

THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate September 2020

NYSUT Retiree Council 12



A message from the President of RC 12, Stacey Caruso-Sharpe



I hope this finds everyone keeping their sanity. The warm weather made it a little easier by being able to spend some time out in the fresh air.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to meet in person at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown this fall. While there was the possibility of having a meeting, we would have been in a smaller space, and with COVID-19 still around, your RC 12 Executive Board decided to cancel the in-person meeting. We will, however, be trying a Zoom meeting. The scenery may not be as pretty as Cooperstown's, and I'm afraid the food will be up to you, but we will have the chance to see or hear each other and to be updated on some valuable information. In addition to our business meeting, we will have two guest speakers. The new NYSUT second vice president, Ron Gross, will be joining our Zoom to meet everyone and to give us a chance to hear his thoughts on where we are as a union and what lies ahead. The NYSUT capital district regional political organizer, Peter Kim, will join us to give us a very important election update. The following link will enable you to sign up for our **Oct. 6** meeting. Sign in will be available from 9:00am but the **business meeting** does not begin until **9:30am**. You may have to copy and paste the link.

What: Zoom meeting .

When: Oct 6, 2020 , 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

How: Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0sc-mtpzloHt0pAmIWBoGe31kwuXNHM3aq>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Since we didn't have our general membership meeting in May, we did not yet vote in RC 12 elections. In the spring. I worked with former NYSUT second vice president, Paul Pecorale, who worked with NYSUT legal counsel. to get clarification about what we should do. We had completed our nominating process, and our constitution does not allow for nominations from the floor. Since there was not a contested election for any of the positions, the vote is a formality, and we are legally good to proceed with the present slate of officers. We thought about trying a vote in our Zoom meeting, but since we could not get a notification printed and mailed to all RC 12 members, we will not be able to do that.

Last week, I attended an online two day AFT activist network training that will hopefully help us improve our capability to contact RC 12 members without having to go through the NYSUT print shop. More information will be explained during our Zoom meeting and in upcoming newsletters.

Upcoming national elections – I am sure everyone is aware of the upcoming elections on November 3. NYSUT is working hard to get the vote out for our union-endorsed candidates. The endorsement conference was held in August, and local presidents and RC presidents met online to discuss the candidates and to vote on recommending who we should endorse for state and national positions. That information was then given to the NYSUT Board of Directors who also discussed and voted on the information. The information was then made available on the NYSUT website. The LI (Long Island) Retiree Councils have put together a voter's guide of the NYSUT-endorsed candidates. NYSUT is expanding the information in the guide to include all regions of the state and will be mailing that out to all NYSUT retirees.

We are asking for your help with the elections. There are various ways to participate:

1. Be sure that you are registered and have a plan to vote. If you would like to request an absentee ballot, it can be done by mailing in the form on your county board of elections website, or you can do it online. The online option is extremely easy!!! Check with family and friends, and be sure that they, too, are registered to vote and have a plan to do so.
2. We need people to phone bank and call our members locally, or if you are willing, to call union members in battleground states. This can be done from home on your own phone or on a union supplied phone. It is very simple. You are supplied with the names, numbers, and a suggested script of information. There are virtual training sessions, or I can help you set it up.
3. This year, NYSUT is also sending hand-written postcards to targeted members with a reminder-to-vote-message, and again, the NYSUT-endorsed candidates. We need you to help write out some postcards. It is very simple. If you are interested, you will be given postcards with suggested scripts to write, with names and addresses. After completing the cards, simply mail them back to NYSUT, and they will then be mailed at the appropriate time.

If you are willing to help with phone banks, or if you have further questions, please contact Peter Kim at Peter.Kim@NYSUT.org.

If you are willing to fill out postcards, please go to the following link and fill in the requested information. <http://bit.ly/NYSUTPostCard>

If you have any problems with this, please contact Peter Kim at Peter.Kim@NYSUT.org.

I look forward to seeing you at our very first online general membership meeting on Oct. 6th!

