

THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

October 2013

John Costello Given the 2013 RC 12 Award of Excellence

By Phyllis Van Steenburgh *retired from Oppenheim Ephratah*

The Award of Excellence is voted upon by the RC 12 board of directors in order to honor a person who has worked to help the retirees of RC 12. A donation is made to the charity of his/her choice, and the honoree receives a framed certificate. "This award was developed to reward exceptional supporters of programs and issues of importance to our educational retirees," stated past RC 12 President, Bill Schultz. The recipient of this year's award is John Costello of NYSUT.

In 2001, the first award was given to H. Carl McCall due to his help in our successful effort in gaining a COLA at that time. From NYSUT President Thomas Hobart in 2005 to Assemblyman Paul Tonko in 2006 to NYS Teachers Retirement System Trustee, Michael Corn, in 2011, and now, John Costello—all these individuals have worked hard to do what is best for RC 12 retired educators. John earned an associate's degree in criminal justice from Cayuga Community College, a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Niagara University, Summa Cum Laude, and a Master of Arts degree in American government from the Rockefeller College, Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University at Albany. He enjoys living vicariously through his intelligent, articulate, and athletic sons, Michael and Connor.

Working nearly thirty years at NYSUT, John Costello was the Assistant to NYSUT's Executive Vice President, Andy Pallotta, and responsible for administering NYSUT's Political Action field program and its political action committee, VOTE/COPE. In the course of his career at the union, John has been responsible for a broad range of activities from spearheading lobbying efforts to turning off the lights at the Desmond when the Committee of 100 has left for the day.

As part of NYSUT's legislative department, John Costello gave union leaders essential strategies to mobilize For last fall's elections. "Start now — elections are only six months away. Contact members in as many ways as possible. Phone banks and labor walks are most effective. Warn members about the coming onslaught of political material because recent rulings lifted the cap on how much corporations and unions can spend on political campaigns." Costello said corporations typically devote 25 times more dollars than labor in political spending. These strategies were successful in many key races last fall and are words to be remembered and heeded in the future.

On behalf of John Costello, the 2013 Award of Excellence honoree, RC 12 made a donation to the Rochester Catholic Press Association. We wish John a long, healthy, and happy retirement.



Co-President Jeanne W. Bennett presents the 2013 RC 12 Award of Excellence to John Costello

Spend a Day in New York City December 4, 2013



The Social Committee of Retiree Council 12 is planning a day trip to New York City on Wednesday, December 4, 2013. Visit one of the great cities of the world! There will be a 6:30 AM pickup at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parking lot in Amsterdam and a 7:00 AM pickup at Wade Tours in Schenectady. The drop-off in NYC is at Bryant Park on 42nd Street 10:30 AM. Bus pickup will be at 6:30 PM at Bryant Park. **Two options (All money is due November 6th. No refunds after November 6th)**

1) A day on your own. Cost - \$ 56 per person

2) 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 14. Those on this tour will go with John by subway to the starting point in Chinatown, and he will take you back to the Times Square area following the tour. You will then have free time in NYC. Go to www.ahoynewyorkfoodtours.com for more information. Cost - \$ 110 per person.

RC 12 encourages 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 Please detach and mail the form to:

John Mazur, 176 West Bush Road, Gloversville, NY 12078

Name(s) _____

Please circle where you will board

Address _____

Amsterdam or Wade Tours

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Checks payable to: Retiree Council 12

(1) Day on your own \$ 56 per person _____

(2) Ahoy NY Tour and Tasting at \$ 110 per person _____

Total enclosed _____



From the President's Desk...Sandra Bliss

How YOU Can Make a Difference!

Often, members ask how NYSUT policy is determined and who decides NYSUT programs. The answer is **you** do.

Please read on to see how the idea of one member grew into a NYSUT program being piloted by NYSUT retirees. The next issue will feature two RC 12 members who have forged NYSUT policy, and the steps they followed to make it happen.

YELLOW DOT PROGRAM

"Yellow Dot is a free program designed to help first responders provide life-saving emergency medical attention during that first "golden hour" after a crash or other emergency. A yellow dot in the driver's-side rear window of your vehicle will alert first responders that vital medical information is stored in the glove compartment.

At the 2012 Retiree Contiguous ED 51-53 meeting, RC 43 delegate Tina Sharp proposed a resolution encouraging NYSUT to promote the Yellow Dot program. The resolution received wide spread support and was adopted at the 2013 NYSUT Representative Assembly. As a follow up to the passage of this resolution, NYSUT has entered into a partnership with the NYS Sheriff's Association and has begun the process of distributing the Yellow Dot kits to NYSUT Retiree Services Consultants for bulk distribution at NYSUT meetings and events. NYSUT is piloting this project for retired members only at this time."

Reprinted with permission from NYSUT's "Retiree Organizer"

RC 12 will distribute the Yellow Dot kits at its April 26, 2014 meeting in Cobleskill and June meeting in Scotia. Jennifer Shaad-Derby, RC 12 NYSUT Consultant, will distribute the kits at the RC 12 Retiree Conference to be held on May 1, 2014 at the Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia.

