

# THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate April 2019

## ***NYSUT RC 12 General Membership Luncheon Meeting and NYSUT Regional Conference for RC 12 Meeting May 16, 2019***

At Glen Sanders Mansion, One Glen Ave, Scotia, NY 12302

### ***Retiree Issues***

**NYSUT Second Vice President Paul Pecorale  
and  
Ani Shahinian, specialist for NYSUT Social  
Services**



- 8:45 - 9:15 Registration, continental breakfast, NYSUT Member Benefits and Fair Trade/ Social Justice Display
- 9:15 - 9:30 Welcome - NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant **Jennifer Shaad-Derby & RC 12 Leadership**
- 9:30 - 11:00 NYSUT RC 12 Membership Meeting and Election (10:15 AM)
- 11:00 - 11:15 *Break*
- 11:15 - 12:00 **NYSUT Second Vice President Paul Pecorale, liaison to and advocate for retirees**, will discuss issues that affect retirees and in service educators.
- 12:00 - 1:00 *Lunch*
- 1:00 - 1:45 **Ani Shahinian** will discuss how social connections change with age.
- 1:45 - 2:00 Door Prizes, Evaluation, Closing Remarks

Send the following form to: Jennifer Shaad Derby, NYSUT Capital District Regional Office,  
800 Troy Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110

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***Luncheon cost per person: \$15      Make checks payable to NYSUT***

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Deadline: May 8, 2019**

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

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **email:** \_\_\_\_\_

# From the President's Desk...

## Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

### *Boards and Budgets*

RC 12 has elections for the Executive Board for director positions coming up at the May 16, 2019, general membership meeting being held at the Glen Sanders Mansion at 10:15 AM. I would like to thank our directors who have been serving for the past 2 years: Tracy W. Allen, Joseph F. Bernocco, Jr., Margaret Dafeldecker, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Susan Naple and Susan Proctor. Thank you, thank you, thank you for giving up some of your time to help RC 12 operate smoothly!

In accordance with the RC 12 constitution election procedures, the following names have been submitted for consideration to run for director positions: Margaret Dafeldecker, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Susan Proctor and Theresa Kovian. I know that at this point many of you are saying, "Wait, there were six people before and only four on the list now!" If you noticed this, you are correct!!!! This means that we still have two director positions open, and in addition, we are still in need of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Please consider running for one of these positions and/or encouraging someone whom you know who would be a positive addition to our organization. We have three or four executive board meetings a year. We need all positions filled to allow RC 12 to operate efficiently.

The state budget was just recently passed. "The enacted state budget reflected revenue anxiety in the statehouse, but it finally fixed the state's broken teacher evaluation system, \* and it increased protections for public sector unions. Unfortunately, it failed to meet the needs of public schools, public higher education, and the SUNY hospitals. As we enter the second half of the legislative session," NYSUT [President Andrew Pallotta said](#), "our fight for policies that support strong public education, human services, and health care will continue."

Many districts in RC 12 are facing major budget challenges. Mohonasen is facing an underfunded budget by the state of nearly \$4 million. Johnstown is facing a tax levy increase of 35% and that is with many cuts in programs and the implementation of cost savings measures. The Rome school district is facing a huge deficit that will result in major cuts to positions and programs. Our local community colleges have been absorbing funding cuts for way too long. Unfortunately, many of our districts are facing cuts in spite of efforts over the past several years to curtail costs. So, what is causing these issues? Unfortunately, it is usually not one thing, but a series of circumstances that are causing districts to struggle: a state foundation aid formula that has been underfunding schools for years, an increase in rising costs in everything from energy to supplies, over reliance on using contingency funds to make up for budget gaps, and an onerous tax cap that doesn't account for the increase in state mandates or safety considerations. (No one should have to decide between programs for their students or keeping those students safe.) While community members would like to think that districts and school boards can find many ways to trim their budgets, the truth is that only a very small percentage of the budget has any flexibility. (Most of a school district budget is determined by fixed costs.) If a budget is put forward that is under the tax cap and that budget is voted down, the district can decide to make changes (if there are any changes to be found), and bring the budget up again for a vote. If the budget is again defeated, the district will have to operate within a contingency budget, which can have negative consequences on current and future district costs. If a budget is brought forth that exceeds the district tax cap, the budget must be passed with a "super majority", that is more than 60% in favor of the budget. (What happened to the majority vote wins?) Failure to achieve this "super majority" will also result in the implementation of a contingency budget.