If you have any questions or comments about RC 12, please don't hesitate to contact me!

In these crazy times, if you are having trouble coping, please reach out to family or friends for help. Many people are struggling, and it often helps to talk it over with others. Remember that NYSUT social services is also a great resource!

Be Well!!!

In solidarity,
Stacey

Update to the TSA Article (for future travel!)

By Carolyn Darkangelo, retiree from Mayfield TA

My husband and I decided to apply for Global Entry, the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Program that allows for expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers in the United States. The first application took 30 minutes (look at the employment section), you need to click there even if you are not employed because they then ask you your employment status – for us that was retired. The second one took only 20 minutes. Make sure you have the following information before you begin. 1. Passport 2. Driver's license 3. Employers for last 5 years 4. Addresses for last 5 years 6. A list of countries you entered in the last 5 years.

We applied January 31st, received our conditional approval February 2nd, and made an appointment at Champlain (on the border) for February 4th. We drove 3 hours. We arrived 40 minutes early, so we went inside. The interview, fingerprints, and pictures for both of us took 5 minutes. When we returned home, we received an email that our global entries were approved. The cards were supposed to arrive in 10 days, and arrived on February 8th.

Then, on Wednesday February 5th, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced it would block New York residents from applying for or renewing a membership in programs that expedite international travel. However, in late July 2020, DHS announced that once again, you can enroll in Trusted Traveler Program including Global Entry, which expedites entry into the U.S. from international destinations; NEXUS, which speeds entry to the U.S. from Canada; SENTRI, which covers entry to the U.S. from Canada and Mexico; FAST, a program for truck drivers crossing into Canada or Mexico; and TSA pre-check.



Enhanced Driver's License Process

By Carolyn Darkangelo, retiree from Mayfield TA

In the future, a regular driver's license will not be accepted as proof of ID for any flights between US cities. You can also use the enhanced license instead of a passport to travel by land or sea to Canada, Mexico, and some Caribbean countries. To get an enhanced driver's license in NYS, you must provide the following: a Social Security card, date of birth and proof of identity, proof of U.S. citizenship, and two proofs of New York State residency. You need to go to the following website <https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/get-enhanced-driver-license-edl>. This site will allow you to access information on what documents will provide the proofs you will need. It also helps you find the instructions and get a reservation from your local county. This can only be done online.

Do not wait if your license is expiring soon. My husband set up a reservation in Fulton County, and the earliest appointment he could get was 7 weeks from the day he set it up. Also, once your application is accepted, they will take your license and give you a temporary license. They estimate it will take 2 weeks for this to arrive in the mail, but this estimate was probably written before the sorting machines at the Post Office were removed and placed in dumpsters and parking lots.



The Outlook

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Risks—Know Them—Avoid Them

(Disclaimer—written months ago yet still pertinent as we enter the fall and flu season

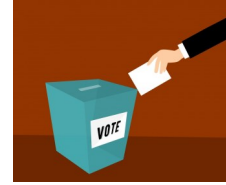
By Dr. Erin Bromage, Comparative Immunologist and Professor of Biology [University of Massachusetts Dartmouth](https://www.dartmouth.edu/)

It seems many people are breathing some relief, and I'm not sure why. An epidemic curve has a relatively predictable upslope, and once the peak is reached, the back slope can also be predicted. We have robust data from the outbreaks in China and Italy that shows the backside of the mortality curve declines slowly, with deaths persisting for months. Assuming we have just crested in deaths at 70k, it is possible that we lose another 70,000 people over the next 6 weeks as we come off that peak. That is what's going to happen with a lockdown. As states reopen, and we give the virus more fuel, all bets are off. I understand the reasons for reopening the economy, but I've said before, if you don't solve the biology, the economy won't recover. There are very few states that have demonstrated a sustained decline in numbers of new infections. Indeed, as of May 3rd, the majority are still increasing and reopening. As a simple example of the USA trend, when you take out the data from New York and just look at the rest of the USA, daily case numbers are increasing. Bottom line: the only reason the total USA new case numbers look flat right now is because the New York City epidemic was so large and now it has been contained.



