

# THE OUTLOOK

Newsletter of the Retiree Council 12

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

February 2022

## *RC 12 Meeting Notice March 15, 2022*

### **NYSUT Retiree Council 12 General Membership Online Zoom Meeting**

After a brief business meeting, there will be a guest speaker, John Silva from the News Literacy Project. John Silva, Senior Director of Professional Learning at the News Literacy Project, will be presenting an overview of the news literacy concepts and skills that people need to be reliably informed. This includes recognizing the difference between news and opinion, identifying misinformation, evaluating evidence, and using fact-checking and digital verification tools. He'll also ensure there is time for Q&A. Please join us for the online meeting and be sure that your news literacy skills are up to date!

**To register, please send your name, the local from which you retired and the year you retired to: [RC12.NYSUT@gmail.com](mailto:RC12.NYSUT@gmail.com) . Please write: "March general membership meeting" in the subject line. You will then receive a link to the meeting.**

**Here is a link to learn more about our speaker: <https://newslit.org/about/team/#staff-john-silva>**

## *The News Literacy Project*

by Kathlene Lyman, RC 12 first vice president

I first learned of The News Literacy Project at the 2020 New York StateWide Senior Action Council Convention. John Silva was the speaker. The News Literacy Project is a nonpartisan national education nonprofit, which provides programs and resources for educators and the public "to teach, learn, and share the abilities needed to be smart, active consumers of news and information and equal and engaged participants in a democracy." John Silva spoke about what it means to be "news-literate". He offered many "skills" for us to use in becoming "news-literate".

The News Literacy Project offers several free resources to the public, including an e-learning platform, an app, a new podcast, shareable tips, tools, and quizzes and an annual news literacy event. Your RC 12 Board of Directors has chosen, "Teaching News Literacy: Where do I start?"

John Silva will be our speaker at our March meeting. He is the Senior Director of Professional Learning at the News Literacy Project. He will provide a foundational course where he will share an overview of the news literacy concepts, identifying misinformation, evaluating evidence, and using fact-checking and digital verification tools. He'll also ensure time for Q&A.

John Silva joined NLP in 2017 with 13 years of experience as a middle and high school social studies teacher with Chicago Public Schools. I am sure you will enjoy his presentation. Join us.





## NYSUT Retiree Council 12

It was two years ago that the world shut down in fear due to the COVID-19 virus. Now, we can see the light, hopefully, at the end of the tunnel. Mask mandates are changing, and the goal is for life to return to “normal” or the way it was before March 2020. As we head in that direction, many people are filled with joy, but others may be feeling anxiety over the end of mask and vaccine mandates. If you are experiencing any health issues due to changes related to Covid protocols, please talk to your family physician. The debates in the media for all sides of the many arguments are all over in the media. Just because one argument is louder than another, doesn’t necessarily mean it’s true or based in science. Consult someone whom you trust for help.

At the AFT convention two years ago, the membership voted to establish a permanent committee on retiree issues. One benefit is the addition of retirees to the AFT Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policy. The inclusion of retired AFT members in the AFT’s AD&D program is effective as of January 1, 2022. For more information, please see our website at [rc12.ny.aft.org](http://rc12.ny.aft.org)

You may have noticed that we are entering another election cycle. (We have already started receiving the robo calls from various candidates.) On Friday, February 7, NYSUT announced its endorsement of Governor Kathy Hochul. An email to local leaders about the endorsement stated, “NYSUT’s decision to endorse – the first gubernatorial endorsement our union has made in more than 15 years – comes after consideration of her positions on NYSUT’s legislative priorities. “Gov. Hochul’s comments and Executive Budget proposals in education are encouraging. They show that she is listening to the needs of educators and believes in the importance of education. She also has explicitly expressed support for many elements of NYSUT’s Future Forward program.”

There will be changes to congressional races with the new redistricting maps based on the census. Please pay attention to what is happening in your congressional district and how your representation may be affected. We will pass along information from NYSUT related to various races as we receive it.

