

NYSUT RC 12 Executive Board Meeting Minutes April 26, 2022  
Amsterdam Teachers' Association Office 102 Caroline St., Amsterdam, NY 12010

Present: Kathlene Lyman, Theresa Kovian, Stacey Caruso-Sharpe, Margaret Dafeldecker ,  
Maggie Bouck, Cathy Picciocca, Caroline Darkangelo, Sheryl Baker Delano, Bev Alves

Excused: Dolores Talmadge

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 by President Stacey Caruso-Sharpe, followed by the President's Report.

Stacey and Kathlene attended 2022 RA and a report will be given later in the meeting.

Unfortunately the New York State Board of Regents recently lost Bev Ouderkerk, A replacement will be appointed by the New York State Assembly.

New York State is fortunate to have pro-education leadership that was reflected in this year's budget. Community Schools, where medical services are brought into the schools, was one of the leading discussions addressed in the budget hearings. Syracuse has been utilizing this service and it has proven to be successful for the students in low income communities. Working parents trying to keep their family afloat, are often not available to bring their children to receive needed services. The increase and request for more Social Workers, Guidance Counselors, and School Psychologists was approved to help students emotionally. The stress level, especially of high school students, seems to be higher following the stay at home, challenging, time period. The amount of news, family discussions, and disagreements within the general population is being heard by students. It is reported that they often do not know how to deal with the increase of variety of opinions occurring in our world today.

Sue Klug, followed by Ani Shahinian, both retired from NYSUT Social Services and have not been replaced. Inservice partners are requesting a replacement, however no one has been found to fill their shoes.

Medicare Advantage is attempting to privatize by expanding or replacing some services. Single payer is one kind of medicare for all that is being addressed. However, NYSUT has made it clear that it needs more detail and specific wording.

The Board discussed purchasing a gift for Jen Shaad-Derby for the number of years she provided excellent service to RC 12. Cathy P. made a motion and accepted a friendly amendment to purchase a \$100 gift certificate for dinner and \$100 donation to the charity of Jen's choice. Seconded by Theresa. Motion carried.

Sue Proctors sent a letter of resignation to Stacey in the past regarding her position as SRP Representative on the RC 12 Board. Stacey has an individual that could possibly step up to help RC 12, who is moving from one RC Council to RC 12. This individual would have to complete a form to change the

Council she would like to join before taking the position. If this change occurs, she will be invited to our August Executive Board meeting. Individuals can only belong to one Council, although some pay a participation fee to attend trips in other Councils.

The proposed constitutional changes, discussed by the Constitutional Committee in January will be voted on at our General Membership meeting on May 14. Caroline will make sure the proposals are placed on the website, to fulfill the fourteen day requirement of proposed constitutional changes prior to membership approval. .

### **Vice- President's Report Kathlene Lyman**

Kathlene attended the RA with Stacey and was impressed with the Pro Education support and speakers which included Governor Kathy Hochol, U.S. Congressman Paul Tonko, Attorney General Letitia James, U.S. Representative Antonio Delgado, NY-19, New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli <https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/representative-assembly/newsfeed>

A resolution was added to help Ukraine. Members can utilize the NYSUT Disaster Relief fund. [support of the people of Ukraine](#)

Safety Issues were brought up by the Buffalo Teachers Association. A security officer was shot in one of their schools. All of the resolutions presented passed except for the Tier III/VI salary increase. There was an amendment to New York State Retirement services with credits accrued. [federal funding to address school and community violence](#)

There was overall support for Community Schools. It was presented that approximately 5% of all students in counties in central New York have no health insurance, although all students are covered. 15% have no health insurance because the parents are not aware their children could have free insurance. As a result Community Schools help to network the families through schools to help sign up for insurance. Utilizing Community Schools it is possible for all students to get the help that they need and deserve.

It was reported that the anxiety level in high schools is out of control. The way that students experience and hear the split regarding politics is challenging since the pandemic.

Informing retirees regarding health care challenges was considered to be an "out of order" resolution.

- [Click here for our full report on resolutions at RA 2022.](#)

Kathy reported the challenge to communicate with new members of RC 12 continues. Currently RC 12 has 3,600 members on our list. Swinka Richards continues to help the process when possible by attempting to get individuals when they are retiring.

