

## **08.06.24 RC 12 Executive Board Meeting ...Holiday Inn Johnstown**

**PRESENT:** Stacey Caruso Sharpe, Maggie Bouck, Bev Alves, Cathy Picciocca, Carolyn Darkangelo, Vickie McGowan Horan, Elaine Lounsbury-Brown, Jennifer Shaad-Derby, Sheryl Baker Delano, Jeanne Bennett

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe**

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 to discuss open Executive Board positions. Finding an SRP has been a challenge. Sheryl is going to reach out to the Syracuse Regional Staff Director to see if anyone could be interested. The Board discussed other possible volunteers who may be interested in an open Director's position left by Maggie. If anyone is interested the Board could ask and approve someone to attend RC 12 Meetings until May elections.

A pre-retirement workshop will be held on November 7 at 4PM. ERS members will be included. Maggie will be meeting with Stacey and receiving more information from Kathy Lyman to get the workshop going.

RC 12 Award of Excellence will be presented to Maria Pacheco at the fall RC 12 general membership meeting. Cathy made a motion to nominate Kathlene Lyman for the 2025 award to be presented at the May Membership Meeting. The motion was seconded by Vickie. Motion carried.

The upcoming election will have numerous senior health care and education issues at stake. Stacey has a list of people who wanted to volunteer to help last year who wanted to get involved by writing postcards or making phone calls. New York State lost seats last year so it's important to support candidates with like-minded senior ideas. The AFT endorsed Harris as did AFL/CIO. NYSUT does not endorse federal candidates as NYSUT follows AFT endorsements.

The Republican party has several proposals that do not seem to be beneficial to seniors or education. The idea to change the wording of "entitlement" regarding Social Security is being introduced. It is a fallacy that SS will be bankrupt in the next five years. Education issues will be discussed at Guilderland High School regarding the foundation formula. Anyone interested in attending should contact Stacey for more information. Other educational minded issues include book banning, revisionist history, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Finding individuals to run for school board elections that support educationally minded ideas is important.

### **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Maggie Bouck**

RC 12 will pay for new retirees to attend our fall general membership meeting. Maggie will be meeting with Stacey to receive more directions following the RC 12 Executive Board Meeting.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT - Dolores Talmadge**

No report. The audit was completed and Stacey will make sure it gets to AFT.

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

The minutes were sent out to everyone via email. Maggie made a motion to accept the minutes as sent. Vickie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **VICE-PRESIDENT FOR LEGISLATION - Bev Alves**

Bev wrote legislation for palliative care a few years ago. It was passed by NYSUT and the AFT. She wonders where it stands now.

### **DIRECTORS**

Elaine shared that Phyllis sent out an email regarding contact information. It was passed to all in attendance and Stacey will update it and send corrections out to all.

Vickie brought up the controversial issue of using cell phones in classrooms.

Stacey shared that NYSUT is presenting a workshop regarding cell phones in classrooms on September 20. Disconnected: A convening exploring the impact of cellphones, social media and technology on children, schools and learning. Anyone can register online at the following link:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/237c8022-96ff-4600-b7c5-911880fa1eba/regPage:b4f03e46-0075-4cf7-9e98-a838784a18fa>

Maggie brought up health insurance concerns with retired teachers and Medicare B reimbursements regarding honoring prescription drugs. This challenge is going to arbitration. We continue to experience that insurance rules cannot be changed. Local unions represent in-service people. However, it still is "our" contract. Placing retirees in the constitution of local unions impacts members infinitely.

It was explored whether a resolution could be written via NYSUT. However, some retirees do not have health insurance. Some areas do not have retiree chapters. As a result, retirees are not informed. It is so important to keep lists of retirees. Recognition clauses including retirees need to be in local contracts for consistency and protection. Health insurance goes through locals. Mark Quinlan's name was brought up to possibly speak at our October 10 meeting. Mark has been hired by NYSUT as a consultant for health insurance issues.

### **NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT REPORT - Sheryl Baker Delano**

The new NYSUT Director of Constituency Services is Carrie Andrews. She can be reached at [carrie.andrews@nysut.org](mailto:carrie.andrews@nysut.org)

The new NYSUT Senior Administrative Assistant is Dana Osta. She can be reached at [dana.osta@nysut.org](mailto:dana.osta@nysut.org)

The upgrade of fixing Tier Six now involves using the average salary of the last three years in service, instead of the last five. NYSUT will continue to ask to Fix Tier Six.

A Spring Retirement seminar was held on ZOOM for RC 10. The idea is to start talking about retirement 5 to 9 years before leaving in-service. It's important to include ERS with TRS workshops.

In early spring members will be reminded to opt-in to receive newsletters in the mail. Everyone in RC 12 will receive a newsletter in the mail every spring to announce elections. Members will be able to opt-in through their member portal. This new process will take effect August of 2025.

**WEBMASTER/OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER** - Carolyn Darkangelo

The next Outlook is scheduled to go out September 15. It will include specifics for the October general membership meeting. The rest of the newsletters will be sent to NYSUT on the following dates:

November 12, January 31, March 14, and mid-June

If anyone has a picture to be placed in the Outlook it has to go through Stacey to be posted on the website.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE**- email sent by Kathlene Lyman

The trip to Newport has been canceled due to lack of interest. Refund checks for deposits are in the mail.

Thirty-five people are going to NYC next Wednesday, August 14 to see SUFFS. At this point, there is not another NYC trip planned for this year. If one materializes Kathy will let us know.

