

**RC 12 Executive Board Meeting      November 15, 2023    Holiday Inn, Johnstown**

**Present** Stacey Caruso-Sharpe, Dolores Talmadge, Sheryl Delano, Elaine Lounsbury, Cathy Picciocca, Maggie Bouck, Kathlene Lyman (online), Jeanne Williams-Bennett(online)

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

Results of the survey following the RC 12 Membership Meeting in October at the Otesaga were distributed and reviewed. Question #6 asked if attendees would like to return to the same venue next fall. Eleven members voted to return, fifteen members suggested going elsewhere, six attendees responded that it didn't matter, and ten did not answer the question. The comments were interesting and a lengthy discussion prevailed.

It's important to note that APPR has not yet been given back to the districts. This movement continues to be discussed. The biggest issue NYSUT is working on right now is to Fix Tier Six. A flier was distributed and it was suggested that it should be added to the RC 12 website.

Pre-retirement workshops have not been held. A meeting will be held in January to set up a March meeting. A date will be provided to Juliette Benaquisto to make sure she is available.

Stacey was not reappointed to be on the Retirement Advisory Committee(RAC) at NYSUT. Stacey expressed her concern over not having someone from RC 11, 12, or 45 represented on the Committee. Since retirees fill a large percentage of the NYSUT membership, the idea of having a representative was stressed. Stacey was involved on the RAC Communications Sub-Committee last year. RC 12 is physically between the Albany and Utica offices and there is a need to be included. The idea that VOTE-COPE is like an insurance policy to protect us in our future was presented.

There seems to be a great deal of chaos going on in Congress. The new speaker of the House believes medical assistance and Social Security for the elderly are entitlement programs. The reality is that seniors have paid for these benefits. It is suggested to stay aware of the issues presented and watch out for political leaders who are moving us towards an autocratic society.

**Vice President Report - Kathlene Lyman**

A list of over 6,000 retired individuals has been provided. Kathlene has enlisted volunteers to help identify the retired members of RC 12.. The plan is to pass on the *Union for Life* slogan to those who have left service the last three years. She's exploring the idea of connecting with Swinka to help develop a grant.. A grant may be useful to reduce the costs with postage and reach out to newer retirees who may not know about RC 12. Sheryl felt NYSUT could help defray costs and time by providing envelopes and address labels. She also suggested that a session be set up with Andrea for Excel spreadsheet training.

**Secretary's Report - Cathy Picciocca**

Minutes were sent out for review and corrections via email. Dolores made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections. Elaine seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report - Dolores Talmadge**

The Audit Committee will meet following Patty's surgery. Forms were accepted by the IRS for 2022 taxes.. .

Treasurer's Report for August 3, 2023 to November 14, 2023

Accounts:

#1 Savings \$	178.72	#3 Social Money Market	\$32,107.51
#11 Business Money Market	25,796.99	#12 Business Checking	923.71
#13 Social Checking	259.90	CD	25,388.23
Total	\$84,655.06		

**Legislative Report - Bev Alves**

No one has heard from Bev. Stacey will call her.

**Outlook/Webmaster - Carolyn Darkangelo**

Carolyn is traveling. Theresa continues to help her when possible. If anyone has any connections with any retired members who are skilled in this area, the help will be graciously accepted.

**Committee Reports**

**Social Committee - Kathlene sent via email**

The Social Committee met on October 27, 2023.

10/18/2023 Trip to NYC went very smoothly for the 45 attendees. Saw Kimberly Akimbo. No sign of protests and all were safe.

Future activities planned:

3/27/24 NYC to see HARMONY-A New Musical. 35 of 40 tickets are sold (\$140). Possibly can add 5 more.

4/15-19/24 WASHINGTON,DC. Wait list. Linda Zilka in charge. 50 paid deposits.

6/10-14/24. CAPE COD MASSACHUSETTS. Kathy in charge, with Wendy Wilson. A new flier can be found on the website.

7/22/24. GLIMMERGLASS tentative date. Wendy is seeking tickets for PIRATES OF PENZANCE.

8/14/24. NYC hopefully to see CABARET. Tickets not yet available. Kathy in charge.

9/16-19/24 NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND. Kathy in charge. A flier will be found on the website

**Elections Committee** - Elaine/Phyllis

A notice of Officer elections will be found on the website.

