

# THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate February 2020



## NYSUT Retiree Council 12



### Stacey Caruso-Sharpe, President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a nice holiday season. It was definitely different and much quieter for my family! With the start of the new year, we have a new President and Vice President. COVID-19 vaccines have become available, and hopefully, many people, if they are eligible, are able to arrange an appointment to get one. The daylight lasts a little longer each day, and all of these things together bring us hope!

Many people are having a difficult time trying to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination. If you are not great with the computer, calling the hotline number would probably be your best approach. There is a state number, and also, each county has a number where you can get help. Many have experienced a recording that states, "Call volume is high; try again later." I did experience that but was ultimately able to get through with questions that I had. If you are able to use a computer to check, I recommend checking the different websites, state and county, at different times throughout the day. Pharmacies will now be receiving vaccine allotments so be sure to also check those sites. If you know of others who are also trying to get an appointment, maybe you can alert each other when you see time slots open up. Our webmaster, Carolyn Darkangelo, has been posting COVID-19 related information on the RC 12 website so be sure to check that out! (<http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>)

I know that many people are tired of wearing masks and of not being able to see family and friends as much as they would like. Some are thinking that once they have the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine shot they will no longer need to follow the protocols that we have been following. I urge you to read the information below as to why the COVID protocols will still need to be followed. With the finding of new COVID variants such as the UK, South African and Brazilian, there is a fear that since these are more easily transmissible, the numbers of infected people and the numbers of hospitalized people could once again increase. Please stay safe!

The governor's release of his budget is a bit alarming to many school districts. With a reduction in revenue, he has proposed turning 11 expensed-based school aid programs into a block grant. BOCES, special services, high tax, charter school transitional, textbook, school library materials, computer software, computer hardware and technology, transportation (including summer), supplemental public excess cost and academic enhancement would be turned into a "services aid," creating a "block grant." Then, there would be a reduction in the amount that districts would usually receive for these programs. NYSUT is encouraging legislators to retain the structure that is currently in place. In the bill passed in December by the federal government, NYS was granted \$3.8 billion for school aid. This will definitely help. However, the governor is proposing using federal monies received to supplant NYS's share of education funding instead of supplementing the education budget. NYSUT has launched an all-out advertising blitz which calls for increased state taxes on the ultrawealthy to Fund Our Future in support of public education. You may see or hear ads on TV, radio or billboard.

NYSUT Retiree Health & Wellness webinar series is offering some online webinars including a 60's music concert, yoga, total workout and getting ready for spring gardening. Be sure to check them out.

<https://www.nysut.org/news/2021/january/retiree-webinars>

NYSUT is supportive of the NYS Education Department seeking a waiver from the US Department of Education (DOE) to cancel grade 3-8 testing and Regents Exams amid the coronavirus pandemic. Hopefully, the USDOE will realize how inappropriate high stakes testing would be during a pandemic.

I hope everyone stays well and stays informed of the many issues that affect our well being

In solidarity,

*Stacey*



.Continue to next page for  
NYSUT's website's message

## NYSUT Retiree Council 12



So, you've been vaccinated. Now what?

### Important Information From NYSUT's Website

You must continue to:

- WEAR A MASK
- MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING
- WASH YOUR HANDS

Why?

It takes time for the effectiveness of both vaccines to build up. With the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, protection doesn't start until 12 days after the first shot, and it reaches 52% effectiveness a few weeks later. A week after the second vaccination is when the effectiveness rate reaches 95%. Moderna has reported a protection rate of 51% two weeks after the first immunization and 94% two weeks after the second dose.

Scientists are still gathering data on whether you can be asymptomatic and able to shed the virus after vaccination. There is the possibility that if you encounter COVID-19 after being vaccinated, you may not display symptoms but be able to shed the virus. This is because your immune system may not fight off the virus completely. It might allow some viruses to survive and reproduce and get expelled from your nose or mouth in a breath, cough or sneeze. Scientists must still collect data on whether vaccinated people can test positive for COVID-19 after being vaccinated before we can amend mitigation strategies.

*(Adapted from NPR article,*

*["Why You Should Still Wear A Mask And Avoid Crowds After Getting The COVID-19 Vaccine"](#))*

New York State COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline  
1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829)

<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

<https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

You can also check with your county health department.