The committee has not met in person recently. However, Dolores, Linda, and Kathy met separately and together to deal with finances related to the Social Committee activities. There has been plenty of financial activity and praise goes to Dolores for her dedication and thoroughness. (Linda and Kathy have kept her busy!)

**STATEWIDE** - email from Kathlene Lyman

The StateWide annual convention will be held at a new venue in Saratoga Springs on October 21-23. Details and registration information are on their website <https://www.nysenior.org/>

The staff has been working with seniors to find appropriate health insurance for those affected by Humana's recent changes.

And, as usual, StateWide is tracking bill issues in the NYS legislature. Again, checkout the "bill tracker" information on the website.

**NYSARA** - email from Kathlene Lyman

The annual meeting is being held at NYSUT this Thursday, August 8. Kathy is unable to attend because of her long treatment days on Thursdays. She hopes some of us will be able attending. If you haven't signed up for Barry Kaufman's weekly report, do so. It's very thorough and full of information. <https://nystate.retiredamericans.org/contact-us/email-sign-up/>

**NOVEMBER ELECTIONS** - email from Kathy Lyman

November elections- Kathy wanted us to know that she has at least 60 postcards that are already stamped. She has had them since she wrote them for the Constitutional Convention. They belong to RC12 so let Kathy know if you want them.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Jeanne Williams Bennett

Jeanne presented three reports. The first was a report on Project 2025 that was developed by the Heritage Foundation. It is important to understand the ideas presented by this project and specifically the 44-page chapter on education. Jeanne quoted Joyce Vance who made the statements that well-educated citizens are more employable, education reduces crime, it improves public health and health equity and produces a more informed population which means that people can think for themselves and their communities. The most important takeaway is the plan to shut down the U.S. Department of Education. It advocates against funding for early childhood education (ex. Head Start). Essentially, it spells an end to everything we have sought to do with public education in our country. It spells the establishment of religion, even at the college level, and teaches students *what* to think, not *how* to think. A big part of the US Dept. of Education's work is to guarantee equal access to quality education. Project 2025 puts states in charge of programs that are currently funded and managed by the federal government. It also calls for increased privatization of education and an end to diversity programs. Project 2025 is about taking away civil rights.

Jeanne quoted James Clyburn who recently stated, "Watch their deeds, do not listen to their words." Donald Trump has tried to distance himself from Project 2025, yet hundreds of its authors worked directly for him in the White House or in prominent positions during his last term in office.

She reported that on page 592, there is a proposal that permits employers to avoid paying overtime to employees who work more than a 40-hour week.

The second report was from a conference entitled "Seniors for Harris, A National Call". Every budget that Donald Trump sent to Congress cut Social Security, cut funding, and administrative costs. Kamala Harris has a history of voting to protect and expand Social Security. She has signed the Social Security Expansion Act.

With regards to Medicare, Biden and Harris made it a priority to reduce health care costs. Negotiating prescription drug costs was discussed. This will reduce the cost of Medicare to the government. In response to Republican opposition, this will result in a little less money to the drug companies. It is argued that this reduction will reduce research and development. However, this is not true. Remember: a lot of R and D is paid for by the government!

The third report was a Report Card of how our various Congressional representatives voted on Child Care bills proposed this past year. Bills included the Child Care for Every Community Act, the Child Care for Working Families Act, a Bicameral Letter re: Child Care Funding, and the Child Care Stabilization Act. Chuck Schumer, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Paul Tonko received A's for voting correctly 100% of the time on these issues. Elise Stefanik and Marc Molinaro both received F's for voting correctly 0% of the time

### **CALENDAR FOR 2024-2025**

#### **General membership #1**

Date: Oct 10, 2024

Location: Origins Café, Cooperstown, NY

Speakers/ Topic : Pete Savage (Legislatives) Peter Kim, Palo Cold (How to be an informed voter and read between the lines.)

Raffle: donation to Kate Mullaney House

Director in charge: Stacey

#### **Executive Board Meeting #2**

Date: November 19, 2023

Location: Holiday Inn Johnstown

Time - 9:15

Director in Charge - Elaine

#### **Executive board meeting #3 - via Zoom**

Date: January 14, 2025

Resolutions

#### **General Membership Meeting #2**

Date: March 11/18

Location -Zoom

Speakers/Topic - Artificial Intelligence, Healthy living

Raffles -

Director in Charge - everyone invited to help find an interesting presentation

### **Executive Board meeting #3**

Date- April 8, 2025

Location - NYSUT

Director in Charge- Vickie

Raffles -

### **General Membership Meeting #3**

Date - May 21/19

Location -Terrace at the Water's Edge

Speakers/Topic - Eric Kingson- How Social Security Works

Raffles -

Director in Charge - Sheryl - registration will be online through Capital District Regional Office and mail in

### **2025- 2026 Executive Board meeting #1**

Date - August 6, 2025

Location - Holiday Inn Johnstown

Time - 9:00

Director in Charge - Jen?

### **Committees -**

a. Budget - Dolores

b. Constitution - needs to be reviewed this year.

c. Election - Elaine and Phyllis

d. membership/forming retiree chapters -Sheryl/Maggie/ Jeanne

e. History - Stacey to scan material - Jeanne, Stacey, Sheryl to be conducted as soon as possible

f. Other committees? Any interest?

Everyone needs to keep copies of minutes. The names on the checking account are Dolores, Kathy, and Stacey.

Future Dates - Oct 8 - 9 - Contiguous ED 51 - 53 meeting

Nov 5, 2024 ELECTION DAY - Please Vote!!!!!! Our future depends on it!