This Year, You Can Vote This Way

By Carolyn Darkangelo, retiree from Mayfield TA



If you are already a registered voter, follow one of the methods below.

VOTE EARLY *Saturday, October 24 - Sunday, November 1*

To find out where to early vote, check your local Board of Election website. For example, I live in Fulton County so I will vote early at the **Fulton County Board of Elections**, 2714 State Highway 29, Johnstown, NY 12095.

VOTE-BY-MAIL *Request by October 27; Return by November 3*

If you want to vote-by-mail, remember that the postal service has been slowed by the removal of sorting machines. Request your ballot as early as possible. How about today? Once you receive your ballot, sit down, vote immediately, and mail in the ballot. Temporary illness includes being unable to appear due to the risk of contracting or spreading a communicable disease like COVID-19.

To request a ballot, go to <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html> Download the application in PDF on this page. You can fill it out online, print it on your printer, and mail it to your local county Board of Elections ASAP. If you want to make sure it will get to the office of your local elections board, you can deliver it yourself. There are other application methods listed on the website page given above.

VOTE On Election Day *Tuesday, November 3*

Check the Board of Election for your county to determine the times and locations of voting.

If you are not registered, New York offers online voter registration at Motor Voter <https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/MotorVoter/>. You can register by mail to vote in New York by printing a voter registration form, filling it out, and mailing it to your local election office. You can also register to vote in person if you prefer. Applications must be postmarked no later than **October 9, 2020**, and received by the Board of Elections no later than **October 14, 2020**, to be eligible to vote in the General Election. You may also register in person at your county Board of Elections. However you do it---- JUST DO IT!!!!

For anyone thinking about voting in the November election by absentee ballot, attached is the link to the form that must be sent in to your County's Board of Elections.

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/AbsenteeBallot-English.pdf>



HELP NEW YORK VOTE! BECOME A POLL WORKER

By Jeanne Williams Bennett, RC 12 Immediate Past President

Because of COVID-19, New York is experiencing a critical shortage of poll workers. Because 55% of NYS poll workers are over the age of 60 and are especially vulnerable to the pandemic, there is a significant need for poll workers who are able to assist with in-person voting during the November 3rd General Election.

Do you know a young person who might be interested, is responsible, and available? If so, go to <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html>.

On the left side of the page, scroll down to "Go to Polling" and then download and complete the Outside NYC Election Day Worker Form.

Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

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 _____ Amount _____

Dolores Talmadge 206 Main Street, Fort Plain, NY 13339

Make check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 12.

Any questions, please call (518) 993-2854.



Message from your Social Committee:

First, and foremost, the Social Committee members hope that you and yours are well during this difficult time for our country. Stay home and stay safe.

2020 has been the year to stay at home. All of our 2020 trips were either canceled or rescheduled. Plans for others were dropped. Canceled were *Ain't Too Proud*, *Plaza Suite*, *Yankees Baseball*, and *Sound of Music* at Glimmerglass. Refunds for these were handled by the committee.

The **Mackinac** trip has been rescheduled to June 13 - 19, 2021.

The **Mt. Rushmore/Badlands** trip has been rescheduled for September 24 – October 4, 2021.

The new date for *The Music Man starring Hugh Jackman* is June 9, 2021.



Save the Dates for RC 12

General Meeting & Business Meeting (virtual) October 6 , 2020

Sign in 9:00 am . Business meeting starts at 9:30 am . You can pre-register now (see page 1)

General Membership Meeting at the Holiday Inn, Johnstown March 16, 2021

**NYSUT Conference and RC 12 Meeting at the Glen Sanders, Mansion, Scotia
May 12, 2021**

Come to us for the savings...



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 CAR & TRUCK RENTALS

Come back for the insurance



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 LONG-TERM CARE & DISABILITY

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, call 800-626-8101 or scan the QR codes above.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

**MEMBER
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Sept./Oct. '20