

# THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate Sept. 2019

## Stacey Caruso-Sharpe, Lifetime

### Achievement Award Honoree

Phyllis VanSteenburgh, *Oppenheim-Ephratah Teacher Retiree*



by

The 2019 “Not For Ourselves Alone: The Sandy Feldman Outstanding Leadership Award” was presented to Stacey Caruso-Sharpe of the Amsterdam Teachers Association and President of NYSUT Retiree Council 12 during the 47th annual NYSUT Representative Assembly in May 2019. This award honors those women who have provided throughout their careers significant service and leadership to their local and state affiliates as well as to the labor movement. It is the highest honor that a woman in our union can receive. Stacey was presented with a pendant and recognized at the annual NYSUT Representative Assembly.

Stacey retired in 2016 after working 37 years as a middle school math teacher and almost as many years working in NYSUT union positions from Building Senator (Rep), to member of Amsterdam Teachers' Association executive board, to president of the H-F-M Teacher's Cluster, to ED 12 Director of the NYSUT Board of Directors, and to AFT Vice President. NYSUT President Andy Pallotta noted that Stacey's leadership does “exemplify NYSUT's commitment to ensuring women are an integral part of the labor movement and (we) applaud her commitment to union values and improving our communities.”

From one of her first jobs as a camp counselor to middle school children, and then working at a glass/lens factory where the union worked to get needed safety features for the workers and where she got her first union card, Stacey has been an ongoing advocate for both public education and unionism. “Her non-stop, can-do approach inspired so many of her colleagues to ask what more they can do,” said Eugene B. Agresta, Jr., co-president of the Amsterdam Teachers Association.

In making their selection for this award, NYSUT Women's History Committee looked at the length, breadth and depth of service. Stacey remembered back to her first year of teaching and to the union leaders who guided her. Later on, she decided to give back and advocate for what is right for teachers and students. She follows the idea that if there's a complaint, then you must step up to change it. This continues today as Stacey represents her region on the NYSUT Board of Directors and as President of Retiree Council 12. **Congratulations Stacey !!!!**



Stacey with NYSUT Officers, Phillip Abraham, Andrew Pallotta, Jolene DiBrango, and Paul Pecorale

## BOSTON TOUR

### NYSUT RC 12 Trip – Thursday, October 3, 2019

Planned stops include: Old North Church, Old State House Museum, USS Constitution, Paul Revere House, Trinity Church, and “Cheers” (original). Other stops will be added as time permits. The total cost of this day trip is \$150. It includes transportation (new Brown 52 passenger coach), driver tip, entry to all places listed, lunch, and all other gratuities (trolley driver tip, docent tips, donations, etc.). **SPACE IS LIMITED TO 40 PEOPLE!** (Our own private trolley!) For details on the itinerary, go the website. <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>



**Email Kathy Lyman to check on openings in this trip.** [NAMYL4@aol.com](mailto:NAMYL4@aol.com) The total amount is due on Sept. 21, 2019.

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

Home# \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending @ \$150 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Pick-up site: Circle one. Amsterdam or Schenectady

Balance due: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this registration form to: (Check payable to NYSUT RC 12)

Kathy Lyman, 254 Riverside Place, Alplaus, NY 12008 *No refunds after September 21, 2019*

# Open Letter to NYSUT Retirees in Retiree Council 12

*Kathlene Lyman, Niskayuna TA retiree and  
NYSUT RC 12 1st Vice-President*

Many of you, like me, have been retired for many years. For some of you, this is your first year of retirement. Whatever your situation, I want to share some information that I hope will make clearer our mission and place in your retirement.

Retirees are an important part of NYSUT! “As a NYSUT/AFT/NEA retiree member, you continue your involvement with your local, state, and national union for mutual economic, political and social advantage.” (The NYSUT Retiree Membership Handbook at [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org))

NYSUT retiree goals are many and include working to keep pensions secure, to defend income security (Social Security and Medicare), to improve COLA, to secure access to affordable health benefits, and to enrich the lives of retiree members. As an example, the Committee of 100 involves person-to-person lobbying efforts with the New York State Legislature.

Many local unions have retiree chapters that are active socially and politically. To find out if your local has such a retiree chapter, ask the president of your former local, or call Jennifer Shaad-Derby, our NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant (518)783-7977. If you are interested in starting a retiree chapter for your local, Jennifer Shaad-Derby and RC 12 can help.

If your local does not have a retiree chapter, you are encouraged to continue involvement NYSUT, AFT, and NEA memberships through Retiree Council 12.

NYSUT Retiree Council 12 holds three general membership meetings during the year. Attending one will introduce you to our officers and clarify our involvements. Please consider joining us at the Otesaga on October 8, 2019. The meeting will be held during the morning and will end immediately after the luncheon. We will have a very informative speaker, the famous Otesaga luncheon buffet, a business meeting, and announcements of social committee trips. The social committee provides opportunities for interesting adventures in both day trips and overnight trips.

For more information about NYSUT retiree membership, visit [www.nysut.org/retirees](http://www.nysut.org/retirees). For information about NYSUT Retiree Council 12, visit [www.RC12.ny.aft.org](http://www.RC12.ny.aft.org). The RC 12 website has all trip announcements, contact information, expanded issues of *The OUTLOOK*, and more.

***I will be looking for you at the Otesaga!***

## **FIVE Ways to have “Organized Fun” in Retirement**

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

- 1—Plan to do fun physical activities like bike rides, kayaking, or even just a walk around the block.
- 2—Try different foods like at a sushi restaurant or attempt to make crepes on your own. Also, travel to new places like New York City, the Grand Canyon, Quebec City or even Mackinaw Island.
- 3—Enroll in some online classes like “organic gardening” or “how to declutter your home”. Even take time to decode a word game like “Boggle” or unravel a mystery game like “Nancy Drew-The Silent Spy”.
- 4—If you have extra time, volunteer at your local library as a reader or at local hospital.
- 5—Make sure all your legal papers are in order: Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will and a Power of Attorney.

