

THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

August/September 2015

Join us for the fall general meeting on September 24th at the Otesaga!

The registration form is on page 4. We hope to see you there.

The membership will vote at the fall meeting on the constitutional amendments printed below. **Bold type** highlights the new language. At the meeting you will receive a copy of the current constitution and a sheet describing the changes. The RC 12 Board of Directors reviewed the entire constitution as required every four years and makes the following proposals.

NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 12 CONSTITUTION

Bold print amendments of July 20, 2015 as proposed by RC12 Board of Directors

- I. Name - This organization shall be known as NYSUT Retiree Council 12.
- II. Purposes -To promote the best interest and welfare of NYSUT retirees and to promote the aims and objectives of NYSUT and its national affiliates.
- III. Affiliations - This organization shall affiliate with NYSUT and its national affiliates.
- IV. Membership - Membership in this organization shall be open to NYSUT retirees in good standing as defined by the current RC membership list provided by NYSUT.
- V. Contribution - The annual **voluntary** contribution to the NYSUT Retiree Council 12 shall be proposed by the executive board. **It shall be based upon the proposed annual budget submitted by the treasurer to the board and then to the general membership for final approval.** The contribution shall be subject to approval at the annual general membership meeting in the spring.
- VI. Officers -Composition
 - A. The officers of NYSUT Retiree Council 12 shall be president, 1st vice-president, 2nd vice-president, secretary and treasurer. **Co-Officers are allowed.**
 - B. Duties of the President—The president shall:
 1. Be the chief executive officer of NYSUT Retiree Council 12, administer all affairs and execute all policies of the organization;
 2. Preside at all meetings of the executive board and general membership;
 3. Represent the organization with all external groups;
 4. Appoint and establish the function of all committees with the approval of the executive board;
 5. Call regular and special meetings of the executive board and general membership;
 6. Assume responsibility for arrangements for all general meetings;
 7. Appoint an Audit Committee after the annual meeting to review and report on the financial status of the council to the executive board at its first meeting of the year and subsequently to the membership.
 8. Fulfill such other duties as the office requires and as are consistent with this constitution;
 9. Serve as the RC 12 ranking delegate to the NYSUT Representative Assembly;
 10. May appoint a parliamentarian.
 - C. Duties of the vice-presidents
 1. The 1st vice-president shall: assume the duties and responsibilities of the president in her/his absence and perform such other duties as the president may designate.
 2. The 2nd vice-president shall:
 - a. Be the chair of the Legislative Committee;
 - b. Represent NYSUT Retiree Council 12 at any meetings pertaining to legislation as the president may designate;
 - c. Perform such other duties as the president may designate.
 - D. Duties of the secretary and treasurer
 1. The secretary and treasurer shall perform those duties usual to those offices and such other duties that may be required by the president or executive board.
 2. **The treasurer shall act as a consultant to the audit committee.**
 3. **The treasurer shall be a member of the budget committee.**
 - E. Terms of Office - Duly elected officers shall serve a two (2) year term, beginning July 1. Elections will be held in even numbered years. Each officer shall remain in office until her/his successor assumes the office.
 - F. Vacancies
 1. If the office of president becomes vacant, the 1st vice-president shall assume the office.
 2. If any other office becomes vacant, it shall be filled by election within the executive board and that person shall hold office until the next election is held by the general membership.
 3. **If co-officers hold an office and one of the co-officers leaves the position, the remaining co-officer shall remain in office for the duration of the term. A second co-officer may be appointed with the approval of the remaining co-officer and the executive board.**
- VII. Executive Board
 - A. Composition
 1. **The executive board shall be composed of the duly elected officers, the immediate past president and a total of seven (7) directors, of which, at least one (1) director shall be a school-related professional (SRP) RC 12 member (SRP as defined by NYSUT). Each board member shall have a maximum of one vote in all board deliberations. Other past presidents shall be emeriti members of the board, without voting privileges.**
 2. **The founding President, Jim F. Marquit, shall be named Founding President Emeritus and be a non-voting member of the board of directors. He shall be a guest of RC12 at all general membership meetings.**
 3. **Each director will have a geographic area of assignment determined by the executive board.**
 - B. Duties:
 1. Approve the annual budget for the fiscal year of July 1 – June 30

2. Act upon expenditures as may be required;
3. Interpret this Constitution;
4. Act on policy matters for the organization between meetings of the general membership;
5. Make policy and constitutional recommendations to the membership for their consideration;
6. Perform all other duties as enumerated in this Constitution;
7. **Serve on at least one committee;**

C. Terms of Office

1. Directors shall be elected by secret ballot to a two (2) year term beginning July 1st during odd numbered years. Each director shall remain in office until her/his successor assumes the office.
2. A director may not serve simultaneously as a director and as an officer of RC12.

D. Vacancies— If a director position becomes vacant, a special election will be held at the next general membership meeting after an election notice has been published in the RC 12 newsletter. All procedures in Article X. Nominations and Elections will be followed.

