

## **NYSUT RC 12 Executive Board Meeting - NYSUT Headquarters - April 25, 2024**

Present: Stacey Caruso-Sharpe, Cathy Picciocca, Jeanne Williams Bennett, Maggie Bouck, Remote Presence- Jen Shaad-Derby, Elaine Lounsbury, Caroline Darkangelo

### **President's Report - Stacey Caruso Sharpe**

The New York State Budget has been settled. The plan to Fix Tier Six included a change to a three-year average salary. There still is no progress regarding APPR.

It was voted to reject Save Harmless that prevents NYS schools from getting less in Foundation Aid than the previous year. It was decided to have an outside group to study enrollment and report back on December 1. It seems that enrollment continues to go down. There is a 4% cap on the reserve. There still seem to be cuts coming. NYSUT will have a seat in this group. Caps for retirees are not available. The Downstate Medical Center will stay for another year. Aid to SUNY and CUNY has been worked out. NYS joins the Science of Reading movement that looks at evidence and scientific based practices. TAP known as Tuition Assistance Program will continue.

ED 51-53 Report - Ian Phillips Regional Political Organizer (RPO) reported in March that Chris Rufo is attempting to convince others to mistrust schools. There is a focus on the Parents Bill of Rights and book banning. Approximately 80% of the candidates who questioned current education policies did not win school board elections.

Stacey reported that some attendees of our last General Membership meeting felt the meeting was too political. RC 12 tries to follow the stance of NYSUT protecting Medicare and Social Security. The need to endorse NYSUT trends in health care discussed by Mark Quinlan includes Affordable Care Act preventive services such as Silver Sneakers. Preventive services are currently being challenged in the Supreme Court.

The Inflation Reduction Act has capped ten drugs, and it is projected that twenty will be capped next year. There is a continual attempt to keep prices down.

The diabetes weight loss drug continues to be questioned. By utilizing this drug and having it covered by insurance there are positive results such as lower blood pressure. Recipients who take this drug often come off other meds.

Recently Syracuse labor unions and retiree counsels were on strike for 139 days. Most of the labor unions around the area joined together to support the organization and results were positive.

Ron Gross shared that retired teachers need to connect with in-service members. Unions have always struggled but by accepting Union for Life, more retirees may get involved. There is a new director of the newsletter and the option to opt out is still in the process. It seems that more factors will be involved to continue to move to digital

platforms. Ron acknowledged the retirees reported receiving NYSUT calendars late this year. Every year getting lists of retirees continues to be a challenge on all levels. It was reported that the peer support line is in operation from noon until eight PM daily and it continues to be used. Attendees were reminded to support VOTE-COPE.

The Representative Assembly (RA) will be held the first weekend in May. The assembly will go through resolutions and cut down on speakers.

Nationally the Presidential race is around the corner and Congress still seems to run in a dysfunctional manner. Aid to Ukraine and Israel was approved to continue to help prevent that one person having all the power.

Maggie questioned if there would be changes in the upcoming RA. The new practice of having a new resolution brought up and amended has been stopped. Resolutions cannot be changed while discussed. All changes need to be presented online prior to the assembly. Changes need to be made by the Committees prior to the RA. This cuts down on debates. The Resolutions are brought to the floor and less discussion and interpretation of all the facts occurs. She felt that there was a need to hear the conversations.

Stacey explained that the Board of Directors voted on the procedure in September. The RC 12 Executive Board discussed whether a resolution could be submitted to go back to addressing the grass roots of resolutions, go back to the bottom-up structure of the NYSUT operation regarding debates, and vote to extend deadlines so resolutions could be altered and accepted at the RA by its representatives.

Kathlene Lyman will not be running for Second Vice President of RC 12 this year. She has been a noticeable contributor to RC 12 forever. We are all grateful for her years of service, Cathy P. made a motion to purchase a \$100 gift certificate to Waters Edge for Kathy in recognition of her service to RC 12. The motion was seconded by Jeanne and the motion carried.

There was a pre-retirement workshop held in the Utica area where 30 in-service members registered online. Unfortunately, no one from RC 12 was aware of this event and no representative was available to greet in-service members from our area.

#### **TREASURERS REPORT - Dolores Talmadge**

No treasurer's report was available because Dolores is in Florida with her sister. A budget will be available for the May Membership meeting. An audit needs to be conducted to be represented at AFT.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT - Cathy Picciocca**

Minutes from the November meeting was sent out to the Executive Board via email. Jeanne made a motion to accept the minutes and Maggie seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

#### **ELECTION COMMITTEE** - Elaine Lounsbury

Names of members who wanted to run for NYSUT Representative Assembly Delegate were written on a piece of paper, folded, and chosen for name order to be placed on the ballot. The same procedure was conducted for the AFT ballot order. The elected RC 12 President will be the first NYSUT RA Delegate. The 2nd Delegate will be the individual who receives the most votes at the election. The person who receives the second highest number of votes will be the Alternate RA Delegate.

#### NYSUT Delegate Ballot Order

Phyllis VanSteenburgh

Bev Alves

Jeanne Williams Bennett

#### AFT Representative Ballot Order

Bev Alves

Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

Elaine made a motion to approve the ballot as listed. Cathy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Outlook/Website** - Caroline Darkangelo

Caroline wanted to send out a big thank you to Theresa for figuring out links for the website. To continue to receive the newsletter in the mail they will have to opt in to have it sent by NYSUT. The next newsletter will be sent out on June 15. The cutoff date will be June 5. Caroline continues to attempt to update the website. AFT will not update leadership information. Pictures are always accepted regarding fun and being politically active.

#### **StateWide Senior Action Council** - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

This organization is on top of Medicare and Medicaid Issues. They provide information regarding the Senior Master Plan where fighting for representation is a necessity.

#### **NYSARA** - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

President Barry Kaufman will be one of the speakers at our Regional Conference in May.

#### **Constitution Committee** - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

Hoping to meet in May 8, 15, or 23. Jeanne and Cathy volunteered to be part of the committee.

**Old Business**

RC 12 nominated Maria Pacheco for Reward for Excellence to be recognized at the May meeting.

RC 12 Retirement seminar to possibly be held November 7 at 4:00 PM. Speakers could be Juliette from NYSUT, someone from the Teachers Retirement Board, ERS

Next RC 12 Executive Board Meeting August 6 at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Picciocca

RC 12 Secretary