

THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

April/May 2015

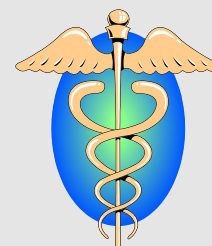
NYSUT RC 12 Spring Annual Membership Meeting and Election Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at the Waters Edge Lighthouse, 2 Freemans Bridge Road, Glenville, NY

Retiree Health Insurance Issues presented by

Jeffrey Hartnett, Staff Director of the Capital District Regional Office

Jennifer Shaad-Derby, NYSUT RC 12 Retiree Consultant

Susan Klug, NYSUT Program Services (Health Benefits)



Presentation of NYSUT RC 12 Community Service Award to Gioia Ottaviano

Agenda

9:30-10:00 am Registration, Coffee and Tea (Slide show on New Zealand)

10:00-11:00 am Business Meeting

11:00-Noon Program

12:15- 1:15 pm Luncheon **Cost per person: \$24**

Luncheon Choices: Select one only. Sliced Beef or Chicken Marsala w/oven roasted potatoes or Haddock Francaise w/R ice, Plus vegetable, salad, chocolate mousse, tea and coffee and pastries. Vegetarian available upon request.

Directions: From NYS Thruway: get off at Exit 26 and merge onto I-890 East-Take Exit 4 towards Erie Blvd. Erie Blvd. becomes Freemans Bridge Road. (Turn slight left onto Erie Blvd.) Travel 1.7 miles. Take the immediate right turn after you cross Freemans Bridge over the Mohawk River. The banquet room is the separate building in the back.

The deadline is Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Please submit a check payable to NYSUT RC 12 for \$24.00 per person and mail with registration form to Judy Schultz, 6 Country Fair Lane, Glenville, NY 12302-3712. For questions, call Judy at 518 399-4957

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: (____) _____ - _____

_____ Sliced Beef _____ Chicken Marsala _____ Haddock Francaise

RC 12 Board of Directors Election

By Judy Schultz, Nomination Chair

The Board of Director nominations are now closed. We currently have 5 directors seeking reelection with one position vacant. Landrum-Griffin procedures will be followed, and secret ballot voting will be held during the morning at the June 2, 2015 annual meeting. No nominations from the floor will be allowed, per RC 12 constitution. It is not necessary to pay the luncheon fee or to be present at the entire meeting to be eligible to vote. Only NYSUT RC 12 members present may vote.

Retiree Council 12 Director Candidates

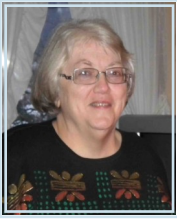
Term of Position: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017

Joseph F. Bernocco, Jr. retired in 2008 from Cobleskill-Richmondville CS. He held the offices of

local president in 1980 and RA delegate from 1981 to 2008. He has been a NYSUT Political Action Coordinator beginning in 1985. Joe states, "I would like to once again hold a position on the Board of Directors in RC 12. I believe my experience can be helpful to new retirees coming on board. I also feel that many of us who held leadership roles in our teaching career should step up as a retiree and also lend a hand for the good of all."

Alex Boschi retired in 1991 from Fondut-Fultonville School District. He held the positions of high school building representative and negotiations team member. He is also active in NYSSMA and state chairman of Music in our Schools Month. He serving on boards of the Montgomery County Arts Council, Amsterdam Community Concerts Assoc., Inc., and "The Egg" in Empire Plaza, Albany, NY. He

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From the President's Desk... Sandra Bliss

Common Sense

Common sense would say teacher evaluation should not be based on student standardized testing because the tests were not created for that purpose. Therefore, even common sense explains why research shows the student standardized tests do not measure the impact a teacher has on student performance. Governor Cuomo does not act out of common sense. He is listening to the billionaires and multi-millionaires whose goal is the elimination of public education. So, it is common sense that he does not use common sense. What do we do? Continue the fight!

On the federal level, common sense would say; if a worker and the worker's employer paid into Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security during the worker's working life; then, when the benefits of these programs are paid out, it is because they are earned benefits. Once again, Congress is attempting massive changes to these programs.

Fortunately, Social Security legislation has been introduced to expand and not shrink benefits. Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator Joe Manchin introduced an amendment in the Senate to expand benefits. Call your congressional representatives to demand their support. Social Security does not take money from the federal budget. Common sense says: Don't cut Social Security!!!

Social Security will not go bankrupt; but, disability payments are in jeopardy. This is not a new issue and has been dealt with before by moving money between accounts to handle the shortfall. We do that with our own budgets. Extreme cold weather this winter may have caused you to overspend your heating budget allotment. How do you compensate? Well, you switch out part of what you budgeted for a vacation or for clothing or for entertainment. You do not stop heating your home. So, common sense says you do not stop disability payments to those who earned this benefit.

