

NYSUT RC 12 Executive Board Meeting 18 November 2021 Holiday Inn Johnstown

Present: Kathy Lyman, Dolores Talmadge, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Theresa Kovian, Jeanne Bennett, Cathy Picciocca, Stacey Caruso-Sharpe, Margaret Dafeldecker, Jen Shaad-Derby

Excused: Bev Alves, Phyllis VanSteenburg, Sue Proctor, Carolyn Darkangelo, Helen Neet, Maggie Bouck

Stacey called the meeting to order at 9:40. She shared how our schools are challenged at this point. Struggles due to the pandemic affecting our education systems include the following issues: lack of substitutes, lack of administration support because they are covering classes, inability to provide emotional support, mask issues, vaccine beliefs.

Everyone needs to realize that RC 12 can do nothing regarding health insurance changes. This is covered during in service union negotiations. Retirees need to stay vigilant, stay aware of challenges, and show up when changes occur within their original working school district.

At this point negotiations teams are hearing from a variety of different branches. AIS teachers are being asked to cover classes. Guidance, psychologists, and social workers report that a variety of services are not being provided. Districts who have teaching assistants (TA) are requesting stipends.

Many groups are currently striking because employees are not being treated fairly. Recently William Barber from Black Lives Matter was arrested while supporting protestors outside of the White House. It seems that the union movement is growing.

Retirees are encouraged to contribute to the NYSUT Disaster Relief fund and the NYSUT Legacy Fund to help struggling members.

It's important to examine that compromise seems to be for the good of the people. We need to continue to move forward. Being open to be knowledgeable about the past is examined with critical race theory. It attempts to provide a way of understanding how American racism has shaped public policy, or a divisive discourse. Being vigilant and having an open mind, at this time in history, could be helpful for all.

Recognizing SRP's this week is so important with the team approach of our system.

NYSTRS is celebrating 100 Year of existence. Thomas DiNapoli, NYS Comptroller, has helped our retirement benefits by utilizing defined benefits. The cost to get rid of defined benefits is challenging for any system.

NYSUT Retiree Council is celebrating 30 Years. RC 12 has ordered pins, cocktail napkins, and banners to be distributed at our May Membership Meeting. At this gathering,

attendees will hear a brief history of RC 12. David O'Keefe will be a speaker. Elections of officers of RC 12 will take place at this event.

AFT/NYSUT/NYSARA continue to investigate drug prices. Research and development seem to provide a lower cost and the shareholders' value is reportedly doing well.

Vice President - Kathlene Lyman

Kathie reported that the need for retiree names is a continual issue for RC 12 and all retired school system teachers due to confidentiality.

Reporting on Mothers of Twins at the September meeting provided a connection for someone close to retirement.

Kathie was personally thanked for writing the Patient Rights article for *The Outreach*. Placing State Wide's telephone number into cell phones could make this contact available to all in the event of a hospital emergency. StateWide connects with over 5,000 members for assistance.

Secretary - Cathy Picciocca

Kathy Lyman shared minutes for the August RC 12 Executive Board Meeting. Corrections were provided and a motion to accept the minutes was made by Dolores and seconded by Theresa. Motion carried. After corrected, Kathie will send the minutes to Theresa to post on the website.

Cathy sent out minutes to the Executive Board from the September General Membership meeting. Corrections have been provided and acceptance of the minutes will be voted on at the March General Membership meeting.

Haven of Hope were appreciative of products donated at our membership meeting. They provide transitional housing to homeless women in Fulton and Montgomery counties. Holistic living and work experience programs prepare women to work towards independent living and family unification.

Whenever someone dies it was suggested that the deceased name be sent to Dolores. Dolores will send it onto necessary RC 12 connections.

Treasurer's Report - Dolores

The audit will be conducted before the end of the year and be voted on in the March Membership meeting. The 990 EZ Form was due on November 15. Dolores shared how grateful she was to her sister and Kathie for helping keeping RC 12 running smoothly during her recent surgery and recuperation. As a result of a motion presented at the

August Board of Directors Meeting and the September raffle, \$625 was sent to *Kate Mullary House*.

A donation will be sent to the Mendez Shawn fund via credit card in honor of Paul Pecorcale

Accounts

Savings	\$ 131.85
Social Money Market	15,976.91
Business Money Market	45,122.49
Business Checking	575.71
Social Checking	27.67
Total	\$61,835.63

Legislation - Stacey

There seems to be several candidates who are interested in running for the governor of New York State. Names that are included in the list are Bill De Blasio, Zephyr Teachout, Kathy Hochul, and Letitia James.

Due to the inability to gain and keep staff within service employees, tier equity is being presented. Since administration are utilized to cover classes, this may be time to give APPR back to locals' districts to handle.

Behavior specialists, guidance counselors, and school psychologists are a growing necessity currently in our schools

NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant - Jen

NYSUT RC12 General Membership and NYSUT Regional Conference meeting will be held May 12, 2022, at the Glen Sander's Mansion. We will be celebrating the 30-year anniversary of Retiree Councils. David Keefe will be a speaker. Other possible suggestions could be Jolene DiBrango, NYSUT Executive Vice President or one of our own long-term retirees.

Outlook/website - Theresa

Check out our website: <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/> The list of our officers up to date and be found at the following site: <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/leadership>

Our current officers plan on submitting their name to be of service for another two years.

Social - Kathlene Lyman

No new trips have been planned. It's questionable whether proof of vaccination will be a necessity to attend future trips.

RAC Retiree Advisory Committee- Stacey

RAC currently has three subgroups: Constitution, Membership, and Communications. Stacey is working with the Communications. Currently, Retiree Councils are sharing newsletters electronically. A new website connection is posted on our website.

<https://sites.google.com/site/nysuted12pac/>

Stacey met with Swinka Richards who has a degree in Human Resource Management. It was suggested that retiree information to be shared via websites and newsletters. She's reached out to other RCs to request permission to share information. The need to credit the contributors is a necessity when passing on information. There still seems to be a continual glitch in getting the names of retired teachers. Consultants share the same issue.

Resolutions:

- 1.Sickle cell disease
- 2.Maximize retiree expertise and resources
- 3.NYSUT adjuncts leave to be receive NYSUT retirement services
- 4.The option of Preretirement life membership from NEA
5. Reaffirmation - NYSUT RA assembly divest from fossil fuel \$145,000,000

StateWide - Kathie is the secretary of board of directors of StateWide (50th Anniversary Committee)

Activities will be held in the Capital district after Labor Day.

Connect with <https://www.nysenior.org/> into StateWide

Trifold pamphlets for agencies to reach out to is being developed.

NYSARA - sign up for Monday morning alerts

Committees

Election - At the May meeting officers will be voted on. Theresa/Margaret cochair and Phyllis on the Committee.

Constitution...January 4 zoom 9:30 (electronic vote regarding issues involving emergency conditions...)

Budget - will be voted on March Membership meeting...

History/herstory - woman's issues committees - Cathy Picciocca

Future Meetings:

Next Executive Board meeting will be held on January 11 on ZOOM.

March 15 Membership Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown. We will continue to follow COVID suggestions.

NYSUT RA April 1-2 delegates Stacey, Kathlene, Dolores, alternate Jeanne Williams Bennett

Service Award we discussed a member to nominate for Community Service Award.