

# THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate September 2020

## Memories of Jim Marquit

by Jeanne Williams Bennett

Jim Marquit was the founding father of RC 12 and our first president. Sadly, we received notification that he had recently passed away in South Carolina where he and his wife, Annemarie, had moved to be closer to family. Originally, I met Jim at the NYSUT Committee of 100 in Albany when we were both in service educators. For many years thereafter, I saw Jim regularly, usually at Senator James Seward's office. When I retired from teaching and joined RC 12, Jim was a welcome and familiar face.

Like many union leaders, Jim was a man of many talents. For more than 45 years, he was a member of the Middleburgh Rotary Club. He was very proud of his military service and often advocated on behalf of our veterans. Jim retired from teaching English and public speaking at Middleburgh Central School.

Marlene Towne, and her late husband, Stan, were close friends of Jim's. Marlene shared some of her memories: "Jim was the director for the high school plays for many years—a job he greatly enjoyed. He also was proud of his years as high school track coach. On a lighter note, Jim was never late for a meeting. In fact, he had the reputation for being the first in attendance—and the first to leave."

I would be amiss if I did not comment on Jim's affiliation with the Middleburgh United Methodist Church. Jim was a long-time active member of the church, serving as a trustee and singing in the choir. He also served as our substitute pastor when needed. He was an excellent speaker, and I suspect that he filled that role frequently in every Methodist Church in Schoharie County and probably beyond, as I know he was called frequently. The (Methodist) Conference awarded him with a citation a few years ago for "answering the call when and where needed."

Jim touched and enriched many our lives, and his influence will be felt far into the future.



**Jim Marquit with Mary Pritchard and Jean Gordon at the 25th anniversary Celebration of RC 12**



Jennifer Shaad-Derby, Judy Schultz, Jeanne Williams Bennett, Marlene Towne, Mary Pritchard, John Mazur, Jim Marquit, and Jean Gordon were honored by NYSUT for their service to NYSUT and RC 12 at a 25th Anniversary Celebration of Retiree Councils.

## NYSUT Retiree Council 12



What a crazy year it's been so far! I want to thank everyone who participated in the election process. More people were engaged in the 2020 elections than ever before from phone banking, writing post cards or letters, word of mouth, and actually voting; by absentee ballot, early in person, or on November 3rd. This is what democracy looks like!!!! More people cast a ballot than ever before in the history of our country. However, the fact that the election was close means that our country is still deeply divided. I look at our president elect, and I have hope that with his history of working with people in both parties, there may be some healing and some actual governing done without all the animosity that seems to have built up for some time. I look forward to there being predictability and stability in our government. While in most states the endless campaign ads and calls are finished, the race continues in the state of Georgia. There is still another election in January that will decide who has control of the US Senate. Georgia has 2 Senate seats that, as I write this, will be contested in the beginning of January. The current make-up of the new Senate is 48 Democrats, 48 Republicans and 2 Independents. There is still a lot at stake.

We must continue to pay attention to what is going on in other areas as well. There are many decisions to be made that affect our quality of life. On Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, the US Supreme Court began hearing oral arguments as to the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. This act gave many people without health insurance the opportunity to have health care coverage. It by no means was perfect, but it did cover many more people which helped to slow down the ever-increasing health insurance premiums. It did away with insurance companies being able to deny coverage for people with pre-existing conditions and the ability to charge them exorbitant amounts for coverage. It eliminated companies' ability to impose a lifetime cap on coverage costs. It allowed young people the opportunity to stay on their parent's insurance until the age of 26, making sure that many more young adults had coverage when they may not have been able to afford it. All of that is currently at stake.

Also, we should keep an eye on the payroll tax freeze. This was done to help small businesses, many who are suffering or going under, because of the pandemic. There was talk of making the payroll tax freeze permanent to help businesses recover. The downside of this is that Social Security programs including retiree payments, Social Security disability payments, and payments for minors with a deceased parent are all funded by the payroll tax. Making the elimination of the payroll tax permanent could be disastrous to many of us.

And now, the holidays are fast approaching. We are seeing the number of cases of COVID-19 skyrocketing and the number of deaths from this despicable virus increasing at an alarming rate. I encourage you to stay safe. Follow the expert's advice of wearing a mask, social distancing, and washing your hands often or using hand sanitizer. Keep social gatherings very small. I know that we have decided to stop our 30+ year tradition of spending Thanksgiving with close friends. As hard as it will be, we will all be safer for it.

As you shop for the holidays, keep safety in mind. To help with this, many companies have already started their Black Friday deals online. Shipping may be slower this year, so ship and mail early. I also encourage you to buy union-made products and to buy American-made products. This will help with bringing back our economy, and it may help to save someone's job. Please help support the businesses in your community who support education and who contribute to community improvement. We need to be there for each other.

