

Minutes for NYSUT RC 12 SPRING LUNCHEON MEETING MAY 7,2026 BEARDSLEE CASTLE, LITTLE FALLS

Stacey Caruso-Sharpe called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. She reminded everyone to fill out the blue paper at the end of the meeting to evaluate the luncheon.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

Stacey reported on the NYSUT RA that was held on May 2, 2026. This is an opportunity for delegates to vote on resolutions. A resolution to add more seats to the Board of Directors was referred to the NYSUT Board. Unfortunately, young inservice officers do not seem to understand that retiree insurance is important to negotiate when pursuing contracts. Whenever a retired NYSUT member has complaints about health insurance, they need to go to their local presidents. When it's open enrollment time, it's important to go to one's local school district before changing, or one may lose district benefits. Retired members of the western part of NYS have to pay for their own insurance because it was not negotiated into their contracts. As a result, they often have to work longer until they can receive Medicare benefits. At the RA, 42 resolutions were reviewed. Some were adopted and/or amended. Committee reports were presented. For more information, go to the following link: <https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources/sites/representative-assembly>

First-time attendees to the luncheon were welcomed. Many of our members went to the Fix Tier Six Rally that was held in March. In the 2026 budget, Governor Hochul was focused on lowering car insurance costs for New Yorkers.

Anyone who would like to run for their local school board is asked to reach out to NYSUT for help. Rece Everyone was encouraged to vote on their local school district budgets and for new school board members. Usually, when calling a politician to ask a question, interns are answering the phone who are members of Tier Six!

NYSUT is Union for Life. NYSUT seems to do more for inservice members, but always remember NYSUT is there to support and back retirees. NYS schools went cell phone free this year with the help of NYSUT.

Remember the Office of the Aging is always available to support retirees. There is always money for grants and attempting to get seniors involved with pilot programs is suggested.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT- Maggie Bouck

Maggie reported that she continues to recruit members for RC 12. She worked on planning a pre-retirement workshop while on the board but it did not happen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Cathy Picciocca

Members were reminded that minutes are posted on the RC 12 website at the following link. <https://rc12.ny.aft.org/sites/meeting-minutes-1>

Carolyn Darkangelo made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2025 Retiree Council 12 NYSUT Regional Conference/General Membership Meeting, that was held at The Terrace at Waters Edge, Glenville, NY. Linda Zilka seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted by the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Dolores Talmadge

The report from April 14-May 6, 2026 was reviewed.

#1 Savings	\$	220.33	#3 Social Money Market	\$12,269.36
#11 Business Money Market	41,765.83		#12 Business Checking	2,840.24
#13 Social Checking	5,530.78		CD	28,120.08
Total		90,746.62		

A motion to approve the report was made by Dave Lamouret and seconded by Maggie Bouck. The treasurer's report was approved by the members.

The proposed budget for July 1,2026 - June 30, 2027 was presented. It was explained that this is a working budget. Costs for attending the RA will be changing in 2027 because it will be held in Washington, DC. Jim Rathborn made a motion to accept the proposed budget, and Renee Zumbolo seconded the motion. The proposed budget was approved by the members.

Dolores asked members to NOT make their checks out to Dolores. All checks sent to her need to be made out to **NYSUT RC #12**. She also shared that this will be her last term of holding this office. She's been in this position for over 13 years, right from when she retired!

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT FOR LEGISLATION -Richard Peters

Richard was not present so there was no report. At this time the State budget has not been passed so details were not presented.

NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT REPORT - Sheryl Baker Delano

The NYSUT RC 12 Regional Conference will be held on October 1 at The Terrace at Waters Edge, Glenville, N.Y. This will be an opportunity for new retirees to engage in Union for Life. Sheryl suggested talking it up so new members can learn about our website, the Outlook, trips and activities.

OUTLOOK REPORT/WEBMASTER - Carolyn Darkangelo

The deadline for the next Outlook newsletter is June 15. Members are reminded they can opt into receiving the newsletter by mail. Our website is provided by the AFT. A colored version of the Outlook is put onto our website. It can be found at the following link: <https://rc12.ny.aft.org/> Any pictures that you would like to include need to be horizontal or landscape.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE - Linda Zilka/Kathy Lyman

The trip planned for Lancaster was cancelled, due to not having enough individuals commit.

