

# THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate June July 2021

## What is going on in the RC 12 area this summer ! SVAN Concerts on Saturdays at 6 pm in the Northville Waterfront Park

July 3rd -Alex Torres & his Latin Orchestra

August 1 Caroga Lake Music Festival (Classical)

July 10 Adrenaline Pumpkin (Bluegrass)

August 7 Smokey Greene & Sons ( Country, Bluegrass, and Family)

July 17 Sirsy (Pop Rock )

August 14 Little Jack (Irish, Rock)

July 24 Sidetracked (Classic Rock)

August 21 Jeanne O'Conner Jazz Quartet (Jazz Standards),

July 31 Two Shoes ( Americana, Folk, Bluegrass)

### *Some Other Events*

June 21 to Sept 10 "Upstate Waters" - a Juried Art Exhibit at the Northville Library Gallery sponsored by SVAN

July & Aug. (Saturdays) Riverlink Park Concert Series in Amsterdam [www.facebook.com/riverlinkconcerts/](http://www.facebook.com/riverlinkconcerts/)

July 8th (5 - 8 pm) The 3rd Annual Cruise-In, Ice Cream Social, and Concert Mayfield Historical Society

Rice Homestead at 328 Riceville Rd., Mayfield, NY 12117

July 14-28 (Wednesdays 6 to 8:30 pm) Free ARC Park Summer Concert Series 420 E. German Street, Herkimer, NY

July 14th: Gridley Paige July 21st: Max Scialdone Band July 28th: Fritz's Polka Band

July 16-18 Northville Rotary Twelfth Annual Woodworking and Fine Arts Weekend <http://northvillerotary.com>

July 17-25 35th Annual Ilion Days "ILION STRONG" For details, go to [iliondoodah.com](http://iliondoodah.com)

Wednesdays July and Aug. Freedom Park Scotia Free Summer Concert series at 7:00pm. Bring a chair or blanket.

Aug. 21-22 Art Trails Self-guided tour of artist studios and galleries in the Sacandaga region ([svanarts.org](http://svanarts.org))

Aug. 28 (10 am – 3 pm) Mabee Craft Farm Market – the best of the Capital Region's handcrafted goods!  
[schenectadyhistorical.org/](http://schenectadyhistorical.org/)

September 11th Canajoharie Street Fair - Vendors, King of The Wing, Parade, Car Show, Music, Fireworks

Cell Phone Tour: Walk in the Footsteps of Elizabeth Cady Stanton

<https://www.ecstantonhometown.org/cellphone-tour.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/Fulton-Montgomery-Quilt-Barn-Trail>

<https://visitschohariecounty.com/events>

<https://www.thisiscooperstown.com/events>





# NYSUT

## Retiree Council 12



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

Things are changing!!! More businesses are reopening, people are more comfortable being out and about, and summer weather has been popping in occasionally for brief visits. In many places, those who have been vaccinated now have the option to wear a mask or not. Life is returning to pre-pandemic mode. Many people are extremely happy and are jumping right back into the thick of things. Some people, however, are struggling a bit. Even with vaccinations, some people are uneasy about being in crowds and still prefer to wear a mask. Talk of variants being a threat to those who are unvaccinated are making some people nervous. From what I have read and seen on news shows, all of these feelings are "acceptable", and no one should be embarrassed by their feelings. If you are struggling, I encourage you to reach out to a doctor, counselor, or to the NYSUT social services department for help and some recommendations on how to handle these feelings.

As the school year comes to a close, I must congratulate our brothers and sisters who continued to work in our schools throughout the madness of this past year! I think if there is a positive take away from the events of the pandemic and the 2020-2021 school year, it is that people now see how hard teachers work for their students. I think parents now realize that teaching isn't as easy as many of our members make it look. Also, I think that the trend that was increasing pre-pandemic to have students be online learners has been stopped. While there may be a few students who did better learning online as opposed to being in a classroom, the reality is that most students learn better being in a classroom.

The legislative session has just ended, and NYSUT was there advocating right up until the end for bills that help our members. The session did not allow for any in person meetings, but NYSUT and our members (including some of you!) met legislators through Zoom meetings, through phone calls, and via emails. The legislature passed and the governor signed a bill that does not require school districts to conduct an APPR for this year and allows districts to not suffer any penalty for this. Tenure may also be granted without the APPR evaluation this year. Another bill establishes Last In, First Out for SRP's (School Related Professionals) – Section 80 of the Civil Service Law which provides an amendment to the civil service law to provide a statutory provision for uniform layoff and job recall protections to all public employees. For full details on bills passed and bills that were beaten down, visit the RC 12 website: <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

With summer now here, I hope that you stay safe whether you are traveling near or far or are just hanging out with family and friends at home. I encourage you to buy union made in the USA for any of your purchases throughout the summer! Help support our union brothers and sisters which will help our economy to return to a healthy state!!!

I look forward to seeing you on September 30, 2021, at the Otesaga in Cooperstown for our annual fall meeting!!!