**History Committee** - Elaine

Training to learn how to interview elder members of RC 12 could be provided by NYSUT. Sheryl volunteered to help Elaine. It was suggested that Bill and Judy Schultz be interviewed because they were involved with COLA when it began. Jeanne is going to connect with Mary Pitchard to discuss where would be the best place for an interview.

**NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant Report** - Sheryl Baker Delano

Sheryl stressed the importance of keeping address changes up to date. Members will have to opt in to receive the newsletter through the mail in the future. RC 12 will always share the newsletter online.

Sheryl shared how to help with Tier Six. This will be a multiyear project. The first suggestion was to attempt to find members to run for their local school boards. Mom's for Liberty continue to appear at many board meetings. In the past Tier Three was fixed, which resulted in Tier 4. Younger inservice members are looking at the numbers being presented. . A slogan of giving \$6 a month to clear Tier Six to VOTE-COPE is being suggested. When RC 12 has general membership meetings having a pension form to automatically give is important. They could be at the registration table so no one misses them.

It is suggested that a political action committee be set up for RC 12. Peter Kim and Ian Philips could help develop political action groups. Perhaps local retiree groups may be interested in developing a committee. Increasing political action could be rewarding. Some members of the Executive Board felt that this message may be received by deaf ears, especially since we are not being represented in RAC.

Jeanne Williams-Bennette sent an email to us regarding the November elections:

I follow Simon Rosenberg of the Hopium Chronicles, and today, I participated in a Zoom meeting. He mentioned that he had spent the night aggregating data (along with other people), and that one of the important results was that book banning candidates lost big time. He said that the data shows that people like their children's teachers, that they support education and their schools, and they are opposed to banning books. (He did say there is more data to compile, but these results were very clear.)

He also stated, "There is lots of evidence of Democratic success down ballot all over the country, including, wonderfully, in school board races against extremist MAGA school board members."

Lastly, he posted the following from Iowa: "...Progressives win, book banners lose many Iowa school board races."

Thought you would appreciate hearing this good news!

A discussion followed regarding what we need to look for in the future regarding elections. Securing medicare and medicaid is a necessity. It seems our postal service is really struggling to stay afloat. The concept of privatizing this service seems to be evident. This service is not designed to make profits. Making sure the right people are running for positions is crucial.

### **New Business**

**March General Membership Meeting** - After reviewing member surveys regarding the Fall Membership Meeting we wondered whether a business meeting should be held. Hosting a meeting online with the following topics was suggested: Organ donors, Beekman Brothers, Post Office representative.

### **May General Membership Meeting**

Enlisting Philippe or Lisa from NYSUT were suggested. There were thoughts of asking Barry and/or Pete to present at RC 12 Fall membership meeting prior to Primary Elections

### **January Executive Board Meeting**

This meeting will be held on ZOOM if needed due to changes of RA Resolutions. Political Action Committee could be discussed..

### **Proposed RA Resolutions:**

#### **Advocacy for Single Payer HealthCare System for the US-** submitted by RC 17

The members present felt that NYSUT needs to know the details of what could actually happen to support this resolution.

#### **Consider Medicare Advantage Plans Privatization of Public Program**

Jeanne made a motion to support this resolution. Dolores seconded the motion. The Executive Board of RC 12 voted to support this resolution.

#### **Improved R.C.Communication & Support-** Resolution submitted by RC 43 (Florida)

Dolores made a motion to support this resolution. Cathy seconded the motion. The Executive Board of RC 12 voted to support this resolution.

#### **Quality Health Insurance is a Social Justice Issue-** Submitted by District 18

Elaine made a motion to support this resolution. Maggie seconded the motion. The Executive Board of RC 12 voted to support this resolution.

#### **Banned Books-** Resolution submitted by RC 43

Cathy made a motion to support this resolution. Maggie seconded the motion. The Executive Board of RC 12 voted to support this resolution.

**Recommendations for Appointing NYSUT Members to the New York State AFL-CIO Central Labor Councils and its Local Labor Federations-** Resolution submitted by RC 39  
RC 12 Executive Board did not support this resolution.

**Monitoring Medicare Advantage Plans** - Resolution submitted by RC 21  
Elain made a motion to support this resolution. Maggie seconded the motion. RC 12 voted to support this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Picciocca  
RC 12 Secretary