

# THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

October &amp; November 2017

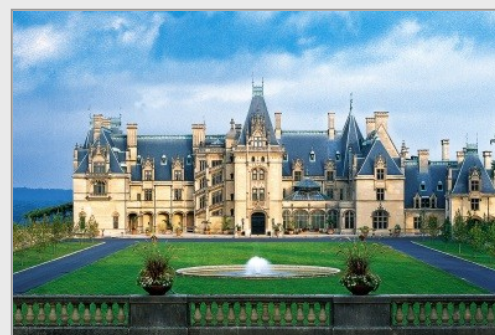
## RC 12 and Diamond Tours Trip to Biltmore Estate & Asheville, NC

*Sunday–Friday, April 8-13, 2018*



We are waiting for the 2018 price; however, based on last year's prices, this trip will be in the neighborhood of \$499 per person, double occupancy. A \$100 per person down payment is due on or before December 1, 2017; final payment is due on or before February 1, 2018.

The price includes: motor coach transportation and driver tip, all lodging including 3 consecutive nights in the Asheville area, most of your meals, a full-day visit to the Biltmore Estate, the Biltmore's new Antler Village and Winery, a guided drive along the Blue Ridge Parkway, a tour of Asheville, the magnificent St. Lawrence Basilica, the famous Blue Ridge Parkway Visitors Center, visit to the famous Folk Art Center, and the O. Winston Link Museum in Roanoke, VA. The departure will be at 8 AM from Mt. Carmel Church, 39 St. John's Street, Amsterdam, NY.



For information, call Linda Zilka 518-725-5139.

To reserve this trip, send a **\$100 per person down payment** payable to NYSUT RC-12 and this form to Linda Zilka, 288 Bleecker Street, Gloversville, NY 12078, by December 1, 2017.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*We will maintain a waiting list; however, if no one is on the wait list, it is your responsibility to find a substitute if you cannot attend. Trip insurance is available; information will be sent to you after you sign up for this trip.*



Floyd Cameron, NYSUT Retiree Services Manager, spoke at the RC 12 general meeting at the Otesaga on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

## News from the Meeting at the Otesaga

By Carolyn Darkangelo, retiree from Mayfield TA

Paul Webster, NYSUT Director of Community Outreach, spoke on the value of our union in our communities at the general meeting at the Otesaga on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

NYSUT has coordinated local unions' efforts to earn six truck-loads of books from First Book, Inc. through its partnership with the American Federation of Teachers. First Books are rolling down the highways in tractor-trailers, getting dropped off at schools across the state. Through this program, 1.75 million free books were given to schools which included every school in the state. That is 18 million dollars in free resources at no cost to union members.

NYSUT is also a national leader in the fight to Make Strides Against Breast Cancer with the American Cancer Society. It helps transport cancer patients and provides family counseling. NYSUT has raised over 1 million dollars/year.

*Continued on page 2*

## From the Vice-President's Desk....*Kathlene Lyman*

In my first message to you, I invited you to join me on my journey as I become involved with all that NYSUT has to offer. Many of you have shared in learning about the Constitutional Convention and the impact it would have on us. As I write this, it is time to move on to my next area of focus.

Health Insurance has been one of the hot topics this fall. National focus is an everyday news item. What will happen to the Affordable Care Act? What will happen to Medicare and Medicaid? What are your rights as a hospital patient? Who has the answers?

There are many questions to be answered. NYSUT has hired Ken DeStefano to the newly- created position of Labor Relations Specialist Assigned to Health Insurance. Health Insurance is one of the most sought after and valuable benefits of being a union member. It is also the benefit that is under the most continuous attack by employers. NYSUT's goal in creating this position is to ensure that NYSUT field staff has access to the most up-to-date information, as well as the best training and resources available, to help locals negotiate the best possible benefits. This I learned at NYSUT's ED 51-53 (at-large) meeting in early October.

StateWide Senior Action Council hosted a Forum on Hospital Rights at which I learned a great deal. One issue of importance is what to expect when you are in the emergency room. Know the difference between observation status and full admission. This affects how follow-up services are paid.

Also of major concern is the "Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act": A1532 and S3330. This would require all hospitals and nursing homes to have minimum direct-care staff to patient ratios that will result in reduced harm to patients from infection, falls, and other preventable incidents.

I have gathered much information on the New York Health Act: Senate Bill S4840 and Assembly Bill A4738. The Act calls for a universal, comprehensive healthcare plan for ALL New Yorkers. The Act has passed the NYS Assembly three years in a row and is ONE State Senator endorsement in 2017 short of becoming a majority. Once it becomes a majority in the NYS Senate, it would come out of the Health Committee for a Senate vote.

As you can see, there is much to learn about health care. I am still on that journey to learn. The invitation is still there. Join me.

