

RC 10 SKYLINE NEWS

NYSUT Retiree Council 10

ISSUE 4 APR-MAY-JUN 2019

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:

My last article focused on Volunteerism in an effort to have one of our members step forward to volunteer and fill the upcoming vacancy of Beverly Harrington. Bev served RC 10 for many years as our Membership Chair, doing an excellent job maintaining our records and working closely with our Treasurer and Secretary. Beverly, you were a true asset to Retiree Council 10 and I thank you for committing your time, talents and efforts over the past years.

I am pleased to announce that Davia Dymond, who retired from Guilderland, has volunteered to take over the responsibilities of Membership Chair. I would like to thank Davia for answering my request and look forward to working with her.

“As your Union needed your involvement during your active years, it still does in your retirement years.”

Retiree Council 10 is still looking for Ambassadors to become part of our Board of Directors. I can name several Districts that are not represented: North and South Colonie, Voorheesville, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, Lansingburg, Albany, Rensselaer, Shenendehowa, among others. Remember we represent all public school districts that are within the geographic regions of Albany, Saratoga, Rensselaer and Washington Counties. Board meetings are once a month and we meet at NYSUT Headquarters on Troy-Schenectady Road. If you are interested in becoming involved, you can contact me by email at jimnfros@aol.com. I would welcome hearing from you and answering any questions you may have.

As your Union needed your involvement during your active years, it still does in your retirement years. Have a wonderful Spring and Summer season, be safe and stay well.

~Jim Stolis, First Vice President



Jim Stolis

While I am talking about volunteerism, I would be remiss if I did not also thank our RC 10 Secretary Laraine Gillette and Treasurer Paula Johannessen for the great work they both do for RC 10 in their respective areas of responsibility.

Over the past few months as Acting President, I have also learned to appreciate the work that David Golden has given to RC 10 in his capacity as President. David is doing much better and I expect him to be back in his role as President within the next two months.

It can't happen without you!

Stand up and give to VOTE-COPE!



TOGETHER, WE WILL WIN THE WAR

At the recent Committee of 100, Andy Pallotta stated, “They tried to kill us, and we got stronger.” He went on to say that working together, retiree and in-service members made 300,000 phone calls and broke \$11 million in Vote Cope contributions. These contributions enabled political action that helped to flip the House of Representatives and our NY State Senate. Contributions also helped the efforts of NYSUT in-service teachers and NYSUT retirees as they ran for school boards, town, county and State offices.

Vote Cope contributions have a great impact on education funding and other issues that you care about, as well as providing funding for NYSUT Regional Conferences for retired members. But did you know that according to our NYSUT Vote Cope Coordinator Jeff Zuckerman, 80% of retirees no longer give to Vote Cope? It is so easy to support our union as it works to protect the things we've won, including our pension, health care, and right to organize. You can contribute online at: <https://www.nysut.org/my-nysut/reference/toolkit/member/political-action/vote-cope> (you will need to log in). If you would like to contribute with a pension deduction, you can contact Linda Herrons at NYSUT, 518-213-6000, Extension 6620 for more information and a donation form.



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

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019, THE CLOISTERS & METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NYC! This trip is filled.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019, NYSUT REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR RC 10 at NYSUT Headquarters. Information was mailed in a separate flyer. If you have questions, or did not receive a flyer, contact: rc10secretary@hotmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019, RC 10 NORTHERN HUDSON RIVER LOCK TOUR/200 YEARS OF THE ERIE CANAL. The Northern Hudson River Lock Tour/200 Years of the Erie Canal will meet at the parking lot of the Dutch Apple Tours located at 141 Broadway, Albany, NY, at 11. Parking is free. The tour will begin at 11:30 and will go from Albany through the Federal Lock in North Troy. On the way the boat will go through the CSX Railroad Bridge and pass the original terminus of the Erie Canal as well as historic Troy (home of the Industrial Revolution in America). A box lunch will be served on the boat. The boat returns to Albany at 2. Price including the tour, lunch with soda, and the tip is \$40 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Price is \$43 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 Nancy Carpenter, 12 Benedict Street, Castleton, NY 12033 by May 1. Contact: 518-732-2984 or carpenterna07@gmail.com.