## The Outlook

**President** Stacey Caruso-Sharpe (518) 496-2769  
**1st VP** Kathlene Lyman (518) 399-0256  
**2nd VP** Bev Alves  
**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, Theresa Kovian

**Webmaster - Carolyn Darkangelo**  
**Assistant Webmaster - Theresa Kovian**  
 Darkangelo @nycap.rr.com

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

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

## Save the Dates for RC 12

**General Membership Meeting on Zoom Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

**NYSUT Conference and RC 12 Meeting TBD Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

**For information on postponed trips contact group leader.**

## ELECTION NOTICE

### for Directors of the NYSUT RC 12 Executive Board

**Six (6) Directors + One (1) SRP Director    Term: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023**

The election will be held at 10:15 am on May 16, 2021 during the NYSUT RC 12 General Membership meeting

*All NYSUT RC 12 members, including SRP's (School Related Professionals), are eligible for office based on the NYSUT RC 12 membership list provided by NYSUT in February 2019. Only SRP's are eligible for SRP Director.*

To vote, you must be an RC 12 member and present at the time of the election.  
There are no nominations from the floor.

**Nomination forms can be obtained from and returned to election chair — Kathy Lyman, 254 Riverside Place, Alplaus, NY 12008. (518) 399-0256 [namyl4@aol.com](mailto:namyl4@aol.com)**

Self nomination forms must be US Mail postmarked or emailed dated no later than **March 22, 2021.**



### *Invitation to RC 12 General Membership meeting*

*Our March 16, 2021 general membership meeting will be a Zoom on-line meeting from 10 am - 12 pm. We hope that you will be able to join us.  
Registration will be required.*

*Send a request for registration to : [RC12.NYSUT@gmail.com](mailto:RC12.NYSUT@gmail.com)*

*Please include: your name, district retired from and year that you retired, and then, the registration link will be sent to you.*

*More information about the meeting will be posted on our website:  
[rc12.ny.aft.org](http://rc12.ny.aft.org)*

# 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 2/1/2020). 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.

