

2022.01.11 RC 12 Executive Board Meeting on ZOOM

Present - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe, Carolyn Darkangelo , Phyllis VanSteenburgh , Dolores Talmadge, Margie Bouck, Cathy Picciocca, Jeanne Williams Bennett, Bev Alves, Kathlene Lyman, Margaret Dafeldecker

Excused - Theresa Kovian, Vicky McGowan

President's report - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

Unfortunately, Jennifer Shaad-Derby will no longer be our Retiree Consultant. The State of the State address given by Governor Kathleen Hochul supported teachers. For this year, everything is financially in good shape. Next year, it is questionable whether the current financial support will continue. Psychologists and social workers are asking for more support. NYSUT was glad that the January Regents were cancelled. The number of children with COVID is up 300%. Even vaccinated individuals are contracting COVID, especially the Omicron Variant. Consistency with suggestions is a dilemma, such as the Nassau County executive who decided people in that area didn't need masks. Members and students all continue to struggle with the pandemic.

Future Forward is using federal money in schools to help students. This is an initiative to get more individuals interested in teaching in the years to come. NYSUT is holding debt webinars for members with student loans on February 9 and March 8.

Suggestions are being explored to change the registration for school bus drivers. Free webinars for this service are being offered by NYSUT

The concept of the New York State Retirement System divesting of fossil fuel stocks has been introduced, as a resolution for the NYSUT RA. This has become part of a climate change action plan. It has been requested that money be placed into renewable energy sources instead.

Our RC 12 Newsletters are posted on line at <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

Steve Kramer will be holding an online workshop on January 25 presenting trusts as a useful estate planning tool.

1st Vice President - Kathlene Lyman

Kathlene shared there is not much to report. Frustration continues with the lack of names to connect with newly retired individuals. Maggie B. asked for information to bring to a meeting she is conducting with retirees from the Cherry Valley/Springfield District. These retirees always were an active group, but the group was never formalized via NYSUT. They worked with Jennifer Shaad-Derby to become recognized, and a ratification vote was conducted.

RC 12 officers are glad to help this new group. Stacey will send trifolds to Kathy and Maggie. Stacey and Kathy volunteered to attend the meeting with

Maggie. Dolores will send StateWide newsletters to pass out. Marge D. brought to everyone's attention that StateWide is a well-recognized organization but is separate from Retirement Council 12.

The confusion of new members was addressed.

One of the ideas discussed in RAC was to produce a graphic to explain the NYSUT structure (ED's, RC's, Chapters, locals, etc).

Treasurer's report - Dolores Talmadge

November 12, 2021 - January 10, 2022

Accounts:

Savings	#1	\$ 153.29
Social Money Market	#3	16,046.38
Business Money Market	#11	45,463.96
Business Check	#12	261.96
Social Checking	#13	42.67
Total		\$60,595.39

It was reported that the audit work will be completed as soon as possible, and John Masur will be stepping down from the Audit Committee.

Secretary's report - Cathy Picciocca

RC 12 November minutes were sent out to everyone via email and corrections were received. It was suggested that these minutes be posted online.

2nd Vice President - Bev Alves

Legislative Update- Bev has been involved with palliative care resolutions for NYSARA and StateWide. The belief was presented that individuals receiving palliative care are like prisoners in their own homes because they are unable to leave their homes, even to go to a hairdresser's appointment or a barber. She will be working to place these issues into a resolution by January 21.

Bev has had difficulty connecting with individuals to help write the resolutions. Tom Green was always a reliable source helping with the procedure of a resolution being submitted. She will continue to move forward and reach out for help.

The Committee of 100 will be held virtually again this year and will no longer be on a single day. Instead, it will be throughout the week which will allow for more members to attend more legislative meetings

There continue to be many resources provided for teachers in education.

The dilemma of the Chicago teachers revolved around the need for more COVID testing. Unfortunately, their actions put teachers in a bad light. Staying in unison, following masking protocols, and testing needed is not accepted by all.

NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant - Jennifer Shaad-Derby is no longer holding this position.

Swinka Richardson, NYSUT Assistant in Program Services and Retiree Services, will be working with Stacey in a joint effort to review retirement positions at NYSUT, Swinka has updated the NYSUT website for retiree services.

Currently, Jennifer Kaseman, Regional Staff Director from the MidHudson Regional Office, over sees Retiree Consultants.

The NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant position has been posted for RC 12 and RC 13. The presidents of both councils will be involved in the hiring process.

Outlook Report - Carolyn Darkangelo

Carolyn shared the need for input to be sent in before February 8 so the newsletter can be sent to NYSUT by February 15. The change of announcing a virtual March Membership meeting was suggested.

Webmaster - Carolyn Darkangelo

Election notice for officers will be placed on the front page of the website.

Social Committee - Kathy Lyman,

It was reported that there really is not anything new to share. The committee has not met formally. Retired individuals still seem hesitant about traveling.

Senior Centers ask for attendees to be vaccinated. Showing vaccination cards, going through metal detectors, and wearing masks seem to be the new norm for attending events.

Dolores shared that she felt the social committee needs to meet to make decisions about the three trips. She felt there was an urgency to decide prior to the March meeting.

Hosting an in-person meeting on March 15 at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown was discussed. Currently, Johnstown is low in vaccination rates and high in infection rate. Discussion revolved around not conducting the meeting in person. Margaret made a motion to hold the meeting remotely. The motion was seconded by Bev. All members agreed and the motion passed. Therefore, the March Membership Meeting will be held virtually. Newsletter will include the link to join the activity. Notification will be mailed out to the members and will also be found on our website. Kathlene will cancel the Johnstown reservations. She will also continue to

look into having someone from the Literacy Project share at this gathering. Cathy P. shared Literacy Project information online following our November meeting.

Elections Committee - members are Theresa, Margaret D, and Phyllis V. Phyllis will provide all documents needed such as the nomination form and ballots for the election in May. Phyllis shared with the board that the election notices will be included in the February 2022 Outlook. All the information Phyllis collects will be sent to Margaret.

Resolution motion and voting results

1. RC 12 considered a resolution that NYSUT consider creating a Task Force on Retiree Services and adding Retiree Directors to the NYSUT Board of Directors that may include a reconfiguration of the EDs as well as the increase in retiree membership of Higher Ed and SRP. Marge made a motion to submit this resolution. Seconded by Bev. Motion carried 7-0.
2. Bev made a motion to submit a resolution that supports legislation and programs that seek to assist patients and educate the public about Sickle Cell Disease. Second by Dolores. Motion passed. Motion carried 7-0.
3. Bev made a motion to submit a resolution that the New York State Teachers' Retirement System divest from fossil fuel stocks in a fiduciarly responsible manner. Seconded by Dolores. Motion passed 7-0.
4. Margaret made a motion to submit a resolution that NYSUT Member Benefits establish procedures for adjuncts who leave service to be eligible for NYSUT Member Benefits. Seconded by Dolores. Motion carried 7-0.
5. Dolores made a motion to submit a resolution that inservice NYSUT members shall be able to join the National Education Association (NEA) as pre-retired life members. Seconded by Bev. Motion carried 7-0.
6. Jeanne made a motion to submit a resolution that NYSUT support Medicare expansion, encourage locals to inform retiree members when their local is considering changes to retiree health insurance, and that NYSUT should consider providing locals with expert advice concerning health insurance. Motion passed 6 -0 (one abstention).

The Constitution Meeting will meet January 24, 2022 at 9:30 via ZOOM.
The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Picciocca