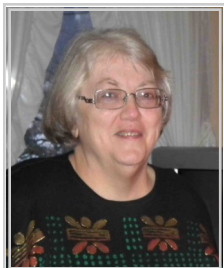


THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

February 2017



From the President's Desk... Sandra Bliss

REMEMBER... EDUCATE... VOTE!

Every four years, a United States President is inaugurated on January 20th. The current President promised during his campaign to maintain Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. We need to remember and hold him accountable if Congress votes to dismantle the benefits we earned during our working lives. Not only must these programs be maintained, they must be expanded to meet the needs of today's seniors and future seniors.

The way we accomplish this is by educating ourselves, our family, our friends and neighbors, our community and our elected leaders. Coupons to purchase insurance don't hack it. We paid in each for Medicare in each paycheck and continue to pay as dollars are deducted each month from our Social Security check. Proposals are being made to eliminate the Affordable Care Act (ACA/Obamacare) restriction that seniors cannot be charged a higher premium for health insurance. I do not hear those politicians saying we need to keep the ACA requirement that ended a lifetime limit on what our insurance will pay. My district provided health insurance with a one million dollar limit which was later increased to two million. Many people bought extra coverage in the form of catastrophic health insurance in an attempt to protect themselves from bankruptcy.

Social Security has kept many people out of poverty, but it is not enough since the cost of living calculations used do not account for the higher cost seniors have for medical expenses. The income cap, currently \$127,200, used to define when Social Security payments are no longer deducted from our paychecks, is too low and allows many to escape the rightful amount they should pay for this benefit.

We ... meaning YOU ... must call our/your congressional leaders to tell them what we, their constituents want and need for ourselves and our descendants. Mark your calendar and make this a regular habit. Just call and ask for your member of Congress, then make another call and ask for Senator Gillibrand, next make another call and ask for Senator Schumer, and then call the White House.

Leave a message that includes your name and address. The address is important because it identifies you a constituent of the elected leader. Make it short. For example say, "I am your constituent and I want you to keep Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid intact for me and my younger family members and neighbors. No coupons instead of Medicare. No block grants for Medicaid. No raise in age for Social Security." As you read about unworthy proposals, call again and revise your statement to say no to those ideas and yes to maintain and expand.

RC 12 Congressional members: Congresswoman Stefanik, Congressman Tonko, Congresswoman Tenney, and Congressman Faso. Call toll free: 1-202-224-3121 White House: President Trump Call toll free: 1-202-456-1111



Then pledge to vote in 2017 and 2018 based on how your congressional member voted.

The Outlook

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Thank You for Your Contribution !!!

Listed below are those who have made their \$ 15 contribution to NYSUT Retiree Council 12 by January 13, 2017 for the 2016 - 2017 year. Our year runs from July 1 to June 30. The names with an asterisk indicate payment for future years. A name with one asterisk means that member has paid for this year plus the 2017- 2018. Exclamation points + mean you are paid up for more than 2 years! The contribution form can be found in this issue. Those that make their donation in the upcoming weeks will have their names listed in future issues of THE OUTLOOK. Look over this list, and if you think I have made an error, please call me at (518) 993-2854 or e-mail me at dltalmadge@citlink.net.

Thanks for your continued financial support. **Dolores Talmadge, Treasurer**

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Thanks !

Mary Pritchard Receives StateWide Senior Action Council's Rose Kryzak Advocacy Award

by Phyllis VanSteenburgh, OE Teacher Retiree



**Jim Marquit, Mary Pritchard, and Jean Gordon
at the RC 12 general meeting June 2016**

“Mary Pritchard, our RC 12 past legislative co-chair, recently received The StateWide Senior Action Council's Rose Kryzak Advocacy Award. Mary was given this award for being an advocate and leader on public policy issues locally and at the state level to promote the well being of older New Yorkers. Mary currently represents StateWide for RC 12,” according to RC 12 Co-Presidents Sandy Bliss and Jeanne Williams Bennett.

Mary was co-vice president of RC 12 with S. David King as they both worked on legislative concerns like manning phone banks at NYSUT headquarters and organizing retired teachers to attend Committee of 100 meetings every March with our legislators. Mary and David worked with up to 25 teachers as they attended meetings, talked with a PAC person, and visited all of the assemblymen and senators in the RC12 district. They worked on submitting comments and

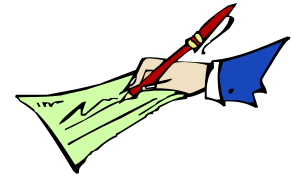
concerns to NYSUT. In addition, Mary joined other teachers in informational marches, sent postcards and letters throughout the year, submitted petitions to be signed, and made phone calls to legislators as needed.

