

RC 10 SKYLINE NEWS



NYSUT Retiree Council 10

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

TEACHER UNION SOLIDARITY

ISSUE 3 for 2017-18 February-March



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

From Your President:

We begin the new year with many upcoming challenges facing us as NYSUT members, but we also have a bold example of what we can achieve when we all pull together. We did, for example, adopt positions at the last RA about the role of teachers in the writing of state evaluations programs, etc. Those things often take many years to come to the point of making a difference at SED, but it is a start. Does that matter only to active teachers? No, because it does make a difference to them and hence in their ability and willingness to be there to help us when we need them. We all need each other all of the time. Success is not a buffet line where you just work on the things that are of immediate benefit to yourselves and ignore the rest. If we do not work on the full meal all the time, we will come to the point where our favorites have disappeared from the menu.

Helping us all is a two-way street. Everyone pitched in and worked to

protect the pension system from being changed from a

fully funded system that we all had worked under our

entire professional lives to a new one. The effort was being made to change it to a fully promised (but not funded) system. It might have been funded later--if we could afford it. It was the entire Union working together that made the difference. The common benefits were more obvious to all of our members than many other issues.

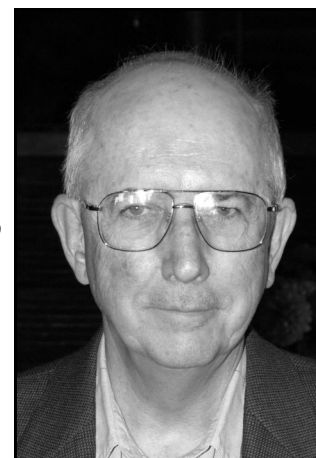
The reality is that there are a lot of threats that appear to only impact one part of the membership but, at closer examination, they really pose a major threat to all, active and retired. We need to continue to actively support the efforts of our colleagues, active and retired, to safeguard

their professional standing.

We all depend on dues deduction and agency fee systems to fund and protect basic services. Legal aid and due process along with political action help us survive and make a difference. When threats like the recent pension attack come along, our response relies on the fact that we have taken time to develop and build these basic tools that make success possible. You cannot create an instant rapid response force without staff, operational funding, established tools and committees, and trained volunteers. That all takes time and money and experience to train ourselves on how to get each part done, who will help, who knows how to help, etc.

Issues that seem to only impact the active teachers really do impact us all. A prominent political leader went on record after the November vote and successful outcome of the Constitutional Convention campaign to express his surprise at the strength and effectiveness of the labor effort. He had not seen such strength and unity from us in a long time and was quick to state his admiration and his sense of "We better not mess with them" attitude. The sleeping giant had been awakened and those who thought they could divide and conquer suddenly knew that was not a real possibility.

We made that impression because we all got out and worked together. It was the willingness to work together on our shared need and goals that gained the victory. Now we face numerous challenges. That, however, also encourages some to think that they can ignore the whole and go back to just working on their issues of immediate self-interest. We all are there for each other or when we sound an alarm, we may find there is no one left to answer our call for help. We cannot go back to our little secure corner of the world as a retiree who needs not concern themselves with the needs of the active teachers we used to be. Nothing could be further from the truth. We all need to work for the entire program of legislative and legal goals to benefit all teachers. We need to hang together or we will all hang separately. In unity there is strength. In unity there is victory. You know where the other path takes us.



DAVID GOLDEN

~David Golden, President



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

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2018, 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, RC 10 honorees, and 2017 retirees. Entrée selections will be Turkey Breast, Sliced Roast Beef, or Baked 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 Jeanne Bush, 102 Southbury Road, Clifton Park, 12065, by May 30. Contact: 518-371-1738 or Jeannebsh50@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2018, TASTE OF TROY. Put on your walking shoes for an entertaining and delicious way to learn about Troy—its ups and downs, and the role food is playing in bringing this architectural gem back to life. You'll sip and sample some of New York's classic flavors and sprinkle in history and culture to round out the day. The group will meet just past our first stop, 275 River Street, Troy, at 10 am. This Central Troy Historic Food Tour is a leisurely 3-hour, 1.5 mile walk with informative stops along the way. The tour ends at the Troy's Farmer's Market with time for you to explore and shop (if you wish) the 80+ vendors. The stops are: **1.** Psychedelicatessen—taste hand-rolled bagels and store-cured lox; **2.** Whistling Kettle—sample 2 teas; **3.** St. Paul's Episcopal Church—inside tour of entire Tiffany-designed interior; **4.** Illium Café—Rif of a Reuben and salad; **5.** Brown's Brewery—2 different beer sips, paired with Buffalo Cauliflower; **6.** The Dutch Udder Creamery with three tastes of homemade ice cream; **7.** Troy's Waterfront Market. This progressive meal of tastes should leave you comfortably full and replace brunch/lunch. Price is \$50 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Price is \$52 for guests and members who have not paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Tour is limited to 16 people. Make checks payable to RC 10, and mail your check and registration form to Fran Hyde, 1538 Tibbits Avenue, Troy, NY 12180. Phone: 518-271-7030.