E. Meetings

1. The executive board shall meet at least three (3) times a year. Special meetings may be called by the president or by petition of a majority of the executive board.
2. **A quorum to conduct business of a meeting of the executive board shall consist of a minimum of seven voting members of the board.**

F. Standing Committees

1. **Election – receive nominations and conduct the election**
2. **Budget – draw up an annual budget to present to the entire board**
3. **Social - arrange day and overnight trips and give a financial report to the board.**
4. **Membership – develop strategies to increase RC12 membership and active participation in RC12.**
5. **Constitution – review the constitution every two years and propose amendments as needed.**

VIII. Representatives to the NYSUT Representative Assembly (RA)

A. Composition - The president shall serve as the ranking delegate for the NYSUT Representative Assembly. For the election of the two remaining NYSUT delegates and all three NYSUT alternates, the two candidates receiving the most votes will serve as delegate 2 and delegate 3 in rank order of votes cast. Other delegate candidates shall serve as alternates in rank order as determined by the number of votes received.

B. Duties

1. The NYSUT RC 12 delegate(s) shall be responsible for representing the NYSUT Retiree Council 12 at the RA, at the NYSUT ED 51 – 53 At-Large meeting, at the NYSUT ED 51 meeting, and at such other related meetings (ex. ED 12) as the president may designate, and for reporting on same to the membership.
2. The NYSUT ranking delegate shall be responsible for all meeting arrangements, voting protocols and reporting to the executive board and the general membership regarding the Representative Assembly.

C. Terms of Office

1. Delegates and alternates for the NYSUT Representative Assembly will be elected by secret ballot to a two (2) year term beginning July 1st, during even numbered years. NYSUT delegates and alternates shall be elected in a manner consistent with the NYSUT and AFT constitutions, Landrum Griffin requirements, and Article X. Nominations and Elections.
2. The number of delegates funded for attendance at the RA shall be recommended by the executive board as part of the budget and subject to approval by the membership at the RC 12 Annual Meeting of the year preceding the RA.

IX. Representatives to the AFT National Convention

A. Composition - One delegate and one alternate will be elected as representatives to the AFT national convention. The candidate receiving the most votes will serve as delegate. The alternate shall be the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes.

B. Duties

1. The NYSUT RC 12 delegate shall be responsible for representing the NYSUT Retiree Council 12 at the convention and for reporting on same to the executive board and the membership.
2. The delegate shall be responsible for all meeting arrangements, voting protocols and reporting to the membership regarding the respective convention.
3. The AFT delegate shall attend executive board meetings.

C. Terms of Office

1. The delegate and alternate for the AFT Convention will be elected by secret ballot to a two (2) year term beginning July 1st, during even numbered years. The AFT delegate and alternate shall be elected in a manner consistent with the NYSUT and AFT constitutions, Landrum Griffin requirements, and Article X Nominations and Elections.
2. Funding for attendance at the AFT Convention shall be recommended by the board of directors as part of the budget and subject to approval by the membership at the RC 12 Annual Meeting of the year preceding the AFT national convention.

X. Nomination and Elections

A. An Election Committee shall be appointed each year by the president at the first executive board meeting. A candidate for office may not serve as member of the committee.

B. The election committee shall report to the executive board the candidates for office. Each candidate's union leadership resume and statement of goals for RC 12 will be published in the OUTLOOK prior to the election.

C. Each member in good standing shall be given the opportunity to nominate candidates.

1. Notice of the office to be filled, the right to make nomination, and the time, place and proper form for submission of nominations shall be distributed to members at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting or the General Membership Meeting at which vacancies will be filled.
2. Nomination procedures will be approved by the Board of Directors and must include all current NYSUT and AFT procedures as well as current Landrum-Griffin requirements
3. Any RC 12 member in good standing is eligible for nomination to office.
4. Nominations will not be taken from the floor. Write-in candidates will not be permitted.

