NYSUT RC 12 Fall Membership Meeting – Minutes
The Otesaga Resort Hotel, Cooperstown, NY 13326
Thursday, September 28, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 by Kathlene Lyman, First Vice-President. The group was led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Director Tracy Allen led the singing of “God Bless America”.

Acceptance of the agenda: John Mazur made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

A moment of silence was held for deceased RC 12 members, deceased and injured military personnel, victims of recent hurricanes and earthquakes, rescue workers, etc.

Introductions of RC 12 officers, executive board members, and guests were made. Floyd Cameron, NYSUT Retiree Services Manager and Paul Webster, NYSUT Director of Community Outreach were announced as speakers and special guests. New retirees and new guests were also welcomed.

Secretary’s Report: The minutes of the May 31, 2017 annual meeting/elections were presented to the membership. Kathlene Lyman shared thank you correspondence from Friends of Bassett Healthcare Network for the donation made by RC 12.


Nomination/Elections: Kathlene Lyman announced openings for an SRP director and a secretary. Kathlene has nomination forms, which are due January 15, 2018.

Legislative Report: S. David King and Stacey Caruso-Sharpe. Dave King spoke about the importance of VOTE/COPE as the only money that NYSUT can use for political efforts. Stacey spoke about several topics: phone banks, health care, NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund, Con-Con, ALEC, Identity Theft Program, etc. Stacey announced that NYSUT hired Ken DeStefano to the newly created position of Labor Relations Specialist Assigned to Health Insurance. Stacey also spoke about the National Constitutional Convention Buzz.

Social Committee: Linda Zilka reported the announcement of new trips: Seneca Falls – It’s a Wonderful Life (8/9-10/2017), Biltmore Estate- Ashville NC (4/8-13/2018), West Side Story at Glimmerglass (7/16/2018), and West Point Football (11/3/2018). The Alaska and the Yukon trip is scheduled for 8/7-26/2018. Today’s Otsego Lake boat trip is at 3:00. Complete information is on the website: RC12.ny.aft.org

NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant Jennifer Shaad-Derby thanked all for helping with the post card campaign. Keep getting the message out to vote “NO” on the Con-Con; use lawn signs, buttons, etc. The deadlines for obtaining and submitting absentee ballots were outlined. NYSUT calendars are in the mail.
**Phone Banks and Remarks:** Sandra Bliss presented information on various phone banks and encouraged all to help. Sandra explained the benefits received at Bassett Health Care through our donation. She and Jeanne Bennett-Williams appreciate our support.

**Capital District Chapter of NYSARA:** Karen Wojcik-Hess reiterated the three main areas of focus: Con-Con vote “NO”, Safe Staffing, and Single Payer Health Insurance. A film on single payer health insurance is available and will be shown in Saratoga 10/12/2017. For the third year, the anniversary of Medicare was celebrated at an Alley Cats game. Sign up for the Monday Alert provided by CDC of NYSARA.

**StateWide Senior Action Council:** Kathlene Lyman spoke about their annual convention at which Judy Schultz will be honored. Handouts were provided to members. She recently attended a forum on Hospital Rights.

**Raffle Proceeds:** John Mazur moved and Vicki McGowan-Horan seconded to donate the proceeds from today’s raffle to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund. The motion carried.

**Speaker Floyd Cameron –NYSUT Retiree Services Manager:** NYSUT has 425,000 inservice teachers and 220,000 retirees. There are 1,020 retirees aged 99 or over! Floyd let RC 12 know that we are one of the most active retiree councils in New York State. NYSUT uses RC 12 as an example. He thanked us for our effort with the post card campaign. Our NYSTRS is one of the strongest in the nation. Seventy-eight percent of NYSUT retirees live in NYS, contributing billions of dollars to NYS economy. Our immediate focus should be on the November 7 vote on the Con-Con. Floyd outlined some consequences if a convention is held.

**Speaker Paul Webster: - NYSUT Director of Community Outreach:** Paul first spoke about the importance of unions, encouraging us to organize, fight, and educate. Twenty-four percent of New Yorkers are in a union. Unions have traditionally fought for what we know is right. Have a conversation about why we are in a union. Paul then spoke about the social justice movement and the First Book Program (1.75 million free books have been distributed over the last five years). Paul explained the Strides Against Cancer Walk and the “Real Men Wear Pink” campaign.

Following the **Grand Buffet/Lunch** and **50/50 Drawing**, the meeting was adjourned with special thanks to Sandra Bliss for making arrangements for the meeting and to Dolores Talmadge for arranging the boat ride on Otsego Lake.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kathlene A. Lyman*