**Secretary's Report - Cathy Picciocca**

Minutes for the January and March Membership meeting were shared via email. Kathlene made a motion to accept the January Executive Board Minutes. Seconded by Margaret. January minutes approved. The March minutes will be approved at the membership meeting in May.

**Treasurer's Report - Dolores Talmadge**

The 2022-2023 budget will be approved at the May Conference General Membership Meeting.

Cathy P. made a motion to send \$50 to the Literary Project which was presented at our March General Membership meeting. It was seconded by Margaret. Motion passed.

**2nd Vice President - Bev Alves**

Bev expressed the need for health care and medicare for all. She expressed that it is a human right. Palliative care continues to be one of the issues she's involved with improving.

**NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant Report - Sheryl Baker Delano**

At the time of this meeting 28 members have signed up for our May Conference and General Membership Meeting. Sheryl will be arriving at 8:45 to help with a sign in sheet and name tags. A 50/50 Raffle will be hosted by Linda Zilka and NYSUT will provide door prizes. David Clements from Member Benefits will be one speaker. David Keefe from NYSTRS will be the second speaker.

This has been a busy year that included the Retiree's Counsel 30th Anniversary and NYSUT's 50th Anniversary. There will be a new retiree's workshop held in the fall on ZOOM. They are still working on the administrative website to be able to email to members in batches.

**Elections Committee**

The ballot for the May elections were reviewed by all. A discussion was held whether names on the ballots should be in alphabetical order or randomly placed on the ballot. Kathy made a motion to keep the ballot in alphabetical order. The motion was seconded by Margaret. Discussion continued reviewing the past history of this action. Motion was passed.

Kathlene volunteered to get the ballots printed at the Capital District Regional Office.

**Outlook/Website - Carolyn Darkangelo**

There was discussion regarding publicizing the 2022 NYSUT Community Service Award to Phyllis VanSteenburg on our website and in the newsletter. It will also be placed on the Outlook Website following our May meeting. Cut off dates for the next issue is June 7.

Carolyn also asked for contributions for an article focusing on Jennifer Shaad-Derby.

A short discussion was held regarding the way that past presidents were listed in the newsletter. It was stressed that the elder members need to continue to bring corrections to these lists to the attention of the editor so the correct order could be reflected.

### **Social Committee** - Kathlene Lyman

A motion was made by Margaret to contribute the proceeds of the 50/50 Raffle to be held at our membership meeting to Ukraine. Seconded by Maggie. Motion passed.

Glimmerglass August 15 all seats are taken.

Kathy is looking into trips to New York City to see *Funny Girl* and *Moulin Rouge*. Other ideas that were suggested were the following: the Seneca Falls "It's a Wonderful Life" in December, Harriet Tubman museum in Auburn, repeating Chicago, NYC (but not in July), Nova Scotia.

StateWide is celebrating its 50th Anniversary on September 12-14. Individual memberships can register before June 30 to get a discount. RC 12 has a membership so if anyone from the Executive Board is interested in attending let Dolores know. There is a \$500 allotment in RC 12 budget that can be split by those who want to attend. Let Dolores know by June 10.

In the Commemorative Booklet for the 50 Year Anniversary Gala an individual can be highlighted. One-eighth of a page ad would cost \$75.

The Albany Chapter will be hosting an event on May 18 from 1:00 - 2:30 titled *Where do you see yourself in five years*. Tanya Zelman Schwartz, a Geriatric Care Manager will be presenting.

Sheryl will start looking into our Fall General Membership meeting at the Otesaga in Cooperstown. Prices are rising and the cost seems to be around \$35 a head. Sheryl will start looking into possible dates and speakers for October 12, 18, or 19.

Sheryl shared that an in service pre retirement meeting will be hosted on ZOOM. Stacey suggested Juliet Benaquisto ED12 Director may be available to present to new retirees.

RC12 August Executive Board meeting will be held August 4 at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown. Theresa will make arrangements. Coffee and tea will be provided at 9 AM and the meeting will start at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Picciocca  
RC12 Secretary