Save the Dates

Dec. 4 RC 12 Trip to New York City

Dec. 7-8 RC 12 Trip Holiday Weekend in the Finger Lakes

March 26, 2014 General meeting in Cobleskill

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

The Outlook

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RC 12 Deck the Halls Weekend of Fun December 7-8



On Saturday, December 7, there will be pickups at 5:15 AM at Amsterdam Thruway Park & Ride, 6:00 AM at Johnstown McDonald's, and 6:45 AM at Herkimer Denny's. We will visit wineries on Cayuga Lake. At each winery, there will be sampling of wines, holiday treats, recipe cards and an ornament for your grapevine wreath. We will have dinner at Belhurst Castle and overnight at the "Inn at the Finger Lakes" in Auburn. On Sunday, December 8, there will be a complimentary breakfast at the Inn. Then, we will shop at the Waterloo Outlets, stroll through Skaneateles to enjoy their Dickens's Christmas festivities, have dinner at the Sherwood Inn in Skaneateles, and view the Lights on Onondaga Lake display in Liverpool. We will return home between 8:30 and 9:00 P.M.

The cost per person includes bus, wine tours/grapevine wreath, hotel, dinners at Belhurst Castle and Sherwood Inn, breakfast, tour through lights display, and all tips. \$222 - single room, \$200 - double room, \$189 - triple room. A deposit of \$50 will hold your spot. Your check should be made out to RC 12 and sent to Pat Donovan, 111 Sixth Avenue, Gloversville, NY. For more details, e-mail Pat at jdonova5@nycap.rr.com or call 518 725-2531. The final payment is due by **November 1st**. Travel insurance is recommended. No refunds **after November 8th**.

For more information, go to rc12.ny.aft.org

Please contact Pat Donovan at 518 -725-2531 to check on availability. If there is space available, your spot will be secure once your **\$50 deposit** is received. Please complete this form and mail to **Pat Donovan, 111 Sixth Ave., Gloversville, NY 12078.**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Cell phone _____

e-mail _____

Check one: I will be staying in a

☐ single room

☐ double room rooming with _____

☐ triple room rooming with _____

SUMMER 2013 FLOOD ASSISTANCE

Many RC 12 members suffered damage to their primary homes as a result, of the floods in Herkimer, Montgomery, Otsego, and Schoharie counties. Several other counties were also declared federal disaster areas. As a result NYSUT members are eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$250 from the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund to help pay for losses. The deadline to apply is November 1, 2013. Grant applications can be downloaded from the NYSUT website: nysut.org.

RC 12 members who wish to contribute to the NYSUT Disaster Fund can write a check payable to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund and mail to: NYSUT Accounting Department, Attention: Jeff Lockwood, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110. Contributions are tax deductible. All administration costs of operating the fund are paid by NYSUT and not taken from contributions.

The benefits of an *online* bank

Have you heard of online banks? These are banking institutions that do not utilize actual “brick and mortar” branches; instead, they offer banking services that are predominantly done online.

So why consider using one of these types of banks? Online banks are often able to offer superior rates and incentives since they don’t have physical locations -- thereby passing these savings along to their customers.

Many people decide to utilize online banks in conjunction with their current traditional bank to secure higher rates for supplemental accounts, such as term-based certificates of deposits (CDs), savings accounts or IRAs.

The Member Benefits Corporation endorses the GE Capital Retail Bank Deposit Program, which is an online banking service that allows NYSUT members and their families to take advantage of some of today’s most competitive interest rates.



GE Capital Retail Bank

*4 reasons to use the
GE Capital Retail Bank Deposit Program:*

1. Earn preferred interest rates on Money Market Accounts, High-Yield Savings Accounts, CDs, and IRAs.
2. Access your money and account information 24/7 by phone or online.
3. Grow your funds, finance a vacation, save for retirement, and much more!
4. All GE Capital Retail Bank Deposit Program customers receive free identity theft resolution services.

Learn how the GE Capital Retail Bank Deposit Program can help you save by calling toll-free 866-226-5638 or visiting gecrbatwork.com (enter “NYSUT” in the company or association name box).

Financial expertise customized for your situation



Looking to learn how to properly invest your assets to build a college savings or retirement fund; what to look for when purchasing or financing a home; or maybe tips for getting your credit under control?

The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Financial Counseling Program – provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. – offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation.

The program offers:

- Up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.
- In-person consultations at least once per calendar year at your NYSUT Regional Office or Stacey Braun’s New York City office
- Access to Stacey Braun’s password-protected website and a 24-hour email helpdesk for basic financial questions.
- NYSUT members can purchase the Financial Counseling Program for an annual fee of \$260; a 403(b) Limited Plan is available for an annual fee of \$185.

For more information, call **800-626-8101** or visit **memberbenefits.nysut.org**.

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



October 2013 Issue
RC 12 Outlook



Billy Easton, Executive Director of the Alliance for Quality Education , speaking at the Sept. 17th general meeting of RC 12

Annual Recognition Reception
LABOR RALLY
American Labor Studies Center December 9, 2013

The honoree of this year’s ALSC fundraiser, Cecil Roberts, president of the United Mine Workers of America, will speak at the Albany Labor Temple at 4 pm prior to the ALSC Annual Recognition Reception. The 4 pm Labor Rally is free and open to all union members and their families. Anyone who heard Cecil Roberts at a recent NYSUT Representative Assembly knows what a dynamic speaker and labor leader will be among us December 9th. We urge you to attend to listen to his speech at the Labor Rally.

The 6-9 pm ALSC Reception fundraiser will honor Cecil Roberts and the United Mine Workers of America, the Greater Capital District Building and Trades Council and Assemblyman John T. McDonald. It will be held at NYSUT Headquarters, 800 Troy Schenectady Road, Latham, NY. Tickets are \$50.00 of which \$30.00 is eligible for a tax deduction. Ads in the Reception Journal are also available. Go to the ALSC website: labor-studies.org for the reception registration form and more details on the free LABOR RALLY. The American Labor Studies Center is located in the Kate Mullany House at 350 Eighth Street in Troy, New York