Listed below are some websites that may be helpful. There are many others out there, and I encourage you to spend some time looking!

<https://aflcio.org/MadeInAmerica>

<https://madeinusaforever.com/unionmade.html>

<https://www.howtobuyamerican.com/content/db/b-db-american-union-made.shtml>

<https://allusaclothing.com/all-made-in-usa>

<https://americansworking.com>

<https://www.unionlabel.com>

In closing, I wish you all a safe, peaceful, and happy holiday season. Things may be different this year, but different doesn't mean bad. Love your family and friends, and do what you need to in order to be safe.

**In Solidarity, Stacey**



### The Outlook

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

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 Jennifer Shaad-Derby (518) 783-7977

**StateWide Senior Action Council recently held its annual convention virtually. There were many outstanding workshops. To listen/view the presentations go to their website at**

**[www.nysenior.org](http://www.nysenior.org).**

**Start with day 1, John Silva, of the News Literacy Project. That was an outstanding presentation.**

# Thank You for Your Contributions !!!

These are the contributions of record received by members for the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 fiscal year (as of 11/2/2020). Your name will appear only once in The Outlook. Please keep track of your contribution as to avoid multiple payments within one year. + indicates paid through June 2022. “ \* “ indicates paid beyond June 2022.

Abbott, Francis X.+	Disque, Mary Beth	King, Anne W. *	Palmer, Frank	Sorbero, Emily
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Brown, Robert M.+	Gloo, Josephine	Luciano, Holly A.	Riccio, Christine*	Todak, Joyce
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Ciervo, Michele	Harris, Don	Matteson, Jeanette+	Scharfer, Linda	Wargo, Art
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DeLilli, Chas	Kimball, Gloria	Olszowy, Caroline	Sollocito, Joanne	

## Save the Dates for RC 12

General Membership Meeting on Zoom March 16, 2021

NYSUT Conference and RC 12 Meeting TBD May 12, 2021

# 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

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

\$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*

*November 2020*



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



## What Do You Need to Know About Thrombosis?

Thromboses are blood clots in the veins. The two main types are Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) which is usually in the legs and Pulmonary Embolism (PE) where a clot breaks loose and lodges in the lung. This type is often fatal. Risk factors include obesity, lack of physical activity, family history, genetic factors, and prior episodes of clotting. PE and DVT kill up to 100,000 people a year in the US.

To reduce the risk of having a thrombosis, you should exercise regularly and work to lower your Body Mass Index to 25 or below. Symptoms of thrombosis include swelling, pain or tenderness in the legs, red streaks or other discoloration, and skin that feels warm to the touch. PE symptoms are shortness of breath, rapid breathing, chest pain, rapid heart beat, or lightheadedness.

If you are traveling four or more hours by plane, train, or bus, you should take precautions to prevent DVT. **Move** around as often as possible by walking in the aisles when allowed. **Avoid** crossing your legs. **Avoid** wearing tight clothes that can restrict **blood** flow. Stay hydrated, and **avoid** alcohol before and during **travel**, and stretch your legs and feet while sitting. If you are traveling long distance by car, plan stops every couple of hours to stretch and walk. For more information, go to [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).

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



Nov./Dec.'20



*Bill Schultz presented Jim Marquit  
with an award for his outstanding hard work for RC 12.*

## **Jim Marquit, an RC 12 Leader**

*By Bill Schultz, past president of RC 12*

Jim and I retired during the end of the last century, a period of some calm in the affairs of teachers and of NYSUT, and at a time that led to doors being opened to retirees as organized members of that body. 1991 was the date. Incorporation was the aim and the problem, and that was where Jim entered the equation. Someone, probably the NYSUT Regional Director, recommended that Jim be selected to assume the responsibility of getting the organizational ball rolling for the retirees, and he did! The names of all retirees from the region were identified, a meeting date was established to which all of these retirees were invited, meeting arrangements and protocols for creating our organization were established, the meeting was held in Cobleskill, and we were off!

It is worth noting that there were exactly seven (7) people in attendance. (7!) These 7 represented the genesis of RC 12's creation. Jim was our leader during this developmental first year and was elected as our first president the following year, a year that led to the continuous growth of Retiree Council 12 that resulted in its becoming one of the predominant retiree councils within the state.

Jim had a long life. It is hardly unusual for people so far removed from the scene of early promise and early success to fade from the memory of those who follow, but every one of you reading my words owes a debt to Jim Marquit for the benefits we have all acquired through our membership in RC 12. When it was created, Jim was there.