

RC 12 Executive Board Meeting 16 November 2022 ZOOM Meeting

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

Excused: Dolores Talmadge

The meeting was called to order around 9:30 by Stacey.

I. President's Report - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

A. Election Results - The 2022 midterm elections are over and some feel our democracy is fragile. There seems to be dissension among leaders regarding House Speaker McCarthy and McConnell. The thought of Dark Money is prevalent. It appears that having discussions is a challenge and often turns into shouting matches, which doesn't help our government. The general public wants to know what will make our lives better!

B. RA deadlines for any award nominations are set for December 9 and Humanitarian Awards January 20. Amendments to proposals for RA are set for February 10.

C. Future meetings for RC 12

-General Membership Meeting March 14 - Kathlene

Speaker could be someone from NYSUT regarding social justice or bias training

Raffle will go to the Florida Relief Fund, AFT Disaster Relief Fund

Kathlene will look into having a choice for a sit down menu.

-Executive Board Meeting on January 12 will be held on ZOOM

-General Membership Meeting - May 11 Sheryl

Location will be at Waters Edge or River Stone Manor

Topic choices suggested include the following: What NYSUT does for Retirees, Alzheimer's Mary Pitchard's name was suggested as a speaker

Raffle will go to Alzheimer's Association

It was also suggested to bring up the website to share with attendees.

Sheryl also shared that there are grants available to help to offset costs through NYSUT.

II. Treasurer's Report - Dolores Talmadge is recovering from surgery.

Stacey shared that an audit needs to be completed.

III. Membership - Sheryl Baker Delano

Sheryl questioned how many members we currently have in RC 12. Our treasurer Dolores has the most updated numbers. Sheryl felt that cross referencing may help increase our membership. She is looking into what locals have a retirement chapter and suggests reaching out to these groups.

Theresa reported that in Gloversville a meeting for retired teachers was held and the number of attendees has decreased. Cathy reported the same situation with Amsterdam retired teachers. A discussion pursued regarding the fact that retired teachers do not know the difference between RC 12, AFT, local unions, retiree chapters, and NEA. It was explained that AFT/NEA have different term limits and a difference regarding secret ballot voting. There is another retiree organization in the state that is not affiliated with NYSUT. It's new name is RENY (Retired Educators of New York). Formally it was called the New York State Retired Teachers Association.

Maggie shared that a chapter was recently formed in her geographic area and she felt NYSUT was not helpful and there was no tangible recognition. Sheryl is going to work with Maggie to focus on Union for Life which originated from retirees of NYSUT.

Sheryl met with Mike Rowan and she shared that NYSUT needs to improve with dealing with retirees. It was questioned why NYSUT support staff doesn't share NYSUT is our union for life.

Stacey is a representative of RAC and she was devastated to learn that a file cabinet housed in NYSUT with RC 12 documents was removed. She was told there was no space in NYSUT for RC 12 files. She plans on bringing this up at the next RAC meeting. RC 12 is very much a part of NYSUT. Retired teachers are addressed on the NYSUT website.

Vice President Report - Kathlene Lyman

Kathy will meet with Sheryl to cross reference and make a list of local retired teacher chapters. The following local chapters were listed: Niskayuna, Gloversville, Amsterdam, Frankfort-Schylar, Johnstown, Herkimer BOCES, Fulton BOCES, Schoharie, and Middleburgh. It is unknown whether all of these still exist.

Secretary Report - Cathy Picciocca

The minutes were sent out to the Executive Board via email. A number of corrections were sent to Cathy. With corrections noted Kathlene made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections for the August Executive Board meeting. Bev second the motions. The motion was passed.

Minutes for the General Membership Meeting were also reviewed. Jeanne made a motion to accept them and pass them onto the general membership to approve at our March General Membership Meeting. Bev seconded the motion. The motion was passed. The minutes will be posted on the website so all members can read them.

Second Vice President Report - Bev Alves

Bev shared we need to stay informed regarding candidates for the elections because cuts to Medicare and Social Security are already being proposed.

She also shared information about palliative care and the human condition of health care for all.