- D. Written notice of the time and place of elections shall be mailed to each RC 12 member in good standing at her/his last known home address at least fifteen (15) days prior to an Annual Membership meeting election or General Membership meeting special election.
- E. The ballot will be drafted by the election committee with final approval to be made by the executive board at its meeting held prior to the election.
- F. Elections shall be by secret ballot by the members present at the RC 12 Annual Meeting. A special election to fill a vacancy shall be by secret ballot at the next RC 12 General Membership Meeting. RC 12 members do not need attend the entire meeting or pay for the luncheon in order to vote.
- G. No campaign materials may be distributed at a general membership meeting.
- H. From the members present, the election committee chair shall appoint tellers.
- I. Each candidate may name a poll watcher of his/her choosing.
- J. After the results are reported at the annual meeting, the election chair shall seal the ballots and the election records and give them to the secretary. The election chair shall give a copy of the tally to the president and secretary.
- K. The secretary shall preserve all ballots and election records for a period of three (3) years.
- L. Should a member(s) challenge an election; the challenger(s) must notify, by letter, the president. In the letter, each reason for challenging this election must be specified. This letter must be sent by certified mail (or other dated delivery) with receipt of delivery. The letter's postmark shall be dated no later than ten (10) calendar days after the election. Electronic delivery is not permitted.
1. The president shall, after receipt of the challenge and within five (5) calendar days, appoint a committee of three (3) members who were not candidates for office nor members of the election committee, tellers or poll watchers; to investigate the challenge and report to the executive board their decision, including the method and facts used to make their determination, no later than thirty (30) days after their appointment.
 2. A special meeting of the executive board may be called if a regularly scheduled meeting is not scheduled within the next forty-five (45) calendar days. The purpose of the meeting is to accept or reject the committee report.
 3. The party(ies) challenging the election will be notified in writing of the executive board's decision, with reasons, by certified mail no later than five (5) calendar days after the decision is made.
 4. The executive board shall have the power to resolve any and all disputes involving any election. Any person(s) aggrieved by a decision of the executive board regarding an election decision, must file an appeal in writing by certified mail within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of receipt of the board's decision to the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), Attention: Office of the Second Vice-President, 800 Troy- Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12210, for processing and determination of the appeal. If no appeal is filed, or if an appeal is filed in an untimely fashion, the determination of the executive board shall be deemed final.
- XI. General Membership Meetings may be called by the president, by a majority of the executive board or by petition of fifty (50) members from a minimum of three (3) different locals. Membership meetings shall be held no less than three (3) times a year: A meeting in the fall, a meeting prior to the Representative Assembly Convention, and an annual meeting after the Representative Assembly. **A quorum at a general membership meeting will be forty-five (45) RC 12 members.**
- XII. Protection of Rights of Members
- A. Every member of this organization shall have equal rights and privileges to nominate candidates, to hold office, to vote in elections or referendums, to attend membership meetings and to participate in deliberations and voting upon the business of the organization.
 - B. This organization shall show no discrimination toward any individual or group of individuals on the basis of **gender**, creed, color, **race**, **gender predisposition**, **veteran status**, **handicapping conditions**, **age**, national origin or political activities and beliefs.
- XIII. Removal from Executive Board
- A. **Board members may be removed from office for conduct unbecoming an officer and/or an executive board member. This could be things like the misuse of funds, failure to attend numerous meetings without a reasonable excuse, failure to carry out the duties outlined in this constitution, etc.**
 - B. **Board members can be removed for cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the executive board.**
 - C. **The officer or executive board member being considered for removal shall have the right to be heard or represented on her/his own behalf following timely notice of said meeting.**
 - D. **Any person(s) aggrieved by a decision of the executive board regarding removal from office or executive board position, must file an appeal in writing by certified mail within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of receipt of the board's decision to the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), Attention: Office of the Second Vice-President, 800 Troy- Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12210, for processing and determination of the appeal. If no appeal is filed, or if an appeal is not filed within fifteen (15) calendar days, the determination of the executive board shall be deemed final.**
 - E. **All correspondence shall be conducted by certified mail.**
- XIV. Amendments
- A. An amendment to this constitution may be proposed by a majority of the executive board or a majority of the members present at any general meeting **for consideration by the executive board.**
 - B. A proposed amendment must be distributed in writing to each member at least fourteen (14) days before the ratification vote.
 - C. **In order to ratify an amendment, it must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at an RC 12 general membership meeting.**
- XV. Parliamentary Authority— Meetings of all duly constituted bodies of this organization shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except as otherwise provided in this constitution.
- XVI. Enabling Procedure- a revised constitution shall become effective upon ratification by members in attendance at a general meeting.

Key To Abbreviations Used

NYSUT = New York State United Teachers RA = Representative Assembly (of NYSUT) ED = Election District
 RC = Retiree Council AFT = American Federation of Teachers NEA = National Education Association
 SRP = School Related Professionals (as defined by NYSUT)

Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Name _____ County _____
 Address _____ City _____ Year Retired _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____
 Original Union Local _____ You may share my email with AFT and NYSUT _____
 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 Tamadge 206 Main Street, Fort Plain, NY 13339
Make check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 12

Contact the co presidents if you have questions on the constitution.
Jeanne W. Bennett (315) 895-7063
Sandra Bliss (315) 725-0706

Aug./Sept.
 2015
 RC 12 Outlook



NYSUT RC 12 Fall General Membership Luncheon Meeting Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015

Otesaga Resort Hotel, Cooperstown, NY www.otesaga.com

AGENDA

- 9:30 – 10:00 am** Registration - Lobby Coffee and Tea - Ballroom
- 10:00 – 10:30 am** **Welcome, Honor, and Hear the Wisdom of Charlie Giglio, 2015 NYS Teacher of the Year**
- 10:30 - 11:30 am** Business meeting — Includes Constitutional Amendments
- 11:30 - 12:00 am** **Threats to Medicare and Medicaid Benefits - by Gail Myers, Deputy Director of NYS Statewide Senior Action Council**
- 12:15 – 1:15 pm** Famous Otesaga Grand Buffet Luncheon, Ballroom (no pm speakers) **Cost to you: \$24.00**

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 Email _____ Telephone _____

Make your check out to NYSUT RC 12 and return by September 18th to Sandra Bliss, 2191 Cty Hwy 33, Cooperstown, NY 13326-4101 phone: 315-725-0706 nysutrc12@gmail.com
 You may give my email to NYSUT and AFT. _____ check here