

# THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

Sept 2012

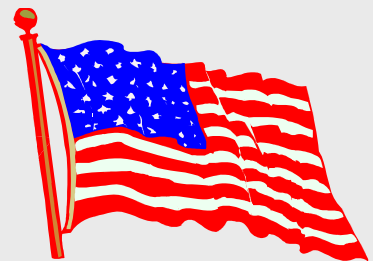
## NYSUT RC 12 Fall General Membership Luncheon Meeting Wednesday, October 10, 2012

Otesaga Resort Hotel, Cooperstown, NY

[www.otesaga.com](http://www.otesaga.com)



# Salute to Our Veterans



### AGENDA

- 9:30 – 10:00 am** Registration - Lobby  
Coffee and Tea - Ballroom
- 10:00 – 11:00 am** General Membership Meeting, Ballroom  
**NYSUT RC #12 Community Service Award – LaVergne McMurray**  
Frankfort-Schuyler Teachers' Association Retiree Chapter
- 11:10 - Noon** **On Behalf.org** (see article) Mike Gifford Jr., founder and Mike Gifford Sr., RC 12 member  
**Our Responsibility to Vote** Lorretta Donlon, NYSUT RC 51 Board of Directors  
**Fallen Stars Memorial Tribute Moving Wall**
- 12:15 – 1:30 pm** **Famous Otesaga Grand Buffet Luncheon, Ballroom** (no pm speakers)

**Cost to you: \$24.00 (RC 12 will be subsidizing \$2.00 per attendee.)**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your **check** out to **NYSUT RC 12** and **return by September 28th** to  
**Sandra Bliss, 2191 Cty Hwy 33, Cooperstown, NY 13326-4101**  
**phone: 315-725-0706 nysutrc12@gmail.com**

## OnBehalf.org

OnBehalf.org was founded by four US Army veterans in 2005. OnBehalf.org is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that aims to raise both funds and services for injured Iraq and Afghanistan veterans from New York and New England as well as the families of those killed in combat. With an all-volunteer team and few administrative expenses, over 90% of tax-deductible contributions reaches those who need it the most.

Michael J. Gifford is a founder and the director. Mike - as well as the other three founders - was a soldier of the 94th Military Police Company (94 MP Co), the United States Army Reserve (USAR), and served in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom from April 2003 to July 2004. Mike is a graduate of Canajoharie Central School and Union College and is the son of Mike Gifford, a member of RC 12.

For more detailed information, go to the website [www.OnBehalf.org](http://www.OnBehalf.org)



## From the President's Desk...

### Sandra Bliss

### Get Involved in Determining your Future Medicare and Social Security Benefits

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand was endorsed by NYSUT for reelection to the US Senate based on her record and commitment to social justice for all.

The House of Representative endorsements in RC 12 are as follows: Congressman William Owens, 21<sup>st</sup> District; Congressman Paul Tonko, 20<sup>th</sup> District; and Congressman Chris Gibson, 19<sup>th</sup> District. No endorsement was made in the 22<sup>nd</sup> District, where Richard Hanna is running for re-election against Dan Lamb, an aide to retiring Congressman Hinchey. Notice the district numbers and boundaries have changed based on the 2010 census redistricting.

The endorsements were based on the voting record of 14 bills NYSUT determined were important to our needs. A Congressional endorsement conference was held by NYSUT for local presidents in May. Jeanne Williams-Bennett represented RC 12 at the meeting. Endorsements are made by the NYSUT Board of Directors after input from the NYSUT Political Action Committee, Local Presidents Conference and background information on the candidates.

AFT and NEA endorsed President Barack Obama for re-election as President. See article in last Outlook.

Medicare and Social Security are some of the programs in jeopardy depending on who is elected. All these candidates are people you should educate yourself about, and if you can, participate in their campaigns. Your future is dependent on who is elected in November. Get involved and VOTE.

### Finally - A Win for the 99%

The recent Supreme Court decision to uphold the individual mandate in the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is meaningful to all citizens, but what does it mean for the majority of us who have health insurance?

Once the full law is implemented in 2014, our families, friends and neighbors will have access to health care that cannot be cancelled, women cannot be charged more, and one cannot be denied coverage or charged more for a pre-existing condition. Preventative care will be included, millions will receive rebates if insurance companies overcharge based on administrative costs, and the doughnut hole will be closed.

