

# THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

March 2012

## RC-12 Social Committee Trip - June 27, 2013

**Kykuit/Union Church of Pocantico Hills/Washington Irving Sunnyside/Sunset Cove**

**Kykuit:** (rhymes with "pie cut") NYS registered historic site and the family home of former Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller and his family. Classic Tour (2 1/2 hours) of the hilltop paradise; six-story stone house and Coach Barn. (Wheelchair accessible). Sleepy Hollow, NY

**Union Church of the Pocantico Hills:** Rockefeller family church, completed in 1922, contains a colorful rose window by Henri Matisse - his last work of art- and nine stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall.

**Washington Irving Sunnyside:** Riverside home of Washington Irving - House/gardens tour with costumed guides. Irvington, NY

**Sunset Cove:** World-class dining with a view of the Hudson River; tucked among the boats at the Washington Irving Boat Club beneath the Tappan Zee Bridge; inside dining, outside viewing.

**6:30AM** Amsterdam Pick-Up (Mt. Carmel Church)  
**7:00** Wade Pick-Up (797 Burdeck Street)  
**10:00** Washington Irving Sunnyside Tour  
**12:00** Union Church of the Pocantico Hills  
**1:00** Buffet Lunch at Sunset Cove, Tarrytown  
**2:30-5:00** Kykuit Tour  
**5:00** Depart (stop on Thruway for dinner on your own)  
**9:00 PM** Arrive at Amsterdam  
**9:30 PM** Arrive at Wade



Cost: \$115 - (Kykuit, \$23; Church, \$5; Sunnyside, \$10; Lunch, \$32; Transportation, \$45)

### RC-12 Kykuit/SleepyHollow/Tarrytown Trip: June 27, 2013: Registration Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 115 per person Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make check to: NYSUT RC-12 Circle Pickup point: Amsterdam Wades

Send check and registration form by May 24, 2013 to: (No Refunds after May 24, 2013.)

Kathlene Lyman 254 Riverside Place Alplaus, NY 12008 (phone #518.399.0256)

*Trip insurance strongly encouraged*

## Nomination/Election Notice for RC 12 Directors

**Anyone interested in being a Director for RC 12 should contact Nominations/Election Chair Judy Schultz (518 399-4957) or mainemate@aol.com for information and to request a nomination form. Six director positions are available. All NYSUT RC 12 retirees in good standing are eligible to hold the position. **Deadline for return of completed nomination form is May 15, 2013.****

The director is a 2-year position on RC 12 Board, effective July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015. It is expected the director will attend the 4-5 yearly board meetings and serve the NYSUT retirees for a designated area of RC 12. (Your expenses are covered for attending those Board meetings.) It is also expected you will attend the three general membership meetings at your own expense.

You will not only be doing a service for retirees but also socializing and working with other interesting and dedicated retirees. Through RC 12 and NYSUT, we strive to achieve a high quality of life for the retired educator. Your contribution of energy, time, and expertise will further our vision. Thank you in advance for any consideration you give this position.

The election will be held during the morning business meeting at the May 30, 2013 annual general membership meeting at the River Stone Manor in Scotia. Please consider serving your fellow retirees.



From the President's Desk...  
Sandra Bliss

“Each Generation Must Fight for Its Rights”

The current fight to maintain and improve Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid is a fight several generations have had to wage. Now, it is our generation that must educate our friends, our neighbors, our children, grandchildren and ourselves in order to maintain rights to dignity in retirement, to receive what we have paid for and to maintain a safety net that we never know when we might need.

March 1, March 27 and May 18 are trigger points in this fight. By the time you receive this newsletter, Congress will have made a decision on how to handle the March 1 deadline on sequestration and the March 27 deadline on funding the federal budget. May 18 is another deadline for the debt ceiling battle. At each of these dates, **Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid was/will be on the chopping block.**

Once again, I urge you to contact your Congressional representatives and the President to state the need to protect these programs for future generations. Call at least once a week. Sometimes call the Washington office, and other times call the local office.

- Phone numbers and regions of Congressional Representatives are listed below:**  
**President Obama: White House - 202.456.1414**  
**Congress:** Washington D.C - 202.224.3121-Capitol Switchboard --Ask for each Senator and the appropriate Congressman one call at a time.  
**Local District Office Numbers**  
**Senator Schummer:** 518.431.4070-Albany or 315.423.5471-Syracuse  
**Senator Gillibrand:** 518.431.0120-Albany or 315.448.0470-Syracuse  
**Congressman Chris Gibson:** 607.282.4002-Cooperstown or 518.610.8133-Kinderhook  
RC 12 Counties: Otsego, Schoharie and western Montgomery  
**Congressman Paul Tonko:** 518.374.4547-Schenectady or 518.843.3400-Amsterdam  
RC 12 Counties: Schenectady and eastern Montgomery  
**Congressman Bill Owens:** 315.782.3150-Watertown or 518.743.0964-Glens Falls  
RC 12 Counties: Hamilton, Fulton and northern Herkimer  
**Congressman Richard Hanna:** 315.724.9746-Utica RC 12 Counties: southern Herkimer

**It is easier than you may think.** Just call your representatives and the White House to say you want to leave a message. The staff person who answers the phone will take your message without debating you. State your points, and give your name and where you live. If you want, you can say you want to speak to the staff member who deals with the issues of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, and if they connect you, then discuss the issues.