I ask you all to be involved. Find out about the school budget where you live. Be proactive and offer to help get the budget passed. Public education needs our help! As retirees from public schools, we should all want to support our students. Providing students with a sound education is shown to help the students, our communities, and our economy, which benefits us all. Support pro-education school board members or consider running for your local school board. On Tuesday, May 21 be sure to get out and vote on your local budget and for school board candidates. If you aren't involved, it could be retiree benefits that are the next budget item to be cut!

\*I am one of many who believes the passage of this APPR bill is a good first step in repairing a broken system. When the process of determining what metric(s) is/are used to evaluate teachers and how those metrics are applied is returned to local collective bargaining, then the system will be fixed.

*In solidarity,  
Stacey*

## The Outlook

**President** Stacey Caruso-Sharpe (518) 496-2769  
**1st VP** Kathlene Lyman (518) 399-0256  
**2<sup>nd</sup> VP** TBD (315) 725-0706  
**Treasurer** Dolores Talmadge (518) 993-2854  
**Secretary** Cathy Picciocca (518) 922-6025

### **Immediate Past President**

Jeanne W. Bennett (315) 895-7063

**Past Presidents:** Karen Wojcik-Hess 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  
SRP Director—Susan Proctor

**Newsletter Staff** Phyllis VanSteenburgh,  
Carolyn Darkangelo, Jeanne W. Bennett

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

**Website:** <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

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

# RC 12 trip to Amishlands in Pennsylvania September 16-18, 2019



This trip includes motor coach transportation, 2 nights lodging, 2 break- fasts, 2 dinners (includes Shady Maple Smorgasbord), performance of “Jesus” at the Millennium Theatre, guided tour of Amish countryside, Amish Craft Farm and Bake Shop, Kitchen Kettle Village, miniature horse farm, luggage handling, taxes and meal gratuities. For more information and details on trip insurance, go to our website at <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

Cost **\$376/person (double occupancy)    \$475/person (single)**

Deposit to reserve is **\$100 due by June 11, 2019**    Balance **\$276 double    \$375 single is due July 26, 2019**

For information and reservations, contact **Phyllis Nicolella 518-725-4060 phylc@hotmail.com**

Send this with a **\$100 check payable to NYSUT RC 12** to reserve your spot by **June 11, 2019** to **Phyllis Nicolella 14 Wells St., Gloversville, NY 12078**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**RC 12 would like to thank the following members who contributed to RC 12 since our last newsletter thru April 6, 2019. \*indicates paid to June 2020.    +indicates paid beyond June 2020.**

- |                      |                   |                     |                     |                     |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Bruce Bennett        | Phyllis M. Chase  | Gordon D. Hamil     | Sally Lauzon        | John Sweeney        |
| Regine Brate*        | Janet Deis        | Joan Heinlein       | Susan J. Retersdorf | Susan Y. Van Voorst |
| Karen Bruhn*         | Vincent Fernandez | Connie Herzig       | Maureen Rynish+     | Delia Wagner*       |
| Rosalind Carron*     | H. Leigh Frye     | Lawrence J. Hughes* | Russell Shipp       | Patricia Washburn+  |
| Carolyn Castiglione+ | Marjorie Gentile+ | Jean Kwaitkowski*   | Martha E. Smith     | Janet Williamee+    |

*Thanks !*



**RC 12 is planning a trip to Mount Rushmore, the Badlands, and the Black Hills of South Dakota for Sept. 25 to Oct. 5 in 2020!**  
Go to <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

### **Try these healthy strategies!**

- Eat smaller portions.**
- Eat fewer processed foods.**
- Increase your physical activity.**
- Eat fewer fried foods and desserts**
- Limit the amount of sugar in your diet.**
- Drink less alcohol, sodas, and other sugary drinks.**
- Eat a wide variety of foods, including lots of vegetables, fruits, and whole grains.**