MAY 30 TO JUNE 11, 2019, SLOVENIA AND CROATIA: HIDDEN COVES AND ANCIENT TREASURES BY SEA. This trip is filled.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019, ANNUAL SPRING MEETING. The 2019 Spring Meeting will be at the Shaker Ridge Country Club (802 Albany Shaker Road in Colonie, near the Albany County Airport). Please note that the luncheon has been changed to a dinner at 5 pm which will be preceded by a business meeting at 4:30 pm. The highlights of this event will be the celebration of the RC 10 scholarship winners, the RC 10 honorees, and the 2018 retirees. Entrée selections will be chicken marsala, roast beef, or salmon filet and will include salad, dessert, and coffee/tea. The price, including tax and gratuity, is \$30. 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, NY 12065, by May 30. Contact: 518-371-1738 or Jeannebsh50@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2019, MOHONK HOUSE, NEW PALTZ. Since 1869 this sprawling Victorian castle overlooks a pristine glacial lake offering farm-to-table meals and customized plates to your liking at this unique 1,200 acre mountaintop setting. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1963 for both the Mountain House and its surrounding grounds, Mohonk's charming ambience and sense of history invite guests to step back in time. Enjoy lunch in a new style of dining with Chef's Action Stations, highlighting fresh ingredients from the Hudson Valley with traditional Mohonk favorites. Cost will be \$120 for members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Price is \$125 for guests and all those who have not paid the annual sustaining membership fee. This price includes a lunch experience with complimentary tea or lemonade and cookies plus a Mohonk souvenir to take home for your unforgettable day memories before departure. A 15% discount coupon is also offered to be used at the Gift Shop or Greenhouse Garden Shop. Some of complimentary activities offered are 85 miles of hiking, 18 Hole Disc Golf Course, award winning gardens and maze, barn museum, basketball, croquet, greenhouse, lawn bowling, playground, rock scrambles, shuffleboard and volleyball. Bus pickups will be at the Saratoga Wilton Mall, north end of Dick's at pole C2 at 7:30 am and at Latham Farms near Sam's Club at 8 am. Leaving Mohonk at 4 pm. Arriving in Latham at 5:30 and at the Wilton Mall at 6 pm. Contact Grace Cramer at gracecramer59@yahoo.com with questions. Make checks payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 10 and mail with registration form to Grace Cramer, 62 Wiltshire Way, Niskayuna, 12309. Be sure to include your pick-up site, cell phone number, home phone, email address and contact person's name and number.

THURSDAY, JULY 18, NEW YORK CITY BALLET AT SPAC 2 PM. NYSUT RC10 has 30 tickets reserved in section 2 (these are premiere viewing seats) for the performance of Tchaikovsky and Balanchine. Tickets will sell out fast, so reserve yours as soon as possible. NYC Ballet has only seven performances this summer at SPAC and RC 10 is fortunate to have such excellent seats in reserve! Program: *Serenade* (Tchaikovsky/Balanchine), *Mozartiana* (Tchaikovsky/Balanchine), *Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2* (Tchaikovsky/Balanchine). Lunch: this is optional, but why not meet up with other members attending the performance for lunch at the Hall of Springs—SPAC'S beautiful dining room! Prix fixe menu with fresh, local cheeses; salads; tapas; antipasti; soup; breads and rolls; and salad bar selections. Creative American and global offerings of beef, chicken, game, seafood and pastas, vegetarian and gluten free options available served buffet-style. Lunch seating time is 11:30. Cost: for the ballet: \$60 for all members who have paid the annual sustaining membership and \$62 for guests and all those who have not paid the annual sustaining membership fee. Lunch would be an additional \$28 per person, all taxes and gratuities included. Transportation: you will need to provide your own. Make checks payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 10 and mail to: Aida Horwitt, 2 Mercer Street, Albany, NY 12203-3608. All reservations should be received no later than May 15. For additional information, please contact: Aida at 518 453-6124 (home) or 528 441-9587 (cell)

SEPTEMBER 7 TO 19, 2019, ICELAND. This trip is filled.

SEPTEMBER 8 TO 20, 2019, ICELAND. This trip is filled.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019, BOSTON: EDWARD M. KENNEDY (EMK) INSTITUTE AND JFK LIBRARY AND MUSEUM TOURS WITH VISIT TO EATALY AND SHOPS AT THE PRUDENTIAL CENTER (PRU). Participate in live action on the Senate floor during the EMK Institute's simulated Senate Chamber Programs. Then walk next door to the JFK Library for a self-guided multimedia tour about JFK's life and presidency. The final stop will be the Prudential Center where you can choose to browse in the upscale shops, including Eataly; visit the Observation Deck to get a 360-degree view of Boston; or visit the area around the "Pru." These websites will give you more information about each of our stops: eataly.com, prudentialcenter.com, jfklibrary.org, and emkinstitute.org. Bus pick up: 6 am Saratoga Wilton Mall and 6:30 am Crossgates Mall. Cost includes bus trip (including tip) and admissions to EMK Institute and JFK Library and Museum: \$95 for members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee; \$100 for guests and for members who have not paid the sustaining membership fee. Description and registration form available at: rc10.ny.aft.org or contact by email: boston10919@gmail.com, or phone Pat Bligh 518-674-5768. Leave clear name and phone number. Deadline for registration is September 3, 2019. Make checks payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 10 and mail with registration form to D. Z. Ariemma, 10 Harvard Road, Watervliet, NY 12189.

