Minutes of the NYSUT Board of Directors Meeting
on November 9, 2017 – Johnstown Holiday Inn


Sandra Bliss, Co-President called the meeting to order at 9:30. She asked Kathy Lyman to preside over the meeting. Minutes of August 8, 2017 BOD meeting and September 28, 2017 Fall Meeting were accepted as written. Dolores Talmadge presented the Treasurer’s Report. She reported a balance of $22,748.75 with income of $8661.82 and expenses of $10020.62. The report was filed for audit. $589.00 was collected at the Fall meeting to help Hurricane victims. Dolores moved that we round that to $600 for the NYSUT Hurricane Relief Fund. Karen seconded the motion and it passed.

Co-President, Sandra Bliss, reported 12 meetings that she attended this fall. She reported that the Janus case before the Supreme Court is a great concern for NYSUT. Sandy also actively questioned NYSUT officers about the fact that the NYSUT secretary-treasurer has returned to the classroom full time while receiving full salary from NYSUT. They were told that the officers would resolve this issue at the Nov. 17 Board of Directors meeting. At a financial Training workshop she learned that all RC 12 board members are responsible for the finances of the Council not just the treasurer.

Legislative 2nd vice president, S. David King, reported that the Janus Case decision is expected by June. NYSUT is working on communication with all individual members with one on one contact to show them how important union membership can be. The union could lose many dues paying members if the Supreme Court finds against agency fee. David also expressed the importance of the defeat of the constitutional convention proposal.

Karen Wojcik-Hess recommended NYSARA’s Monday alert to the board. She is working on getting Paul Tonko and Chris Gibson for the capital district’s chapter meetings. She discussed the importance of intergenerational meetings and the value of Medicare for all.

Kathlene Lyman reported on the NY StateWide 2017 Convention. Judy Schultz was presented with the Paul E. Harenberg Award for her work in teaching others about the important senior issues and benefits programs as a member of Statewide, CDARA, and RC 12. Kathy also cited discussions of the NY Health Act and the Hospital Rights Forum.

Carolyn Darkangelo reported on the awards presented to the RC 12 Outlook and website at the NYSUT Communication Awards. The next Outlook will go out in the first part of February. Information should be submitted by January 24. She stated that pictures should be in landscape orientation to appear on the website due to the new AFT format.

Kathlene Lyman reported that elections of Officers and Delegates would take place in 2018. There is still no candidate for the SRP director. Karen, Vickie and Susan offered to search for appropriate candidates and convince them to run. Sandy Bliss moved that Phyllis Van Steenburgh chair the committee. Vickie seconded the motion. The motion passed. Deadline for nominations?

Kathy presented the social committee report. Future trips include Seneca Falls, Biltmore, Glimmerglass (already sold out), West Point vs Air Force, Yukon and Alaska with AAA, and Billy Joel. She also reported that the Spring General Membership Meeting would be on March 22, 2018 at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown. The sit-down luncheon will include choice of fish, chicken, and prime rib with salad at a cost of $19.00 per person. This also includes coffee and Danish during registration. Kathy will get a speaker for the meeting.

Award nominations were discussed. Vickie nominated Kathy Lyman for the NYSUT RC 12 Community Service Award. Carolyn seconded the motion and it passed. Kathy Lyman, Sandra Bliss, and
Jeanne Williams Bennett will meet to write a grant for SRP recruitment. The application is due on December 31.

Sandy moved that RC 12 propose the RA resolution on NYSUT support of retirees. Vickie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Carolyn moved that RC 12 support the Voting Rights in NYS resolution submitted by NYSUT Retiree Council 37-38. Vickie seconded the motion and it passed.

Future meetings were set. The next board meeting will take place at NYSUT headquarters on March 8. The spring meeting will be in conjunction with the NYSUT Regional Meeting at the Glen Sanders in May 8, 2018.

New business was discussed. Sandy made a motion to support the American Labor Studies Center fundraiser by placing a $100 business card ad and $50 ticket for Kathy to attend. Carolyn seconded the motion and the motion passed. Sandy will get the information to Dolores and submit the ad. Sandy made a motion to appoint and constitution review committee. Vickie seconded the motion and it passed. Vickie, Jeanne, Carolyn, Sandy, and Phyllis were appointed. The Award of Excellence selection was tabled until the March board meeting.

Kathy Lyman adjourned the meeting at 12:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Darkangelo