

RC 12 General Membership Meeting 15 March 2022 Via Zoom
President Stacey Caruso-Sharpe welcomed everyone and called the RC 12 General Membership meeting to order at 9:30 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President's Report:

NYSUT is supporting Ukraine and anyone who wants to consider donating to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund, the union's 501(c)3 organization, go to <https://www.nysut.org/news/2022/march/disaster-relief> To donate through American Federation of Teachers go to <https://www.aft.org/disaster-relief-fund> and/or the United Nations Relief Fund. Watch out for scams when making donations to Ukraine. The Attorney General's office provides safe resources.

The State Budget is due at the end of the month and both houses have released bills. NYSUT's Future Forward emphasises a number of areas supported to keep the best education opportunities available for students in our state. New York State Governor Hochul supports public education. Endorsing Community Schools where services are brought into schools as modeled in Syracuse is proposed. Other areas considered may be Westchester Schenectady, Amsterdam, and Albany. NYSUT endorses increased funding to include bias training, teacher centers, a one year moratorium for APPR, and to increase the number of school nurses and mental health professionals within all of the buildings.

It's important to sign up with the MAC center to stay connected with issues. <https://mac.nysut.org/action/>

March is Women's History Month. A private showing of **Private Violence** will be held on March 17 and a panel discussion will follow.

Stacey shared the screen on her computer to help direct members to the NYSUT website <https://www.nysut.org/> and the RC 12 website <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

AFT now has a permanent Retiree Committee and added the accidental death policy to any retired member. Go to the website and make sure information regarding beneficiaries is updated to be eligible for this benefit. http://rc12.ny.aft.org/sites/default/files/article_pdf_files/2022-02/aftbase_add_flyer_w_retirees_flyer_revised_1-2022.pdf

1st Vice President's report Kathlene Lyman

Kathy is attending the Committee of 100. NYSUT Union for Life stickers will be sent to her for distribution by Swinka Richards.

(Swinka.richards@nysut.org) Kathy will be attending the Representative Assembly.

Treasurer's Report and Audit Report - Dolores Talmadge

January 1 - February 28

ACCOUNTS				
#1 - Savings			153.33	
#3- Social Money Market			14,454.12	
#11- Business Money Market			45,909.79	
#12- Business Checking			160.04	
#13- Social Checking			1,490.67	
Total			62,167.95	

The checking account has had a little bit of activity. The Social Committee has been active with deposits and refunds.

The audit is completed and John Mazur types up a letter and it is sent to AFT. The IRS taxes were completed in November to file.

Second Vice President Report - Bev Alves

Bev continues to wonder about the issues of healthcare and palliative care that she has been working on. She wrote the AFT resolution for palliative care and NYSUT's resolution on Medicare for All. She continues to wonder how to get these issues to move. These issues have been passed by the Representative Assembly and have been active for three years.

As a BOCES Special Ed teacher she has always been active and spoke up for years. There seems to be a discrepancy between duties regarding lunch duties. The Board's negotiator made a point of saying that the BOCES management was in violation of state law. Each local attempts to resolve such issues.

Bev is a member of the NYSSBA (New York State School Board Association) and DEI (Diversity Equality Inclusion) committee.

Secretary's report - Cathy Picciocca

Cathy shared that the minutes can be found on the RC 12 website at the following link:

http://rc12.ny.aft.org/sites/default/files/rc12_september_30_2021.pdf

Theresa Kovian made a motion to accept the minutes as posted. Seconded by Margaret Dafeldecker. Motion passed.

Directors

Vickie McGowan-Horan(Schenectady) reported that there is a new charter school in Schenectady for grades one through three.

Margaret Dafeldecker had no report.

Theresa Kovian (Fulton/Montgomery)reported that elementary teachers in Gloversville are now responsible for Social Skills. Members were reminded that it is up to each local teachers' association to be aware and to look into the district's challenges. Staying aware of what is going on in the schools is very important in all districts.

Maggie Bouck has a desire to utilize [Cherry Valley/Springfield District](#) as a model to be recognized by NYSUT. Having contact information is always the challenge. The group met in January and started a closed Facebook group. Medicare reimbursement has been addressed. The president of retiree members and superintendent meeting for advocate support. Marge is writing an article for our website for locals on how to help to get retirement groups started.

All of us at RC 12 continue to send positive thoughts to Sue Proctor who is our SRP Director.

