

RC 10 SKYLINE NEWS



NYSUT Retiree Council 10

ISSUE 5 for 2015-2016/MAY/JUNE

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

TEACHER UNION SOLIDARITY



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TO UPDATE YOUR
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CALL NYSUT MEMBER
RECORDS (518) 213-6000

From Your President:

Those of us in the Capital District for this election round were more fortunate than those who had spent some early spring time in Florida. These snow birds were inundated with TV commercials from the primary candidates that brimmed over with vile and bile aimed at their opponents. If it wasn't the candidates themselves, it was their super pacs that liked them or hated another candidate. They filled in the time when the candidate did not. It was our good fortune to be spared that TV flood in New York, if not a zillion phone calls!

That is the good news. The bad news is that it is not November yet! There is still time to be driven to distraction by the incessant attacks on some candidate or other. But in the meantime, reflect on what you can or cannot do. The vital step you took or chose to pass up is the part of the voter registration form where you were asked to designate a party. If you did not select one party or another, you gave up your chance to decide the candidate for November. Members choose who leads the club, not other interested but outside parties. **If you want a say, you need to enroll in a party.** That does not mean that you will vote for the person your enrolled party chooses. You can vote for any candidate on the Ballot. It does mean that you can shape the choices offered to voters. In many areas of our state, one party dominates local elections. If you are not in that party you really do not have a meaningful vote. The dominant party's candidate will most often prevail. The real vote is for who that candidate will be. Members choose that, not all voters. So now is the time to do something about that, while it is on your mind. Enroll in a party that **MOST CLOSELY REFLECTS THE BELIEFS YOU HOLD ON THE ISSUES OF THE DAY.** I did not say pick one that is a perfect match to all of your likes and dislikes. I said one that most closely matches your view.

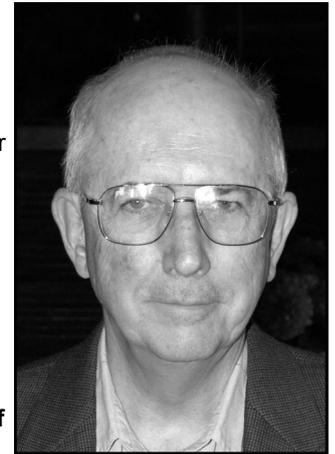
Why not stick with one who is a perfect match? Well ask yourself if you really think your views are shared by a majority of voters in this country. Check your conclusion against the recent results in the primaries across the nation. Did they match up as you would like them to? Do they want to protect your vital interests or just your basic beliefs? They are not always the same thing, but vital interests are what keep you safe. It's not about appealing to likeminded voters, but it is about reaching those who do not completely agree with those views. It's not about finding a party that is a perfect match. It's about finding a party that can attract enough other voters who share a substantial set of shared vital interest that together can produce a majority. Yes, you need to accept that the choice you made will cause you to occasionally choke on an issue or candidate you need to go with but, overall it comes as close as you can get to what you need.

We have majority rule, not perfect agreement as an operational principle, so in getting to one more than half, you must accept some degree of policy or candidate you don't fully like. That also means those who dislike your choices must live with your ideas and candidate that they do not fully like, in order to get your support. It is a two way street, or else it is a one way street to a dead end of defeat.

That is not always possible if the most extreme candidates in the party are the only ones to get a respectable showing in a primary. If the offerings are a choice between bad and worse, we have only ourselves to blame. Often we do not vote in primaries. The most extreme members of a party are those who are most unhappy with the status quo and hence turn out for primaries in the hope of getting a nominee who is a perfect match to their view. The irony of that is that if they win by our neglecting to vote, then we all lose!

To win requires the building of a majority. To govern requires the building of majority opinions and support on issues. "My way or the highway" is not an approach that can do that. Failure to respect the results of an election, like it or not, does not do that. We elected a President in 2012 for four years. Now we are told that during his last two years he cannot name a Supreme Court judge because we need to wait until the next vote. What about the votes of those who elected him for four years? How can they be ignored in favor of some who have not yet voted at all? The nominee on the docket at this moment is one who can go either way in his decisions. Every conservative can find something to like in his record. Every liberal can find things that they like in his record. No one at either extreme can find a guarantee that he will always agree with them. That is what majority government is always about. If you do not stay involved, you may not like what happens. It's not enough to stack the deck with likeminded folks and then ignore what happens. You must be enrolled, involved, voting and informed, or you will get what you like least and hate most.

Continued on Page 3



DAVID GOLDEN

NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT RC9/10

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016, 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 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. Stops in NYC will be made at Bryant Park (Sixth Avenue at West 42 Street) and at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (1000 Fifth Avenue) around 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 5, 2016. 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 518-235-0246. Email: kchesterfield@nycap.rr.com.

