

NYSUT RC 12 General Membership Meeting

Johnstown Holiday Inn, Johnstown, NY

Thursday, March 22, 2018

(Approved by the Board of Directors on April 5, 2018)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:13 by Kathlene Lyman, First Vice-President. The group was led in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of “My Country ‘Tis of Thee”.

Introductions of RC 12 officers, executive board members, and guests were made. New retirees and new guests were welcomed. Linda Zilka presented everyone with an RC 12 pen on behalf of the social committee.

A moment of silence was held for deceased RC 12 members, deceased and injured military personnel, active military, and especially communities dealing with violence in schools.

Secretary’s Report: The minutes of the September 28, 2017 general membership meeting were presented to the membership. Correspondence from the National Park Service, stating that there are no longer group rates, was shared.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Dolores Talmadge presented the March 22, 2018 Financial Report, which showed a balance of \$27,685.81. The report was reviewed and filed for audit. There are 653 contributing members, of which 45 are new members.

Co-President Sandra Bliss recognized the retirement of S. David King from the executive board and thanked him for his years of service. He was presented with a gift. The NYSARA Biennial Convention on April 19, 2018 was announced. Several board members will attend. Sandra Bliss provided a handout on the new Medicare cards and scams to be aware of. The StateWide Medicare Rights Helpline is 800-333-4114.

Legislative Report: Second Vice President Stacey Caruso-Sharpe spoke on several important issues. First was the Janus Case. The main goal of the case is to destroy unions. The transcripts of the arguments are on line. There are two more similar cases behind this one. Stay informed. Second was NYSUT’s One-on-One Campaign. Training is available. The goal is to go door to door and get educators involved in the union. The third item involved lobbying. Pay attention to the NYSARA Weekly Alerts. Contact your legislators about major issues, lobby to get APPR back to local districts. The fourth item involves the efforts of the NYSUT Retiree Advisory Council to put together a pamphlet for retirees to explain more about the retiree councils. We were all thanked for our work on the Con-Con campaign. Because of the impact of the many Con-Con car magnets, signs, etc., NYSUT has a new series of “Union” magnets, signs, etc. Six RC 12 members attended the Committee of 100. Bev Alves noted the presence of local School Board Members who participated in this event.

S. David King provided a handout with information on the Janus case.

NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant Jennifer Shaad-Derby provided copies of the flyer announcing the NYSUT Regional Conference, NYSUT RC 12 Membership Meeting and Election of Officers on May 8, 2018 at the Glen Sanders. Speakers will be NYSUT Vice-President Paul Pecorale and Clea Stagnitti of the Albany Apple Store.

The Outlook and Webmaster Reports were given by Carolyn Darkangelo. Outlook articles are due. The webmaster likes photos to put on the website. Please do not send “landscape” pictures. The online version of the OUTLOOK has more pages than the print version. Check it out.

Social Committee chairman Linda Zilka reported on completed trips, Seneca Falls and Billy Joel. Upcoming trips include the Biltmore, West Side Story, Alaska and the Yukon, and West Point vs. Air Force football game. New trips announced today include Fall 2018 to Letchworth Park, Lucille Ball Museum, etc; June 2019 to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, etc. and August 2019 to the Omni in New Hampshire, Mt. Washington, etc.

NY StateWide Senior Action Council will hold their annual convention in Saratoga Springs October 9-11, 2018. Kathlene Lyman will attend. Today’s speaker, Marcus Harazin, is from StateWide and has brought many of their handouts and copies of their newsletter.

The NYSUT Representative Assembly will be held in Buffalo, April 26-28. Attending from RC 12 will be Sandra Bliss, Bev Alves, and Karen Wojcik-Hess.

The Nominations/Election Committee Report was given by Vickie McGowan-Horan. Elections will be held May 8, 2018 between 10:15 and 10:45 at the Glen Sanders. Phyllis Van Steenburgh, chair, and Vickie McGowan-Horan are looking for volunteers to help with the elections.

New Business: The Fall General Membership meeting will be October 9, 2018 at the Otesaga. The Democratic Primary is June 26; some RC 12 members had petitions available.

Speaker Marcus Harazin, Coordinator Patient Advocates Program for NY StateWide Senior Action Council, presented “Hospital Patient Rights: Understanding and Surviving New Policies for Admissions, Discharges, and Observation Status and How to Protect Your Rights.” Topics covered included: Your Rights as a Patient in NYS; Preparing for a hospital or emergency room visit; How to compare hospitals, home care agencies, and nursing homes; How to find out information about physicians; Medicare Hospital Admissions, Observation Status, and Readmission Policies; Mandatory Nursing Home Arbitration and others. Many handouts were provided as well as a 32 page copy of his power point presentation. Much information was shared and many questions were answered.

Following the luncheon, the 50/50 Drawing was held. Sandra Bliss moved and Bev Alves seconded the motion “to round the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle to \$100 and donate it to the AFT Disaster Relief Fund, Operation Aqua”. The motion carried. Margaret Dafeldecker donated her 50/50 winnings of \$35 to the “Aqua Fund”, making our donation total \$135.

Thanks were given to all who attended. Special thanks went to Marcus Hazarin and Gene Dumloa from StateWide.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathlene Lyman