

# THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate April 2024

*You are cordially invited to attend the  
RC 12 NYSUT Regional Conference and Spring Luncheon Meeting at  
The Waters Edge in Glenville on Thursday, May 16th.*

*We look forward to seeing you at this informative conference where you will meet  
NYSUT Secretary Treasurer, J. Philippe Abraham, and hear about important  
NYSUT Programs and Services.*



### *Tentative Agenda*

- 8:45- 9:15 Registration and Coffee/Tea and Breakfast Pastries  
9:15- 9:45 Introductions: Sheryl Baker Delano - NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant  
Regional Review: Mike Rowan, Capital District Regional Office  
NYSUT Benefits Update: Derek Clement, NYSUT Member Benefits  
9:45-10:00 Fix Tier 6: Sheryl Baker Delano  
10:00-10:50 **Program: Barry Kaufmann - President NY State Alliance for Retired Americans (NYSARA)**  
10:50-11:00 RC 12 Elections  
11:00-12:00 RC 12 Business Meeting - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe - RC 12 President  
12:00- 1:00 Buffet Lunch  
1:00- 2:00 **J. Philippe Abraham - NYSUT Secretary Treasurer - Getting to Know Your NYSUT  
Leadership and Important Programs They Oversee (Member Benefits, Social Justice)**  
2:00- 2:20 Door Prizes/Raffle and Evaluation: Sheryl Baker Delano

1. Please register/pay by credit card by May 7th using this C-Vent link (<https://nysut.cc/rc12-2024>) **or**
2. If paying by check, please register by May 7th via the C-Vent link above, and mail a check made payable to NYSUT for \$19 with the form below to:

Chakerra Arrington  
RC 12 Regional Conference  
NYSUT CDRO  
800 Troy-Schenectady Road  
Latham, NY 12110

### **Please Print and send in this form if paying by check**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions or difficulty registering via the link, please contact Sheryl Baker Delano at 845-706-6986 or by emailing: [sheryl.delano@nysut.org](mailto:sheryl.delano@nysut.org)

### *Save the Date*

**\*NYSUT RC 12 General Membership Meeting and  
NYSUT Regional Conference at The Waters Edge 2  
Freemans Bridge Rd Glenville , NY  
May 16, 2024**

**\*NYSUT RC 12 trip to Cape Cod, Massachusetts  
June 10-14, 2024**

**\*NYSUT RC 12 trip to Newport, Rhode Island  
September 16-19, 2024**

**\*For info, contact Kathy Lyman 518-366-4545.**

For more information, go to <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

### **Check Washing – How Can You Protect Yourself From This Rip-off?**

Do you put check payments in your mailbox for the postman or in a post office collection box? Check washing is on the rise. Criminals remove mail from these places looking for payments. They remove the payee and the amount by bleaching the check, and then, they write the check to themselves and increase the amount. They are also using the information on checks to take out loans or set up lines of credit.

There are six ways you can prevent this from happening:

- ◆ Pay bills online but not on a public Wi-Fi connection.
- ◆ Mail your payments at the post office.
- ◆ Use a non-erasable pen.
- ◆ If you are away, have the post office hold your mail or have a neighbor pick it up.
- ◆ Check your bank account several times per month.
- ◆ Contact your bank immediately if there is suspicious activity.

(Banks are required to replace funds stolen this way, **but it must be reported within 30 days!**) *Source: AARP Bulletin March 2023 page 24-25*

## NYSUT Retiree Council 12 President's Message

Happy spring! I hope this finds that you are well! Those nice warm days we had were a tease before winter returned, but hopefully, spring will be here shortly.

Last week, I attended the NYSUT ED 51 meeting. We heard from NYSUT Vice President, Ron Gross, who is the officer who deals with retiree issues. He informed us that the NYSUT plan to have an "opt-in" for the retiree newsletters is going forward. Under this plan, you would receive one newsletter a year unless you opt-in. He stated that the program got pushed back a bit because there is now a new person in charge of the IT department, and that is where the mailing lists comes from. We still don't have specifics, but as soon as we do, they will be posted on the RC 12 website so you can sign up and not miss any informative, enjoyable issues. <https://rc12.ny.aft.org> Ron also spoke about the delay last fall of NYSUT calendars going out to retirees. He apologized and stated that he hopes the fall 2024 calendars will be sent out in a much timelier manner.

One of NYSUT's key legislative agenda items this term is to Fix Tier 6. The plan is to fix it slowly, over several years, the same way tiers 3 & 4 were eventually fixed. If you are asked to call, email, write or text a legislator to encourage them to support amending this tier, please consider doing so. I know being in Tier 3, I appreciated all the work NYSUT and our members did to fix tiers 3 & 4. If not for those successful efforts, I would have had 3% of my salary deducted every year while I worked, and in retirement, there would have been a Social Security offset. Whatever I received from Social Security would have been deducted from my pension. I am so thankful that the union was there for us; now we need to be there for the younger members.