Medicare will be strengthened by cutting waste and fraud enabling Medicare to continue as we know it, and your grandchildren, nieces and nephews will be able to stay on their parents' insurance up to age 26.

Lifetime limits on coverage are gone. There is no longer a one million dollar cap that many of us had on our health insurance. No more costs to our health plans to cover the uninsured.

However, many members of Congress have vowed to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) so we must be vigilant and involved in the Presidential and Congressional elections. Medicare and Social Security are also on the chopping block of many national leaders. Write your congressional representatives and **vote** in the September and November elections. Our democracy depends on it.

## RC 12 Election Held on June 14

Election chair, Joe Bernocco, Jr., conducted the Election of Officers of RC 12 for 2012-2014 and delegates and alternates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly (RA). Officers elected were: Jeanne Williams Bennett and Sandra Bliss-co Presidents, David Sammons-1<sup>st</sup> VP, David King and Mary Pritchard co VP for Legislation, Carolyn Darkangelo - Secretary, and John Mazur -Treasurer.

2013 RA Delegates will be Jeanne Williams Bennett and David King. Alternates are Judy Schultz, Don Griffith, and Karen Wocjik-Hess. 2014 RA Delegates will be Sandra Bliss and David King. Alternates are Judy Schultz, Don Griffith, and Karen Wocjik-Hess. 2014 AFT convention delegate will be Judy Schultz and Karen Wocjik-Hess will be the alter-

### A Primary on a Thursday??

The fall NYS primary is on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. You will have the opportunity to select the candidates for the Tuesday, November 6th election for NYS Assembly, NYS Senate and any local elections. The election districts have changed due to the 2010 census. Educate yourself on the boundaries and candidates in your new district.

RC 12 Co-Presidents Jeanne Williams-Bennett and Sandra Bliss will represent RC 12 at the NYSUT Endorsement Conference in August. Forward any input you have to [nysutrc12@gmail.com](mailto:nysutrc12@gmail.com)

## The Outlook

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 Co-Pres. Sandra Bliss (315) 725-0706  
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 Co-2<sup>nd</sup> VP S. David King (518) 725-0848  
 Co-2<sup>nd</sup> VP Mary Pritchard (518) 374-0607  
 Sec. Carolyn Darkangelo (518) 883-7440  
 Treasurer John Mazur (518)773-7180

### Immediate Past President

Karen Wojcik-Hess (518) 899-7592

**Past Presidents:** Judy Schultz

Don Griffith Bill Schultz Jim Marquit

### Directors (as of July 1, 2011)

#### Montgomery

Alex Boschi

#### Otsego and Schoharie

Joseph F Bernocco & Margaret Dafeldecker

#### Schenectady

Vicki McGowen

#### Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer

Don Harris

### Newsletter Staff : Nolan Marciniac

Carolyn Darkangelo We need volunteers!

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Katie Ferguson, New York State Teacher of the Year 2012, spoke at the June 14th meeting of RC 12.

# Spend a Day in New York City December 5, 2012



The Social Committee of Retiree Council 12 is planning a day trip to New York City on Wednesday, December 5, 2012. Visit one of the great cities of the world! There are two options from which to choose.

6:30 AM Pick-up at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parking on 39 Saint John Street in Amsterdam  
 7:00 AM Pick-up at Wade Tours on 797 Burdeck Street in Schenectady  
 Our drop-off point will be The New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx at approximately 10:00 AM.  
 6:30 PM pick-up will be at Bryant Park located on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues for our return home.

### Options

**The New York Botanical Gardens** – The Holiday Train Show will be set-up in the conservatory decorated for the holidays with trains passing NYC landmarks made of plants and plant parts. There will be time allotted to shop in the gift shop. The coach will leave about 1:00 to take you into NYC. You'll have the rest of the day on your own in NYC. Go to [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org) for more information. **Cost - \$ 56 per person.**



**Ahoy New York Tours and Tasting** – The tour is based in Little Italy and Chinatown. It's an adventure in ethnic foods, fun, and sightseeing. The tour frequents restaurants, and customers enjoy generous portions. The walking tour is about 3 hours and 15 minutes, and the group is limited to 15. Those on this tour will board the Metro North train about 10 AM at the Botanical Gardens into Manhattan and then take the subway to Chinatown. John Mazur will lead this group. The tour will begin at noon. Following the tour, you will have free time in NYC. Go to [www.ahoynewyorkfoodtours.com](http://www.ahoynewyorkfoodtours.com) for more information. **Cost - \$ 110 per person. All money is due no later than November 6, and no refunds after November 6<sup>th</sup>.**



We do encourage looking into travel insurance. Contact Wade Tours at 518-355-4942 for more information. If you have any questions, please call John Mazur at 518-773-7180 or e-mail John at [jmazz@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jmazz@nycap.rr.com) or call Linda Zilka at 518-725-5139 or e-mail Linda at [lzilka@gmail.com](mailto:lzilka@gmail.com).