Stacey shared that NYSUT can not advocate for wanting health care for all because details need to be specific. Members will not want to give up any benefits they bargained for while in service. She also shared that unions can not take care of palliative care.

NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant Report - Sheryl Baker Delano

Sheryl is planning a Pre Retirement Workshop with RC 13 at the mid Hudson Office to be held on ZOOM. Stacey shared that RC 12 has been involved with ED 10 and RC 10 in the past. RC 12 will hopefully be hosting one with RC 10. Suggestions for speakers were David O'Keefe and Steve Kramer.

While planning the RC 12 general membership meeting, discussion revolved around getting speakers from social security and medicare. Jeanne suggested that two simultaneous workshops be provided. One speaker could be from our Regional Office and the other from Social Security. Due to the age difference of the retirees attending, both age groups need to be accommodated.

Social Committee - Kathlene Lyman

The trip to Mount Rushmore and the Badlands was enjoyed by all who attended.. Unfortunately due to fog, the attendees could not see Mt. Rushmore. However, a deal was worked out with the bus driver to bring the attendees at night. The trip was enjoyed by all. However positive cases of COVID were reported upon return.

New trips are planned. The trip to NYC in March to see *A Beautiful Noise* has one opening left to be filled. There are also trips planned by Linda and Gloria to The Ark Encounter & Creation Museum in Cincinnati (October 2-7) and Rambling the Rails of New Hampshire (June 5-9) . Information can be found on RC 12 Website at <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

Kathlene was excited to announce that new members volunteered to be on the Social Committee. New members include Lori Wrench along with MJ and John Rathbon from Indian Lake.

Retiree Advisory Council (RAC) - Stacey

There will be a meeting on December 7.

NYSARA/StateWide Convention Report - Kathlene

Sign up for Monday alerts at New York State Alliance of Retired Americans at www.nysenior.org

RC 12 was well represented at the StateWide's 50th Anniversary by Stacey, Kathlene, Jeanne, Cathy, and Dolores. Pictures have been shared on our website.

A discussion revolved around learning to exchange beliefs with a back and forth discussion, to listen to both sides, and to develop an acceptance of each other's belief systems.

The importance of contributing to VOTE-COPE was discussed. Unfortunately only about 6% of the retirees of the Capital District contribute. Their average contribution is \$37. Attempting to understand that our union protects us even in retirement is important. Credit actually goes to our locals. Sheryl may attempt to enlist VOTE-COPE Coordinator, Zimmerman to present in our May General Membership Meeting.

Thoughts were expressed featuring Kay Lenarcic as a RC 12 retiree doing something good in the next edition of Outlook.

David O'Keefe won reelection to the Retirement Council.

Proposed RA Resolutions <https://www.nysut.org/members/retirees>

Stacey explained that friendly amendments need to be made ahead of time for the RA Assembly for resolutions to be passed.

Resolution #1 NYSUT Retiree Recognition Resolution Resolution Submitted by NYSUT RC 14

Theresa made a motion to submit this resolution. Seconded by Cathy, Motion carried.

Resolution #2 Protecting Members Health Insurance Resolution Submitted by RC 18, 19, 20, 21

This resolution addresses how benefits are extended into retirement. Last year it was determined to be out of order. This usually is addressed via locals. RC 12 decided not to support this resolution.

Resolution #3 Increase Retiree Involvement in "Union for Life" Resolution Submitted by RC 18, 19, 20, 21

Jeanne made a motion to submit this resolution. The motion was seconded by Kathy. Motion carried.

Resolution #4 Increase our "Union for Life" program Submitted by RC 18, 19, 20, 21

Theresa made a motion to submit this resolution. The motion was seconded Cathy. The motion was carried.

Resolution #5 Adjunct and Part-Time Employees Retiree Resolution Resolution Submitted by NYSUT RC 39

Theresa made a motion to submit this resolution. It was seconded by Jeanne. The motion was carried.

Amendments to RC 12 Constitution

Due to the time it was decided this will be addressed at our February meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Picciocca

RC 12 Secretary