At a recent NYSUT RC 12 executive board meeting and a social committee meeting, it was decided that trips that had been postponed due to Covid will now be moving forward. If you are signed up for a trip, or you are interested in an upcoming trip, please be sure to contact the social committee person indicated. A list of upcoming events is posted on the front page of this newsletter, and more information is available online at [rc12.ny.aft.org](http://rc12.ny.aft.org)

After many years of service, Jennifer Shaad-Derby has stepped down as the RC 12 & RC 13 retiree consultant. I can’t thank Jennifer enough for all of her help with many, many things related to RC 12 including our annual spring meeting at the Glen Sanders Mansion. On the plus side, Jenn will now be available to help with other RC 12 activities, and I look forward to her input. When you see Jennifer, please thank her for all that she has done.

Our new Retiree Consultant is Sheryl Baker Delano. I have had the privilege of working with Sheryl on the NYSUT Retiree Advisory Committee and believe that she will do a great job. I look forward to working with her to continue bringing NYSUT services to our retirees.

I would like to say a big thank you to the RC 12 executive board, Carolyn Darkangelo, Phyllis VanSteenburgh, and the members of our social committee. These are the people who keep RC 12 running and continue to bring you the latest news from NYSUT, NYSARA, and Statewide. They represent you on numerous committees, keep our website up to date, prepare the newsletter, organize elections, and plan many wonderful trips. Without the dedication of these people, RC 12 would not function as wonderfully as it does. If you would like to get more involved in RC 12, please reach out to me or one of the RC 12 executive board members!

*In solidarity, Stacey Caruso Sharpe*

## 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 Marquist

### Directors

Maggie Bouck - 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:  
 Sheryl Baker Delano

## Save the Date

- March 15, 2022 RC 12 General Membership Meeting VIA Zoom**  
**\*\*April 6, 2022 RC 12 Trip to see Hugh Jackman in “The Music Man” on Broadway**  
**May 12, 2022 RC 12 General Membership Luncheon and Election & NYSUT Regional Conference for RC 12**  
**\*\*June 12-18, 2022 RC 12 Trip to Mackinac Island *Space Available, Call Dolores (518) 993-2854 or Phyllis (518) 725-4060 for details.***  
**August 15, 2022 RC 12 Sound of Music — Cooperstown**  
**\*\*Sept. 30 - Oct. 10, 2022 RC 12 Trip to Mount Rushmore**

### \*\*NOTE

For the three bus trips:

**All participants will be required to provide the following, prior to boarding the bus:**

- a photo ID
- official proof of vaccination and booster

Mask requirements will be determined by New York State mandate at the time of departure.

Please keep track of your contribution as to avoid multiple payments within one year.

“ \* “ indicates paid through June 2022. “ + “ indicates paid beyond June 2023.

ADLER, Virginia	ENGLISH, Arnold	KIMBALL, Gloria*	PYNDATH, Rosy V.
ARPIN, Marilyn+	FARHART, Sharon*	KOPP, Michele	REINHART, Harvey J.
BAIN, Lavonne*	FARLEIGH, Joe	KOSIER, Kathleen	ROE, Jane
BAKER, Keith	FISCHER, Carol	KOSIER, Stephan	SCHOU, Margaret L.+
BARKER, Barbara	FISHER, Robert E.+	LAPORTA, Jean	SIIS, Bonnie
BERARD, Harriet	FYFE, David	LAPORTA, Vincent	SLEEPER, Joyce E.+
BILINS, Barbara*	FYFE, Diane	LENNEBACKER, Anne	SMITH, Janice
BOARDWAY, Marny	GOLDMAN, Mary A.	LIVINGSTON, Gail	SPIRY, Lorraine
BRADY, Grace-Kay	GRASSFIELD, Mary	MASON, Carol+	STOCK, Patricia*
CAFFREY, Christine	GRECO, Maria C.*	MASUCCI, Lana	STUFF, Carol
CARTER, Rebecca M.	GREENFOGEL, Claire	McGUIRE, Leo	TASOVAC, Ellen
COONEY, Nancie	HALL, S. Leigh	MESKUTOVECZ, Martha	TAYLOR, Randall+
COOPER, Nancy D.*	HAWKINS, Rebecca+	NEAL, Sheryl	TIGHE, Carole
COX, Veronica J.*	HESSLINK, Kathryn*	O'BRIEN, Elizabeth	TINKER, Stephanie
CUNNINGHAM, Sharon	HOTALING, Kathleen A.	OTTEN, Sandra	Van HORNE, Theresa
CUTTICA, Paul	HUNTZIKER, Deborah A.	PACHECO, Maria S.	VISALLI, Maria
DELARIA, Winifred	JAQUISH, Virginia B.	PENDERGAST, Susan	WILARY, Carol
DOUCETTE, Suzanne	JOHNSON, Sherry	PIFKO, Carol+	
DOUGLAS, Anne E.	KEENAN, Mary Lou	POLSINELLI, Karen+	
DOUGLASS, Jackson F.*	KOSTBAR-Jarvis, Pamela J.	PUTORTI, Richard	

