

THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

March/April 2010

NYSUT RC 12 ANNUAL MEETING-LUNCHEON Wednesday June 2, 2010

At the Waters Edge Lighthouse Restaurant on the River 2 Freemans Bridge Road, Glenville NY 12302
www.thewatersedgelighthouse.com

This year's annual meeting is especially important for several reasons. On even years we vote for RC12 officers for 2010-2012. We have an excellent slate of officers willing to represent you. So PLEASE COME and VOTE! We also have the honor of having, Alan Lubin, former executive vice president for NYSUT, join us as the recipient of the RC12 Award of Excellence. Our regular business meeting will include a short presentation in support of the Joan Nicole Prince Home in Scotia. This home is dedicated to providing a safe, comfortable, caring residence for terminally ill patients in their final days.

Agenda:

- 9:15 - 10:00: Registration with coffee and muffins
10:00 - 12:00: General membership meeting including voting for officers
12:15 - 1:15: Buffet Lunch which will include a variety of salads, chicken, salmon, and portabella mushroom toppers, homemade bread, dessert and coffee or tea.
1:15 **Keynote Speaker Alan Lubin**

Please complete the following, detach, enclose a check, and send to Royann Rogerson.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Number of reservations _____

Make your check for \$22 per person out to NYSUT RC 12 and mail it to
Royann Rogerson, 408 South Reynolds Street, Scotia NY 12302 RMTR22@aol.com
518-374-0475.



Alan Lubin, RC 12 Award of Excellence Recipient

Alan B. Lubin, who served as NYSUT's former executive vice president from 1993 to 2010, has been a key figure in the union's massive political mobilization and legislative efforts.

Lubin began teaching in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn in 1967, and he became an activist in the UFT during the Ocean Hill-Brownsville strike of 1968. He came to Albany after 26 years as an educator and an elected leader of the United Federation of Teachers, NYSUT's affiliate in New York City.

Lubin helped shape the union's legislative and political action programs as executive vice president. Realizing the strength of a grassroots political network, Lubin organized NYSUT's nationally acclaimed political action committee, enlisting the help of activists in every state senate district.

His leadership helped bring about landmark legislation, including the permanent cost-of-living adjustment law for retired public employees (COLA), the Schools Against Violence in Education law (SAVE), and the bill

mandating that every state public school have a defibrillator available. Under Lubin's advocacy, state school aid increased 133% since the early 1990s.

Lubin currently serves as co-chair of the Business and Labor Coalition of New York (BALCONY), a unique broad based, consensus-building organization that seeks common ground between labor and management. He also serves as treasurer of the Medicare Rights Center Board. In addition, Lubin is a member of the board of directors for the Council for Unity, the New York State Labor Religion Coalition, and the State Comptroller's Pension Task Force.

In his capacity as consultant, his priorities include encouraging the participation of newer members and minority members in state and local unions.

He was elected to the United States Electoral College for the 2004 and 2008 presidential elections.

Lubin lives in Clifton Park with his wife, Sharon. They have two grown children, both SUNY graduates, and a beautiful granddaughter, Helena.

2010-2012 NYSUT Retiree Council 12 Nominees

Judy Schultz, Chair, RC 12 Nominating Committee, reports that nominations have closed and that there will be no additional nominations from the floor at the RC 12 Annual Meeting June 2, 2010, at the Waters Edge Light House in Scotia, NY. Landum Griffin and RC 12 Constitution election procedures will be followed. Voting will occur by secret ballot between the hours of 10:30 A.M. and 12:15 P.M. and limited to the NYSUT members present. It is not necessary to pay the luncheon fee or to be present at the entire meeting to be eligible to vote.

**Jeanne Williams:
President and NYSUT RA Lead
Delegate**

Before Jeanne retired from the Mohawk Central School TA in 2007, she served several terms as the association president, starting in her late 20's. She also had been the vice president, NYSUT Representative Assembly delegate, and grievance chair. She served on the negotiation team and as the representative on the Committee of 100, chair of VOTE/COPE drive, and editor of the newsletter. For nearly twenty-five years, she served as co-president of the Herkimer Presidents Council, which is comprised of all of the locals in Herkimer County. Since retiring, she has served as 1st vice president of RC 12.

Sandra Bliss: 1st Vice President

Before retiring from Frankfort-Schuylers TA in 2009, Sandra had served as association president, executive vice president, vice president, secretary, building representative, NYSUT RA delegate, AFT delegate, and Labor Council delegate, in addition to being on the negotiation team, and chairing the Legislative Committee and the Health Insurance Committee. She was also the Teacher Center Director and a representative to Industry-Labor-Education Council and to the Labor-Religion Coalition. She worked with the Legislation Committee of RC12 on Senator Gilibrand's campaign.