OCTOBER 28 TO NOVEMBER 12, 2019, SWITZERLAND & THE HEART OF THE RHINE & MOSELLE RIVER CRUISE. This trip is filled.

Registration forms are on our website at <http://rc10.ny.aft.org>, or use the generic form on page 4 of this newsletter. 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.

RC 10 ANNUAL SPRING EVENT, JUNE 4, 2019

Please join us for our annual Spring Event that celebrates our scholarship award winners as well as our RC 10 honorees. This year's event will be held on June 4 at Shaker Ridge Country Club. We have changed the time of this year's event from the usual 11:30 am start to 4:30-7:00 pm. This was done in the hope that, by changing the time, more scholarship winners will be able to attend.

The Shaker Ridge Country Club is located at 802 Albany Shaker Road in Colonie, near the Albany County Airport. The 5:00 dinner will be preceded by a business meeting at 4:30 pm. The highlight will be the celebration of the RC 10 scholarship winners, the RC 10 honorees, and the 2018 retirees. Entrée selections will be Chicken Marsala, Roast Beef, or Salmon Filet and will include salad, dessert, and coffee/tea. The price including tax and gratuity is \$30. Please complete the generic reservation form on page 4 of this newsletter, 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.

We are happy to announce that the 2019 RC 10 honorees will be Beverly Harrington, Albany County; Paula Johannessen, Rensselaer County; Robert DeMarco, Saratoga County; and Mary Kruchinski, Washington County. Congratulations to our honorees! Please come out to the event to celebrate their achievements with us.

To welcome our 2018 retirees, the sustaining membership fee for 2019-2020 will be waived **IF**:

- Members retired in 2018.
- The 2018-19 sustaining membership fee has been paid.
- New retiree members attend the Spring Annual Event.

Please contact rc10secretary@hotmail.com with any questions and to obtain an RC 10 membership form.

RC 10 MEMBERS ATTEND ED 51 MEETING IN UTICA

RC 10 Delegates Jane Weihe and Dennis Bouchard, and Alternate Delegates Loretta Quigley and Deb Escobar, attended the ED 51 annual meeting in Utica on March 26 and 27. The event began with a talk from Patrick Lyons, NYSUT Director of Constituency Programs and Services. His talk focused on "NYSUT Post Janus: Maintaining a Strong Union." He gave the positive information that NYSUT membership has remained strong, even though there are groups who are canvassing members and encouraging them to drop their membership. We then heard from Sarah Bormann, District Director for Congressman Anthony Brindisi. Ian Phillips, NYSUT Regional Political Organizer for CNY and Southern Tier, gave an inspiring speech about retiree political involvement. He stressed that programs and issues like Social Security and Medicare are constantly under attack, and retiree involvement helps to send a strong message to legislators. We heard from Sarah Reeske, Community Advocate and Co-Founder of Indivisible-Mohawk Valley, about grass roots activism. NYSUT Vice President Paul Pecorole spoke to us briefly about keeping our RC councils strong, and stated that at the October ED 51 meeting, he will have an important presentation with more information about updating our constitutions, etc. He also recommended going to the retiree section of the NYSUT website for helpful resources. And lastly, we heard from David Keefe, NYSTRS Trustee and Board President and were reassured that our pension fund is strong and healthy, and envied by others.