### News from the Meeting at the Otesaga *Continued from page 1*

Floyd Cameron, NYSUT Retiree Services Manager, shared the value of retirees to NYS. They contribute 12 billion dollars into NYS economy. 78% live in NY and spend their pension in NY. They create jobs and volunteer throughout the state. Our pension system is the strongest in the country. Over 100 billion dollars is financed by the interest and dividends on the retirement funds.

He also spoke about the success of NYSUT's work to inform people of the importance of voting no on the constitutional convention vote on November 7. The latest poll shows less than 50% of voters support a new convention. He explained the importance of getting an absentee ballot from the state website and mailing it by October 31.

RC 12 members at the Otsego took the time to write postcards to fellow retirees to explain the problems that could result from a new constitutional convention. Here are some of the issues: our pensions would be at risk, many politicians and legislators would collect double paychecks as delegates, the convention could cost well over 300 million tax dollars, and labor rights and public education would be endangered. Thank you to all who participated.

## The Outlook

*(officers and directors as of July 1, 2017)*

Co-Pres. Jeanne W. Bennett	(315) 895-7063
Co-Pres. Sandra Bliss	(315) 725-0706
1st VP Kathlene Lyman	(518) 399-0256
Co2 <sup>nd</sup> VP S. David King	(518) 725-0848
Co2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Stacey Caruso Sharpe	(518) 496-2769
Treasurer Dolores Talmadge	(518) 993-2854

### Immediate Past President

Karen Wojcik-Hess (518) 366-8141

### Past Presidents:

Judy Schultz  
Don Griffith Bill Schultz Jim Marquit

### Directors

Tracey W. Allen - Herkimer  
Joseph F Bernocco - Schoharie & Otsego  
Margaret Dafeldecker - Schoharie & Otsego  
Susan Naple - Fulton & Montgomery  
Vickie McGowan-Horan - Schenectady

**Newsletter Staff** Phyllis VanSteenburgh  
Carolyn Darkangelo,

**Webmaster - Carolyn Darkangelo**  
Darkangelo @nycap.rr.com

**Website: RC12.ny.aft.org**

NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant:  
Jennifer Shaad-Derby (518) 783-7977

## Save the Date

**November 7, 2017 - date to vote NO on Constitutional Convention**

**December 9-10, 2017 RC 12 trip to It's a Wonderful Life Celebration at Seneca Falls**

**April 8-13, 2018 - RC 12 trip to Biltmore Estate & Asheville, NC**

**Monday, July 16, 2018 - West Side Story at Glimmerglass Opera Festival**

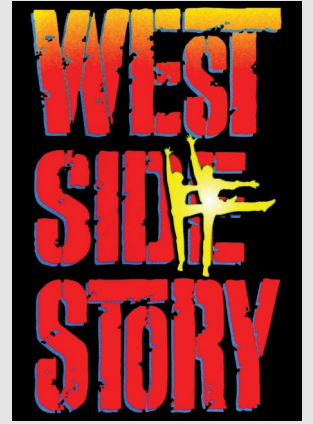
**August 7-26, 2018 RC 12 trip to Alaska & Yukon Land and Cruise**



## RC 12 Trip to Glimmerglass Opera

7300 State Highway 80,  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

**Monday, July 16, 2018,  
Matinee Performance**  
\$85 per person for orchestra seating



Act NOW, don't miss out! Make your reservations before April 1, 2018. Transportation and lunch are on your own. A picnic area has been reserved; there is a café on the premises. Pack your own lunch, or eat in a nearby restaurant. If you have any questions, contact Wendy, 518-234-3230 or email [moose123@nycap.rr.com](mailto:moose123@nycap.rr.com)

Return the bottom portion with your **\$85** per person payment payable to **NYSUT RC-12** to:  
**Wendy Wilson, 119 Woodland Drive, Apt. 50, Cobleskill, NY 12043**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*No refunds after May 15. I will maintain a waiting list; however, if no one is on the wait list, it is your responsibility to find a substitute.*

## Jeanne Williams Bennett Selected as the 2017 NYSUT RC 12 Community Service Award Winner

*By Carolyn Darkangelo, Mayfield retiree*

Established in 1993, the NYSUT Community Service Awards were created to recognize individuals who have given outstanding volunteer service to their communities. Since its inception, hundreds of NYSUT members have been nominated by their locals or retiree councils to receive this award. Jeanne Williams Bennett is the NYSUT Community Service Award winner for 2017.

Jeanne is the co-president of RC 12 and has served as an RC 12 officer since 2008. She has attended the NYSUT Representative Assembly and the AFT convention, and she is an active member of the great RC 12 social committee and the committee of 100 lobbying group.

In her community, Jeanne is a vital volunteer in many organizations. Since 2007, she has worked with Shepard's Table, a group that prepares and serves meals to the poor in Herkimer County. Each year, she participates in the Gram Lorraine Warm Winter Clothing Program, which brings warm clothing and toys to children in need. For over 20 years, she has organized, publicized, and performed in a concert that raises money for last minute needs at Christmas time. Jeanne was presented with the Six Angels of Christmas Award for her dedication and hard work in the community.