**Mary D'Ercole Pritchard:
Co - 2nd Vice President (Legislation)**

Mary retired in 2001 from the Schenectady Federation of Teachers, where she served as a building representative. Since her retirement Mary has served as the Co - 2nd vice president (Legislation) of RC12. Her desire to support legislation that affects union workers goes back to her childhood. Her father was a shop steward for the International Harvest Company, where his job was pouring hot steel into molds. Her mother told her about the efforts of the Ladies Garment Workers to help her as a worker in a knitting mill sewing toes on socks at a "piece work" rate of twenty-five cents per dozen pairs!

**S. David King:
Co - 2nd Vice President (Legislation)**

Before retiring in 2000 from Broadalbin Perth, David served as the president, as a member of the negotiation team, as the RA delegate, and as the chief negotiator for both the Perth CS TA and Broadalbin-Perth CS TA. In 1964, he organized a committee to have Al Shanker speak in Fulton County about the formation of local teachers' unions within school districts. He also served on the committee that organized the Fulton County Teachers' Federal Credit Union. Since his retirement, David has served as co 2nd vice president of RC12. He has been a delegate for RC 12 at the RA, a former member of the NYSUT Retiree Advisory Committee, and he has helped to organize the Committee of 100, which he attends. He also helped to organize the NYSUT phone banks.

Carolyn Darkangelo: Secretary

Before retiring in 2001 from the Mayfield TA, Carolyn served as a building representative, president, head of the Scholarship Game Committee, head of the MTA Scholarship Committee, and treasurer of the Allen Brown Scholarship. Since her retirement, Carolyn has regularly attended the Committee of 100 and served one prior term as Secretary. She recently joined the Outlook committee.

John Mazur: Treasurer

John had served as a building representative, Public Relations Co-Chair, treasurer, and as both a member and chair of the negotiation team. He has been both delegate and alternate to the Rep Assembly and an alternate to AFT Convention. John has been the RC 12 treasurer for the last four year during which time he computerized the books. He is also on the Social Committee.

**2011 & 2012 NYSUT Representative
Assembly
3 Delegates & 3 Alternates**

In addition to Jeanne Williams, RC 12 will be represented by two delegates and three alternates from the following:

**Past RC 12 presidents
Karen Wojcik-Hess
Judy Schultz
Don Griffith**

**2nd vice president S. David King
Sandra Bliss**

Note: A vote is necessary for the alternates to establish the rank order.

Candidates for 2012 AFT Convention

1 Delegate & 1 Alternate to be elected.
**Judy Schultz
Karen Wojcik-Hess**

**Questions ? Comments? Ideas?
Contact Editor Elizabeth Batchelor
89 First Avenue Gloversville, NY 12078
bbatchelor@frontiernet.net**

New York City Trip—July 3 –5

The Social Committee is working on final plans for the trip to New York City. The tentative schedule includes bus travel to NY with choice of a Broadway play, sightseeing tours, or shopping in the afternoon, followed by a NYC dinner at a Benihana Restaurant and hotel accommodations in Saddlebrook NJ. The following day includes travel to South Street Seaport area, a tour of the Intrepid, and a Circle Line Cruise Tour for the fireworks, as well as hotel accommodations, with bus trip home on Monday. The approximate cost of the trip would be between \$300-400, depending on choices for the first afternoon. The deposits will be due approximately April 23. If you are interested in this trip, please contact

**Margaret Dafeldecker dafeldecker@verizon.net
phone (518) 234-2086.**

Information will be published on the website when plans are finalized



NYSUT plays a vital role in the life of retirees. Whether you use the services of Member Benefits, take a trip through wine country with RC12, or find security in NYSUT's legislative efforts to protect your health insurance and your pension, as a retiree you benefit from the power of the collective strength of the union.

That collective strength has been called upon lately as school boards have initiated unilateral actions, sometimes targeting retirees. Just this year, NYSUT has taken the cases of retirees in two Fulton County schools, Gloversville and Broadalbin/Perth, to protect retiree health insurance.

At issue, however, is how retirees can best access NYSUT in times of need. The current system requires that retirees work with and through their local chapter. But given the increasing number of retirees and the number of significant issues that affect retirees specifically, a new mechanism to facilitate retiree access to NYSUT services may be needed. To that end, the directors of RC12 have written the resolution below to present at the upcoming Representative Assembly.