OCTOBER 21 TO OCTOBER 26, 2018, OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA FE. Visit this cultural landmark and enjoy learning about "The City Different." Included are six days' activities, twelve meals, six lectures, seven field trips, one performance and gratuities. See the article on page four of this newsletter for more information. Cost: \$1,499 double/\$2,039 single for land program package. Does not include airfare (group arrangements are available) and approximately \$66 airport shuttle fee. Plus \$25 RC 10 pre-registration fee for fee-paying members, \$50 for non-fee-paying members. Additional cancellation insurance available for \$100/\$157 (double/single). For additional information, contact Karen Maher, kmaher2@nycap.rr.com or 518-477-6746 or 518-588-4083. **This is an active, small travel group and is selling quickly.**

October 28 TO NOVEMBER 12, 2019, SWITZERLAND & THE HEART OF THE RHINE & MOSELLE RIVER CRUISE. Plan ahead! If you've missed the boat (pun intended!) or been on the fence about joining one of the wonderful, previously filled RC 10 river cruises, this one's for you! This cruise offers the most exceptional value yet: **14 nights** aboard ship (all meals included), **4 countries** (Switzerland, France, Germany, Netherlands) and **12 sightseeing tours!** It really has it all: History, Castles, Art, 5 UNESCO sites (including the Upper Middle Rhine itself), Biking (Optional), Wine, Beer, Cooking Lessons ... truly something for everyone. Board with Alice Schielke in Basel, Switzerland, and cruise to Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Along the way, visit a Roman amphitheater in the oldest city in Germany (Trier), tour the Reichsburg Castle (and meet the 'Count'), spend a day on the Alsatian Wine Route (with tastings!), visit the Johannessen Gutenberg Museum, experience a home-hosted dinner in Speyer, take canal rides in BOTH Strasbourg and Amsterdam, visit the Rijksmuseum and, well ... I simply don't have space to list it all here! There are also historical lectures, movie nights, dancing ... well, you'll just have to sign up to see! This is an active trip; in addition to a busy tour/activity schedule, there are numerous biking options, using complimentary ship bikes. Price of **\$4,272** per person (shared) includes cruise, air from Boston/JFK, all meals, 12 excursions/activities and excursion gratuities. Additional costs: transportation to airport (to be arranged), and \$50 RC 10 pre-registration fee for fee-paying members, \$100 for non-fee-paying members. Ship gratuities at discretion. But wait ... **save 10%** by prepaying by October 28, 2018 ... now THAT'S a great deal! For Flyer and Brochure, contact **Alice Schielke: aliceschielke@gmail.com or (518) 368-9009** or visit RC 10 website at <http://rc10.ny.aft.org>.

THE FOLLOWING TRIPS ARE FILLED:

*MARCH 25-30, 2018, OUT AND ABOUT IN NEW ORLEANS: JAZZ, JAMBALAYA, AND JOIE DE VIVRE.

*APRIL 16-26, 2018, ESSENTIAL HOLLAND: TULIPS IN SPRING.

*MAY 23, 2018, BRONX BOTANICAL GARDENS/GEORGIA O'KEEFFE EXHIBIT.

*NOVEMBER 30 TO DECEMBER 8, 2018, DANUBE WALTZ RIVER CRUISE—HISTORY, MUSIC AND CHRISTMAS MARKETS.

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 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 \$ _____

PROTECT MEDICARE, MEDICAID AND SOCIAL SECURITY

BY DEB ESCOBAR

In December the Senate passed what one New York Times op-ed called the "biggest tax scam in history." A sweeping tax reform which promises to give the middle class a tax cut will actually add \$1.4 trillion to the national debt over ten years, with most of the benefits going to the top 1%. This bill will have repercussions across our nation, starting with the fact that it will leave 13 million more people uninsured because the bill ends Affordable Care subsidies. This will destabilize the insurance market, causing massive hikes in premiums for everyone, including those on retiree insurance plans.