MAY 20, 2016, NYS CERTIFIED POINT AND INSURANCE REDUCTION CLASS. Registration is closed.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016, CULINARY INSTITUTE OF AMERICA ANNUAL SPRING TRIP. The first stop will be the Walkway over the Hudson, where we'll walk from the west side across the river to Poughkeepsie. Then, on to a fabulous lunch at the American Bounty Restaurant at the CIA—Oyster and Leek Chowder, Roasted Pork Loin, and Cream Cheese Semifreddo. After lunch we'll head north to the Franklin Roosevelt National Historic Site. 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. The price including the meal, transportation, fees, taxes, and tips is \$83 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Price is \$88 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 15. Any questions, call Dan at home in the evenings: 518-642-1075.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2016, SCHOLARSHIP 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, 2016. Telephone: 518-235-0264. Email: kchesterfield@nycap.rr.com.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, JOY BEAR PROJECT. RC 10 will hold another Joy Bear Workshop from 10 to 12 at NYSUT on Route 7 in Latham. Joy Bears are decorated teddy bears that are given to cancer patients to provide comfort as they undergo chemo treatment. It is the hope of the project to get dozens of bears decorated and delivered to the American Cancer HopeClub to be offered to their clients. This project only asks you for your time. You do not need to be a long time craft person to make a Joy Bear. All materials are provided free of cost. However, if you have craft supplies (thread, lace, ribbon) that you would like to donate, please bring them with you. Supplies to decorate bears for children and men would be helpful. New teddy bears would also be greatly appreciated. Bring a friend or two to help us complete these much appreciated bears. To sign up, please contact Ann Cherney at acherne1@nycap.rr.com or call 982-1923 after 3 p.m. Please help!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016, GLIMMERGLASS OPERA in Cooperstown, NY. Enjoy a summer day at Glimmerglass listening to Robert Ward's Pulitzer Prize winning opera, The Crucible, based on Arthur Miller's classic and chilling dramatization of the Salem Witch Trials (an allegory of McCarthyism). 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 9:15 am and Latham Farms in front of Sam's Club at 10 am. The price is \$135 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Price is \$145 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 June 15. Telephone: 518-235-0264. Email: kchesterfield@nycap.rr.com.

AUGUST 22-SEPTEMBER 2, 2016, SCANDINAVIA. This trip has been canceled.

OCTOBER 7-OCTOBER 23, 2016, PANAMA CANAL CRUISE. This 16-day cruise is filled.

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 that 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 \$ _____

Now is the time to be sure you are a registered voter. Now is the time to select a party you can live with even if you cannot love it. Now is the time to decide you will be an active voter. Now is when you can contribute to VOTE/COPE and your party and interest groups of your choice. We all share common ground in protecting our pensions, Social Security benefits, dues-deductions, etc. That means we need to come up with some cash and some time to get what we want and **what we need to protect ourselves**. Parties need members, money and time as well. Now is the time to get active with them in our local communities.

If you are all about vitriol and hot air, sit by your TV. It's coming in abundance. If you are about getting the best government and way of life you can manage for yourself and your family, get out of your chair, stop by the bank, and get involved with NYSUT and your party of choice and make this the best possible country you can build. Together we can do it.

~David Golden, President

Scholarships Announcement



RC 10 is proud to encourage the pursuit of careers in teaching by offering scholarships to graduating high school seniors who will be pursuing a degree in education. A \$500 scholarship is awarded to one graduating senior from each of the counties represented by RC 10: Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Washington. Students must complete a thorough application that is then reviewed by a committee of RC 10 members.

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2016 RC 10 Scholarships: Madeline Reilly from Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School in Albany County; Alexandra Stuto from Maple Hill High School in Rensselaer County; Maja DeGaray from Saratoga Springs High School in Saratoga County, and Mackenzie Aldous from Granville Jr./Sr. High School in Washington County. Congratulations to the winners who we look forward to honoring at the RC 10 Spring Luncheon on June 2.

Special thanks go to this year's Scholarship Committee members: Joan Andrejko, Mary Burdick, Jeanne Bush, Betty Close, Mary Lou Dunham, Ann Fairbank, Debra Gara, Laraine Gillette, Betty-Jean Haner, Beth Johnson, Judy Markessinis, Jim Stolis, and Helen Tamaso.

The following RC 10 members will also be honored at the luncheon: Diane Grego from Albany County, Ernest Reis from Rensselaer County, Dennis Bouchard from Saratoga County, and Barbara McCarthy from Washington County.



*Above, from left, RC10 members **Dennis Bouchard, Bonnie Maxon, and Dan Boone** attended the Pre RA in Utica on March 16 and 17 to discuss the resolutions that would be presented at the Rochester RA.*

RC 10 Heads Out To Cuba With Road Scholar By Karen Maher

Two groups of 24 RC 10 members traveled to Cuba at the end of January. We went to the island with a desire to see what Cuba is like before the restoration of diplomatic relations with the US changes the country, and we left with much, much more. Cuba is part of our childhood memories of current events...the Cuban Revolution, the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and now we were looking at these events from the other perspective. It made many of us ponder the role and impact of the USA in world political events. We saw a third world country that still uses horses as transportation and seems to have stopped time in 1950, yet is desperately struggling to join the world in 2016. Tears welled when we met teachers who gave up their jobs to sell trinkets in the market so that they could make more money. The Cuban people openly welcomed us and freely shared their thoughts, their music, dance, and art with us. This trip was not a typical vacation tour, but rather an experience that touched our minds, souls, and hearts. More photos on page 4.



RC10 Members at the Committee of 100 Lobby Day By Bonnie Maxon

On March 8, the NYSUT Committee of 100 lobbied for public K-12 and higher education at the State Legislature. The following issues were discussed in meetings with legislators: Lack of funding for Teacher Centers, School Aid, Tax Cap, Charter Schools, and Oppose School Voucher Schemes (Parental Choice In Education Act). This year, NYSUT provided us with a two-sided sheet that explained all 21 issues in detail. We asked for the GEA (Gap Elimination Adjustment) to end, and for a tax cap that is the true 2% or cost of living, not whichever amount is lower.

RC10 members who lobbied included Bonita Maxon, Dennis Bouchard, Vince Pelliccia, and Deb Escobar. They attended meetings with Assemblymembers Steve McLaughlin, Carrie Woerner, Angelo SantaBarbara, Pat Fahy, and Pete Lopez as well as Senator Farley, Senator Amedore, and a representative from Senator Marchione's office. They came away realizing the importance of explaining our positions to our elected officials. Many of them expressed surprise at various aspects of the issues surrounding funding, and the harm that charter and vouchers do to the public school tax stream. We encourage all RC10 members to advocate for education by contacting their legislators.

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

More Photos From Cuba Trip