RC 10 MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN COMMITTEE OF 100

On March 5, 2019, RC 10 members Jane Weihe, Deb Escobar, Priscilla Mueller, Tony McCann and Bonita Maxon attended the NYSUT Committee of 100 Lobby Day, and the information session at the Desmond that occurred the evening before. At the meeting, members heard from Andy Pallotta, Vote Cope Coordinator Jeff Zuckerman, and others. The meeting prepared members with a packet, and the speeches gave understanding to the 28 issues NYSUT was targeting during the lobbying effort. Some of those 28 issues included:

- Increase of \$2.2 billion for school aid.
- Reject the Executive budget proposal to make the tax cap permanent. If it is made permanent, make changes to exempt certain expenses (like school security) from the cap. Lastly, do away with the 60% supermajority that is needed to pass a school budget that exceeds the tax cap.
- Restore teacher center funding to its 2008-09 level of \$40 million.
- Protect collective bargaining agreements by not allowing agreements that have not yet been ratified by union membership to be subject to FOIL requests.

RC 10 members attended the following meetings with legislators:

John McDonald – Bonita reports that he was agreeable with the areas discussed.

Jake Ashby – Ashby is a newly elected Assemblymember, and teaches part-time at Maria College. He is from a family of teachers, and was agreeable with most of our issues, including the need to not make the property tax cap permanent. He was also pro-BOCES, pro-SUNY CUNY adjunct assistance, and supportive of teacher centers.

Carrie Woerner – She was very supportive and in response to NYSUT's support of community schools, she wants to visit Troy's Community School.

Angelo Santabarbara – As always, he is very supportive of education. He realizes the need to have exemptions from the tax cap so that money "is not taken away from education." He is very concerned with mental health and school climate. He has been working with others on Jacob's Law – which affects the reporting of bullying to parents under DASA. He understands the need to encourage students to go into teaching programs.

Patricia Fahy – Representatives met with Legislative Assistant Jake Egloff. He will discuss the amendments to the tax cap, need for more foundation aid, receivership law, and impact of testing with the assemblywoman.

Senator Daphne Jordan (SD43) – Our representatives were told to go from the 5th floor to the 9th, which made a few of them late. This being her first year as a Senator, we thought she would have made time for us but instead we met with Patrick Cronin, the Legislative Director. He would not give us any commitment on her views on the areas we discussed. This Senator also does not yet have a district office.

Senator George Amedore - Deb attended this meeting, but was shut out due to lack of room in his new (minority) office. She spoke to his aide Dan in the hallway. He took notes, agreed on our funding proposals and said Amedore is behind programs to get new teachers into classrooms. Noncommittal about the tax cap – called it "fuzzy math."

Senator Mary Beth Walsh – Jane attended this meeting because Senator Walsh represents the BHBL School District. Walsh expressed support for many changes to the tax cap, including making the cap 2% or the average of the CPI, whichever is greater (as opposed to the current situation where it is whichever is lower, meaning the 2% tax cap in recent years has not been 2%, but less). She was also supportive of exempting certain costs from the tax cap and removing the 60 percent supermajority required to exceed the cap. She also expressed support for mandate relief but was not specific about which mandates she would like to remove. **For more info on the Committee of 100 event, check out the extended version of this article on our website at <http://rc10.ny.aft.org>.**

**NYSUT REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR RETIREE COUNCIL 10
MAY 7, 2019**

RC 10's Regional Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. Sponsored and subsidized by NYSUT Retiree Services, the event will feature many speakers from NYSUT, a continental breakfast, and lunch. The schedule is as follows:

- 8:15-9:00 Registration and continental breakfast.
- 9:00-9:15 Welcome from NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant Jennifer Shaad-Derby, RC 10 leadership, and NYSUT Retiree Barbara McCarthy.
- 9:15-10:00 NYSUT Second Vice President Paul Pecorale will address issues that could potentially affect retirees and in-service members.
- 10:00-10:15 Morning Break
- 10:15-11:15 NYSUT Member Benefits Legal Service Plan endorsed attorney Steven Kramer of Feldman, Kramer and Monaco, P.C., will share important information related to estate planning.
- 11:15-12:15 NYSUT Director of Community Outreach Paul Webster and NYSUT Regional Political Organizer Randy Gunther will share ways that retirees can promote and advocate for members' rights and educational justice.
- 12:15-1:15 Hot/cold buffet lunch
- 1:15-2:00 Ani Shahinian, NYSUT Social Service Specialist, will give a presentation on how social connections change with age.
- 2:00-2:15 Door prizes, evaluations, closing remarks



RC 10 members enjoy a hot/cold buffet at the Spring 2018 Regional Conference

The Conference costs \$10 and registration must be in by May 1st. To get a registration form, go to <http://rc10.ny.aft.org> or contact RC10secretary@hotmail.com.



TRAVEL/SOCIAL GENERIC REGISTRATION FORM

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

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number _____

Check One: For 2018-19: () 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 \$ _____