On the Medicare front, it is common sense to permanently fix the "doc fix". Congress has voted a temporary fix over and over. The fix relates to the way Medicare pays doctors.

Call your congressional representatives and demand they make the House bill better by repealing the Medicare therapy caps and increasing protections for low income beneficiaries. The house bill requires those on Medicare to pay most of the cost for the House bill "doc fix".

CALL: 202.224.3121 to speak with Congressman Chris Gibson, Congressman Richard Hanna, Congressman Paul Tonko, and Congresswoman Elise Stefanik.

Award of Excellence given to Dennis Tracey at the April 16th Meeting of RC 12

By *Phyllis VanSteenburgh, Oppenheim Ephratah Retiree*

Our RC 12 Award of Excellence recipient for 2015, Dennis Tracey, was a secondary social studies teacher for thirty-three years in Rockland County. During that time, he was president of his local for sixteen years, president of the Rockland County TA, and a member of NYSUT's Board of Directors as an ED Director and an At-Large Director. Upon retiring, Dennis ran for the NYS Assembly in 2004 as labor's candidate. He served briefly as a NYSUT Retiree Consultant before becoming the Executive Director of the New York State Alliance for Retired Americans (NYSARA). He is currently serving his second term as NYSARA's President. NYSARA's mission is to foster cooperation between unionists and community groups around the state and to educate people regarding Social Security, Medicare and pension security.

Mr. Tracey warned that we must take the offensive. We need one voice to unite people to work on four areas of concern: reforming the economy by raising taxes on the wealthy; working towards creating jobs with an eye towards education and infrastructure; creating a just economy with upward mobility for all citizens; and protecting Medicare/Medicaid/Social Security from attacks in the guise of reform. (from RC21 newsletter Dec. 2013)

According to Tracey, pre-kindergarten is nothing short of the perfect economic recovery plan. "If you reflect upon what's wrong with our economy today and you want to fix it, you begin by directing energies to our most vital and vibrant resource – our children," he explains. "Even though there's a financial crunch, people have to understand that this is an investment that will pay off more than anything else for the society at large."

Dennis Tracey has two grown daughters, who both attended pre-k programs. (2010 Generations United) On Dennis Tracey's behalf, and upon his recommendation, RC 12 will be making a \$50 donation to the Animal Shelter of Schoharie County in Dennis's honor.

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-2nd VP S. David King (518) 725-0848
 Co-2nd VP Mary Pritchard (518) 374-0607
 Secretary Kathlene Lyman (518) 399-0256
 Treasurer Dolores Talmadge (518) 993-2854

Immediate Past President

Karen Wojcik-Hess (518) 366-8141

Past Presidents:

Judy Schultz
 Don Griffith Bill Schultz Jim Marquit

Directors

Alex Boschi - Montgomery
 Joseph F Bernocco - Schoharie & Otsego
 Margaret Dafeldecker - Schoharie & Otsego
 Don Harris - Fulton & Hamilton
 Beth Roberts - Herkimer
 John Mazur - Schenectady

Newsletter Staff

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

NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant:
 Jennifer Shaad-Derby



Sandra Bliss, co-president of RC 12 presents Dennis Tracey with the 2015 RC 12 Award of Excellence.

Save the Dates–2015

- May 7, 2015** NYSUT RC 12 Regional Conference at Glen Sanders in Scotia
- May 13, 2015** RC 12 trip to American Museum Natural History NYC
- June 2, 2015** RC 12 general meeting at Waters Edge Lighthouse in Glenville
- July 23, 2015** RC 12 trip to Alexandria Bay and 1000 Islands
- Aug. 19, 2015** RC 12 trip to Howe Caverns, Apple Barrel, Old Stone Fort, and Schoharie
- Sept. 24, 2015** RC 12 general meeting at the Otesaga in Cooperstown
- Oct. 18-24, 2015** RC 12 trip to Chicago

**Needed
Backup Webmaster!**

**If you can use
Microsoft word you can do
this job.**

**Email
Darkangelo@nycap.rr.com**



RC 12 Contributors

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Jean Bakkom | Elizabeth Lyons |
| Stella Courtney | David Peek |
| David Dikerson | Frances T. Phillips |
| Patricia Fox | Henrietta Roginski |
| Barbara Horwald | Susan Roser |
| Gail Kelleher | Russell Shipp |
| Anne W. King | Bonnie Siis |
| S. David King | Joan Valent |
| Bonnie Koshofer | Steve Valent |
| Carol Larow | Susan Zaccaria |

An RC 12 Country Caravan

Join us on a motor trip through Schoharie County on August 19, 2015



We will start our day with a 10:00 AM tour of Howe Caverns located off Route 7 in Howes Cave, just east of Cobleskill. We will meet at 9:45AM. Our tour of the historic caverns includes an underground boat ride. The tour is an hour and a half, and after the tour, you will have time to explore the gift shop, the mining building where you can mine for gemstones, and if you desire, the zip line or the H2OGO Ball.



