

RC 12 General Membership Meeting Minutes 14 March 2019 Johnstown, NY  
HAPPY PI DAY!!!!

President Stacey Caruso-Sharpe called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Alliance followed by the singing of My Country Tis of Thee by attendees. Stacey shared the significance of PI Day and announced that the scheduled election was canceled due to a lack of candidates. The Agenda was approved allowing Outlook and Webmaster Report to go first.

## **REPORTS**

**Outlook Report** - Carolyn Darkangelo- requested a need for pictures from trips to place into Outlook. Sometimes the contributions are placed on the website and sometimes in Outlook. The next Outlook issue will be sent out in April.

Webmaster Report - Carolyn Darkangelo is actively looking for a backup to help. Check out our website: <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

### **President's Report** - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

-RC12 is looking for a 2nd Vice President to nominate and elect at the May meeting. This position involves:

- a. Be the chair of the Legislative Committee
- b. Represent NYSUT Retiree Council 12 at any meetings pertaining to legislation as the president may designate
- c. Perform such other duties as the president may designate.

-We are also looking for nominations to the Board of Directors' positions:

Board of Directors applications need to be returned by March 22. The election will be held in May. Each director will have a geographic area of assignment determined by the executive board. This is an important job for this group. Elected members will be asked to attend 3-4 BOD meetings a year along with general membership meetings and help this organization stay on track with retired teacher issues. To obtain a Nomination Form contact Nominations Election Committee Chair Phyllis Van Steenburg at [pvanst123@gmail.com](mailto:pvanst123@gmail.com) 518-725-4172.

-November elections phone bank canvassing was successful in 90% of the cases.

-The NYSUT-backed APPR reform bill that scraps the mandated use of grades 3-8 state tests in teacher ratings passed both houses. This returns that part of teacher evaluations to local control and ensures any the portion of the teacher evaluation system that is tied to student achievement is subject to collective bargaining. This bill remains on Cuomo's desk to be signed.

-Pipeline Program is looking for people to run for office. The first meeting was held a few weeks ago for school board members who support education. This service will help pro education minded people to run for elected positions. If interested contact your regional political coordinator at [www.nysut.org/RPO](http://www.nysut.org/RPO)

-VOTE COPE is NYSUT's voluntary political fund raiser that enables NYSUT to advocate for legislation that is in the best interest of our members and to support candidates who share our vision on education, health care and the right to collectively bargain. An example was that in the past retirees did not have a COLA and there was an 11-12 year time period with no pension increase. With the use of VOTE/COPE funds and the efforts of many retirees, NYSUT lobbied legislators who eventually passed the COLA. VOTE/COPE Pension deduction information is provided on the orange forms found on tables to support legislative efforts consistent with NYSUT goals. For more information go to [www.nysut.org/VOTECOPE](http://www.nysut.org/VOTECOPE) (contributions are not tax deductible

- Committee of 100 now over 500 people lobbying in legislature. Carolyn Darkangelo and Don Griffith attended. However, we could send numerous day people. Members are invited to attend to share stories of how the budget affects their local schools and to advocate for increased school funding and for legislation which helps education. Many legislators said they were for our requests, but money isn't available. Reaching out to legislators to get budget passed is always a suggestion.

-Last October Megan O'Brien told about story telling workshops. A workshop was held in December. Stories evolved by answering the question, "How did you get to be a union person?" It proved interesting to hear others' stories. This is moving forward to work towards a history project.

-NYSUT Women's Committee is looking for "Herstory" candidates to be profiled and added to an online database of women featured.

-RA Resolutions - Information regarding resolutions passed was handed out and reviewed. Passed resolutions: Retiree Integration, Combatting the SALT Tax cuts, the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, Paycheck Fairness Act

-Member Organizing Institute (MOI) - NYSUT training available

-Take a look at teaching was held in Syracuse. There will be another meeting held in Saratoga in the fall to encourage students to go into education. For more information [www.nysut.org/takealookatteaching](http://www.nysut.org/takealookatteaching).

-School Related Professionals (SRP) announces that bus drivers and aides are needed.

-Net neutrality is about internet providers not being able to limit or control the internet. In December 2017, companies wanted control but with mergers something is changing and there is a push by legislators, senators looking more into net neutrality.

-Scams are being reported that target people over 60. Reported incidents include asking to transfer money, warrants out for arrest, and requesting social security numbers. Remember, these are scams. Report any suspicious calls to Social Security's Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-269-0271.