Thanks !!

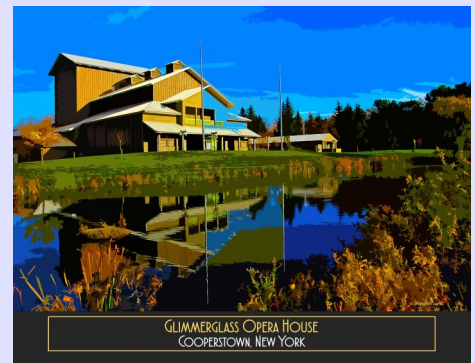
**Corrections from the November Issue**

BAKER, Kathleen\*    GAWLAS, Raymond\*    KINGSBURY, Apryll+    SNYDER, Linda+  
 TESTO, Daniel +    TESTO, Patricia+    TINKER, STEPHANIE\*    WAGNER, Delia\*

NYSUT RC 12 Trip to  
**GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL PRESENTS**

*The Sound of Music*

**August 15, 2022 - Matinee 1:00 PM**  
 7300 State Highway 80, Cooperstown, NY  
 Cost: **\$107.00** for center orchestra side seats.



Send checks to: Wendy Wilson, 119 Woodland Drive, Apt.#50, Cobleskill, NY 12043  
 Questions ? Contact Wendy — [Moose123@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Moose123@nycap.rr.com) or 518-234-3230

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

No. of tickets \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks out to NYSUT RC 12.**

A wait list will be maintained. No refunds after May 15<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow closer to performance.



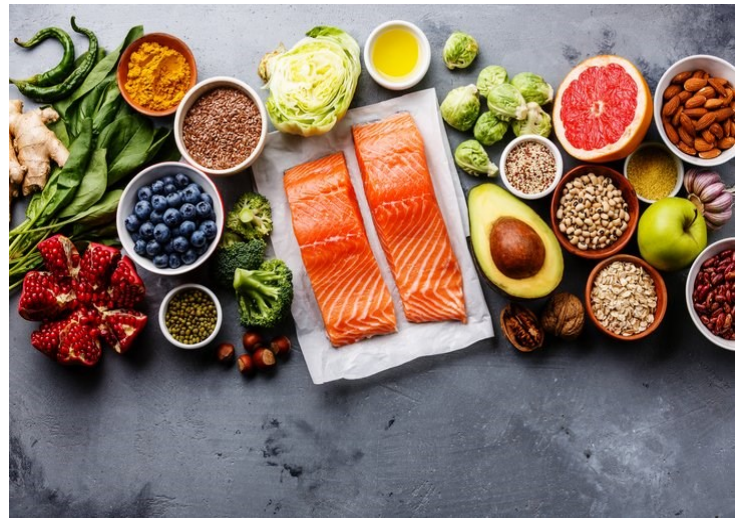
## RC 12 Lost Another Retiree

**Arthur (Archie) Wargo** was the recipient of the RC 12 Community Service Award in 2005. Archie taught math at Middleburgh Central School for 32 years, retiring in 1989. He also coached football and was active in forming the MCS Teachers Association. He served on many MCSTA committees as well as in many community organizations. He and his wife, Pat, raised seven children. He died on October 27, 2021, at the age of 94; his wife died on February 5 at the age of 92. He attended many RC12 meetings until just a few years ago, .

