

RC 10 SKYLINE NEWS

NYSUT Retiree Council 10

ISSUE 5 for 2017-18 Jun-Jul-Aug

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

TEACHER UNION SOLIDARITY

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A Union of Professionals



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TO UPDATE YOUR
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CALL NYSUT MEMBER
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From Your President:

We all forget something now and then. As we age it tends to happen more often. There is that birthday of one of your children that slipped your mind. Then there is the anniversary or a similar important event we overlooked. We forget at all ages, not just in our senior years. I recall once just after I was first married, my new wife and I came down the Mohawk Valley to Schenectady for a teacher's meeting on a weekend. It was a good day until I got to the sweltering parking lot and ran into a classmate from graduate school. We had a nice chat and in doing so I introduced my wife to her. When we climbed back into our car, I soon became aware of how "cold" it was in that hot car! It seems I had introduced my wife by her maiden name and not even noticed! It was the last time I would "forget" that correct name!! Forgetting something important can teach a lesson or create a problem. Lessons are easier to live with.

While the tendency to forget things like that intensifies for each of us as life progresses, so it also does for institutions. They also get older and forget the events of the past. Whatever our role in our district, be it classroom teacher, supervisor, specialist, etc., we knew a wide range of people, practices, and policies. We often had a hand in shaping policy, working for change in the district and developing a mutual understanding of needs and the value of the solutions we helped shape. The union negotiators and district negotiators struggled with each other but also had to work with each other. They developed mutual respect and often a not so public understanding of the limits and the needs of the other side. These changes they developed together often became part of the landscape of life and "how we do things here." They endured the passage of time and changes in both district and union leadership. We all worked with them and we understood the rationale for them. It continued to meet the district's needs and ours.

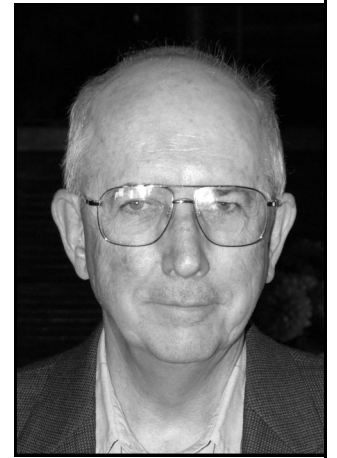
But, as with all of life, change does occur and memories fade. People forget, and institutions forget. In our immediate world that first became evident a few years ago when retired members in Cohoes became aware of changes in their contract terms, being produced by the new district officials and new union leadership together, that were negatively impacting the retirees. How could they do that to us, everyone asked. The answer proved to be chilling and easy to grasp. They forget the "what and why" of those provisions that were put in the contract. The union officers who worked, often for years, to get them in the contract and policy books, had all retired. The district officers who had worked alongside them and understood the benefit to the district had also retired. The teachers who had lived without the terms and therefore demanded the changes, left and took their understandings with them. The institutional memory had left and so had much of the hard-won knowledge of the long-range benefits of these provisions for both parties. Some destructive change resulted and many suffered some harsh results because of the memory loss.

These past few weeks, my phone has been kept busy by retired members from Ravena Coeymans-Selkirk School District. The upset was about health insurance changes that may raise the cost for retirees who had understood that they would keep the coverage they had and its provision for life. They expected no add-on or improvements, but also no added burden or diminution of benefits. That is actively being examined in response to our efforts to alert NYSUT and see what options we can find.

The underlying problem remains for us all, no matter where you retired from, that you need to stay in touch with folks still there. Keep the memory alive of what was done and why it was done by sharing what you know. Be sure you stay in touch with someone who will share any news of significance with you, as you share with them what you know of the history of negotiated policy and contract. The problems that arose before agreements were made on contract provisions or district policy language are all a part of our common heritage. "Why things are the way they are" come from all of our experiences. You have the history and experience to share, they do not. That is not to say change is not called for or a good idea. It is to say that they need to see the entire picture. Change based on "institutional dementia" is never good. When we all do our part to share the how and why of the world that we inhabit with our active members, administrators, and retirees, we help to ensure the best possible outcome for all.

