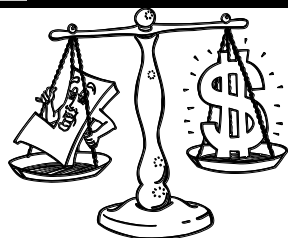


# THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

February 2014



## NYSUT RC 12 General Membership Luncheon Meeting March 26, 2014

at St. Vincent de Paul Parish Hall 138 Washington Ave., Cobleskill, NY 12043

### Challenging Times of Financial Management: The Retirement Years By Derek Clement, NYSUT Benefit Trust

#### Agenda

	9:30-10:00 am	Registration, Coffee and Tea
10:00-11:00 am	Business Meeting	
11:00-Noon	Program	
12:15- 1:15 pm	Buffet Luncheon*	<b>Cost per person: \$18</b> Lunch catered by <i>Justine's</i> : Stuffed Sole, Beef Burgundy, Chicken Marsala, Chicken Justine's, Lasagna Rolliatini, Eggplant Rolliatini, potatoes, vegetable, bread, dessert

#### Directions

From West on I 88, use Exit 21 to Rt 7 East. Make a left turn onto Washington Street. **Park in Back of Church**

From East on I 88, use Exit 22, turn right onto Rt 145 and left onto Rt 7. Make right turn at Washington Avenue.

From North, take Route 30A or Rt 30 to Route 7 West into village and turn right at Washington Avenue.

From Rt 20 In Sharon Springs, take Rt 10 into village and turn left onto Washington Street .

+++++  
Please complete and mail to Margaret Dafeldecker, 368 Tinkley Hollow Rd., Warnerville, NY 12187 518-234-2086

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ **Make checks payable to NYSUT RC 12**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ **Deadline: March 14, 2014**

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

School District retired from: \_\_\_\_\_ Year retired: \_\_\_\_\_

## For the NEW NYSUT Retiree to KNOW!

written by *Phyllis VanSteenburgh, OESJ Retiree*

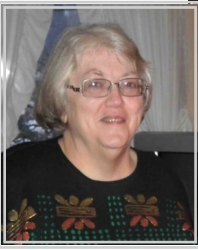
As a retired NYSUT (New York State United Teachers) member, you continue to receive the *NYSUT United* publication and *AFT American Teacher* newspaper, which keep you current on all union, educational, and retiree issues. NYSUT has set up 45 Retiree Councils (RC's) which represent over 190,000 retirees. You are now an RC 12 member. **RC 12 co-presidents, Ms. Sandra Bliss and Ms. Jeanne Williams Bennett**, welcome you to our group and want you to know **MORE** about what we do. **RC 12's** mission is to represent NYSUT retirees in good standing from Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, Schenectady and Schoharie Counties.

Our **legislative committee** attends NYSUT Committee of 100 lobby days and visits legislators in their home districts. RC 12 has at least three general meetings per year which provide speakers on topics relevant to retirees as well as offer opportunities for shared collegiality. Since you are now an **RC 12 MEMBER**, come JOIN US. The next meeting is March 26th, and the registration form is in this issue (see above).

Our **social committee** continues to meet the demand for bus trips and tours and welcomes suggestions. Advance information of scheduled events is on our website--<http://rc12.ny.aft.org> Another line of communication is the **RC 12** newsletter, "The Outlook", which is published 6 times a year. NYSUT provides the printing and distribution for us.

NYSUT Retiree Services was established by NYSUT to help its retirees organize and acts as a service provider for Retiree Councils. **Jennifer Shaad-Derby** is the Retiree Services Consultant for **RC 12** and 13 and works out of the Capital District Regional Office at 800 Troy-Schenectady Road in Latham, NY 12110 (Phone: 518-783-7977, Fax: 518-783-4934). Her email is [jderby@nysutmail.org](mailto:jderby@nysutmail.org). NYSUT Retiree Services assists retirement councils with printing, mailing, and other communication services. Jennifer Shaad-Derby also plans, develops, and coordinates retiree conferences throughout the year. **The RC 12 2014 Conference will be held May 1st at the Glen Sanders in Scotia.**

The **Retiree Advisory Committee (RAC)** was first established in 1991. As with all NYSUT committees and task forces, its members are appointed by NYSUT's president with the approval of the NYSUT Board of Directors. RAC members are appointed for a three-year term concurrent with the terms of the NYSUT Board of Directors and officers. **Karen Wojcik-Hess, RC 12 immediate past president, is a RAC member until 2014.** Currently, there are 21 RAC members who meet approximately four or five times a year with NYSUT staff attending. Chief among the RAC's responsibilities is to keep apprised of retiree organizing, political, financial, pension, health care and member benefit issues and to make recommendations to the NYSUT Board of Directors, officers and staff. **Make your needs and suggestions known to the RC 12 leadership by emailing [nysutrc12@gmail.com](mailto:nysutrc12@gmail.com)**