Number 5 is there to remind you that some paperwork is needed, and it can be fun to get organized. Do join us on Tuesday October 8th, 2019 at our general meeting at the Otesaga in Cooperstown. Steven Kramer, a lawyer specializing estate planning and elder care with Feldman, Kramer, and Monaco, P.C. will be the keynote speaker. His law firm is endorsed by the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Legal Plan. He will share valuable information on the various documents listed above.

## **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**

TBD - Herkimer  
Margaret Dafeldecker - Schoharie & Otsego  
Theresa Kovian - 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

**If you have a standard license, you will not be allowed to board a domestic flight starting in October 2020  
(unless you have a passport).**

**If you plan to travel, we recommend you upgrade while you renew in a DMV office, and avoid a second visit.**

# NYSUT RC 12 Fall General Membership Luncheon Meeting

Tuesday October 8, 2019 Otesaga Resort Hotel, Cooperstown, NY



## Steve Kramer Elder Law and Estate Planning



### Recognition

*Stacey Caruso-Sharpe* *The Not for Ourselves Alone: Sandy Feldman Outstanding Leadership Award Recipient*

*Sandra Bliss, RC 12 Award of Excellence (posthumously)*

**9:30 – 10:00 am** Registration in the Rotunda plus coffee and tea in Ballroom **Luncheon Cost: \$26.00**  
**10:00 – 11:00 am** General Membership Meeting, Ballroom  
**11:10 - Noon** Keynote speaker  
**12:15 – 1:30 pm** Otesaga Grand Buffet Luncheon in the Ballroom

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your **check** out to **NYSUT RC 12** and return by **October 1, 2019** to

**Dolores Talmadge, 206 Main Street, Fort Plain, NY 13339**

## Oklahoma !

Two TONY Awards: Best Revival of a Musical – Best Featured Actress in a Musical  
**NYSUT RC 12 NYC TRIP – Wednesday, October 23, 2019**

**OKLAHOMA!** is “reimagined for the 21<sup>st</sup> century...allowing the classical musical-and our country-to be seen in a whole new light...funny and sexy, dark and terrifying.” (New York Magazine) (2 hrs 45 min) The total cost of the trip is \$184. This will cover your orchestra theater ticket (all seats are on one level), transportation, and driver tip.

**A deposit of \$140 is due by September 19, 2019.**

**The total amount is due October 2, 2019.**

See RC12 Website <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/> for details of the trip



NYSUT RC 12 Trip to see “OKLAHOMA!” in NYC on October 23, 2019

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending @ \$184 each: \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Pick-up site: Circle one. Amsterdam or Schenectady Balance due: \_\_\_\_\_

*Send this registration form by September 19, 2019 to: (Check payable to NYSUT RC 12)*

**Kathlene Lyman, 254 Riverside Place, Alplaus, NY 12008**  
**No refunds after October 2, 2019**

## 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 .**



### Save the Date

- Sep. 16-18, 2019    RC 12 trip to Amishlands
- October 3, 2019    RC 12 Day trip to Boston - Private Trolley
- Oct. 8, 2019    RC 12 General Membership Meeting at the Otesaga in Cooperstown
- Oct. 23, 2019    RC 12 NYC Play "Oklahoma"
- March 5, 2020    RC 12 General Membership Meeting at Winner's Circle in Fonda
- May 13, 2020    RC 12 annual meeting, election, and NYSUT Conference at the Glen Sanders in Scotia
- June 14 to 20, 2020    RC 12 trip to Mackinac Island, Michigan \*
- Sep. 25 -Oct. 5, 2020    RC 12 trip to South Dakota \*

\* Trip is wait listed. Call to add your name to the list. (see website)

*For Trips - Always verify dates with the trip coordinator.*

## *Constitutional Amendments*

During the May 16th RC 12 general meeting, amendments were voted on to change the sections of the constitution dealing with officers and executive board duties. It was pointed out that we need to publish amendments prior to a vote. Go to the RC 12 website to see the changes.

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

If you have any issue with the amendments, please contact Stacey Caruso-Sharpe.  
[scarusosharpe.union@gmail.com](mailto:scarusosharpe.union@gmail.com)



## Your Union-Endorsed Benefits: Debt Consolidation & Mortgage Savings

*NYSUT Member Benefits understands the challenges that the hardworking women and men of this labor union face when it comes to financial issues such as student loan re-payment options, credit card consolidation or debt management, or saving on purchasing or refinancing a home.*

### **Student Loan & Debt Counseling Program**

Your union membership allows you to receive a no-obligation debt and/or student loan consultation at no cost with a certified counselor through the Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **Cambridge Credit Counseling** program. Cambridge provides individualized student loan counseling along with a unique web portal available at a reduced rate to help explain the various options when paying student debt; debt relief services are also offered.

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### **UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program**

The Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program presented by Mid-Island Mortgage Corp.** offers union members and their families savings of up to \$2,700 on lender fees and closing costs. Your union membership also entitles you to no application or processing fees; no commitment fees; no underwriting fees; no lender or broker fees; and reduced attorney and title fees.

## *The Power of the Union*

Regardless of whether you are participating in either of the programs mentioned above; one of our endorsed insurance, financial or legal programs; or our many shopping, entertainment or travel offerings, NYSUT members receive a quality product and enjoy the "**Power of the Union**" behind them. Unlike when purchasing products available to the general public, Member Benefits is here as your advocate if you ever have any issues or concerns with our endorsed programs.

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs, 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.

***Sept. 2019  
RC 12 Outlook***



Sept./Oct '19