Life is built on our shared experiences, not only for us but for institutions as well. We all benefit from the achievement of those who came before us. We all suffer from the loss of the learning we all did together. If we do not all do our part to stay in touch and share rationale and memory, we will suffer the cost of others repeating our mistakes. We all have the responsibility to continue to work for the best world we can enjoy ourselves and to help protect those who come after us from repeating our follies. Everyone must do their part to stay connected to their district and its leadership on all levels. To protect them is to protect yourself. Helping others to understand the why and how of a benefit you enjoy is the easiest way to keep the benefit for yourself. No one can do it better than you can. Don't delay!

~David Golden, President



DAVID GOLDEN

NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT RC 9/10

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

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018. NEW YORK CITY BALLET'S ROMEO AND JULIET at 2 pm. at SPAC (Saratoga Performing Arts Center). Twenty tickets for Section 1 have been reserved exclusively for RC 10 members and their friends/family. Tickets are still available. \$49 for members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee, \$50 for guests and those who have not paid their annual sustaining membership fee. Contact Karen Maher, kmaher2@nycap.rr.com or [518-477-6746](tel:518-477-6746) or [518-588-4083](tel:518-588-4083).

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2018, HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE. Key sites in the village which highlight important themes of daily Shaker life and practices will be visited on the walking tour which starts at 10:30. A map of the village can be found at www.hancockshakervillage.org. There are quite a few buildings but the terrain is flat and accessible. The tour requires a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing. After our tour, we will gather in the Believers Room to enjoy a buffet lunch based on Shaker recipes such as Sister Ethel's Chicken Soup and Hancock Shaker Apple Cake. Contact Kristen Dominguez at 413-447-9357 ex. 215 regarding dietary accommodations. After lunch, you are free to further investigate the buildings, participate in the various demonstrations offered, and visit the Shaker Mercantile and Seeds Café. There are marked forest trails for those interested. The village closes at 4 pm. Transportation to Hancock Shaker Village is **NOT** provided. It is a 45-minute drive from the Albany-Troy area. The address is 1843 West Housatonic Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Take I/90 east to Exit 11E (Route 20) Nassau. Follow Route 20 east into Massachusetts. The Village's entrance is on the right, approximately 3 miles from the New York/Massachusetts border. We will meet at the entrance between 10 and 10:15. The cost is \$59 for members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee, \$60 for guests and members who have not paid the annual sustaining membership fee. It covers entrance fee, tour, lunch, tax and gratuity. For questions, email: patbligh@gmail.com or call 518-674-5768. Please return the registration form and payment to: Pat Bligh, 46 Hillcrest Drive. West Sand Lake, NY 12196.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 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 Farmer's Market with time for you to explore and shop (if you wish) the 80+ vendors. The stops are: 1. Psychedelicatessan—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 \$53 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee, \$55 for guests and members who have not paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Tour is limited to 14 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.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018, FALL CONFERENCE. Come join us at NYSUT headquarters, 800 Troy Schenectady Road, Latham, from 9:30 am to 2 pm. As part of RC 10's Social Justice Program, this year's presentation will be *Runaway Inequality: An Activists Guide to Economic Justice*. Program Presenter Charlie Albanetti, Director of Citizen Action of New York, will lead us in an interactive workshop and discussion of the effects of forty years of government deregulation, financial strip-mining, and cuts to social spending. The top 1 percent controls nearly 40 percent of America's wealth. As inequality is at epidemic levels, learn how we can turn the tides. This workshop and lunch will be free of charge. The \$20 reservation fee will be returned to you after the workshop and the return of a short evaluation. The Companion Book can be purchased here with free shipping: <https://runawayinequality.org/product/runaway-inequality-an-activists-guide-to-economic-justice/> or copies will be available at the workshop for a donation. Mail your check made payable to NYSUT RC 10 for \$20 and mail the registration form to Barbara McCarthy, 5 Ascot Circle-Apt. 9, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, before October 6. If you have any questions or dietary restrictions: Call Barbara at 518-682-2814 or email her at irishiz9@aol.com.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018, LOWER EAST SIDE NYC: PROGRAM AT THE TENEMENT MUSEUM FOLLOWED BY A 2-HOUR WALKING, HISTORIC/FOODIE TOUR! See page 4 of this newsletter for more information on this trip.