From the President's Desk... Sandra Bliss

## Will They Keep the Promise?

The 3.1 million students in New York State need the promise made by the courts for a free public education to be fulfilled. To do that, the Governor and legislators must implement the CFE (Campaign for Fiscal Equity) court decision to fund our public schools in order to provide **“all students the opportunity for a meaningful high school education, one that will prepare them to function productively as a civic participant.”**

NYSUT has called for a \$1.9 billion increase in school state aid as this year's New York State investment in education. The Governor says there is more than a \$2 billion budget surplus in New York. On January 10, 2014, eighty-three legislators including Senator Tkaczyk, Assemblyman Brindisi and Assemblyman Steck stepped up and signed a letter to the Governor supporting the \$1.9 billion increase. **Where are the others?**

We all know the drastic cutbacks that have ensued since New York broke the promise to enforce the court decision. According to AQE (Alliance for Quality Education), currently, 93% of NYS schools are funded less than they were funded in 2008-2009 (when building aid is not counted). Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan, the Assembly Education Committee Chair, stated in the letter to the Governor; “In fact, we are \$5.3 billion behind on our CFE commitment, which does not take into consideration the \$1.6 billion Gap Elimination Adjustment that was developed to deal with the 2008 financial crisis.” 2008 was the year the promise was made, and progress was made in education in New York State.

### The 2014 New York State budget must renew the promise.

Each year since 2008, the legislators and Governor have said they wanted to fund the public schools, but the money was not there. Well, now it is, and they must “walk the walk”. Instead, many of them are talking about reducing taxes. We must pay for the services we say we want. That means we must pay taxes to fund our schools. New York State is not budgeting its court-mandated share.

The Governor said he will increase the education budget 3.8%. Where will he put that too small increase? Will it go to merit pay, a program we know does not work? Proposed tax cuts will deplete State resources while banks and Wall Street get proposed tax cuts of \$1.1 billion. The Governor in his budget proposed people making more than one million dollars a year receive a reduction of estate taxes at a cost, to the State, of \$750 million and cuts in taxes to Wall Street and banks at a cost of \$350 million in State resources.

We need equity in the funding of our schools. At the AQE rally in Albany on January 14<sup>th</sup>, statistics were distributed showing New Jersey state aid spending \$1.47 in poor districts for every \$1.00 in rich districts while New York spends only 87 cents in low wealth districts for one dollar spent in wealthy districts. Children need academic supports as well as having social and emotional health needs met in order for them to succeed and stay in school.

Gutting state resources will not help our economy when public education PreK-16 lacks the needed resources for teachers to teach and students to learn. Tell your legislators and the Governor that this year they can make good on their 2008 promise by a \$1.9 billion dollar increase to restore the foundation formula, removing the gap elimination adjustment (GEA), and providing the schools with the tools they need for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### 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 of 2014. 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, 2014 – June 30, 2016.**

**President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer Co-officers are permissible.**

2015 and 2016 NYSUT Representative Assembly (RA) Convention – **2 delegates and 3 alternates** - determined by number of votes cast. (The President is automatically the lead delegate.)

2016 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 20, 2014. Interested candidates

are requested to complete a Candidate Nomination Form. Please contact Nominating Committee Chair Joseph F. Bernocco, Jr. (518) 294-7243 or [berny43@aol.com](mailto:berny43@aol.com) for additional information.

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

## The Outlook

Co-Pres. Jeanne W. Bennett (315) 895-7063  
 Co-Pres. Sandra Bliss (315) 725-0706  
 1st VP David Sammons (518) 661-5637  
 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

**Montgomery**

Alex Boschi

**Otsego and Schoharie**

Joseph F Bernocco & Margaret Dafeldecker

**Schenectady**

Dolores Talmadge, Kathlene Lyman

**Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer**

Don Harris

**Newsletter Staff** Phyllis VanSteenburgh

Carolyn Darkangelo

**Webmaster - Carolyn Darkangelo**

Darkangelo @nycap.rr.com

**Website: [RC12.ny.aft.org](http://RC12.ny.aft.org)**

NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant:  
Jennifer Shaad-Derby