|                        |                        |                        |                       |                      |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Adamczyk, Linda        | Eckler, Debbie         | Jay, Robin*            | McEvoy, D. Antoinette | Shuster, Lori        |
| Ahola, Nancy           | Eigabroadt, William H. | Jenne Patricia         | Michalski, Patricia*  | Silverman, Sharon    |
| Andrews, Beverly H.    | Eipp, Sandy*           | Joyce, Ann             | Mikenas, Elaine       | Sinicropi, Carmen    |
| Ashe, Kenneth C.       | Fairman, Audrey        | Kavanagh, Mary E.      | Minich, Jamey*        | Snyder, Linda        |
| Atwell, Patricia*      | Falato, Janet          | Kelleeher, Gail A.     | Montero, Clara        | Somers, Barbara*     |
| Aycox, Patricia A.     | Fallone, Barbara       | King, Helen A.*        | Nevulis, Robert       | Spofford, Paul       |
| Baggetta, Cheryl       | Farrell, Ruth          | Kirvin. Mary I.*       | O’Hare, Debbie+       | Stearns, Cathy       |
| Baumler, Joan          | Fennelly, Deborah      | Klinetob, Arlo         | Olson, Joanna         | Steele, Edgar        |
| Bennett, Bruce         | Fischer, Carol         | Kolodziej, Joan        | Pasquariello, Lidia   | Stockbauer, Linda B. |
| Bennett, Jeanne W      | Fletcher, Lorraine     | Kostbar-Jarvis, Pamela | Perrin, Arlene        | Taylor, Randall+     |
| Bergin, Joan           | Fritzen, Andrea        | Kravis, Sharon         | Petteys, Lewis W.     | Reinhart, Harvey     |
| Bilins, Barbara        | Frye, H. Leigh         | Krawczeski, Nancy      | Picciocca, Cathy*     | Rosenberry, Elise    |
| Biviano, Janet         | Galeazza, Pat          | Lauzon, Sally          | Pitcher, Raymond      | Siiss, Bonnie        |
| Boardway, Marny        | Gardiner, Jeffrey      | LaVine, Brian*         | Pletman, Michael      | Terry, Richard       |
| Bond, Emil+            | Garfinkel, Miles       | Lee, Melanie H.        | Polacko, Dorie        | Thornton, Warren W.  |
| Burns, Marguerite A.   | Gloo, Jo*              | Lesiuk, Kathryn M.     | Polsinelli, Karen+    | Tighe, Carole        |
| Callahan, John         | Halpin, Sharon         | Letteron, Ron          | Pratt, Rupert         | Tryon, Monica        |
| Carlisle, Ginny M.     | Hamilton, Barbara      | List, Theresa          | Pritchard, Mary D.    | Tubert, Marialana    |
| Carter, Rebecca M.     | Hargett Katherine      | Lunman, Jack           | Puotinen, Margaret    | VanDerwiel, Mary Lou |
| Cascio, Carol          | Haverly, Barbara       | Lunman, Pamela         | Relkin, Carla*        | Van Voorst, Susan    |
| Coffenberg, John       | Hayes, Robert          | Malanoski, Harold J.+  | Retersdorf, Susan*    | Van Wormer, Michele+ |
| Coffenberg, Norma      | Hayes, Teresa          | Mandry, Robert         | Rizzo, Joseph         | Walchko, Kimberly    |
| Cortez, Barbara*       | Herzig, Connie*        | Masucci, Lana L.       | Roe, Jane Cancio      | Waterbury, Jan+      |
| Coslick, Ronald*       | Hill, Elizabeth        | Mauher, Phyllis*       | Roeser, Patricia      | Wayman, Sally        |
| Cramer, Grace          | Hoffman, Deb*          | Mazur, Ginni*          | Roeser, Randall       | Weiner, Barbara N.   |
| Cross, Linda K.        | Hoose, Carol           | Mazur, John*           | Rodriguez, Maria*     | Whiteford, Gary*     |
| Cross Jr., Robert R.   | Hudak, Becky           | McCabe, Margaret*      | Rose, Rowland         | Wilson, Wendy        |
| Dell Aquilla           | Hunziker, Deborah      | McCarthy, Michelle     | Rowland, Rosemary     | Wojeski, Marie       |
| Della Sala, Thomas A.* | Jaquish, Virginia      | McClusky, Donyce       | Sand, Janet+          | Wrench, Lori         |
| De Vaughn, Betty Rth   | Jacobsen, Patricia     | McClusky, Kenneth      | Schad, Judith S.*     | Zilka, Linda         |
| DiVietro, Lisa         | Janicki, Jody          | McCoy, Angela          | Shults, Robert L.     |                      |

## *Voter Information*

Just a reminder that February 14th is the deadline to change party enrollment if a person wants to vote in that party’s primary in 2021.

You can fill out a new voter registration form found on your Board of Election’s website at <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html> which would need to be filled out and mailed.

You can also go to the Dept. of Motor Vehicle’s website at <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application> and fill out the required information online.

Submitted by Mary Pritchard



**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  
February 2021***



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**GETTING THE VACCINE at SUNY ALBANY**

*By Carolyn Darkangelo*

The National Guard directed us right into the parking area, and at about 4:00 pm, we saw no line at the entrance to the big white tent. So, we walked over, and the national guardsman on duty said we could go on in once he saw our paperwork and ID. We were directed to stations where one person checked me in on the computer and asked some of the same questions about COVID-19 exposure, etc. The woman at the computer wished me happy birthday. My nurse was a large black man named Ebenezer, and I told him the shot was the best birthday present ever. He was very gentle and assured me it would not hurt. My husband, Dom, of course, was super chatty and found out all sorts of information about the people at his station. After his shot the nurse asked, "Do you feel strange?" He just looked at her quizzically, and then she said, "Any stranger than usual?" He replied, "No." They were all laughing when I passed the station on the way to the waiting room. Neither of us felt the needle go in, and we had no symptoms while we waited. We filled out papers for the second shot and were given our shot record on a card which had the date for our second shot on 2/7/21. The entire process took 25 minutes, so we left before 4:30 pm.

