

# THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

October 2012

## Spend a Day in New York City Dec. 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**



**Lee Cutler**  
NYSUT Secretary Treasurer

**Kathleen M. Donahue**  
NYSUT Vice President

**Richard C. Iannuzzi**  
NYSUT President

**Karen Wojcik Hess**  
RC 12 Representative

At the  
AFT convention



## From the President's Desk... Sandra Bliss

### Why Should I Vote For President Obama?

As I write this column on September 19<sup>th</sup>, I am reminded that 31 years ago I marched with half a million other unionists in Washington D.C. for AFL-CIO's Solidarity Day. That was 1981 and we marched for a variety of reasons. Reagan was President. His practice of trickle-down economics was one of the reasons we marched. Another was the union busting of PATCO, the Airline Traffic Controllers, union. Well here we are in 2012 and union busting of public employee unions is present in many state governments including our own and the comments in a 1992 political cartoon published in the Buffalo News.

Political cartoonist Tom Toles stated in the last two panels, "Which reminds me of a definition of a 'sucker': an ordinary American who slept well all through the 1980s, not worrying that the well-connected were looting the U.S. economy from the inside!" Well that looting continued until we had the 'Great Recession' in 2008. Then citizens began to sit-up and take notice.

What do we do about it? **We VOTE!** While we do not agree with everything President Obama has done, switching to Romney/Ryan is not the answer.

The Romney/Ryan plan is to change Medicare to a voucher (premium support or coupon) system where consumers shop for a private health plan. When your voucher no longer pays for your premium, you pay out of pocket for the additional cost which is estimated to be as high \$6,400. The plan also reduces by eight years the solvency of the Medicare fund down to 2016.

The Romney/Ryan plan proposes to block grant Medicaid state funding. Two-thirds of Medicaid dollars are spent on nursing home care and care for the disabled. Once the state runs out of the block grant dollars, federal support for those needing care is gone.

For those with Medicare Part D, the Romney/Ryan plan puts back in place the doughnut hole whereas the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) completely eliminates the doughnut hole by 2020 by phasing it out over ten years. The Romney/Ryan plan changes the eligibility age for Medicare from age 65 to 67 for those younger than 55.

All this is in addition to Romney/Ryan plan to privatize Social Security, raise the eligibility age and reduce the benefits.

**What has President Obama done to deserve our support?** The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) ensures "that Medicare is stronger for seniors, women have access to life saving mammograms and children won't lose coverage for pre-existing conditions," states the NEA.

400,000 educator jobs were saved by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The President opposes vouchers, supports early childhood education, raised the maximum Pell grant, supported waivers for NCLB, created a FY2013 budget with the largest percent increase to education, opposes "right to work" laws, signed the Fair Pay Act as his first piece of legislation and supports fair taxation by asking those with the highest incomes to pay more than those with lower incomes.

In other pages of this Outlook you will find the NYSUT endorsements for Congress, NY Senate and NYS Assembly for the November 6<sup>th</sup> election. NYSUT endorsements are based on candidates voting records, positions and statements on education, labor and social justice issues. The decisions are made by the NYSUT Board of Directors after input from Local Presidents at an endorsement conference and recommendations of the NYSUT Political Action Committee.

Due to the ten-year redistricting based on the 2010 census you may be voting in a different Congressional, NY Assembly and/or NY Senate District. Maps can be found at [www.latfor.state.ny.us/maps/](http://www.latfor.state.ny.us/maps/).

## RC 12 Director Vacancy

Due to the June, 2012 election of David Sammons, former Director, to RC 12 1<sup>st</sup> VP, there now is an opening for a Director to complete the term, July 1, 2010-June 30, 2012. Our constitution does not allow a Director to serve simultaneously as an officer. David had previously been serving with Don Harris as co-directors for Fulton, Hamilton & Herkimer Counties.

The Director, assigned a geographical area by the Board of Directors, serves as the liaison between the membership and the Board of Directors. Officially by constitution, Director duties include acting upon expenditures and policy matters for the organization between meetings of the general membership; approving the annual budget; interpreting our constitution, making policy and constitutional recommendations to the membership and all other duties as enumerated in the constitution. This could include, but not be limited to, making arrangements for the RC 12 general meetings held in that area, meeting with NYSUT retirees interested in forming a chapter or communicating with our retirees by request of the Board. The Board of Directors is required to meet at

least three times a year. These meetings are daytime with lunch provided and travel mileage reimbursed at the IRS rate. There is no stipend for service. (All 6 director positions will be open in the spring for a 2-year term, July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015.)

Nominations are now open to elect one Director, to complete the term, July 1, 2011-June 30, 2013.

Landrum-Griffin procedures will be followed. Secret ballot voting, between the hours of 10:00 and 10:30 AM, will be at our Mid-March general membership meeting. Nominations from the floor may also be made at this meeting. 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.