OCTOBER 21 TO OCTOBER 26, 2018, OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA FE. To be placed on a waiting list, contact Karen Maher, kmaher2@nycap.rr.com or [518-477-6746](tel:518-477-6746) or [518-588-4083](tel:518-588-4083).

MAY 30 TO JUNE 10, 2109, SLOVENIA & CROATIA: HIDDEN COVES AND ANCIENT TREASURES BY SEA. *Undiscovered gems--beautiful and historic beyond imagination.* Set sail by small ship* through the crystal water of the Northern Adriatic Sea to medieval villages, hidden coves and the picturesque coastlines of Croatia and three nights in post card perfect Slovenia. Learn how communities of the Northern Adriatic have been linked through history as you explore ancient white-stone streets constructed by the Romans and marvel at towering mountains, picture-perfect lakes and striking Venetian Gothic architecture. Understand the influence of the past as you discover ruins of ancient villages with experts and walk among the splendor of historic national parks. *the MY Casanova is a 126 foot yacht first launched in 2016. The entire ship is reserved exclusively for 30 RC 10 members. For additional information contact: Karen Maher kmaher2@nycap.rr.com 518-477-6746 (home) 518-588-4083 (cell).

SEPTEMBER 7 TO 19, 2019, ICELAND. *Has Iceland been on your bucket list? Now is the time to sign up as this exciting and fascinating country is quickly becoming a popular destination.* This is small group adventure (moderate activity level program) offered exclusively for RC 10. After exploring Reyjavik, we'll head north to the Snaefellsness Peninsula—the entry point of Jules Verne's *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, visit the home of Leif Ericson, stay at a lodge on an Icelandic horse farm, and visit the northern fjords near the Arctic Circle. We'll visit the Black Castle lava formation and explore Godfoss Waterfall and Lake Myvatn. We will travel to the northern town of Dalvik to whale watch in the Arctic Sea, surprising good in September! Then we fly back to Reyjavik (maximizing our travel time) and head south to Explore the Golden Circle. We'll visit the iconic Seljalandsfoss Waterfall, go off roading on a Super Truck tour through black sandy landscapes and ATV-ing in volcanic landscapes. We'll see geothermal power first hand and then, of course, relax at the thermal waters of the Blue Lagoon. Seven doubles and four singles (at no additional cost) are available. For more information, contact: Karen Maher, kmaher2@nycap.rr.com, 518-477-6746 (home) or 518-588-4083 (cell).

THE FOLLOWING TRIPS ARE FILLED:

NOVEMBER 30 TO DECEMBER 8, 2018, DANUBE WALTZ RIVER CRUISE—HISTORY, MUSIC AND CHRISTMAS MARKETS.
OCTOBER 28 TO NOVEMBER 12, 2019, SWITZERLAND & THE HEART OF THE RHINE & MOSELLE RIVER CRUISE.

NOTE: 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.

IMPORTANT: See <http://rc10.ny.aft.org> for registration forms specific for each event, as well as additional trip information. If you are unable to access the website, use the generic travel form printed on the bottom of page 4 of this newsletter.



IN MEMORY OF DAN BOONE, 1942-2018

RC 10 is sad to announce the passing of Daniel Boone on April 2. Dan was an active member of RC 10 and served as a delegate to the NYSUT Representative Assembly for years. He was also a representative to the State-Wide NYSUT Retiree Advisory Council, our representative to SALT (a collaborative group established by the North Country Teachers Association), and a member of the RC 10 Travel-Social Committee for many years. Known affectionately as "Santa Claus" by committee members because of his white beard and jovial attitude, Dan led trips to the Canadian Maritime; Washington, D.C.; the Shelburne Museum; yearly trips to the Culinary Institute of Arts; and many others. Dan's love of history was fully evident whenever he acted as tour guide, and grew from over 30 years of work as a history teacher in West Rutland and Argyle school districts. He was our Washington County honoree at the Scholarship luncheon three years ago.