From the Caverns, we will journey to the Apple Barrel, a unique country store and restaurant in Schoharie for lunch, which will be a gourmet sandwich buffet (mix or match) including salads, beverages and chocolate mousse or lemon parfait.

After lunch, we will move on to the Old Stone Fort in Schoharie. Originally a Dutch Reformed Church built in 1772; it was enclosed and became a fort in the Revolutionary War. As well as a tour, we will be treated to a visit and presentation by Abraham Lincoln. If you have never seen Peter Lindemann as Abe Lincoln, you will not want to miss this. The trip will end at approximately 5 PM. Car-pooling is strongly encouraged.

The cost of the trip, including lunch, all admissions and gratuities (with the exception of your cavern guide) is \$52.00. Space is limited to 30, so reserve soon!! **Reservations and cancellations are due by July 30th.**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Checks should be made out to NYSUT RC 12 for \$52.00.

E-mail _____

Mail to: **Wendy Wilson 119 Woodland Drive Apt. 50 Cobleskill, NY 12043**
Phone: 518-234-3230 e-mail Moose1213@nycap.rr.com

Go to Chicago with RC 12 October 18-24, 2015



Election continued from page 1

participates in RC 12 as constitution revision chairman.

Margaret Dafeldecker retired in 1997 from Middleburgh CSTA. She served the teachers' association as president, vice-president, treasurer, parliamentarian, chair of grievance committee, and member of negotiations. Margaret says, "I have been a director of NYSUT RC 12 for several years, and I would like to continue the hard work and effort of our board to support our retirees, public education, NYS students and in-service educators. The pursuit of quality education in NYS faces many challengers, but we must strive to be active, aware and involved in order to maintain the benefits and rights we have won." **Don Harris** from Gloversville Teachers Association retired in 1998. He served his local as a member of both the representative council and negotiations committee. He is also a past president of Gloversville Retired Teachers. In RC 12 he participated in the social committee as chairman and member. Don declares, "I have now completed two terms on the board of directors, and I would like to be able to continue to serve the retired educators of my area."

Beth Roberts retired in 2013 from Dolgeville TA. She served her local as president, NYSUT Representative Assembly delegate, secretary, and member of the Committee of 100. She was also co-president of Herkimer County Presidents and co-chair of Strides for Utica Office of NYSUT. Beth is a member of the RC 12 board of directors. Beth tells us, "I have been attending RC 12 meetings, both general and board meetings since I retired in 2013 and understand what our job is with NYSUT as retirees and I have the time to do this job."

The cost of \$573 includes bus transportation, 6 nights lodging, 6 breakfasts and 4 dinners, guided tour of Chicago, admission to several museums, a cruise on Lake Michigan, and much more. The group will see the Museum of Science and Industry, the Willis Tower Observation Deck, the Feld Museum of Natural History, and the historic Navy Pier. For more pictures, video, and information visit

www.grouptrips.com/rctwelve

Call Linda Zilka (518)725-5139.

A \$75 deposit is required by **June 6, 2015.**

Linda Zilka

288 Bleecker Street Gloversville, NY 12078

Go to <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/> for complete details

Trip to Alexandria Bay and 1000 Islands July 23, 2015

NYSUT RC 12 bus trip to Alexandria Bay will include lunch at Riley's in Alexandria Bay. The group will take the 2 1/2 hour narrated Two Nation Boat Tour. There is a stop at Boldt Castle. *The tour of the Castle is optional, and the cost is \$8.50 payable at entry.* There will also be time for shopping and touring in Alexandria Bay.



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Checks should be made out to **NYSUT RC 12 for \$90.00**, which includes transportation, gratuity, and lunch.

Send check and registration to by **June 23, 2015.**

Kathy Lyman, 254 Riverside Place, Alplaus, NY 12008

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

Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

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

\$15.00 yearly contribution requested. Send to

Dolores Talmadge 206 Main Street, Fort Plain, NY 13339 Make check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 12

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to launch its newly created online Financial Planning Center to assist NYSUT members & their families with making a variety of important financial decisions.



Whether you have questions about retirement planning, saving for college or considering purchasing a home, the Financial Planning Center offers valuable tools & resources to assist you. Take the time to check out everything this new section of our website has to offer and remember to bookmark it as we will continue to offer new items on a regular basis.

**This unique resource provides
NYSUT members with free access to the following:**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial calculators• An interactive planning module• Customized Kiplinger's retirement newsletter | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kiplinger's Annual Retirement Guide• 403(b) Field Guide• Preventive Law Guides• And more to come |
|---|---|

To access the NYSUT Member Benefits Financial Planning Center, visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org and click on "Financial Planning Center."