RC12 RA Resolution – NYSUT Retiree Policy Update

Whereas, the in-service officers of many NYSUT locals have numerous in-service responsibilities and may be unavailable to retirees at different times during the school year and during school vacations; and

Whereas, changes and threats to retiree health insurance coverage are occurring at an unprecedented rate of acceleration; and

Whereas, public support for retiree health insurance benefits and for retiree defined benefit pensions has greatly eroded, in part due to a struggling economy; and

Whereas, boards of education have increased their interactions with one another in order to expand their strategies to diminish retiree benefits; and

Whereas, the political, economic, and social climates have changed greatly since the NYSUT policies regarding retirees were formulated; and

Whereas, NYSUT had the foresight to grant lifetime memberships to its retirees who are informed, dedicated, and desiring to play a more active union role; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT continue to examine and address retiree issues and concerns especially the relationships among retirees with their local, their retiree council, and NYSUT including its labor relations specialists; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a committee consisting of 4 Retiree Directors from the NYSUT Board of Directors and 4 representatives appointed by NYSUT be formed to develop and suggest retiree policies; and be it further

RESOLVED, that recommendations of the committee be reported annually to the NYSUT Board of Directors.

Committee of 100

A report based on information provided by 2nd Co-Vice Presidents for Legislation, David King and Mary Pritchard

The Committee of 100 is organized by NYSUT to advance NYSUT's positions regarding the current educational issues that directly affect not only students and in-service teacher, but the quality of life for retired teachers as well. The presence of over 600,000 active and retired members of NYSUT in Albany serves as a strong reminder to our state legislators that teachers are active, knowledgeable – and we vote. Participation is what David King calls, “a form of patriotism more noble, perhaps, than waving the flag or talking the talk.”

The following issues were presented on March 16 as part of the committee of 100:

Teacher Centers are in danger of not being funded despite the fact that teachers need them, especially for their 175 hour requirement.

Better Choice Budget Campaign works to provide federal relief for states, close corporate loopholes, reduce consultants for state work, negotiate fair

prescription prices, make IDA's and Empire Zones more accountable, reduce the stock transfer tax rebate from 100% to 80%, add sugary beverage tax, properly tax cigarette sales, use tax stabilization reserve fund, institute a minimal plastic bag tax.

Go to www.abetterchoicefornny.org for more information.

Health Care discussion addresses NYSUT's concern that the 1010-11 Executive Budget seeks to eliminate \$1B in health care provider and program funding and levies \$240.2M in taxes and surcharges upon health care institutions, which will significantly diminish the delivery of quality health care services to NY State citizens.

Community Colleges: Despite record enrollment at SUNY community colleges, the Executive Budget recommends a drastic aid reduction of \$285 per full-time equivalent over 10 percent. If the budget proposal is enacted, support of community colleges would be rolled back to its lowest level since 2005.

CUNY/SUNY: NYSUT is asking for restoration of the \$84.4M direct cut to CUNY senior colleges and university programs and a rejection of the Executive's proposed SUNY/CUNY higher education innovation & empowerment act.

Retirement Issues: NYSUT supports a temporary 55/25 retirement option.

Charter Schools: Calls for meaningful charter school reform.

K-12 issues addressed by NYSUT include asking for a contingency budget fix for the 2010-11 school year, opposing mayoral control in upstate cities, requiring healthy school buildings, maintaining the foundation aid formula, and rejecting gap elimination adjustment of \$1.4B, the proposed modifications to summer school handicapped program and the proposed special education cost shift to school districts.

Check out our website
<http://ny.aft.org/rc12>

NEWSLETTER OF THE RETIREE COUNCIL 12
 A NYSUT-NEA-AFT AFFILIATE
 MARCH/APRIL 2010

Officers

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 Vice Pres. Jeanne Williams (315) 894-8393
 Co-2nd VP S. David King (518) 725-0848
 Co-2nd VP Mary Pritchard (518) 374-0607
 Secretary Carolyn Darkangelo (518) 883-7440
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Judy Schultz (518) 399-4957

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Schenectady	Royann Rogerson
Herk/Fult/Ham	David Sammons

Newsletter Staff : Betsy Batchelor –Editor
 Carolyn Darkangelo Ginni Mazur
 Nolan Marciniac

Join us in taking a bus trip to **Manchester, Vermont** on Friday, August 6, 2010 to visit the historic home of Robert Todd Lincoln. In the afternoon, get a bite to eat and peruse the many offerings at the juried 32nd Annual Southern Vermont Art and Craft Festival held on the Hildene Meadows. If you would rather shop at the many outlets in Manchester Center, our bus will take you there instead. Either way, it should make a delightful afternoon to explore and shop. In the evening, our bus will take us to one of the historic Vermont inns for a relaxing dinner before our return trip. Look for more details and the reservation form for this trip in an upcoming *Outlook*.



Save these Dates

April 15 A Night out in Schenectady *South Pacific* at Proctors
April 21 NYSUT RC12 Regional Conference at the Glen Sanders
May 10-11 Committee of 100
June 2 - General Meeting Waters Edge Light House Scotia
July 4&5 - New York City Trip
August 6—Trip to Hildene & Southern Arts and Crafts

The Board of Directors has regrettfully accepted the resignation of Christine Corrigan. Her contributions will be missed.

**Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form
 July 1, 2009 - June 30 2010**

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