Mary was concerned for seniors who went into nursing homes with late stage Alzheimer's disease under Medicaid. Some places were shipping them out of state, and relatives were then unable to visit them so far from their hometowns in upstate NY. She wrote a resolution that highlighted this problem and worked with many groups including NYSUT, RC12 and New York StateWide Senior Action Council. This convinced New York State to start extra training for nursing home personnel to allow patients with late stage Alzheimer's disease to stay locally. In December 2016, over 200 people were trained at a Guardian workshop in Albany.

For all these accomplishments and more, Mary received The StateWide Senior Action Council's Rose Kryzak Advocacy Award in a ceremony at their state convention in Saratoga, NY in late September 2016. This award was named for Rose Kryzak, who was president of The StateWide Senior Action Council in 1986. She continued to advocate for senior issues such as being a leader in the campaign to enact the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program which helps low income seniors pay for prescription drugs. In the late 1980's, she received a letter of admiration from Governor Mario Cuomo which had a quote from Socrates. Not to be outdone by a Governor, she responded saying she preferred Cicero's view that “Old age is honored on the condition that it defends itself, maintains its rights, is subservient to no one and to the last breath rules over its own domain.” (Astoria Time article, Sept. 20-26, 2012, Joe Anuta)

Congratulations to Mary Pritchard as she is recognized for her tireless efforts to protect seniors in New York State!

Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017



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 Talmadge 206 Main Street, Fort Plain, NY 13339 Make check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 12.
Any questions, please call (518) 993-2854 .**

February
2017
RC 12 Outlook



Photo taken from the
Air and Space Museum
area by Barbara Spaeth
January 21



January 9th, 2017 NYSARA Monday Alert

by Barry Kaufmann NYSARA president.

53% of seniors felt safe in voting for Trump because he was the only Republican that said he would NOT touch Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid. HOWEVER, 53% of seniors did not vote to repeal the ACA without a replacement that was at least as good. Americans agree with 75% against repeal and only 20% wanting immediate repeal. 53% of seniors did NOT

- ◆ Vote to diminish Medigap policies so "seniors can have some skin in the game" (Speaker Ryan)
- ◆ Vote to have Medicare costs shifted to them
- ◆ Vote to Cut Social Security Benefits an average of 27% to ensure there isn't a 21% cut decades from now (Proposed "Social Security Reform Act of 2017)
- ◆ Vote to gut Medicaid, which provides 62% of the long term care in America.

These are not mandates that this election produced.

We need to send 3 messages:

- 1) We are watching
- 2) There will be massive senior pushback to Speaker Ryan's "Path to Prosperity" proposals.
- 3) Senior voters **WILL** hold our elected accountable at the ballot box for their actions.

Save the Date 2017

March 30, 2017 RC 12 General Membership in Cobleskill

April 27-30, 2017 RC 12 trip Azalea Festival in Virginia

May 31, 2017 RC annual meeting, election, and NYSUT Conference at the Glen Sanders

June 26-30, 2017 RC 12 trip Maine

Sept. 18-20, 2017 RC 12 trip The Wild Center, Lake Placid

RC 12 Members were Active in Women's Marches

Carolyn Darkngelo, retiree from Mayfield TA

Many members travelled to participate in The Women's Marches on the day after the inauguration. They were accompanied by husbands, friends, daughters and even granddaughters. In our area, there were marches in Cobleskill, Cooperstown, Albany, Seneca Falls, Hudson, Poughkeepsie, and Utica. 400,000 people marched in NY City. There were not enough buses available to hold the people who wanted to attend so many drove to DC and stayed with friends.

A number of our members and friends sent us pictures and thoughts to share their experiences. Here are some of their words. Michele Kopp, a retired Niskayuna special education teacher, is still processing the enormity and beauty of the day and how it brings hope to all of us who believe in dignity, kindness and love. Marge Griffith shares her idea in the picture below.

Clare Montero, a retiree from Van Antwerp Middle School in Niskayuna, travelled to DC with college friends and stayed with a friend in DC. She describes the event this way, "There were so many people there that the entire site was wall to wall people with nowhere to move. People were at their very best under the circumstances. Many of the signs that people carried were clever, downright entertaining, and beautifully crafted. We all felt unbelievable unity, sisterhood, and joy. How mind boggling to think that at that moment it was almost like holding hands, reaching out to women whose lives, languages, religions, were so different and here we were, so very much alike. I think the main message was that women will not abide the erosion of their rights and the rights of others."

Sarah Zogg, daughter of Northville retiree Barbara Spaeth, describes her ride to the march in the metro in the following way, "The car was jammed to capacity with women, and the energy inside was one of excitement: the kind of excitement you feel just before the roller coaster reaches the top of that first high peak, and we were all ready for our first thrilling descent onto the streets of D.C. At the march it was breathtaking and moving to see so many people gathered in, not only, peaceful protest, but in a protest where courtesy and kindness were as widespread as the crowd itself." She also declares, "We cannot be ignored, and we will be right there to hold the government accountable for every proposal that threatens our rights and futures. This was only the first drop of this rollercoaster, and we are prepared to be there for every twist, loop, hill, and valley they can throw at us."