#### **1st Vice President's Report - Kathlene Lyman**

-A preretirement seminar was held in Utica with Steve Cramer. This provides an opportunity to let retirees know what we have to offer

-Story telling workshop allows members to learn how to be involved in Union

-Obtaining a list of new retirees is not an easy task. Help is requested to get messages to upcoming, newly retired people

#### **Treasurer's Report (November 1 - February 28) - Dolores Talmadge**

Treasurer Report was distributed to attendees. There are an estimated 5000 retirees and 498 contribute to RC12. New list of contributors was left on tables to review. A letter of thanks was received for our donation to NYSUT Relief funds.

#### **Secretary's Report - Cathy Picciocca**

October meeting minutes were distributed to members. The minutes were accepted with a correction regarding 2017/2018 trips.

**SRP Report** -.no report

**Director's Reports** -none

#### **NYSUT RC 12 Retiree Services Consultant - Jennifer Shaad-Derby**

A trifold flyer will be coming in the mail announcing Combined RC12/Regional conference to be held on May 16 at Glen Sanders Mansion - The cost is \$15. NYSUT will be helping subsidizing lunch \$25 for each attendee.

Simple chair yoga exercise will be provided prior to the speaker. Jennifer is consultant for RC 10, 12, and 13.

#### **Social Committee Report - Linda Zilka,**

2018 Trips:

49 members attended the Letchworth trip. Due to weather the Jamestown, boat ride was cancelled and they visited the Tubman museum. In October they went to My Fair Lady and in November West Point Game.

Information will be provided regarding trips in Outlook and on the internet.

2019

8 seats left to April 24 "Dear Evan Hansen"

52 attendees are going Nova Scotia June 2-10 A passport is needed to attend this trip.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

July 24, 2019 for play... details will be upcoming

August 5 -30 seats to Showboat at Glimmerglass Opera. A backstage tour is included

September 16-18 Sights and Sound's "Jesus" \$376 Amishlands Pennsylvania for reservations contact Phyllis Nicolella 518-725-4060

2020

5 day trip in June 14-20, 2020

2020 September - Mount Rushmore September \$995 Museum, Crazy Horse, Corn Palace 52 people can attend.

**New York StateWide Senior Action Council - Kathlene Lyman**

(800-333-4374) [www.nysenior.org](http://www.nysenior.org)

Mary Prichard nominated Kathlene to be this representative

NY STATEWIDE SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL - October 15 - 17,2019 - Saratoga Springs, New York

PALLIATIVE CARE resolution Mary Prichard

Trained people for Welfare Fraud Control

Legislation of Bill Tracker -lobby grass roots day \$30 to join

**Capital District Chapter of NYSARA -Kathlene reported for Karen Wojcik-Hess**

Single Payer Help Now is the Time

April 23 - Schenectady Library. Dr. Jolly will be speaking

April 6 Myth reality of Aging.

April 18 Conference at NYSUT - Registration State wide

The next General Membership meeting will be held on October 8 at Otesaga in Cobleskill.

**Speaker**

Laura Sturgwess presented for Director Andrea Fettinger of the Office of Aging for Fulton County (518) 736 - 5650

Services that are provided are the following: cleaning, nutrient services, social security, insurance, transportation for 60 plus (shopping/medical if not Medicaid recipients) as far as Amsterdam (\$3 donation), Medicare counseling, Elder law attorneys

NY Connects - [www.nyconnects.ny.gov](http://www.nyconnects.ny.gov) 1-800-342-9871/ (518) 736 - 5650

Services provided include the following: Caregiver services, Youth and elderly service, living healthy Class, Quilt Barn Tours, tax help, Defensive Driving Courses, Public Health Nursing Services (usually waiting list...visiting nurses)

Broadway Services are used in Fulton County - Private pay provided by CHC. These services are usually set up by hospital, but the Office for Aging can help if needed.

Members shared the following services:

Many member benefit services are listed in the last pages of NYSUT Planning Calendar.

Legal Services -Legal aid is available through NYSUT Member Benefits//Social Services

RAFFLE - Paula Gifford suggested giving money collected from the raffle to St. Baldricks Foundation 93% of the donations are given to research for cancer. A motion was made to make the donation \$100. Motion Approved.

Comments / Remarks from the floor

- Legal Services from NYSUT - There is a lawyer from Long Island- Steve Cramer who is an excellent service. Elder Law Lawyers usually provide one hour free. Will/living will and can put Palliative Care in Living Will. Up

to date information is provided. Times are set up at NYSUT. At this time a five year lookback is needed to qualify for social services exists.

Lunch was served and enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Picciocca  
RC12 Secretary