(518) 783-7977 [jderby@nysutmail.org](mailto:jderby@nysutmail.org)

## Save the Dates

**March 12, 2014** Parade for Public Education Albany

**March 26, 2014** RC 12 General meeting Cobleskill

**May 1, 2014** NYSUT RC 12 Retiree Conference at  
Glen Sanders Mansion

**June 4, 2014** RC 12 General meeting Water's Edge  
Lighthouse Scotia

### May 13-14, 2014 Lilac Festival & More !!!

**Day 1:** Rochester's annual Lilac Festival (lunch on your own), tour the George Eastman House Museum, dinner at the Finger Lakes Gaming and Racetrack. Lodging: Comfort Inn (Route 96 & Route 322 NE Quad in Farmington). 585.742.0180

**Day 2:** Complimentary breakfast at the Comfort Inn, tour the Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park in Canandaigua, lunch (on your own) at the nearby Wegman's Market, shopping on Canandaigua's South Main Street (the Saratoga Springs of WNY), and dinner and wine pairing at the New York Wine and Culinary Center.



**Make checks out to: NYSUT RC12 DEADLINE for reservations is April 10, 2014.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Bus Pick-up** (circle one): Wade Tours 7:00 a.m. Mt. Carmel (Amsterdam) 7:30 a.m. Herkimer 8:15 a.m.

**Cost:** \$185.00 per person plus the price of the hotel room (check one):

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 queen beds @ \$46.00 per person. Roommate \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 queen beds triple @ \$35.00 per person. Roommates \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 queen beds 4 people @ \$30.00 per person. My roommates will be \_\_\_\_\_.

Dinner Choice at the NY Wine and Culinary Center (check one): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Pan-seared salmon with beurre blanc \_\_\_\_\_ Stuffed chicken breast,

\$ 185.00 Trip cost **Mail to:** Patricia Michalski, 69 Lincoln Avenue, Colonie, NY 12205-4911

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Lodging Email: booklady72@gmail.com Phone: 518.869.7969

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total**

### RC 12 Trip to HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA

Wednesday May 21, 2014 thru Friday May 23, 2014

Independence Hall



The bus will depart @ 7:30 a.m., Mt. Carmel Church, 39 St. John Street, Amsterdam. We will participate in guided tours of Independence Hall, Liberty Bell Center, National Constitution Center National Historic Park, Rocky Steps, Betsy Ross House, the U. S. Mint, and Valley Forge. We will attend the Performance of "Freedom Rising" Founding Fathers Show. On the second evening we will go to the Philadelphia Casino and dinner



is on your own. The price includes bus transportation, 2 nights lodging, luggage handling, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner (May 21) gratuity, and tips.

### RC 12 Trip to HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA

Send Check and Registration Form to:

**Phyllis Nicolella, 14 Wells St., Gloversville, NY 12078 [phylc@hotmail.com](mailto:phylc@hotmail.com) (518) 725-4060**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Tele \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per person **Single \$564, Double \$464, Triple \$424 (total per person)**

**Total enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit of \$100 per person due on **March 17, 2014** Make checks payable to **NYSUT RC 12.**

Final payment per person (**guarantees reservation**) is due on April 17, 2014 (NO refunds after April 17, 2014)

**Travel Insurance available upon request through Brown Tours.**

**Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014**

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**



**February 2014  
 Issue  
 RC 12 Outlook**

**Proposed Amendments to NYSUT Retiree Council #12 Constitution**

The RC 12 Board of Directors approved proposed amendments to the Constitution for the members to vote on at the March 26<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting in Cobleskill. The amendments place wording in the constitution regarding the current procedures used for elections and provide a process to fill a vacancy if co-officers are serving in an office. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, each table will have one copy of the complete constitution to reference during the meeting prior to the discussion and the vote.

1. **Nominations Page 2 VI.E.3** Add a section d. *d. Nominations will not be taken from the floor. Write in candidates will not be permitted.*
2. **Vacancies Page 2 VI.H.** Add a section 3. *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 Board of Directors.*
3. **VIII. Representative to NYSUT Representative Assembly, NEA National Convention and the AFT Convention**  
 Page 3. VIII Delete **NEA National Convention** in above title. Replace the current language of section C with the new language below *C. 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. The same procedure will be used to determine the delegate and alternate to the AFT convention. The NYSUT Ranking Delegate and AFT delegate shall be responsible for all meeting arrangements, voting protocols and reporting to the membership regarding the respective conventions.*
4. **Page 3. VIII** Delete *NEA/* in Section D. Delete *, NEA* in two places in Section E.