RC 12 members Kitty Ingalls, Barbara Spaeth of Northville, and Barbara's daughter, Sarah Zogg, participating in the Women's March in DC on January 21.



Marge Griffith expressing her first amendment rights.



The beginning of the march in Cobleskill, NY (Photos by Don Griffith)



Michele Kopp, a retired Niskayuna special education teacher, is still processing the enormity and beauty of the day and how it brings hope to all of us who believe in dignity, kindness and love.

RC 12 member, Mary Pritchard, was accompanied by her fifteen-year old granddaughter, Abby Lupien, at the Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls NY. They joined nearly 10,000 people who participated in the Seneca Falls march on January 21.
(photo by Mary Pritchard)



A Sea of Pink in DC

**NYSUT RC 12 General Membership Luncheon Meeting
March 30, 2017**

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

**Federal Challenges to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security
Plus State Budget Issues for Seniors**

*Presented by
Gail Myers: Deputy Director of NY StateWide Senior Action Council*



9:30
10:00-11:00
11:00-noon
12:15- 1:15

Agenda
registration, coffee and tea
business meeting
program
luncheon

The buffet luncheon will be catered by Justine's. The menu includes chicken parm, pasta, sausage an peppers, lasagna rollatini, eggplant rollatini, salad, bread, dessert, coffee, tea, water, iced tea and lemonade.

++++
Please complete and mail to **Margaret Dafeldecker, 368 Tinkley Hollow Rd., Warnerville, NY 12187 518-234-2086**
Luncheon cost per person: \$18/person Make checks payable to NYSUT RC 12

Name(s): _____ **Deadline:** March 20, 2017

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ **email:** _____

School District retired from: _____ **Year retired:** _____



RC 12 ELECTION NOTICE

An election will be held at 10:15 am **on May 31, 2017** during the general membership meeting at the Glen Sanders, Scotia, NY. The available positions and terms are listed below, and the **nomination deadline** is March 28, 2017.

Term

- First vice-president May 31, 2017 – June 30, 2018
- Co 2nd vice- president May 31, 2017 – June 30, 2018
- Six (6) directors (1) SRP Director July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019

All members, including SRP's are eligible for office based on NYSUT RC 12 membership list provided by NYSUT in February 2017. Only SRP's are eligible for SRP director. You do not have to pay for luncheon to vote. You do not have to attend entire meeting to vote. No nominations from the floor will be allowed per RC 12 constitution. Nominations must be US mail postmarked or emailed dated no later than March 28, 2017.

Nomination forms are available from: Sandra Bliss, nominations committee chair: sblissunion@yahoo.com or 2191 County Highway 33, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or 315.725.0706.

You asked for it... and you got it!

Third Annual Member Appreciation Month set for February 2017



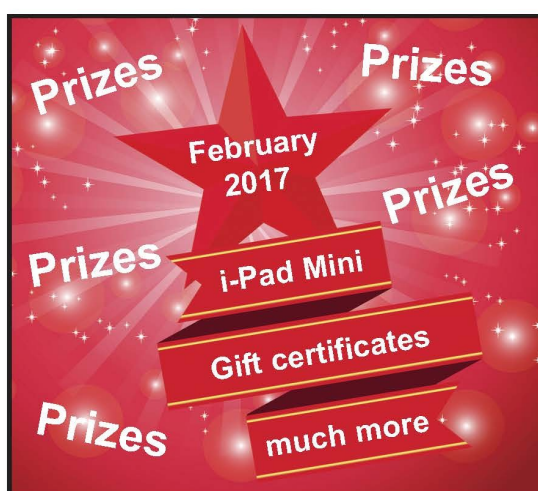
Don't miss out... join MAP!

NYSUT Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers will once again be teaming up for the Third Annual Member Appreciation Month set for February 2017 in recognition of all you do to make *NYSUT union strong*.

To be eligible for these drawings, you simply need to be a member of the voluntary MAP Alert email service or sign up before January 31, 2017.

MAP Alerts are a convenient way to learn about new endorsed programs; updates to current programs; and special offers unique to MAP Alert participants -- without being inundated with emails.

Prize drawings will be held each day, with the winners announced exclusively on the Member Benefits website throughout the month of February.



Win prizes such as Best Buy, Amazon or American Express gift cards; car rental certificates; wireless speakers; an i-Pad Mini; and many more.

Last's year Grand Prize winner received a free vacation to Orlando, FL!

We encourage you to spread the word to your colleagues about this special event. **So if you see a phone call or email from us, make sure you answer it!!!**

For more details about this exciting event, visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **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.