Active in the Ilion First Baptist Church for a lifetime, Jeanne has served on the board of trustees, on committees for education, music, endowment, and finance. Since retirement in 2007, she has played the organ and volunteered at monthly dinners. Recently, she also was the chair of the pastoral search committee; the outstanding new minister began working several months ago. Jeanne also works on the Mohawk Oneida committee on ministry.

She shares her love of music by playing the organ for ecumenical services, for weekly services at the Masonic Care Community in Utica, concerts on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and those honoring our World War II veterans at Christmas. She also performs regularly at local nursing homes and at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

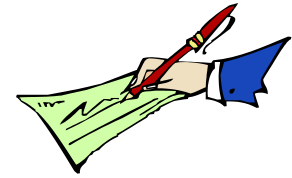
Jeanne's lifelong service to her community is amazing. RC 12 is so lucky to have such a dedicated individual participate in all levels of our organization. She is highly organized and meticulous about details. She and Sandra Bliss have been the ultimate leadership team for our organization. **Congratulations, Jeanne. You certainly deserve this award!**



**Jeanne Williams Bennett and Sandra Bliss**



**Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018**



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 .**



**Ron Dundadee on top of Whiteface Mountain during the RC 12 trip to Lake Placid**

**Good Health Needs Work?**

by **Phyllis VanSteenburgh, Oppenheim-Ephratah Teacher Retiree**

Once you retire, it seems like health issues might be coming your way so I have decided to head them off by finding physical fitness classes I can enjoy. The YMCA, Gloversville Senior Center and Fit Happens, a private fitness studio, are in my area. I am going to a Chair Yoga class once a week at the Gloversville Senior Center as well as Strength and More classes at the YMCA.

Monthly lunch meetings by Vitality Plus, part of wellness education from Healthlink through Nathan Littauer Hospital are another way to keep in good health. A program on kidney disease explained it is hard to diagnose, but eating plenty of fruit and vegetables could be helpful. Some other topics will include "Staying Well!", about the proper use of antibiotics and recommendations for adult vaccinations with guest speaker: Melissa Brown, N.P., Littauer's Infection Control Services.

Find out more information about health issues on this site, <https://www.health.harvard.edu>. It helps me learn about the symptoms and treatments of particular illnesses, routine health screenings, surgical procedures, medical studies, and medication

side effects and interactions. Information regarding Medicare and Social Security can be found on the following site: <https://retiredamericans.org/our-issues/>.

Just keeping yourself informed about health issues could be the recipe for good health now and in your future.



**RC 12 members at the Otesaga, meeting on September 28.**

# NYSUT Member Benefits... more than just insurance!

**As an additional benefit to NYSUT members and their families, your union membership allows you to participate in more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits.**

These offerings include crucial products that you may already purchase such as life, auto & homeowners insurance, unbiased financial services and expert legal advice. But your NYSUT membership also allows you to participate in a variety of shopping, travel and personal programs that can help you save on everyday purchases and those special occasions.



**Our endorsed shopping/travel/personal programs offer savings on numerous online purchases, including:**

- |                                       |                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Theme Park &amp; Movie Tickets</b> | <b>Office Supply Discounts</b>        | <b>Electronics Discounts</b> |
| <b>Hotel &amp; Vacation Discounts</b> | <b>Retail Store Discounts</b>         | <b>Ski Tickets</b>           |
| <b>Car &amp; Truck Rentals</b>        | <b>Concerts &amp; Sporting Events</b> | <b>Car Buying Service</b>    |

Participation in Member Benefits-endorsed programs also gives you a trusted advocate ready to assist you with any issues or concerns with any of our programs.



## **Member Appreciation Month coming in February 2018!**

As a show of thanks to the more than 600,000 NYSUT members that comprise this labor union, NYSUT Member Benefits will once again be holding our annual Member Appreciation Month celebration in February 2018.

Special prize drawings will be held each day of the month. To be eligible to win, you must be a member of our voluntary MAP Alert email service.

Sign up any time through the end of February 2018 to be eligible to win... but if you join MAP by January 31, 2018, you'll have the most chances to win!

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit **[memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://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.



## **Medicare and Social Security WILL NOT call you on the phone!**

The government is sending new Medicare cards with new number. They will start to arrive in April 2018 and continue for a year. Scammers are using this event to target seniors.

- \*If someone calls you and asks for your Medicare number, hang up.
- \*If you are called and asked for your credit card number to pay for your new card, hang up (they are free).
- \* If someone tries to tell you that you will lose benefits if you don't give them money or information, hang up.

*Source: AARP Bulletin October 2017*



**French church from 1717**



**The bridge across the Hudson**

**RC 12 trip on July 11, 2017  
Mohonk Mountain House,  
Historic Huguenot Street,  
Walkway over the Hudson**



**Relaxing at the visitor center**





**Paul Webster explaining the AFT First Books Program**

# **RC 12 Meeting at the Otesaga**