Please contact **Judy Schultz, Nominating Chair, 6 Country Fair Lane, Scotia, NY 12302** E-mail: [mainemate@aol.com](mailto:mainemate@aol.com) Tel. H: 518 399-4957 for a Candidate's Questionnaire. Return the completed candidate's questionnaire to Judy Schultz (at the above address) no later than December 5, 2012, so that biographical information may be included in *The Outlook*.

## The Outlook

Published by Retiree Council 12 NYSUT,  
NEA, AFT, AFL-CIO

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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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Jennifer Shaad-Derby

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## Let Member Benefits help you save a few dollars



It seems like we make so many purchases on a daily basis – whether it's everyday routine items, back-to-school shopping, holiday gifts, or just something for that special occasion.

Are you keeping NYSUT Member Benefits in mind before making these purchases? If not, now is the time to start doing so! We are always here to help you save a few dollars in this financially unstable economy.

Need to book a hotel or condo for an upcoming trip? We're here for you! Maybe you're looking for the latest and greatest electronic gadgets for your loved ones this holiday season? We can help with that too!

Your NYSUT membership brings with it many advantages and benefits – including the opportunity to utilize our endorsed discount programs. Check out the box below for a sampling of some of the discount programs available to you.

### **Car & Truck Rental Discounts**

– Take advantage of a variety of discounted car & truck rental rates offered by Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, and National.

### **Wyndham Hotels & Endless**

**Vacation Rentals** – Enjoy savings of up to 20% at nearly 7,000 participating hotels and 25% at more than 200,000 vacation rentals in 100 countries.

**TripMark.travel** – Use this all-inclusive travel program when planning your next trip or use the group travel feature for your next family reunion.

**Buyer's Edge, Inc.** – Get discounts on a variety of consumer goods such as vehicles, appliances, audio equipment, and luggage.

**Working Advantage** – Get discount tickets for online shopping, theme parks, museums and attractions, and other special family events.

**Motivano SmartSavings Online Discount Marketplace** – Shop for sales and discounts on dining, travel and more.

**Bose®** – Special pricing available to NYSUT members and agency fee payers on consumer products.

### **OfficeMax Customer Perks**

– Save 5% on technology items such as electronics and business machines and 10% on office supplies, furniture, ink/toner, and OfficeMax ImPress® services.

**Powell's Books** – Locate that rare book along with new and used books, e-books, audio books, DVDs, and souvenirs from the nation's largest unionized bookstore.

**EPIC Hearing Service Plan** – Do you have elderly relatives who are having trouble with their hearing? Save between 35% and 65% on brand-name hearing aids and products.

Visit the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) for a complete listing of endorsed programs and services available to you. Don't forget that you can always call us with any questions as well at **800-626-8101**.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.



**2012 NYSUT Endorsements – NYSUT RC 12**

**President/Vice President** -Barack Obama/Joseph Biden

**US Senate** Kirsten Gillibrand

**House of Representatives (New Districts)**

19<sup>th</sup> District R Christopher Gibson  
 20<sup>th</sup> District D Paul Tonko  
 21<sup>st</sup> District D Bill Owens  
 22<sup>nd</sup> District No endorsement  
 (Incumbent running: Richard Hanna-R)

**NY State Senate (New Districts)**

46<sup>th</sup> District No endorsement  
 (New District – George Amedore (R) is a candidate)  
 49<sup>th</sup> District R Hugh Farley  
 51<sup>st</sup> District R Jim Seward

**NY State Assembly (New Districts)**

101<sup>st</sup> District No endorsement  
 (Incumbent running: Claudia Tenney-R)  
 102<sup>nd</sup> District No endorsement  
 (Incumbent running: Peter Lopez-R)  
 110<sup>th</sup> District No endorsement (open seat)  
 111<sup>th</sup> District D Angelo Santabarbara  
 112<sup>th</sup> District R James Tedisco  
 118<sup>th</sup> District R Marc Butler  
 119<sup>th</sup> District D Anthony Brindisi  
 121<sup>st</sup> District D William Magee

**New Election Districts November 6**

To determine the new Congressional and NY State election districts you vote in, call your county board of elections or visit [www.latfor.dstate.ny.us/maps/](http://www.latfor.dstate.ny.us/maps/) and look up the districts listed in the NYSUT endorsements article.

The City of Schenectady is split into two Assembly Districts and two Senate Districts so pull up the Schenectady maps to view a street map. Many counties are now split into three Assembly districts composed of various townships. The same is true with NY Senate and Congressional districts.



**Save the Date**

**Oct. 14-16** Trip to Newport, RI  
**Dec. 5** Trip to NYC  
**Mar. 18-19 2013** Committee of 100  
**May 16, 2012** RC 12 Regional Conference at the Glen Sanders

**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