Trips to Broadway have been popular. Future trips:

July 15 - NYC to see *Ragtime* Contact Kathy Lyman if you have any questions: 518-356-4545

July 27 - Glimmerglass to see *Oklahoma*

August 19 - Hyde Hall and the Clarke Family home

October 4-10 Pigeon Forge Smokey Mountains. 36 people are needed to go on this trip.

Contact Gloria at the following email rc12district@yahoo.com with any Social Committee question or if you have other ideas for events.

STATEWIDE SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL

Continues to provide interesting reading, seminars, webinars, and a newsletter. To learn more, click on the following link: <https://www.nysenior.org/>

Weekly newsletters are sent out. Receive information regarding the Medical Aid in Dying Act that will be available in NYS on August 5, 2026.

NEW YORK STATE ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS (NYSARA)- sign up for the Monday Alert with

Barry Kauffmann at <https://nystate.retiredamericans.org/contact-us/email-sign-up/>

NYSUT has a chapter in Florida for anyone who is interested in activities when traveling.

CAPITAL DISTRICT REGIONAL OFFICE/REGIONAL STAFF DIRECTOR - Mike Rowan

Mike received a message that the New York State budget was approved. Auto insurance was a hold-up. The school budget went up 2%. More details will be coming.

Current bargaining focal points include the following: artificial intelligence, and paid family leave and one job should be enough campaign (SRP). He referenced the Stanford University October/November 2025 causal research LOADING Act (Legislative Oversight of Administration Division, which mentions that AI tools are included in employment decisions. He stressed this is the end of the world as we knew it! We went from the Industrial Revolution, to machine mass production, the digital world, to artificial intelligence. He stressed that guardrails are needed for AI.

HERKIMER COUNTY OFFICE OF THE AGING - Kathy Fox

Kathy presented a detailed presentation of services that may be provided by the Office of the Aging. It was suggested to contact your local office when challenges occur to find what services are available.

ELECTIONS FOR OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WERE CONDUCTED BY THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE - Phyllis VanSteenburgh/Tellers- Theresa Kovian and Carolyn Darkangelo

2026-2028 Election Results:

President - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe and Delegate for NYSUT RA

Second Vice President for Legislation - Richard Peters

Secretary-Cathy Picciocca

Treasurer-Dolores Talmadge

NYSUT RA Delegate - Jeanne Williams Bennett

AFT Delegate - Stacey Caruso Sharpe

LUNCH - A delicious lunch was enjoyed by everyone who attended!

HISTORY OF BEARDSLEE CASTLE - was presented by Randy and Lynn who have been running the establishment for 33 years.

NYSUT MEMBERS BENEFITS - Laura Przbylek

When you place an order from a company listed in your NYSUT benefits, there is a dedicated NYSUT rep assigned at that company to help with questions and purchases. Farmers Home & Auto-you get an 8% discount if paid directly from your pension. Family members can use NYSUT services for mortgages. There will be a webinar on this at the end of May.

Check the NYSUT Free Member Services website page. membersbenefits.nysut.org

Specific instructions on the CALM app were presented—it's free to NYSUT members and up to 5 others through you!

Visit calm.com/b2b/nysut-member-benefits/subscribe to create your Calm account (this is a dedicated URL for NYSUT members).

1. **NYSUT ID number** along with a **preferred email address** and **password** using the dedicated URL above. Note: Your NYSUT ID number can be found on your NYSUT Membership Card or by visiting nysut.org/memberid.

2. Once a free Calm account is registered using the above URL, download the Calm app for iOS or Android devices.

3. After downloading the Calm app, you can log in with your email address and password to unlock the premium Calm content for free.

Member Benefits and the Calm team have created a helpful [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document for NYSUT members that contains answers to a number of questions.

If you have additional questions related to the Calm service that the FAQ document does not address, please contact the Calm support team directly by [clicking there](#) or at calmbusinesshelp@calm.com.

RAFFLES

The 50/50 raffle was divided into three winners of \$34 each. The other half will be donated to the NYSUT Relief Fund. Centerpieces were also raffled and distributed.

Everyone was reminded to vote in local school board elections on May 19 and to check to see if the candidates are education minded!

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Picciocca RC12 Secretary