

The meeting was called to order at 9:30.

I. President's welcome - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

Getting word out to everyone in RC12 to attend this meeting was a challenge. AFT has a task force to help keep retirees connected. The Action Network is working with NYSUT to set up training to communicate with members without going through NYSUT. Social committee has email addresses, but we are not allowed to use them.

Action Network is set up with an email. A data base needs to be set up.

[RC12.NYSUT@gmail.com](mailto:RC12.NYSUT@gmail.com) The member information needed would be first name, last name, email, zip, street address, city, state, and cell phone number.

The second day of training was how to use an online newsletter to mail updates out directly instead of going to the website. It could also connect to website. Caroline may be interested in learning this task.

-NYSUT Member benefits will be hosting a workshop. Members can sign up at [Memberbenefits.nysut.org/about/webinars](http://Memberbenefits.nysut.org/about/webinars). Feel free to go to the website to find out more about benefits and travel.

-State budgets - Cuomo initiated look back periods in June, August, and September. The State is withholding 20% of state budgets. Providing funds for plexi glass and cleaning materials to reopen schools is costly. NYSUT held a rally of 500 empty chairs signifying the cuts.

Schenectady and Albany experienced the most cuts. So many were last minute decisions.

Withholding the money was devastating and finally a payment was made in September. There is a desperate need to get money from the federal government. Pelosi and Muchin are meeting and trying to work together. Everyone is hoping to get an agreement so some money can go out.

-RC12 elections. We did not have our elections however legally RC12 nominating procedure closed and there were not take nominations from floor. None of our nominations were contested so it looks like RC12 is in good shape to continue as we are doing it.

- NYSUT is looking for members to write general elections post cards and make phone calls. In other elections individuals are not endorsed and any member can volunteer to send information through to those who usually don't vote.

II. Vice President - Kathlene Lyman

The continual need of names and contact information of recent retirees is ongoing. New retiree lists have not been forthcoming. Privacy issues need to be respected. Anyone who has an information that could help, please send to Kathlene at [namyl4@aol.com](mailto:namyl4@aol.com). Kathy attended ED 51/53 and StateWide to gather information

III. Treasurer report was given by Dolores Talmadge for August 1 - September 30.

Business checking #12 balance \$114.09, Social Checking balance #12 \$804.77, Business Money Market #11 \$34,051.90, Social Money Market #13 \$19,113.60, Savings #1 \$105.82, Total \$54,190.18.

- All financial papers prior to 2013 will be shredded.
- John Mazur reviewed the Financial Audit of NYSUT Retiree Council 12, July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. Based on the committee's examination, it was found the financial statements for this time period was accurate. Stacey will investigate sending the report to AFT. Audit committee suggested in case of crisis (pandemic) two members plus the treasurer can perform audit.
- At this point there are only five member who made contributions to RC12 because there is no contribution form. Contribution can be mailed to 206 Main Street Fort Plain NY 13339

V. 2nd Vice President for legislation - Bev Alves - no report

VI. Directors - Vickie McGowan, Sue Proctor, Margaret Dafeldecker, Theresa Kovian

- Sue Proctors - Unexpectedly and last-minute 150 teachers and paraprofessionals were cut from the Schenectady school district. Some of members who were let go had 10-15 years with district. Not many believe the money will be coming back and it is projected it will probably be like this all year. The District is still looking for a superintendent. Money is being collected to help families. Contributions can be sent to the Schenectady Federation of Teachers' Welfare Fund can be made payable to "SFT" and note "Welfare Fund" in memo section.

Mail to: Schenectady Federation of Teachers, 740 Union Street, Schenectady NY 12305

- Margaret reported there were some layoffs but mostly resolved through attrition.
- John Mazur made a motion to donate \$250 to the SFT. Karen seconded. Kathy Lyman made a friendly amendment to raise the donation to \$500. Amendment passed unanimously.

VII. NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant - Jennifer Shaad

- Jen is currently working on the Tedra Cobb campaign by writing post cards and making phone calls. She reported it was a very frustrating task. Anyone who want to help the campaign go to Tedra Cobb.com, [info@tredacobb.com](mailto:info@tredacobb.com), or tetracobbforcongress on facebook. It seems the race is neck to neck. In Northville signs are being removed and there are individuals selling signs.