Please detach and mail the form to: Linda Zilka , 288 Bleecker Street, Gloversville, NY 12078

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Botanical Gardens at \$ 56 # \_\_\_\_\_ Ahoy NY Tour and Tasting at \$ 110 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks payable to: Retiree Council 12**  
**Please circle where you will board the coach    Amsterdam    or    Wade Tours**

## THE NYSUT 2012 RA REVEALS THE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF THE ORGANIZATION

by Karen Wojcik-Hess, Delegate and Past President

The annual Representative Assembly Convention is always both a learning experience and an inspiration. The awards are always wonderful, but this year I was particularly pleased that Katie Ferguson, an elementary teacher from Schenectady, was recognized as the Teacher of the Year. I was also impressed that many of the speakers began their remarks by naming those teachers who significantly affected them.

The roster of speakers was itself impressive. In addition to the NYSUT officers, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, AFT President Randi Weingarten, NYS AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento, NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli and NEA President Dennis Van Roekel addressed the assembly. Each addressed the concerns facing education while offering a message of hope. The highlights of their messages include:

- ◆ Weingarten arguing that it's not anger that produces results but a seat at the table, saying we want education reform to be done with us, not to us

- ◆ Gillibrand speaking for the empowerment of women, arguing that we should be improving health care, education, and the economy
- ◆ Cilento reminding us that despite the fact that corporate interests can outspend labor, the union movement remains formidable because union members can be mobilized
- ◆ Van Roekel urging us to go on the offensive now to promote our vision for America
- ◆ DiNapoli defending defined benefit plans arguing that retirement security benefits everyone.

Again it was the presentation and discussion of the resolutions in committee that was a highlight of the democratic process. Here the formal ideas of those of us in the trenches are voted upon and presented to the NYSUT leadership in the hope of promoting a cause or bringing an idea into reality.

The convention embodies the values expressed by NYSUT's mission statement which each of us should know. It states: *Through a representative democratic structure, NYSUT improves the professional, economic and personal lives of our members and their families, strengthens the institutions in which they work, and furthers the cause of social justice through the trade union movement.* Thank you so much for allowing me to be your representative.

2012 AWARD of EXCELLENCE to JAMES WOOD



( remarks by President Jeanne Williams Bennett—June 14, 2012)

Jim Wood started his teaching career as a sixth grade teacher in Rome, NY. He served as secretary and president of the Rome Teachers Association and was a founding member of the NYSUT Board of Directors in 1973 when NYSUT was first formed through a merger.

Jim served for 13 years as assistant to former NYSUT President Tom Hobart, and he served as NYSUT's executive director of field and legal services for 15 years.

Jim is a founding member of the National Healthy

Schools Network and past president of the board of the New York State Labor-Religion Coalition.

He also served as president of the New York State Alliance for Retired Americans. He has worked endlessly and tirelessly for retirees in New York State and helped build new ARA chapters throughout the country.

On a personal note, I first became acquainted with Jim when I was in my 20's and was elected president of the Mohawk Teachers Association. I always felt that Jim embodied all that a union leader should be... bright, innovative, caring, professional... someone who has a wonderful sense of humor and is good-natured...and most importantly, someone who was and is deeply respected.

Jim is someone who has given his entire adult working life to us – when we were in service members and in later years when we were retired. It is my honor to present to you, Jim Wood, the recipient of this year's RC 12's Award of Excellence.

On Jim's behalf, and upon his recommendation, RC 12 will be making a donation to the Capital District Alliance for Retired Americans.



**Save the Dates**

Sept. 27 Trip to Culinary Institute (CIA)  
 Oct. 10 Fall General Meeting at Otesaga  
 Oct. 14-16 Trip to Newport, RI  
 Dec. 5 Trip to NYC

**Go to the website at**  
[www.ny.aft.org/rc12](http://www.ny.aft.org/rc12)  
**to get information and registration forms for trips**

**Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form July 1, 2012 - June 30 2013**

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