I did not have any pain until Dom grabbed my upper arm near the shot. Dom just felt his muscle becoming tight. We look forward to our next shot, but we know it will take as much as 21 days for the immunity to be at a maximum. We will still wear our masks and social distance because we will probably not get a serious case, but we could still carry and spread the virus.

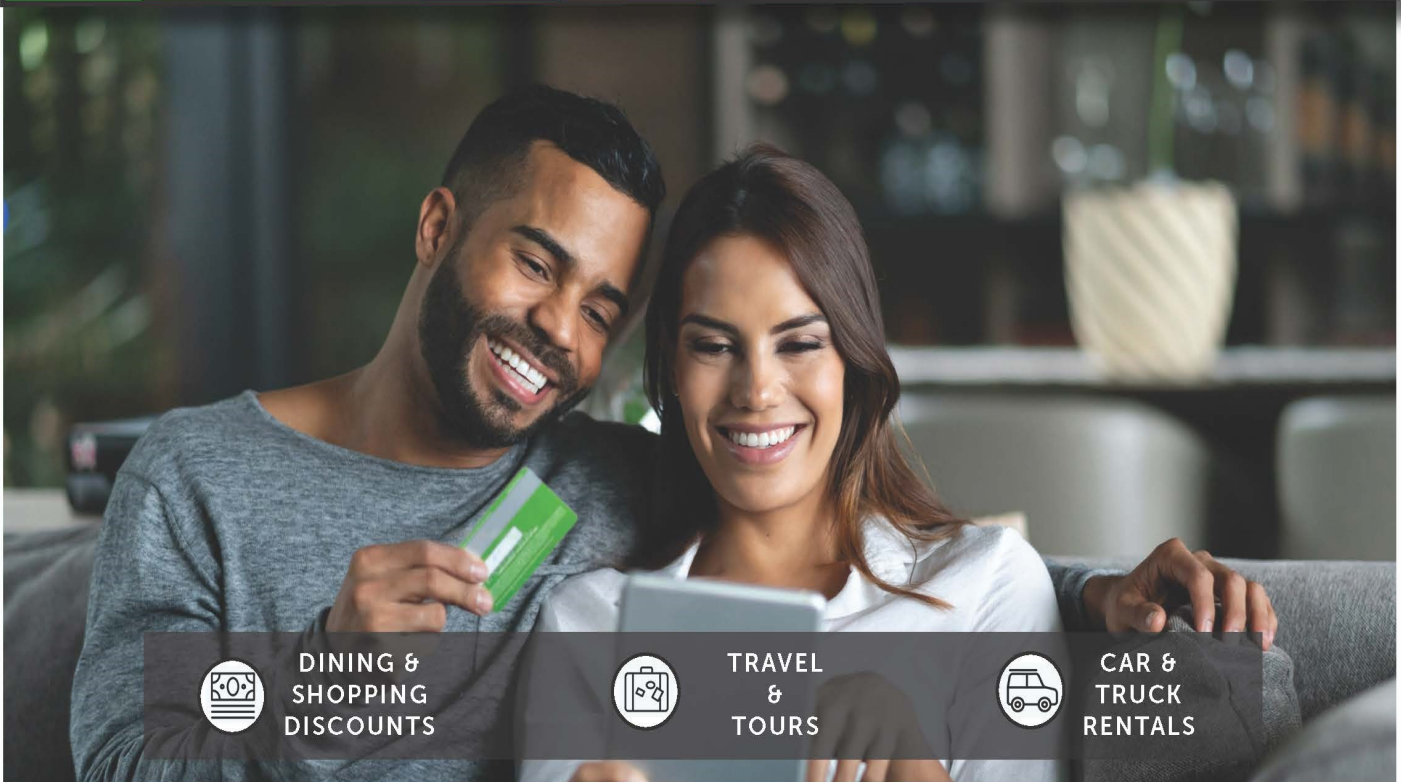
It is important for you to know that according to the CDC, "None of the authorized COVID 19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID -19 vaccine cannot make you sick!" Any side effects you feel when you get the vaccine are just your body building a defense against COVID-19.

I encourage everyone to get this vaccine. It will help you, it will help your country, and it will save



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&  
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CLOSINGS



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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.

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Working to Benefit You

Jan./Feb.'21