Another great way that you can help support all of NYSUT's legislative efforts is by giving to VOTE/COPE. I have said this before: dues money is not used for legislative lobbying purposes. Legislative support comes from the members' voluntary contributions made to VOTE/COPE. Using payroll deduction makes it easy and simple. I have never heard of anyone having an issue with payroll deduction for any of NYSUT's programs, from VOTE/COPE to all of the NYSUT-endorsed member benefit programs. Many of these programs are still available to members into retirement. Currently, less than 18% of retirees contribute to VOTE/COPE. I believe that we can do better than that! I ask you to consider signing up for pension deduction. Please reach out to me, or to any RC 12 officer or director, or to the NYSUT legislative department if you have any questions.

Don't forget that school board elections and school budget votes are fast approaching on Tuesday, May 21. It's not too late for you to step up and run for your local school board. If that is not an option for you, please consider researching and supporting pro education candidates. Support can be in the form of money or time working on the campaign. Pay attention to who is running for your school board. Not all candidates are really looking out for the students; some have their own agenda at heart.

Are you aware of the latest free benefit available to all members, including retirees? It's a premium membership to the Calm app. This app has won many awards for helping people with sleep, meditation, and relaxation. There have been over 100 million downloads. The diverse content library contains calming activities that range from only 30 seconds to some that relax you for 30 minutes or more. If you are feeling stressed, anxious, or just need a little self-care, consider signing up for your free membership with the Calm app. Full details can be found on the RC 12 website. <https://rc12.ny.aft.org> If you need more help than the Calm app provides, please reach out to the NYSUT Peer Support line. All calls are confidential, and reviews by people who have used it are that the help and support are top of the line. They can be reached toll free at [844-444-0152](tel:844-444-0152).

\*\*\*I would like to thank Kathlene Lyman, who has been the RC 12 first vice president for more years than I have been retired. Kathlene will be stepping down from that position after serving and supporting RC 12 for many years. Kathy has been such a help to me and has always looked out for our members. She has attended and reported to us on many meetings including NYSARA (New York State Alliance for Retired Americans), NY Statewide Senior Action Council (whose goal is to enhance the quality of life for all seniors in NYS - <https://www.nysenior.org/>), has been a delegate to the NYSUT Representative Assembly, and has welcomed new RC 12 retirees with a letter and information. Many of you who have traveled on RC 12 trips may recognize her as one of the people who has organized and run many of the RC 12 trips to NYC to see shows. When you see Kathlene, please thank her for all that she has done for NYSUT Retiree Council 12! Luckily, Kathlene has informed us that she will still be planning trips to see shows in NYC! We are very lucky to have her and other members who contribute so much of their time to help make retirement more enjoyable!!

I am looking forward to seeing you at the RC 12 spring meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Water's Edge in Glenville.

In solidarity,

Stacey



### The Outlook

**President** Stacey Caruso-Sharpe (518) 496-2769  
**1st VP** Kathlene Lyman (518) 366-4545  
**2nd VP** Bev Alves  
**Treasurer** Dolores Talmadge (518) 993-2854  
**Secretary** Cathy Picciocca (518) 922-6025

#### Immediate Past President

Jeanne W. Bennett (315) 895-7063

**Past Presidents:** Karen Wojcik-Hess  
 Judy Schultz Don Griffith Bill Schultz  
 Jim Marquit Sandra Bliss

#### Directors

Maggie Bouck - Herkimer  
 Elaine Lounsbury-Browne  
 Maria S. Pacheco -  
 Jennifer Shaad Derby- Fulton-Montgomery  
 Vickie McGowan-Horan - Schenectady  
 SRP Director— TBD

#### Newsletter Staff

Carolyn Darkangelo, Jeanne W. Williams-Bennett, Theresa Kovian

**Webmaster - Carolyn Darkangelo**

**Assistant Webmaster - Theresa Kovian**

Darkangelo @nycap.rr.com

**Website:** <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant:

**Sheryl Baker Delano**

[Sheryl.Delano@nysut.org](mailto:Sheryl.Delano@nysut.org) 845-706-6986

The statements from our candidates for RC 12 Elections are in alphabetical order: OFFICER Candidates

Stacey Caruso-Sharpe-Running for RC 12 President and AFT Delegate

I have been privileged to represent the members of RC 12 as president for the past several years. The officers (including past officers), directors, newsletter editors, election volunteers and social committee members have been wonderful to work with. I could not have done this job without them! I would be honored to continue in this position representing our members with our state affiliate, NYSUT, and with our national affiliate, AFT. I truly appreciate the support of all those who keep RC 12 working.