**What should the message be?** “Let’s not be the last generation to retire!” “Social Security is sound.” “Do not give in to the pressure to cut programs future seniors will depend on.” “Social Security and Medicare are solvent.” “Do not raise the age to obtain Medicare or add more means testing of benefits.” “Allow the government to negotiate better drug prices under Medicare.” “Stop Medicare cuts and don’t turn it into a block grant program because millions of seniors rely on this program for their long-term care.” “Do not balance the budget on the backs of retirees.” “The chained CPI is an immediate benefit cut to current recipients of Social Security.” “Raise the earnings cap on Social Security contributions.” “Social Security has not added one penny to our budget deficit. The program is fully-financed by worker and employer contributions.” “Drug companies’ tax loopholes should be on the table.” “Require Big Pharma (drug companies) to pay their fair share.”

The Outlook

- Co-Pres. Jeanne W. Bennett (315) 895-7063  
Co-Pres. Sandra Bliss (315) 725-0706  
1st VP David Sammons (518) 661-5637  
Co-2<sup>nd</sup> VP S. David King (518) 725-0848  
Co-2<sup>nd</sup> VP Mary Pritchard (518) 374-0607  
Sec. Carolyn Darkangelo (518) 883-7440  
Treasurer John Mazur (518) 773-7180

**Immediate Past President**  
Karen Wojcik-Hess (518) 899-7592  
**Past Presidents:** Judy Schultz  
Don Griffith Bill Schultz Jim Marquit

**Directors** ( as of July 1, 2011)  
**Montgomery**  
Alex Boschi  
**Otsego and Schoharie**  
Joseph F Bernocco & Margaret Dafeldecker  
**Schenectady**  
Vicki McGowen  
**Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer**  
Don Harris

**Newsletter Staff** Phyllis VanSteenburgh  
Carolyn Darkangelo  
**Webmaster - Carolyn Darkangelo**  
Darkangelo @nycap.rr.com

**Website: RC12.ny.aft.org**

NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant:  
Jennifer Shaad-Derby

(518) 783-7977 [jderby@nysutmail.org](mailto:jderby@nysutmail.org)

Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

Name \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Year Retired \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Original Union Local \_\_\_\_\_ You may share my email with AFT \_\_\_\_\_

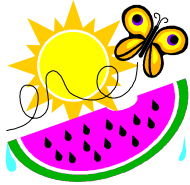
My Assemblyman \_\_\_\_\_ My NY State Senator \_\_\_\_\_

My US Representative \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to work for my fellow retirees in the area of: \_\_\_\_\_ Legislation \_\_\_\_\_ Social Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 yearly contribution requested send to John Mazur, 176 West Bush Rd, Gloversville, NY 12078 518-773-7180  
Make check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 12





**NYSUT RC12 Spring General Membership Luncheon Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 30, 2013    River Stone Manor**  
1437 Amsterdam Rd, Glenville, NY 518.382.8322 riverstonemanor.com

**Keynote Speaker: Floyd Cameron, NYSUT Manager of Retiree Services**

**Award of Excellence to John Costello, Assistant to the NYSUT Executive Vice-President**

**NYSUT RC12 Community Service Award to John Mazur**

<b>AGENDA</b>	
9:30-10:00 am	Registration, Coffee and Tea
10:00-11:00 am	Business Meeting and Election of Directors: 10:00-10:30 am
11:10-Noon	Speaker(s)/Program
12:15- 1:15 pm	Buffet Luncheon*
Buffet: Chicken Francese, Tilapia, Pasta Primavera, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Desert, Beverage	
Cost per person: <b>\$21.00</b> (RC 12 will subsidize \$2.00 per person)	

**\*Servers for buffet will be provided for those with disabilities.**  
Do not have to attend entire meeting nor pay registration fee to vote in election.