Perhaps most troubling have been the statements from GOP leaders in both the House and Senate that state they will look to balance their ridiculous giveaway to the rich by cutting what they call "entitlements" -- Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. The cuts to Medicare may begin without any additional legislation because of "pay-as-you-go" rules that require that any tax cut that isn't paid for (and this truly is a deficit bill) will trigger automatic spending cuts under Congressional rules. Though GOP leaders have promised they would waive the pay-go requirement, this would contradict statements they have given to the press which blame the national debt on earned benefits programs. In addition, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has stated that the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be required to order reductions for the anticipated \$136 billion shortfall in 2018. If this happens, Medicare would be cut by about \$25 billion, but there would also have to be major cuts in other programs to make up the shortfall. According to FactCheck.org, some of the programs mentioned for possible cuts would include "Medicare, agricultural subsidies, student loans, the Social Services Block Grant, parts of border security and mandatory spending in the Affordable Care Act other than exchange subsidies (already gone in the bill) and Medicaid expansion...Most affected programs other than Medicare would be wiped out."

We must continue to ask that Congress protect Medicare and other social safety net programs. Democrats have some leverage at long last because 60 votes will be required for any government funding legislation to pass. This issue is critical for retirees. Find out more by signing up on the NYSUT MAC app at <https://mac.nysut.org/>, and consider joining New York State Alliance for Retired Americans, or other organizations such as Citizens United or Swing Left. Don't get angry, get involved. *Note: Check our website for an extended version of this article and additional ways to get involved.*



CHECK OUT RC 10 ON THE WEB!

Due to financial constraints, *Skyline News* currently has only five issues per year that can be mailed to members. And each of those issues is only four pages long. However, our website at <http://rc10.ny.aft.org> has many more articles, details, trip flyers, and other features to inform and interest our members. This month, you can find the following features and articles on the webpage, including:

- "Beware of Phone Scams That Target Seniors"
- An article from NYSUT Social Services on heart health
- Information on new Medicare cards and Part B premiums
- "Take Action: Protect Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid"
- More detailed information on trips and social events
- Photo albums and articles on RC 10 events and trips
- Resources like the current Social Security newsletter

You can also follow RC 10 on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rc10ofnysut/> and on Twitter @NYSUTRC10.

Due to the fact that *Skyline News* issues come out about every 2-3 months, trip details and other news is often available first on the webpage.

And don't forget, you can also be notified of RC 10 news and receive PDF issues of *Skyline News* by email — so make sure you register your email either on our website, or by emailing it to rc10secretary@hotmail.com.



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE 2018

What could be more important to an organization of retired educators than to encourage young people to enter our chosen profession? RC 10 has always thought this was an important effort to make. Since 2008, RC 10 has offered a scholarship to one graduating senior from a public high school in each of the four counties represented by RC 10: Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Washington. Applicants for this year's \$1,000 scholarship must complete an application that is then reviewed by a committee of RC 10 members. Among aspects considered are GPA/class rank, course rigor, and extracurricular activities both inside and outside of school. Students must also complete two essays and include two recommendations.

The last few years have seen a decline in the number of applications received for the committee to review. Please encourage any graduating senior you know to check with their Guidance Department for a copy of the application. The forms are mailed to the schools around the beginning of February.

We are also always open to new members for the Scholarship Committee. We meet for one day in early April to review all the applications so it is a very limited commitment. Please contact Jeanne Bush at jeannebush50@gmail.com if you would like to join the Scholarship Committee. Scholarships are awarded at the RC 10 Spring Luncheon to be held this year on June 7 at Shaker Ridge Country Club. See page two of this newsletter for reservation information on the luncheon. Hope to see many of you there.

SPECIAL INVITATION TO 2017 RETIREES



Each year Retiree Council 10 invites new retirees to be recognized at one of its general meetings. This year 2017 retirees will be welcomed to the Council at the Spring Luncheon on June 7.

To welcome new retirees, the sustaining membership fee for 2018-2019 will be waived IF:

1. Members retired in 2017.
2. The sustaining membership fee for 2017-2018 has been paid.
3. Members have registered for the Spring Luncheon on June 7 (see page two of this newsletter).

Please contact rc10secretary@hotmail.com with any questions and to obtain a membership form.



THE TRAVEL COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!!!

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 next meeting is FEBRUARY 13 at 10 AM at NYSUT headquarters in Latham.** Interested? Please contact Karen Maher, kmaher2@nycap.rr.com.

