

NYSUT RC 12 Executive Board Meeting Minutes - Thursday, April 5, 2018 at NYSUT Headquarters

Attendance: Sandra Bliss, Tracey Allen, Phyllis VanSteenburgh, Jean Williams Bennett, Margaret Dafeldecker, Vickie McGowen-Horan, Stacey Caruso Sharp, Karen Wojcik-Hess,

Call to Order Kathlene Lyman, first vice president, called the meeting to order at 9:37AM.

Secretary's Report The minutes of November 9, 2017 BOD meeting by Carolyn Darkangelo were accepted as written. The minutes of March 22, 2018 general membership meeting by Kathy Lyman were accepted as edited. Kathy shared S. David King's letter of resignation

Treasurer's Report – Dolores Talmadge sent a worksheet for creating a budget next year. Kathy led the discussion of the budget and Tracey moved to accept the budget. Vickie seconded the motion and it passed. The budget will be presented at the May 8th meeting at the Glen Sanders. Sandy made a motion that John Mazur chairs the audit committee and that. Phyllis VanSteenburgh, Gloria Kimble, and Jean Sekel will be the committee members. Vickie seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Legislative Report – Stacey Caruso-Sharpe reported that Project Veritus is targeting NYSUT members and offices in an attempt to embarrass the union. This led to increased security at NYSUT headquarters. She reported on special elections, phone banks, and primaries on June 8 with US Senate and Governor primary on September 13. Stacey shared that NYSUT priorities of more state aid, Teacher Center funding, Community College aid, and SUNY teaching hospital funding were all achieved in the new budget that was passed. IN the legislative session there were also positive changes to the Taylor Law and laws were passed to help protect unions in anticipation of a Supreme Court decision in the Janus case. No action was taken on the APPR and receivership schools. RC 12 Received an AFT grant to present pre-retirement seminars with other Retiree Councils. NYSUT is continuing to work on getting information on all new retirees to NYSUT and Retiree Councils.

Outlook and Webmaster Report – Carolyn Darkangelo asked members to send articles for the next Outlook by May 22 since she will be out of town May 24 to June 16. It should go to NYSUT the third week of June to wait for the Supreme Court decision. The website: <http://ny.aft.org/rc12> was updated to include new pictures, the three new trips, and the enhanced issue of the April Outlook. NYSUT Communications Awards will not occur this year, but NYSUT will highlight excellence on the website and publication by including outstanding articles that appear in the local newsletters and website.

Nomination/Election Committee Report – Phyllis Van Steenburgh reported that the election would be May 8 at Glen Sanders between 10:15 – 10:30 AM. The positions to be filled are officers, one SRP director, AFT delegates, and NYSUT RA delegates. Carolyn made a motion to approve the nomination form that Phyllis presented. Vickie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Social Committee Report – Kathy Lyman reported that the trips to New Hampshire and Nova Scotia for 2019 are filling up. The group is looking into a play, the cloisters, the Highline, and the tenement museum in NYC. Many other trips are in the planning stages.

Capital District Chapter of NYSARA Report – Karen Wojcik-Hess reported that the NYSARA Biennial Election Convention would take place on April 19, 2018 from 11:00 to 3:00PM. The issues of Universal Healthcare, Safe Staffing, and Union activism will be discussed and elections will be held. Kathy, Stacey, Jeanne, Carolyn, Sandy and Margaret plan to attend. RC 12 will pay their registration fees. Karen also encouraged everyone to participate in Capital District Chapter Activities over the summer.

StateWide Senior Action Council Report – Kathy Lyman reported that the annual convention would be October 9-11, 2018. Since RC 12 has a meeting on the 9th members can sign up to attend on the 10th and 11th.

NYSUT Grant, January URO Meeting with Jolene DiBrango, and ED 51 meeting - Sandy Bliss shared that RC received a \$1,000 grant received for SRP Project. The purpose of the grant is to encourage SRP members to be active in RC 12 and NYSUT. She also reported that NYSUT would go forward with 4 officers with Phillip Abraham acting as both secretary and treasurer pending a constitutional amendment to create the Secretary/Treasurer position. Jolene gave an excellent report and answered questions at the URO meeting.

At the ED 51 meeting, Paul Pecorale announced he believes NYSUT needs to support Retirees more especially in the area of issues related to Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. Joyce St, George and Susan Day reported on Reclaim NY, an anti-government, anti-public school, and pro fracking group associated with the Mercers, Kelly Anne Conway, and Cambridge Analytica. Sandy encouraged us to watch out for this group in the area. David Keefe reported the retirement system is 98-100 % funded. In 2017 83% of assets are from investments. They are looking into divesting investments in weapons and ammunitions.

Poor Peoples Campaign – Sandra Bliss presented information on this campaign. Paul Webster explained the purpose of the campaign, which begins on Mothers Day, is to highlight the plight of the poor in our state. Sandy made a motion that RC 12 donate \$100 to the campaign. Margaret seconded the motion and it passed.

NYSUT Branding Sandy made a motion that RC 12 purchase NYSUT car magnets for \$100 to distribute at the May 8th meeting at the Glen Sanders. Margaret seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Fall General Membership Meeting – This meeting will be on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at the Otesaga in Cooperstown.. It was decided that we ask Jolene DiBrango and David Keefe to speak at the meeting. The cost will be \$26.

Inservice Pre-Retirement Seminar with RC 8 in the fall This seminar will take place in late October or early November (November 3rd was suggested) at the Utica Regional Office. Jeanne will coordinate with the Utica Regional Office.

The summer executive BOD meeting will be held on August 2nd at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown from 9:00 to 1:30. Sandy made a motion to present the NYSUT RC 12 Award of Excellence to Floyd Cameron at the RC 12 meeting in October. Vicki seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM by Kathy Lyman.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Darkangelo