

RC 12 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2024 HOLIDAY INN, JOHNSTOWN NY

PRESENT: Stacey Caruso-Sharpe, Cathy Picciocca, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Elaine Lounsbury Brown, Theresa Kovian, Dave Lamouret, Sheryl Delano
On phone - Dolores Talmadge, Jeanne Ann Bennett

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

Reports were provided regarding the evaluation from members from the Fall General Membership meeting. Attempting to locate a place that could accommodate 60-70 people in the morning, and early afternoon is a challenge. Everyone is invited to suggest a venue which would be picturesque to drive to in the fall, contains close parking so seniors don't have to walk far, provides handicapped bathroom facilities, and provides a good Internet connection for presentations. Delicious food and service is also a necessity. Since the Spring General Membership meeting is held in the Schenectady area, finding a place that is west of that location where our members reside in RC 12's region was explored. Some places the board reviewed were Holiday Inn in Johnstown, Cobleskill Community College, the Water Front Grill in Herkimer, and Bella Vista Restaurant in Little Falls. The search continues. Anyone who knows of a place to accommodate our group is asked to reach out to anyone on the Executive Board.

In 2025, RC 12 will have several Executive Board seats open. Finding an SRP representative continues to be a challenge. More information is provided on RC 12 website (<https://rc12.ny.aft.org/>) or will be in the Outlook newsletter in January and March.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Maggie Bouck

A pre-retirement workshop was held on November 7. It included RC 8,7, and 12. 124 in-service individuals attended. Another workshop will be held in the spring in Oneida County. Sheryl shared that a Zoom event was held last spring, and another one will be held this spring. Due to two regional offices being involved, sometimes the communications are not inclusive. An attempt to ask the Foothills Area Council of Teachers to initiate the next workshop was suggested (Teachers Associations in Schoharie, Middleburgh, Cobleskill-Richmondville, Gilboa-Conesville, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Sharon Springs, Jefferson, Duaneburg)

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Cathy Picciocca

One correction was made for the August 2024 Executive Board minutes. Vicky made a motion to accept the minutes as sent out in email with the one correction stated. Elaine seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Dolores Talmadge

It was reported that money was being transferred in accounts due to member contributions and the New Orleans trip. The New York State Tax Report was filed. The raffle proceeds from the Fall Membership Meeting donation totaled \$215 to be sent to the Kate Mullaney House. It was suggested that RC 12 round the contribution off to \$250. Jeanne made a motion to send \$250 to the Kate Mullaney House. Cathy seconded the motion. Motion passed. There was some confusion regarding donating to the Disaster Relief Fund due to recent hurricanes in Florida. Keeping in mind that many retired educators were affected by the storms, Cathy made a motion to send \$250 to the Disaster Relief Fund. Jeanne seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Discussion revolved around returning to having a Co 2nd Vice President position as was done in the past. Anyone who knows of someone who would like to run for this additional position is asked to contact a board member for election in May.

OUTLOOK/WEBSITE - Theresa Kovian

Currently NYSUT limits the number of printed pages of our newsletter, The Outlook, to four pages. It was questioned whether additional information could be sent out through the online version of the RC 12 newsletter, The Outlook, since it will be more cost effective for NYSUT. Theresa shared that she has put many hours in attempting to move highlighted current information, and to take pictures from the NYSUT website and bring them to the RC 12 AFT website. It seems our current website is a challenge. Sheryl will reach out to Swinka to see if NYSUT has any workshops or assistance that could help RC 12 dedicated online volunteers obtain knowledge to make things easier to transfer and update.

NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT REPORT - Sheryl Baker Delano

The RC 12 Regional Spring membership meeting will be held on May 21 at Water's Edge. Sheryl has purchased her own PA, projector, and microphone so everything should run smoothly. If there are any specific speakers RC 12 wants to request, reach out to let her know.

There continue to be concerns regarding opting in for the Outlook online version. Swinka is responsible for putting in requests. Individuals need to go to membership services on the NYSUT website. All phone banking numbers of members are up to date. She is attempting to encourage NYSUT to send out two printed versions that would contain pertinent information to members for the Regional Conference and Elections for RC 12. Since both happen on the same date, there may be a possibility to have two mailings occur.

There will be another Pre Retirement Workshop in the spring on ZOOM for the inservice members to the east of RC 12. Sheryl will be working with Chris Fowler (Consultant from RC 9 and 10). Sheryl will make sure inservice people from RC 12 are made aware of this service.

NYSARA - Jeanne Williams

Project 2025 outlaws all public unions, all civil service employees will be fired and will be replaced by politically appointed individuals, and it will make Medicare Advantage (MA) the default enrollment option for all retirees.

Facts about Older Adults (OA) and the 2025 NYS Budget:

--OA pay \$72 billion dollars a year in state and local taxes and receive .08% of state funding for vital services.

--OA provide uncompensated care worth \$39 billion per year.

--OA volunteerism is worth \$14 billion a year.

--Of 20 million residents, 4.6 million are over 60 and 4.1 million are caregivers, so 44.5% are older or caregivers.

--The entire NYSOFA, (New York State Office of the Aging) budget is \$20 million while the NYS budget is \$229 billion so the NYSOFA budget is less than .1% of the NYS budget.

The Governor has indicated that no increased funding for aging services is available. Every dollar invested in NYSOFA programs saves NYS nearly \$8 of Medicare spending. Over 18,000 older adults are on waiting lists for aging services in NYS.

A few of the line items for the NYS budget include the following:

\$100 million for park services celebration of 100 years

\$100 million to build 10 swimming pools and pop up pools

\$300 million for additional safe swimming, infrastructure at state parks

ED 51-53 MEETING - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

The last meeting was about the election. Stacey thanked anyone who contributed time toward the election. The CALM App is available to members for free. The next ED 51-53 Meeting will be held on March 18 and 19 in Utica.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Social Committee has a trip planned to New Orleans.

Membership Committee continues to look for names of new retirees to invite them to events.

The Constitution Committee will meet December 9th at the new Amsterdam Teachers Association office. Theresa and Cathy volunteered to attend.

Budget Committee - The treasurer will present a budget for 2025-2026 to be approved by the Executive Board in January and voted on by the membership at the May Annual General Membership meeting Regional Conference. Dolores will put all of the names of contributors to RC 12 on a flash drive to give to Sheryl. There was a short discussion regarding notifying NYSUT about deaths that occur. It was suggested that something be written to put into the Outlook.

Elections Committee - Notification of elections will be placed in the January Outlook. This will provide time for any member who is interested in nominating someone to be a Director for the July

2025-June 2026 term to fill out the form to be placed in the March Outlook for members to review. A new Co-Vice President for elections will also be on the ballot this May.

History Committee - The interview of Bill and Judy Shultz, who were involved when RC 12 began over thirty years ago, will hopefully be put into some type of a video or booklet.

NEW BUSINESS

March General Membership Meeting will be held on ZOOM. A tentative date of March 11 was suggested with a presentation given regarding upcoming changes in Medicare and Social Security.

January Executive Board meeting will be held on ZOOM on January 14. Proposed motions for RA will be shared and discussed.

Stacey shared new banners and letterheads. Vicky made a motion to accept the new banner, and it was seconded by Elaine. At this time, there were not enough voting members available to vote. Cathy made a motion to table the vote until January.

RC 11, 12, and 45 do not have representation on the Retirement Advisory Committee of NYSUT. Leaders continue to reach out to Swinka and other NYSUT staff to make all aware of this situation.

The meeting was ended and everyone wished for a peaceful holiday season.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Picciocca
RC 12 Secretary