

**RC 12 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING JANUARY 14, 2025**

**ZOOM ONLINE VOTE FOR CO-2ND VICE PRESIDENT FOR LEGISLATION**

**PRESENT** - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe, Maggie Bouck, Dolores Talmadge, Cathy Picciocca, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Jeanne Williams-Bennett, Jennifer Shaad Derby, Caroline Darkangelo, Sheryl Baker-Delgado, Phyllis Van Steenburgh

The meeting was called to order at 9:00. The first order of business of the Executive Board was reviewing and discussing resolutions that will be presented at the NYSUT Representative Assembly to be held in Rochester in May.

RC 12 considered a resolution regarding the NYSUT's Board Decision on Referred Resolution that was submitted by RC 21. The Executive Board of RC 12 did not support the decision.

Cathy made a motion to support the resolution regarding Childhood Poverty submitted by ED 52. Vickie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vickie made a motion to support the resolution regarding Representation Matters that was submitted by ED 52. Dolores seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Cathy made a motion to support the resolution that addressed Runaway Inequality that was submitted by ED 52. Dolores seconded the motion. The motion carried but Vickie abstained.

Vickie made a motion to support the resolution to Consider Medicare Advantage Plans Privatizing Public Programs that was submitted by Retiree Council 17. Dolores seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Cathy made a motion to support the resolution to Increase Retiree Delegates that was submitted by RC 14. Vickie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jeanne made a motion to support the resolution Continuing Vote-Cope in Retirement that was submitted by UUP Retiree Council. Maggie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

More information regarding these motions can be found at the following link:

<https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/representative-assembly/about-the-ra>

RC 12 Executive board reviewed the PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE NYSUT CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS for submission to the 2025 NYSUT Representative Assembly.

Jeanne made a motion to support the amendment that Directors shall be elected on a roll call vote by a majority of ballots cast by the representatives from their respective constituencies seated at the Representative Assembly. Maggie seconded the motion. The motion to support the amendment was carried.

RC 12 Executive Board did not support the proposed amendment to develop dues for retired members.

The second order of business for the RC 12 Executive Board was to review the proposed Constitutional amendments for RC 12. Changes were made and the proposed changes will be published on the RC 12 website at the following link: <https://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

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

RC 12 has several Executive Board positions that are open. Jeanne made a motion to appoint Dave Lamouret on the Executive Board as a Director. The motion was seconded by Maggie. The motion carried. Dave will be elected by the membership at the May meeting.

Stacey received a few responses from members following the November election. She wanted to thank everyone who responded to her beliefs that were published in The Outlook. She feels there is an abundance of misinformation regarding many of the issues.

There was a brief discussion regarding Timothy Snyder's book ***On Tyranny***. Book clubs to discuss the text could prove interesting.

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

A luncheon was held by NYSUT to discuss how to get people to join retirement councils. It was led by Steve Kramer. A suggestion was made to offer packages to new retirees to entice them to join their prospective councils following their retirement. It gave the attendees of the luncheon something to think about while attempting to increase the attendance of retirees.

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

Minutes from the November Executive Board meeting was sent out via email. Cathy thanked Jeanne for proof reading and sending corrections. Jeanne made a motion to accept the minutes as sent out. The motion was seconded by Maggie. Motion carried. The minutes will be sent to Carolyn and Theresa to be placed on the website.

#### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT** - Jeanne Williams Bennett

A report from Heather Cox Richardson quotes that deep concerns of the American people seem to be going unnoticed. MAGA is introducing bills regarding the following

issues: turning over immigration to the states, privatizing veterans' health care, repealing the 1993 National Voting Rights Act, repealing the 2010 Affordable Care Act, repealing the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, withdrawing from the World Health Organization, increasing oil and gas production on federal land, abolishing Internal Revenue Services (IRS), abolishing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive(ATF), abolishing the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OHSA), allowing states to spend federal education money on vouchers for private schools, and removing transgender rights from schools. Another bill would support a national abortion plan and support a consortium of anti-abortion plans against doctors.

