



THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

February 2012

NYSUT RC 12 SPRING LUNCHEON MEETING



Perthshire Restaurant
Wednesday, March 28, 2012

- Keynote Speaker: Paul Webster, NYSUT's Director of Community Outreach

“Update on Flood Relief and Recovery “

9:30 –10:00 Registration with Coffee and Danish

10:00 – 11:15 General Membership Meeting

11:15 – 12:00 In addition to our social gathering, we will have a conversation with our some of our local flood victims and their relief advocates.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

The daffodils on our tables will provide some bright spring color -- and an opportunity to contribute to the American Cancer Society. Background music, performed by “Adirondack Harper” Martha Gallagher’s CD, will provide “gentle music for the heart, soul, and flood recovery.”

MENU

1st Course: Salad

Entrée Choices: **Poultry:** Chicken Parmigiana with Ziti

Beef: Sliced Hot Roast Beet with potatoes and vegetable

Fish: Baked Haddock with potatoes and vegetable

Vegetarian: Upon request

Dessert: Brownie Sundae

Beverages: Coffee and Tea

Cost to you: \$19.00

Directions to the Perthshire Restaurant

From the East or West: Take Rte 29 to the intersection with Rte 30 S at Vail Mills. Follow Rte. 30 South for 2.1 miles to Perthshire Drive. On the left you will see a sign/billboard for the Perthshire Restaurant (across the highway from the Nathan Littauer Primary Care Center).

From the North: Follow Rte. 30 South through Vail Mills and then continue following Rte. 30 South another 2.1 miles to Perthshire Drive. On the left you will see a sign/billboard for the Perthshire Restaurant (across the highway from the Nathan Littauer Primary Care Center).

From the Thruway: Take Exit 27 (Amsterdam). Merge right onto Rte. 30 North. Continue following Rte. 30 North through the traffic light at the “Perth 4 Corners”. After the traffic light continue 3/10ths of a mile. On the right you will see a sign/billboard for the Perthshire Restaurant (across the highway from the Nathan Littauer Primary Care Center). Follow the driveway (Perthshire Drive) that leads to the restaurant.

✂✂✂✂ Please Cut Here ✂✂ Send the Form Below to David Sammons ✂✂✂✂

Your Name(s) _____ # of reservations _____

Your Address _____

Your E-mail _____ Your Phone _____

Your Menu Choice: Please put the name(s) & number(s) of people in your party who are ordering each entrée

_____ Poultry _____ Beef _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian

Please make out a check for **\$19.00** to **NYSUT RC-12** and mail it along with this reservation form to:
David Sammons 141 Gray Road, Mayfield, NY 12117 Call 518-661-5637 if you have any questions.

Save the Date

March 24, 2012 General Meeting Perthshire
May 8-10 Trip to Lancaster PA
June 14, 2012 General Meeting (June 13 Alternate date)



From the President's Desk...

Jeanne W. Bennett



A number of national and statewide political issues and elections will either directly or indirectly affect each of us, yet statistics show that 50% of NYSUT members did not vote in the last election. Ideally, if 100% of NYSUT members voted, the direction of many local and state elections could be dramatically altered. As members of a democracy, we have a responsibility to be involved and informed.

Everyone should be registered to vote. If you have moved you might need to re-register. Whether you moved because you were affected by the serious flooding from Irene and Lee last fall or choose to relocate you should make sure your registration is

current. For those NYSUT members who have never voted, register now! You must register to vote before the elections.

There are several important elections dates to keep in mind.

- ◆ April 24 is the date for the Republican and Democratic presidential primaries and the election for delegates, by congressional district, to both Republican and Democratic national conventions.
- ◆ May 15 is the statewide voting day for school budget votes and for school board elections. This year, the constraints of the tax cap law will make passing our school budgets even more difficult. A school budget that exceeds the 2% cap will need a 60% approval rate by the voters. Due to last year's draconian cuts, many of the schools in our area are already encountering financial difficulties in providing programs and services necessary to sustain a quality public education.
- ◆ June, August, or September will be the primary election day for Assembly and Senate races and for congressional primaries. The Legislature needs to choose the date for the primaries after the redistricting battles have been decided. All 150 seats in the NYS Assembly and all 62 seats in the NYS Senate are up for election.
- ◆ November 6 marks the date of the general election this year which will determine who is president and will affect the balance of power of the U.S. Senate.



Members of RC 12 should also be aware of two dates set aside for lobbying on behalf of education. March 19 -20 and May 21-22, are two opportunities for the Committee of 100 to meet with local legislators. Consider joining other members of RC 12 engaging legislators in a discussion of education issue. If you are interested in participating, contact David King. As Andy Pallotta said, "Let's make 2012 the year we push the pendulum back in favor of public education."

Our efforts in support of education are especially important in light of some of the issues raised by Gov. Cuomo's second State of the State speech. For instance, Cuomo cited the local tax cap as a key accomplishment. However, New York's school districts currently have about \$1.86 billion less in state education aid this school year than in 2008-2009. The 2% cap could result in many more layoffs resulting in loss of programs and services. It also disproportionately affects lower-income communities.

Cuomo also proposed the creation of a new Tier VI pension plan for newly hired public workers, including teachers. Tier VI would raise the retirement age, increase employee contributions from 3 percent to 6 percent, and lengthen the vesting period from 10 years under Tier V to 12 years.

Teachers must always be wary of any efforts to change the NYS Constitution. If the NYS Constitution is changed to address the gaming issue as Cuomo has proposed, the door is opened to change our pension protections and raid our monies.