## Take Care of Your Bacteria!!!

A plant-based diet promotes health-boosting gut bacteria. Microorganisms often work well with our bodies. In the digestive system, they work positively to make us healthier. These tiny creatures can reduce the risk of some types of cancers, obesity, and diabetes. According to a study published in Nature Magazine, what you eat greatly determines which bacteria thrive in your gut. The study included 1,100 people who kept track of their diets with journals. They then had blood tests and stool samples analyzed. People who ate plant and animal foods that were not processed such as spinach, eggs, fish, and tomatoes had a diverse group of microbes in their systems. These are associated with good cardiovascular health including good blood sugar values and low LDL cholesterol. Those who ate mostly processed foods including fruit juices, bacon, and other processed meats showed high values of bad microbes. The Mayo Clinic experts say that this shows that people who eat minimally processed foods will experience the health benefits.

(Source: Mayo Clinic Newsletter June 2021)



## Covid Information Center

TRANSMISSION TIME FOR INFECTIOUS DOSE OF COVID-19 FROM INFECTED PERSON TO NON-INFECTED	
Both wearing nothing:	15 minutes
Both wearing cloth mask:	27 minutes
Both wearing surgical mask:	1 hour
Both wearing N95 mask:	25 hours

SOURCE: ACGIH'S PANDEMIC RESPONSE TASK FORCE

## Home Tests

The Biden administration launched a website, [covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov), where anyone can order free at-home covid tests. The Biden administration is also providing up to 50 million additional free at-home tests to community health centers. The federal government has set up more than 10,000 free pharmacy testing sites across the country as well.

**Watch out for phone scammers, too.** If you get a phone call requesting information so that free at-home tests can be mailed to you, **hang up — it's a scam!** (Source: Medicare.gov)

The Biden administration will also make 400 million highly protective N95 masks available to Americans for free. People can pick up the masks at thousands of pharmacies and community health centers. CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens will be distributing them.

**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***

## ***February 2022***

### **RC 12 Election Notice**

*10:15 May 12, 2022 at the Glen Sanders Mansion Schenectady, NY*

Terms of Offices: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024

Eligibility to run for position per NYSUT RC 12 membership list.

NYSUT RC 12 Officers—President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President for Legislation, Secretary, and Treasurer.

NYSUT Representative Assembly Delegates-Two highest are Delegates; next three will be Alternates. (The RC 12 President will be the lead delegate per RC 12 Constitution.)

AFT Delegate—The highest is Delegate; 2nd highest is the Alternate.

Nomination forms can be obtained from and returned to Phyllis VanSteenburgh, [pvanst123@gmail.com](mailto:pvanst123@gmail.com) or mailed to 117 Easterly St. Gloversville, NY 12078-1111, 518-725-4172. Nomination form must be postmarked or emailed no later than March 12, 2022.

The election will be held during the NYSUT RC 12 general membership meeting at the Glen Sanders Mansion in Schenectady, NY on May 12, 2022. To vote, you must be an RC 12 member and present at the time of the election (10:15 am). You are not required to stay for the entire meeting nor purchase lunch in order to vote. No nominations from the floor.

# Check out all your union membership has to offer!



## NYSUT Member Benefits

Every Dollar Counts!

When it comes to protecting yourself, your loved ones, your income or your most valuable possessions, NYSUT Member Benefits has insurance programs that fit the bill. Whether you are looking for **auto & home, life, disability, long-term care, dental, vision, or pet insurance**, there is a Member Benefits-endorsed plan that may be of assistance featuring value-added extras unavailable to the public.

Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org). There, you will find numerous tools and resources available to you as a NYSUT member – including a **Financial Learning Center** with articles designed to help educate you on financial decisions and topics.

Member Benefits also endorses several discounted shopping programs that can help you save on both everyday and more expensive purchases. Finally, if you ever have an issue or problem when using a Member Benefits program, our staff take great pride in their ability to quickly assist members with any concerns that may arise.

Visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call **800-626-8101** to learn more about the endorsed programs and services available to you through your union membership.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,  
visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or  
calling **800-626-8101**.



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

Jan/Feb 2022