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**Please complete and mail to:**

**Vicky McGowan, 4049 Windsor Drive, Niskayuna, NY 12309    PHONE: 518.852.0113 torymc@aol.com**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Make checks payable to NYSUT RC 12**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Deadline: May 17, 2013**

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School District retired from:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year retired:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2013 NYSUT Representative Assembly Resolutions**  
RC12 has submitted three resolutions for action:  
***Patient Rights: When You're In the Hospital,***  
***Ask if You've Been Admitted***

**RESOLVED**, that NYSUT urge its locals and state and national coalitions and affiliates to conduct a national campaign with their memberships, in-service and retired, to contact and seek support from their Congressional representatives to introduce or support the contents of H.R. 1543 and S. 818 or similar legislation in the 2013-2014 Congressional session, and subsequent Congressional sessions, if necessary, to move said legislation through to their respective committees and pass legislation forthwith that will correct this flaw; and, be it further **RESOLVED**, that NYSUT and its state and national coalitions and alliances seek legislation that would reduce or eliminate the 3 day restriction before Medicare Part A would cover prescribed skilled nursing or rehabilitative services; and, therefore be it further

**RESOLVED**, that NYSUT and its state and national coalitions and alliances, seek legislation that makes it mandatory for hospitals to give written notification to the patient or patient's representative immediately following hospital placement as to whether the patient is classified, "Observation Status" or "Inpatient Status", and the differences and consequences of Medicare benefits in each; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that NYSUT encourages its locals and its affiliates to examine their health insurance offerings, including Catastrophic Coverage, to seek a waiver to the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement from their insurance providers until such time as the above concern is permanently corrected; and, therefore be it further

**RESOLVED**, that NYSUT urge AFT and NEA to do the same with their locals and their affiliates.

***Nursing Home Care in New York State for Residents with Late-Stage Alzheimer's Behavior Issues.***

**RESOLVED**, that NYSUT and its affiliates work to obtain legislation that would stop the practice of sending nursing home residents and their Medicaid dollars out of state, but instead provide training for facilities to keep both their residents, their Medicaid dollars and their families here in New York State.

***Single Payer Universal Health Care***

**RESOLVED**, that NYSUT and its national affiliates support the introduction in the 2013-2014 Congressional Session of Representative John Conyer's 2011-2012 bill HR 676; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that NYSUT and its national affiliates support the newly so-numbered bill so that it may be enacted into law.

***Save the Dates***

- April 11-13, 2013** NYSUT R A in Washington, DC
- May 16, 2013** NYSUT RC 12 Regional Conference Glen Sanders
- May 30, 2013** RC 12 Annual Meeting and Election Riverstone Manor
- June 27, 2013** Social Committee Trip to Kykuit
- August 6, 2013** Bus trip to the Log Cabin in Holyoke, Mass
- Sept. 17, 2013** RC 12 Fall Meeting at the Otesaga in Cooperstown





The 2012 NYSUT RC12 Community Service Award Presented to La Vergne McMurray

Korean War US Army Veteran LaVergne (Mac) McMurray received the 2012 NYSUT RC 12 Community Service Award for his forty plus years of commitment to the members of his community. Mac retired in 1995 after teaching K-12 music forty-one years. His current activities include Legislative Chair of his AARP chapter (also

Past President), Friendly Service Chair of the Oneida-Herkimer County NYSTRA, Secretary of the local Kiwanis Club, member of the Herkimer County Office for the Aging Advisory Council, President of the Frankfort Public Library Board, and member of Board of Directors of the Herkimer Homestead (started in 1895 by teachers for teachers). Every school week, Mac goes to the Frankfort-Schuyler Elementary School to tutor a second grader as a volunteer in the America Reads Program to motivate students to read for pleasure. In the past, he was the organist/choir director, Sunday school teacher, leader of the Children’s Church service, and President of the Cemetery Association. He was a volunteer driver for Catholic Charities and the Meals on Wheels programs, board member of the local Red Cross chapter and Treasurer of the Frankfort –Schuyler School Band Boosters. His favorite activity was when he was Co-Director of the Community Bicentennial Choir and performed in Washington D.C.

Mac is a great admirer of Eleanor Roosevelt and often quotes her. He is very involved in the politics of the day and joined and has participated in RC 12 since his retirement. During the October 1971 strike in the Frankfort-Schuyler Schools, Mac served as treasurer of the union. Finally, he served several times on the Frankfort-Schuyler Teachers Association negotiation teams.

## Hot Fun in the Summertime

Tuesday, August 6, 2013



The SOCIAL COMMITTEE will be running a one-day bus trip to the Log Cabin in Holyoke, Mass. You will be treated to a superb LOBSTER FEAST, or if you prefer, BBQ RIBS & CHICKEN with all the extra trimmings! Plus, after the FEAST, you will be entertained with Doo-Wop music from the 50’s and 60’s. Itineraries and reservation forms will be available at the next General Meeting on Wednesday March 13, in Cobleskill, and in the next Outlook, or you may call Marlene at 518-827-4300 or Bev at 518-234 7578 for information.



The AFT “Living the Legacy” Award for 50 years of service and commitment was presented to **Judy Schultz**, past president of RC 12, by Co-presidents Sandra Bliss and Jeanne Bennett.