### **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Vickie reported that metal detectors were being placed in the Schenectady School District. She also shared that Richard Terry, one of the past presidents of the Schenectady Teachers Union, died recently.

### **OUTLOOK/WEBSITE** - Carolyn Darkangelo

The next issue of Outlook will be due at NYSUT the third Tuesday of January. Articles will be submitted about the May election following corrections from the draft Elaine developed. It will include a letter from our president. Anyone who has traveled anywhere and would like to share a picture would be appreciated.

The next issue will be due March 14. There is currently no website coordinator at NYSUT. Hopefully a letter from Mike Rowan could be developed to NYSUT to fill this position. Requests from individuals who would like to become a Director on the RC 12 Executive Board will be included. A site where members can review changes to the RC 12 Constitution on the website will also be available.

### **NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT** - Sheryl Baker-Delao

The NYSUT Regional Consultant's conference and the RC 12 annual general membership meeting will be held on May 21. Possible speakers will be Ron Gross from Member Benefits, Nikki Richardson or Pete Savage to talk about legislative actions regarding the Dissolution of the Federal Department of Education and Attacks on Unions

This year Sheryl will be organizing the May NYSUT Regional Consultant's Conference to coincide with the RC 12 May annual General Membership Meeting. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year she will be organizing the NYSUT Regional Consultant's Conference in conjunction with the RC 12 Fall General Membership meeting.

### **ELECTION COMMITTEE** - Phyllis Van Steenburgh

Members who would like to be nominated as a Director for the RC 12 Executive Board at the May Membership Meeting will need to submit a letter of request to the Election Committee. Information regarding this procedure will be made available in the February Outlook.

At this time, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Dave Lamouret, and possibly Jen Shaad Derby will be running for Director positions.

**STATEWIDE SENIOR ACTION COUNSEL**- Continues to follow legislation regarding seniors in NYS.

### **NYSARA**

Sign up to receive Monday Alerts [president@newyorkstateara.org](mailto:president@newyorkstateara.org)

### **NEW BUSINESS** - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

RC 12 recently received communication from NYSUT regarding a lawsuit by a photographer stating that a picture was published seven years ago in The Outlook without being sourced properly. All photos that were not sourced have been removed from The Outlook publication.

The concern is how much money RC 12 received from publishing an unsourced photo. The photo was originally taken from Google with no source identified. Since we are a nonprofit which does not earn money, lawyers from NYSUT believe it should be settled without any penalties. It's important that the Social Committee be made aware of photos used when advertising a trip. Sources of photos need to be identified or not used in RC 12 published communications.

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

Savings	\$ 217.75
Social Money Market	\$ 8,815.51
Business Money Market	\$33,661.34
General Checking	\$1,599.29
Social Checking	\$ 1,189.09
CD	\$ 26,757.17

It was suggested that we send positive thoughts to our colleagues in California. Cathy made a motion to send \$500 to the AFT Disaster Relief fund. Dolores seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **FUTURE DATES**

- February 7, 2025 – CDRO Local Presidents Meeting would allow the ability to receive contact information of future retirees.
- February 27, 2025 – ED 12 meeting
- March 3-4, 2025 – Committee of 100
- March 11 or 18, 2025 – RC 12 General Membership meeting via Zoom. Looking into AI Security Civic 101 Lisa Dickinson from AFT
- May 1, 2025 – Local President's conference
- May 2-3, 2025 – NYSUT RA
- May 21, 2025 – RC 12 annual General Membership meeting and NYSUT Conference

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Picciocca  
RC 12 Secretary

### **ZOOM ONLINE VOTE FOR CO 2ND VICE PRESIDENT FOR LEGISLATION**

On February 1, 2025, Jeanne made a motion to nominate Richard (Dick) Peters as Co 2nd Vice President for Legislation for RC 12. Cathy P seconded the motion. On February 17, President Stacey Caruso-Sharpe reported the motion passed and Richard is now our Co 2nd Vice President for Legislation effective immediately.