Outlook report - Carolyn Darkangelo

Everything will be sent to Theresa Kovian the first week of April since Carolyn will be traveling. Theresa will reach out to others if she needs help with getting the next issue ready to be sent to NYSUT.

Visit our website at <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

NYSUT RC 12 Retiree Services Consultant - Sheryl Baker Delano

There seems to be some issues regarding the May 12 meeting. Prices have gone up at Glen Sanders. She will be visiting River Stone Manor in Scotia and getting the required paperwork completed.

Sheryl shared her background information. She feels that one-third of NYSUT members are retirees. During the pandemic many retirees felt alone and being active in retirement council activities was lifesaving for many members. Retirees are invited to reach out to her to answer questions. She is also an advocate for pushing board members who are pro education. The following information will allow one to contact Sheryl.

sheryl.delano@nysut.org 845-706-6986

Social Committee Report - Kathlene Lyman

It seems that while traveling some places are asking for proof of vaccination and wearing masks may still be a requirement for attendees. Reservations are filled for Music Man on Broadway that was originally scheduled for August 2012. There are no extra tickets. Twenty-five tickets were sold for The Sound of Music at Glimmerglass. She did manage to get four more tickets. There is no Social Committee meeting scheduled for the future. It looks like things are getting better to start planning future trips for RC 12.

ED 51-53 Retirement Council Kathlene, Stacey, and Dolores will be attending ED 51-53 Retirement Council meeting on March 16. A ZOOM link will be sent by Andrea.

StateWide - Kathlene Lyman

It was reported that StateWide will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in September at their Convention at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga. The Board of Directors will be meeting in April to finalize plans. Every chapter is highlighting a person. RC 12 has a group membership to StateWide. Individuals can also join the group for \$20.

Kathlene also joined a legislator leadership class that reviews how to contact representatives and legislators. These sessions meet once a month, led by Gail Meyers, to help individuals to become more proactive, and provides confidence with this skill.

Capital District Chapter of NYSARA - Karen Wojcik-Hess

Stacey updated that NYSARA backs the resolutions of health care for all, however not everyone seems to be on board with this concept. NYSUT has been encouraged to form a committee to form a base plan for everyone on Medicare. However, through individual districts the Medicare Advantage Plan is accepted. Everyone is reminded to subscribe to Monday alerts. <https://nystate.retiredamericans.org/>

Up to 18 members attended this online membership meeting.

Guest Speaker - John Silva

A Nationally Board Certified teacher, John Silva who is the Senior Director of Professional Learning at the News Literacy Project introduced RC 12 to the Newsliteracy.org website. Liz Price from NLP assisted John with the presentation.

This extremely informative presentation cited numerous sources so everyone could attempt to learn whether publications may actually be fake news, propaganda, biased articles, misinformation and/or conspiracy theories. Guides were, also, provided to help to have more positive conversations with friends and family members during this challenging time in our history.

Here is the full-size version of Visual Capitalist's Internet Minute infographic, in case you want to take a closer look: <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/from-amazon-to-zoom-what-happens-in-an-internet-minute-in-2021/>

Newseum's SEED poster on propaganda: <https://newseumed.org/poster-weed-out-propaganda-seed>

Ad-Fontes Media Bias Chart: <https://adfontesmedia.com/>

All Sides Media Bias Chart: <https://www.allsides.com/media-bias>

You can download this Understanding Bias poster on our

website: <http://newslit.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Understanding-Bias-2020.pdf>

If you'd like to reference our "Five Types of Misinformation" content after today,

you can download the poster from our website: https://newslit.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Misinformation_Nov2021.pdf

Subscribe to our Get Smart About News newsletter and visit today's edition: <https://newslit.org/get-smart-newsletters/>

Here is our guide to have less confrontational conversations with friends and loved ones - <https://newslit.org/updates/use-pep-to-talk-to-conspiracy-believers/>

As John just mentioned, we did a webinar series last Fall on how to have productive conversations without confrontation. You can re-watch all sessions in the series here: <https://newslit.org/updates/understanding-misinformation-and-how-to-talk-to-people-who-believe-it/>

[google-like-a-pro/](https://newslit.org/updates/google-like-a-pro/)

NLP partnered with disinformation research expert Cindy Otis to bring you eight tips that can help you improve your search results and zero in on what you're looking for more quickly. Check out these eight tips

here: <https://newslit.org/educators/resources/eight-tips-to-google-like-a-pro/>

Numerous questions and a healthy discussion followed the presentation.

The RC 12 meeting ended after noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Picciocca

RC 12 Secretary