Active in his community, he was a board member of the Supervisory Committee for the TCT Credit Union, the sole assessor for the Town of Granville, an active member of the Washington County Historical Society, Rails to Trails organization, and Modern Woodman of America among others. At the time of his death, family members discovered he had 23 meetings scheduled in his planner.

Dan was married to his wife Cynthia for 48 years, and he shared his love of traveling with her, going on a different adventure every week. He leaves behind his wife, daughter Tanya Boone, sons Daniel, Jeffrey and Seth, and four grandchildren. In his obituary, it stated that Dan's "time on earth was truly an expression of the commitment that life is defined most by what you give, not what you receive." The years of service that Dan contributed certainly left RC 10 better for his hard work.

In honor of Dan's service, the RC 10 Board of Directors has designated that the annual scholarship for a Washington County student will be given in Dan's name for the next five years. Sadly, RC 10 has also lost other members in the past few months. If you would like to make a memorial donation to the scholarship fund, visit <http://rc10.ny.aft.org/take-action/consider-memorial-donation-rc-10-scholarship-fund>.

RC 10 DELEGATES ATTEND THE NYSUT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

The NYSUT Representative Assembly was held April 26-28, 2018, in Buffalo. RC 10 Delegates Dennis Boucharde and Bonnie Maxon, and Alternate Delegate Deb Escobar attended with over 1700 other delegates. All three of the RC 10 delegates attended the Stronger Together Caucus, which reviewed resolutions. It was stressed that they do not take positions on resolutions but provide a platform to exchange thoughts and ideas. Individuals are free to vote as they see fit. ST leadership also shared the excellent working relationship and communications they have had this year with NYSUT.



The Assembly was treated to a number of excellent speakers, including NYSUT leadership (President Andy Pallotta, Executive Vice President Jolene DiBrango, 1st Vice President Philippe Abraham, and 2nd Vice President Paul Pecorale), AFT's President Randi Weingarten, NYS AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento, as well as political leaders that included Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, then-Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, and NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. All of the speakers referenced concerns over the Janus case at the Supreme Court, extolled union participation in the movement against the NY Constitutional Convention and discussed legal action NYS has been taking to protect unions against changes that are coming from Washington.

Andy Pallotta stated that we need to "stay strong and address the issues. We anticipated a \$6 million loss from Janus – we have already cut \$10 million." He specifically referred to retirees as NYSUT's "daytime army." Cilento reiterated that "we are one union family" and said, "To

"To those who want to silence our voice, we say not now, not ever." ~NYS AFL-CIO President Cilento

those who want to silence our voice, we say not now, not ever." Weingarten stated that "People are awakening in this age of Trump. We are in a moment. It is catalytic and exciting. And this may just be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a movement that makes it better for people."

Pallotta also pointed to the bill moving through the state legislature that would prohibit the mandated use of state standardized tests to evaluate educators and students, as proof that perseverance pays off, and promised "We won't back down. We are organizing and have placed person-to-person contact and relationship building at the heart of all that we do."

At a special breakfast for E.D. 51-53 retirees, NYSUT At-Large E.D. Director Florence McCue said, "We built this organization, we will not let it falter. We will work together to support every single member."