In his address Cuomo declared, "Consider me the lobbyist for the students. I will wage a campaign to put students first, and to remind us that the purpose of public education is to help children grow, not to grow the public education bureaucracy." As former teachers, we know we were never part of the "education bureaucracy." We were there first and foremost to help children grow. May teachers' efforts in this important political year continue to focus on the needs of our schools and our children.

The Outlook

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NEA, AFT, AFL-CIO

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RC 12 Website

ny.aft.org/rc12

NYSUT members: Are your pets protected?

As all animal lovers know, unexpected pet care expenses can quickly become overwhelming. Our favorite four-legged friends (along with exotic pets) are famous for devouring socks, coins and other “treats” that can make for expensive vet visits.

While it’s difficult to anticipate accidents and illnesses, it is important to be prepared for them. It’s also helpful to have some assistance when it comes to routine care for your pet.

NYSUT Member Benefits is here to once again help you save some hard-earned money through our new endorsed pet insurance program.

This Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed program offered by VPI Pet Insurance offers a variety of coverage options for dogs, cats, birds, and exotic pets.

The “scoop” on VPI

VPI – part of the Nationwide Insurance family – has served as the largest and most recommended pet insurance plan in the U.S. since 1982. VPI currently has nearly 500,000 policies in place and occupies 61% of the pet insurance market.

Pets under the age of 10 are eligible for coverage, and medical plans provide benefits for accidents and illnesses – ranging from ear infections to cancer. Optional CareGuard plans provide benefits for preventive care.

It pays to be a member

NYSUT members receive a 5% group discount on the base medical plan and up to a 15% discount if multiple pets in a household are enrolled. There

are a variety of payment options available, including direct bill through your checking account or credit card; payroll and pension deduction will be offered down the line.

Easy submission process

VPI offers an easy, three-step claim submission process with a prompt turnaround for the majority of reimbursements.

- Simply pay for your pet’s medical treatment at the time of service.
- Send the one-page claim form along with your receipts to VPI.
- After meeting your policy’s deductible, your eligible expenses will be reimbursed.



Policyholders can quickly process claims online, via email or fax, and easily keep track of their policies and download pre-printed claim forms through a helpful website.

VPI has an average turnaround time of 12-14 business days for a claim. The best part is that you will know up front exactly what is covered

with your plan and how much you are eligible to be reimbursed thanks to the VPI published benefit schedule.

What to do first

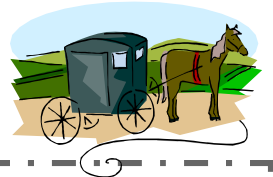
To get started, please contact VPI toll-free at 866-838-3461 (this is a dedicated number for NYSUT members) or visit memberbenefits.nysut.org and click on “Discounts & Travel – Members” and then “VPI Pet Insurance.” There, you’ll find a link to a NYSUT member-specific VPI website. You can also contact Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** with any questions.

VPI Pet Insurance is a NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 5% of adjusted gross premium for this program. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Jan./Feb. '12

Trip to Lancaster, Pa and Longwood Gardens May 8-10, 2012

For Specific Itinerary: Go to the RC 12 Website <http://ny.aft.org/rc12> or contact Beverly Buddle 518-234-7578 or email hbuddle@nycap.rr.com



Please submit the following information with a \$50 deposit (per person) by **February 29, 2012** (final payment due anytime before **March 31, 2012**) to Beverly Buddle, 103 Anthony Circle, Cobleskill, NY 12043 (518-234-7578 - hbuddle@nycap.rr.com)

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

Number of reservations _____

RC 12 Resolutions for the Representative Assembly

Here is a summary of the Resolutions that originated in RC 12.

Alternative Energy

RESOLVED, that NYSUT pursue legislation for the use of any kind of renewable energy to help reduce energy costs and generate savings in schools and other public institutions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT pursue legislation for the employment of local unionized workers and contractors, when possible, and the use of local supplies and materials in renewable energy projects; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT continue to work with environmental organizations and NYSUT's national affiliates to pursue such legislation.

Change Medicare ID Number

Whereas, Social Security numbers are used as the ID number on Medicare cards which are carried by Medicare beneficiaries; and

Whereas, this practice can contribute to identity theft; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT work with its national affiliates to determine the process needed to discontinue the practice of Social Security numbers usage as Medicare ID

Palliative Care

Whereas, the United States is the only industrialized nation in the world that does not have a healthcare system, on the basis of equality, we must demand that quality healthcare be available to us all. Critically, chronically ill people just cannot wait; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that NYSUT support and urge its national affiliates to support efforts to include Palliative Care in an expansion of the Health Reform Act passed in 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED that NYSUT submit this resolution to the next conventions of the AFT and the NEA to consider incorporating Palliative Care as part of their national policies.

Go to the RC 12 website to read the full resolutions

ny.aft.org/rc12

RETIREE COUNCIL 12 ELECTION NOTICE

The following positions will be filled by an election during the morning business portion of RC 12's Annual Meeting in June, 2012. If there is more than one candidate for RC 12 President, NYSUT will do a separate mailing for this position only.

Terms of office are July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014.

President, 1st Vice-President, two 2nd Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer.

2013 and 2014 NYSUT Representative Assembly (RA) Convention – **2 delegates and 3 alternates** determined by number of votes cast. (The President is automatically the lead delegate.)

2014 AFT Convention – **1 delegate and 1 alternate** determined by number of votes cast.

All candidates must be NYSUT members in good standing.

Nominations close March 15, 2012. Interested Candidates are requested to complete a Candidate Nomination Form. Please contact Nominating Committee Chair David Sammons, (518- 661 -5637) or dsammons1@nycap.rr.com, to request a form and for additional information.

There will be no nominations for any positions from the floor during the Annual Meeting.

Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form July 1, 2011 - June 30 2012

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

