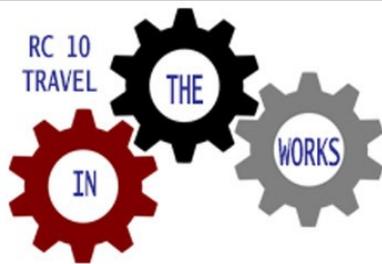
As President of the APSTA, Josephine became very involved in the New York State Teachers' Association (NYSTA), an upstate group affiliated with the National Education Association (NEA). Before 1972, NYSTA and the United Teachers of New York (affiliated with AFT) were separate and often competing organizations and their achievements were limited by their lack of unity. Paul Cole recalls that Josephine "became the champion for the merger of the two organizations, contacting and instructing locals within the Capital District and the broader Eastern region about the importance of unifying their efforts." In 1972, the resolution to merge the two organizations and form the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) was overwhelmingly approved, in no small part due to her efforts.

Ritchie recalls that Josephine was "intensely focused on defending working people and always ready to take on any adversaries of the union movement...she was a fearless fighter." She could often be found in strike lines for her union family and was there to support wherever needed, even though she did not drive. She became the first woman president of the ACCFL from 1981 to 2000 and served as President Emeritus of the organization for the rest of her life. Her leadership strengthened the council that included CSEA, AFT, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Communication Workers of America, Public Employees Federation, and Teamsters.

She received many honors over the course of her life, including an honorary degree from Cornell School of Industrial Relations, the Taft Institute of Government Scholarship at Russell Sage College (1972), Award of Merit of the Capital District Union Label and Services Trade Council of the AFL-CIO (1987), Capital District Chamber of Commerce Women of Excellence Award (2000), and NYSUT's Sandra Feldman Not For Ourselves Alone Award in 2006.

She often referred to a quote that was based on an old Tibetan proverb and further attributed to Hubert Humphrey stating, "It is better to live one day as a tiger than to live a lifetime as a chicken." She lived a lifetime as a tiger, and her passion and her struggle made life better for not only those she worked with and led, but for those workers who would come long after her.

To read an extended version of this article and learn ways you can also "Live a Day as a Union Tiger," Visit <http://rc10.ny.aft.org/news/life-spent-union-tiger-josephine-sano-1920-2017>



IN THE WORKS—get on the notification list for the upcoming trips for 2018 listed below. The two featured cities in the USA are fabulous travel destinations and promise to be an in-depth educational and fun filled tours. Final information and registration will be available in mid-August. Contact Karen Maher (kmaher2@nycap.rr.com or 518-477-6746) to be put on the notification list. These are small travel groups and are sure to sell out quickly.

MARCH 2018, OUT AND ABOUT IN NEW ORLEANS: JAZZ, JAMBALAYA, AND JOIE DE VIVRE. Enjoy 6 days/5 nights at an historic hotel in the French Quarter. See the New Orleans of your imagination: the sound of Jazz drifting up Bourbon Street, a nearly miraculous bowl of gumbo, the charm of 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 and much more. Visit the WWII Museum and the Museum of Art, and have an expert lead exploration of the Garden District. You'll have time on your own to stroll Bourbon Street, walk the levee, eat beignets and Muffaletta sandwiches or ride a streetcar named Desire. Travel date will be late March, 2018.

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTE FE: ART, ARCHITECTURE, AND LOCAL CUISINE. Some of the highlights of our itinerary will include wonderful 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. Visit Centinela Traditional Arts weaving gallery where we will meet families who have been creating Hispanic weavings for generations, and a beautiful little Roman Catholic Church, El Santuario de Chimayó, a National Historic Landmark. Interact with a Pueblo native potter and visit the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture and the Museum of International Folk Art. Attend a lecture on southwest cuisine presented by James Beard Award-winning chefs followed by a meal prepared at the Red Mesa Cuisine. We will stay at the Drury Plaza **Hotel**, located in the heart of downtown Santa Fe, affording easy access to explore during free time. Tentative date is October 21, 2018.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Meetings of the Travel Committee take place on the third Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in working with the RC 10 Travel Committee to plan day or extended travel trips, please contact **Karen Maher** at kmaher2@nycap.rr.com.

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

RC 10 FALL LUNCHEON TO FOCUS ON NYS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



Peter Savage, NYSUT Senior Legislative Representative, will be the keynote speaker at the Retiree Council 10 Annual Fall Luncheon on Wednesday, October 10, from 10 am to 1:30 pm, at NYSUT Headquarters, 800 Troy Schenectady Road, Latham. Savage will present information and answer questions about why retirees should vote NO on the State Constitutional Convention referendum that will be on the ballot on November 7. The Constitutional Convention, which would truly be a "politicians' convention," not a "people's convention," would waste millions of tax dollars and put at risk many of our rights that are currently protected under our State Constitution. Some of these rights include: Our right to a free public education; "Forever Wild" safeguarding of environmentally sensitive areas like the Adirondacks and Catskills; labor rights like the right to join a union, bargain collectively to obtain a fair contract, and be guaranteed decent working conditions; and the provision that our public pension retirement benefits cannot be reduced.

The conference will begin with registration at 10:00 am; followed by a General Meeting from 10:30-10:50. Savage's presentation will take place from 11 to noon. Lunch will be served at 12:15.

The event is being subsidized by both RC 10 and VOTE/COPE, in order to make members aware of the dangers of having a Constitutional Convention. Your voided check will be returned to you at the conclusion of the program, making this event free for all in attendance. Every participant must register for this presentation by sending a check for \$20 made payable to NYSUT RC 10. Since an accurate lunch count is required, walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Every participant will leave with materials and information to spread the word and help others understand the impact of this ballot initiative.

You can sign up using the Travel/Social Generic Registration form on page 2 of this newsletter. If there are special dietary needs, please contact [http://rc10secretary@hotmail.com](mailto:rc10secretary@hotmail.com). Mail your check and the form to Laraine Gillette, 9 Cortland Drive, Albany, NY 12211 by September 28.