RC 10 co-sponsored a number of resolutions that were presented to the Assembly. They included:

- Res. 9: Formation of a committee to amend the NYSUT Constitution – Referred to NYSUT Board
- Res. 11: Kindergarten Entrance Age (to be five by September 1). Adopted as amended, with an exemption for those in public pre-K programs.
- Res. 12: Educate and support Pre K-12 teachers and SRPs about transgender students. Adopted.
- Res. 13: Oppose "back door" privatization of public schools. Adopted as amended.
- Res. 17: Solving the teacher shortage by restoring professional autonomy and advocating for child-centered education. Referred to NYSUT Board.
- Res. 18: Revive the National Teacher Corps. Referred to NYSUT Board.
- Res. 24: Funding Special Education (outcome unknown).
- Res. 25: Revive excellent in teaching/teacher support aid funding program (outcome unknown).
- Res. 28: Opposition to property tax cap – Adopted as amended.
- Res. 30: Local union representation on school district health care consortiums – Adopted.
- Res. 32: Voting Rights in NYS – Referred to NYSUT Board.
- Res. 34: Retirees – to increase involvement and participation of new retirees; NYSUT to continue to focus on Retiree Services. Adopted.

Complete coverage of the RA is available at <https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources/sites/representative-assembly>.

**TRAVEL/SOCIAL COMMITTEE
EMPHASIZES LOCAL EVENTS**

The RC 10 Travel/Social Committee has been energized with the addition of several new volunteer members, who have brought many ideas for local events. The events will allow RC 10 members to socialize and enjoy lower-cost activities, without the need of a bus trip. Some of the local activities being planned for the next few months include:

- *Romeo and Juliet* performance by the New York City Ballet at Saratoga Performing Arts Center, July 19th.
- A tour of Hancock Shaker Village. August 23.
- "Taste of Troy" foodie tour, September 15.

To attend local events, members and guests must have their own transportation or arrange a carpool on their own. To find out more about these activities, please see Page 2 of this newsletter. Visit the website at <http://rc10.ny.aft.org> for additional information and specific registration forms for each event.

**OCTOBER 17,2018 — LOWER EAST SIDE NYC: TENEMENT MUSEUM
FOLLOWED BY A 2-HOUR WALKING, HISTORIC/FOODIE TOUR!**

Tour the Lower East Side and explore the area where many of our immigrant grandparents may have lived! A one-hour presentation at the Tenement Museum will feature **ONE** of the following programs: **Sweatshop Workers**—the Levine family’s garment workshop and the Rogarshevskys’ Sabbath table at the turn of the 20th century **OR Hard Times**—how the immigrants survived economic depression between 1863 and 1935. (**NOTE:** Both these presentations require the ability to walk up several flights of stairs since these old tenements do not have elevators!) Next, the “Big Onion Walking Tours”—a historic and gastronomic tour through Chinatown, Little Italy and the Jewish East Side. Stops include: the Jewish Daily Forward building; the Bowery; historic Hester, Orchard & Mulberry Streets; and sites associated with Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Mother Cabrini and Jacob Riis. Food stops will include Dominican plantains, fresh Italian mozzarella, just-baked bialys, Malaysian beef jerky, and cannoli. Next three hours to explore this neighborhood on your own to shop, have an early dinner at one of the many ethnic restaurants, or walk 20 minutes south and explore City Park, St. Paul’s Church, or walk across the Brooklyn Bridge. **Cost** for everything including tips will be \$105 for members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee/\$110 for guests and those who have not paid the annual sustaining membership fee. **Bus will pick up: 6 AM at Saratoga Wilton Mall** at the North end of Dick’s at Pole C2 and **6:45 AM at Crossgates Mall**, the outer parking lot across from Penney’s—sign that says Brown/Upstate. **Bus will leave NYC at 6:30 PM!! Meet at the corner of Canal Street and Centre Street by 6:15 PM!!** Make checks payable to **NYSUT Retiree Council 10** and mail to Barbara Zuccaro, 56 Helen Drive, Queensbury, NY 12804. Make sure to list your place of pick-up, cell phone number and email address!! Description and registration form: rc10.ny.aft.org or contact Barbara at bzuccaro@roadrunner.com or call 518-792-6799.



Use this form if you are unable to access the event-specific registration forms at <http://rc10.ny.aft.org>.

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 \$ _____