In solidarity,

Stacey

## 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

Maggie Bouck - Herkimer  
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 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

We are looking for pictures to share on the website. If you have a good picture, please email it to Carolyn Darkangelo [Darkangelo @ nycap.rr.com](mailto:Darkangelo@nycap.rr.com)

# *Our Adventure with Solar Energy*

By Carolyn Darkangelo, retiree from Mayfield TA



Five years ago, my husband and I decided to investigate solar energy since we heated with electricity. We found that tax credits were available from NY State (tax credit + NYSERDA grants for installation) and the federal tax credits for solar. We spent \$40,000 on the solar cells and the infrastructure to transfer the electricity and connect the system to the National Grid equipment. If we produce more electricity than we use, the surplus is sent to the grid, and others can use it. If we need energy, the electricity automatically goes into our system from the grid. It is deducted from the credit we have built up sending energy into the grid. The net cost of our system after credits was \$23,000. We have saved nearly \$10,000 in energy costs, since we installed the system. If we do not use all that we produce, the power company pays us 4 cents per kilowatt hour at the end of the year. We banked 5,000 kilowatt hours this year (\$200 credit).

Since we had 5,000 kwh left over last year, we decided to investigate the Chrysler Pacifica plug-in hybrid. It travels 38 miles on electricity and then switches to hybrid mode using gas and producing energy during braking. During long trips on highways, the car will be in hybrid mode since there are not many charging stations available. The vehicle should use electricity for most local trips. We bought a Pacifica in March. So far, we have used one tank of gas and 350 kwh of electricity which was produced by our solar generation system. We will receive a federal \$7,500 tax credit on our 2021 taxes, and the state credit was taken off the cost of the car (the state reimburses the dealer for the credit).

We are happy with our solar system and our new car. If you would like to research this process, here is the government website for information on vehicle federal tax credits available

<https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/taxevb.shtml>.

This is the NYS website: <https://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Drive-Clean-Rebate/How-it-Works>

The total value of the federal solar tax credit can easily be calculated by taking 26 percent of the solar system installation cost. There is no limit to the value of the credit. It is important to note that the federal solar tax credit is a nonrefundable tax credit. This means that you only get a refund up to the amount you owe in federal taxes. Here is the form <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f5695.pdf>

Here is the site about NY State solar incentives for 2021

<https://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/NY-Sun/Solar-for-Your-Home/Paying-for-Solar/Incentiv>

Here is a summary of NY incentives

<https://www.energysage.com/local-data/solar-rebates-incentives/ny/>

**Retiree Council 12 Contribution Form July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022**

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 .**



***RC 12 Outlook  
June/July 2021***

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



***RC 12 fall meeting at the Otesaga in Cooperstown  
on September 30, 2021.***

***Hope to see you there!!!! Registration 9:30 to 10:00 AM***

**Tax Information -- New Deduction for Charitable Donations**

For the **2021 calendar year**, an individual who does not itemize their deductions on their individual income tax return **may deduct monetary contributions of up to \$600** (for married filing joint filers, or \$300 for single filers) made to 501(c)3 charitable organizations. This is an increase to the maximum amount allowed for 2020 monetary charitable contributions of \$300. This will be an "above the line" deduction in the main body of the individual tax form and will not require the taxpayer to itemize using Schedule A.



## Not sure where to start with your summer to-do list?

Whether it's assisting NYSUT members with everyday essentials, important choices about insurance needs, or making prudent decisions about financial and legal concerns, NYSUT Member Benefits can help.



Scan the QR code below to learn more about the following endorsed programs and services.

### Saving you money: MB Discounts & Deals

With the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program, NYSUT members can save up to 50% at more than 700,000 merchants nationwide (including thousands throughout New York State). Save on groceries and food delivery; restaurant dine-in or takeout; gasoline, oil changes and vehicle maintenance; clothing and shoes; and much more. You can even request that your favorite merchant join the network.

### Saving you money: Every \$\$\$ counts

Whether your summer plans include home renovations, replacing or upgrading appliances, getting a new car, stocking up for the return to school, or even just hanging out and enjoying some time off, Member Benefits has a variety of endorsed programs -- **Purchasing Power, Buyer's Edge Inc., Office Depot/OfficeMax, Bose, Powell's Books** -- that might be able to minimize the impact on your wallet and maximize your enjoyment of the all-too-fleeting summer months.



### Protecting your family: Insuring yourself and your family

Member Benefits endorses a number of competitive insurance programs that are available to NYSUT members. These include **auto/home/renters, life, disability, long term care, dental, vision**, and even **pet insurance**. Some of these programs are also available to or cover spouses/domestic partners of members, dependent children, dependent parents, and grandparents. Most offer payroll & pension deduction as payment options.

### Planning for the future: Have a plan for wherever life takes you

It's never too early or too late to make a plan. Just starting a career or looking at retirement? Beginning to pay off loans or building a nest egg? Looking to buy a new home or refinance the one you're in? Welcoming a new child or adopting? Now would be a good time to look into the ways to put a plan in place or make adjustments to your existing one. Explore the **Member Benefits Financial Learning Center** for assistance; while you're there, check out our **Legal Service Plan** and **Financial Counseling Program**.

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of programs and services that are available to NYSUT members and their families, including the following options:



DINING & SHOPPING DISCOUNTS



TRAVEL & TOURS



CAR & TRUCK RENTALS



LIFE INSURANCE



AUTO & HOME



LONG-TERM CARE & DISABILITY

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org), call 800-626-8101 or scan the QR code above.

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