No Candidate-Running for 1st Vice President

Bev Alves—Running for RC 12 2nd Vice-President for Legislation & NYSUT Representative Assembly Delegate & AFT Delegate

One of the best decisions I made in my life was to become a teacher. After I retired, I became a member of the Greater Johnstown School Board, and I was also a member NYSSBA’s DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) committee. I advocate on behalf of children, educators, and education. In addition to my advocacy for education, and understanding the need for medical care for all who need it, I’ve also become an advocate for healthcare and the medical specialty of palliative care (serious illness support). I write about these topics including the Palliative Care Resolution which was passed by the AFT, and I have also spoken at the National Academy of Medicine in Washington about this essential care. All of these things enable me to know what issues are important to us and to speak to our legislators about these issues. So, I am running for 2nd vice president and NYSUT RA delegate to help all in RC 12 to promote our issues.

Dolores Talmadge—Running for Treasurer

I am running for re-election for the NYSUT RC 12 position of treasurer, I have been serving as the NYSUT RC 12 treasurer for the past ten years. I have enjoyed working with the board and the entire RC12 membership. In my capacity, I have been responsible for keeping the financial records for the general fund and the social committee, keeping the membership records up to date, and completing and filing the appropriate forms with the IRS. I am also a member of the social committee.

Cathy Picciocca—Running for RC 12 Secretary

It would be my honor to be re-elected to the position of RC 12 for the July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2026 term. As I continue to take notes for the RC 12 executive board and the general membership meetings, the process continues to become easier to complete. Working with veteran retired individuals on NYSUT RC 12 has enriched the quality of my life and provides an opportunity to give back to the organization that worked diligently to provide the retirement benefits I enjoy on a daily basis.

Jeanne Williams-Bennett—Running for NYSUT Representative Assembly Delegate

The NYSUT Representative Assembly is the policy-making for NYSUT. It’s important that RC 12 be represented. Since retirees now comprise approximately 1/3 of NYSUT membership, It’s important that RC 12 sends retirees to participate in these important decision-making and policy-making processes. Specific goals include: Fixing Tier 6 (remember this also encompasses a benefit for retirees by raising the base salary for our COLA), fighting to preserve Social Security and Medicare benefits, and providing education and information on political campaigns (not only for the US President, but also state legislatures, city councils, school boards, etc.) and projects so voters can make informed choices and decisions.

Phyllis VanSteenburgh—Running for NYSUT Representative Assembly Delegate

I just want to continue to help out RC 12 and represent us at the convention and other meetings for the next two years. Being the NYSUT delegate would help make sure our concerns for working and retired educators continue to be a part of NYSUT’s agenda.

The Outlook Vol. 4 -2023-2024

These are the contributions of record received from members from January 21, 2024 – March 18,2024. Your name will appear only once in The Outlook. Contributions received after March 18, 2024 will appear in the next issue of The Outlook. Please keep track of your contribution as to avoid multiple payments within one year. Please keep in mind that our contribution year is July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

“ \* “ indicates paid through June 2025. “ + “ indicates paid beyond July 1, 2025.

Table with 4 columns of names and their contribution status. Includes names like BARTMAN, Nora\*, BLODGETT, Delores M.\*, BROWN, Eleanor+, etc. Includes a small illustration of a money bag with a dollar sign.

# Check out all your union membership has to offer!

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs and services that can save you money, assist you in protecting your family, and help you plan for the future.

## Legal Service Plan

Plan benefits include:

- Crucial estate planning documents (Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Durable Power of Attorney)
- Free telephone consultations
- Guaranteed maximum fees for specific legal matters

## Financial Counseling Program

Plan benefits include:

- Unbiased objective advice
- Free telephone & virtual consultations
- Assistance with retirement planning, 403(b) savings, college savings, tax planning and more

For an annual fee, the Legal Service Plan -- provided by the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. Plan participants receive unlimited access to toll-free advice weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) as well as a toll-free hotline for urgent legal assistance outside of these hours.

Meanwhile, the Financial Counseling Program -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone or virtual consultations with a Stacey Braun Certified Financial Planner. \*



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org), or calling 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.



Mar/Apr 2024

**Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form July 1, 2024—June 30, 2025**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Year Retired \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

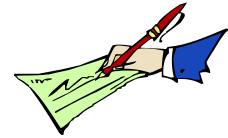
Check this box if there has been a change in your contact information  \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 yearly contribution requested. Send to \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Dolores Talmadge 206 Main Street, Fort Plain, NY 13339**

*Make check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 12.*

**Any questions, please call (518) 993-2854 .**



*RC 12 Outlook*

*April 2024*



<http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

**School Budget Vote !!!**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2024**



**Please show support for education in your community by voting!**

Not sure who to vote for in the school board election?

Ask your local teachers' association for recommendations!