-To find information regarding telephone training call 5188984029.

- Consultants are meeting frequently on ZOOM. The two priorities that have been presented to NYSUT are security and importance of newsletters. Members rely on newsletters. Kits will be reviewed when made available. NYSUT just initiated Phase three in headquarters.

-The next General Membership meeting will be held on March 16 Holiday Inn in Johnstown beginning 9-9:30 Coffee and tea. It's projected that it may not be a face to face meeting. Jen will be the contact person and Kathy and Dolores offered to help.

VIII. Outlook Report/ Webmaster - Carolyn Darkangelo, Theresa Kovian

Theresa has stepped away from helping due to other commitments.

Websites looking great. Pictures are always needed. The Outlook Newsletter can be found on website: <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

IX. Social Committee - Kathy Lyman

- 2020 has been the year to stay at home. All 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.
- Mackinac trip has been rescheduled to June 13 - 19, 2021.
- Mt. Rushmore/Badlands trip has been rescheduled for September 24 - October 4, 2021.
- The Music Man starring Hugh Jackman is June 9, 2021.

X. StateWide Senior Action Council - Kathlene Lyman

TO TURNING LEMONS INTO LEMONADE CONFERENCE will be held on ZOOM October 13-15. There is no charge to join the conference if a member of Statewide. As an organization we get five to attend for free. [www.nyseniors.org](http://www.nyseniors.org)

XI. NYSARA - Capital District Chapter - Karen Wojcik-Hess

Monday alerts provide information to attend town hall meetings. Chapters are currently stifled because they are not meeting. They are currently engaging speakers from Florida to provide lifeline learning. By connecting with Guilderland Activity Director, little bags were provided for 120 members of a nursing home that included a raffle ticket for door prizes. Pictures can be seen on the CDARA Facebook page. There is an updated NYSARA list. It's encouraging to learn that some seniors have their families read emails to them! Will update Schenectady retirement list and send it to Kathy.

Stacey thanked Mike Rowan, the Regional Staff Director of NYSUT, for making connections while there was an abundance of challenges including working remotely, slowly going back into the buildings with 50% occupancy, and making safety a priority. Issues included no time off during summer, local colleagues and presidents negotiating and reviewing reopening plans, and contact tracing procedures since schools reopened. At this point 15 districts have positive cases reported, four districts are fully remote due to reported cases in district, accommodations are followed if a case is reported, and all cases are resolved. NYSUT legal talked to districts to protect those at higher risk.

Many members are disappointed because of the inability to connect and have a conference, the fall and March SRP Capital District conference is postponed. At this point, there is a possibility of meeting at Glen Sanders in May.

XII. Guest Speaker NYSUT 2nd Vice President - Ron Gross

Ron shared NYSUT ideas revolving around Social Justice and not defunding police. Since there is currently a skeleton crew at NYSUT, newsletters are not being printed by Print shop. Endorsements will be sent to retirees. There seems to be an influx of retirees. There are currently seven bills for retirement incentive and the retirement fund is secure. Getting information to our members is a team effort. Randi Weingarten, President of AFT, is traveling

across the USA in a bus to encourage people to vote. It is difficult to get involved politically because personal preference is more important. Passing on the idea of democracy, including the defense of education and unions is our message.

There is a possibility the payroll tax may be made permanent. Won't have to pay for this year but next year will have to pay it back. If contributions to social security are shut down benefits could be lost by 2025-2027.

Medical care will be going to the court this fall and it is not sure what will happen. All of these political challenges are magnified by COVID19, including the medical cost of vaccination.

XIII. Guest speaker NYSUT Regional Political Organizer - Peter Kim

Everyone needs to understand there are three ways to vote in the upcoming election: mail in ballot(cut off October 27), early voting (October 24-November 1), Election Day November 3. Ballots can be dropped off at voting places.

At this point members are volunteering to write postcards or join phone banking. At 4PM on Thursday there will be phone bank held on ZOOM. The calls are being made to fellow AFT members to encourage them to vote. If interested contact:

Peter Kim email: [peter.kim@nysut.org](mailto:peter.kim@nysut.org)

phone number: 917.588.3583.

XIV. Meeting closed.