### **Save the Date**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>May 16, 2019</b>       | RC 12 annual meeting, election, and NYSUT Conference at the Glen Sanders |
| <b>June 2-10, 2019</b>    | RC 12 trip to Nova Scotia  |
| <b>July 24, 2019</b>      | RC 12 Broadway Show in NYC   |
| <b>Aug. 5, 2019</b>       | RC 12 trip to “Showboat” at Glimmerglass, Cooperstown                    |
| <b>Sep 16-18, 2019</b>    | RC 12 trip to Amishlands   |
| <b>Sep 25—Oct 5, 2020</b> | RC 12 trip to South Dakota   |

## **RC 12 Nominees – Election to be held on May 16 at 10:15 AM**

**Term of Position: July 1, 2019– June 30, 2021**

*The election will be at the NYSUT RC 12 general membership meeting at **Glen Sanders Mansion** on May 16, 2019, at 10:15 AM. To vote, you must be a RC 12 member and present at the time of election. You are not required to stay for the entire meeting nor purchase lunch in order to vote. (nominations received by March 22)*

### **Retiree Council 12 Director Candidates Statements**

**Theresa Kovian** I retired in June 2018. While employed by the Gloversville Enlarged School District as a speech pathologist, I was involved with the Gloversville Teachers' Association as a building representative for three years. In 2007, I was a member of the committee to update the Constitution & Bylaws. During the school year 2017-2018, I volunteered as the Chair for the Constitution & Bylaws Committee. I am interested in volunteering for an RC 12 Board Member position so that I am part of a team in discussing and resolving issues and concerns for our membership.

**Susan Proctor** Having served as vice president of the Schenectady SRP group, I feel I am well qualified to express the concerns of the SRP's serving our school districts. Also, having been a member of the SRP contract negotiating committee and representative to the RA's, I understand even more the important role SRPs play in the schools.

**Vickie McHowan Horan** I was building director, vice president for grievance, first vice president and member of the negotiation committee for for Schenectady Federation of Teachers and RC 12 board member for three years. Having been actively involved in my union as an in-service teacher, I felt compelled to stay involved as a retiree. I feel it is very important to be informed of changes and challenges in public education and to continue to support those involved in a career I loved!

**Margaret Dafeldecker** Having served as president, vice president, chair/member of negotiating, and member of the grievance committee for the Middleburgh CSTA and RC 12 board member since 2012, I want to continue the important work of RC12. The efforts for the improvement of public education and retired teachers have to be maintained.



*May 21, 2019*



### Legal Service Plan

NYSUT members have access to dozens of endorsed programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality legal and financial planning assistance services that can help to protect their loved ones and provide them with peace of mind.



For an annual fee, the **Legal Service Plan** -- provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. With the base plan, you'll get access to unlimited, toll-free advice from plan attorneys.



### Financial Counseling Program

Meanwhile, the **Financial Counseling Program** -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides you up with to six hours of toll-free phone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.

And unlike with purchasing products available to the general public, there's no need to go it alone when Member Benefits has your back. Member Benefits acts as your advocate for any program you participate in, and we'll do our best to quickly resolve any issues or concerns you may have.

Whether you are participating in one of our legal or financial services; insurance plans; or shopping, travel or entertainment offerings, NYSUT members have the **"Power of the Union"** behind them.

**A wealth of financial information -- Now available on the NEW Member Benefits website**

Financial Planning Center

**MEMBER BENEFITS**  
**nysut**  
Working to Benefit You

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.

### Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020

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 .**



## *RC 12 Outlook*



### **RC# 12 Presents a trip to Showboat August 6, 2019 Glimmerglass Opera Theater in Cooperstown at 1:30 pm**

This is a drive yourself or carpool trip. Tickets are \$108.00 for front orchestra seats. A backstage tour may be announced at a future date. Food is available on the grounds, and a picnic area will be reserved if you wish to bring a lunch.

Please send your reservations to: **Wendy Wilson**, 119 Woodland Drive, Apt. 50, Cobleskill NY 12043. For questions or information, contact [Moose123@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Moose123@nycap.rr.com) or 518-234-3230.



Make check payable out to **NYSUT RC#12**. First come, first served. A wait list will be kept.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ No. of tickets \_\_\_\_\_