

RC 12 General Membership Meeting, Otsego , Cooperstown NY, 8 October 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Stacey Caruso-Sharpe with the Pledge of Allegiance Members were welcomed, especially the first time attendees to RC12 (7). She reminded all that the need for membership in our Union is increasing currently and we are always looking for volunteers.

I. President's report - Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

- Constitutional changes May 2019 Meeting
- NYSUT conflicts of interest policy explained.
- Our connection with NYSTRA was questioned by a member
- Paul Pecorale will not be running for NYSUT
- Census in April
- Making Strides..join a team at <https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/making-strides-against-breast-cancer> and Real Men Wear Pink Campaign has been in the news. <https://www.nysut.org/news/2019/october/october-kicks-off-month-of-raising-funds-for-breast-cancer>
- Book Tasting event was hosted by LGBTQ Membership Community at NYSUT <https://www.nysut.org/news/2019/october/nysut-book-tasting-event-celebrates-inclusivity-in-education-literature>
- Elections for RC12 Officers will be held in the Spring. Director positions and 2nd Vice President position are open. The 2nd Vice President duties includes attending Committee of 100 along with meeting congressionally elected officials.
- It is suggested to review AFTvotes.org to stay informed regarding the 2020 presidential endorsement process designed to ensure unprecedented member input and engagement in deciding who to support in the next election. It was stressed to be registered and be informed. Early voting for 2019 elections will take place the last week of October. Members need to reach out their respective counties to get more information.
- NYSUT is involved in the fight against poverty in outreach.
- Numerous resolutions were passed last year at RA.

II. 1st Vice President's report - Kathlene Lyman

- Names of retirees from Gloversville and Niskayuna were received
- Kathy wrote an article for Outlook reaching out to new retirees page 2 http://rc12.ny.aft.org/sites/default/files/article_pdf_files/2019-09/rc_12_sept_2019_final_online.pdf
- A preretirement seminar will be planned with Jeanne Williams Bennett in the future.

III. Treasurer's Report - Dolores Talmadge August 1, 2019 - September 31, 2019

Written report provided for all. There are currently over 500 members in RC 12 and 10-12 new retirees. Treasurer's report was approved.

IV. Audit Report - Phyllis VanSteenburgh

The RC 12 Audit committee lead by John Mazur met in August to review financial reports from June 30, 2018 to July 1, 2019. It was decided that the treasurer's records are accurate.

V. Secretary's report - Cathy Picciocca - May, 2019

Written minutes of the meeting was provided for all. Motion to accept made by Carolyn Bovee, Seconded by Barbara Denure. Motion carried.

VI. Outlook report - Carolyn Darkangelo

Always looking for pictures of events.

VII. Webmaster report - Carolyn Darkangelo

There's an extended edition of Outlook on the website. <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

VIII. NYSUT RC 12 Retiree Services Consultant - Jennifer Shaad-Derby

- Handouts were provided to share services provided. Care Giving Guide

Reach out to Ani Shahinan for assistance.

- Commentary for WAMC 90.3 Public Radio explains Capital District Chapter NYSARA (New York State Alliance for Retired Americans)

Supporting NYSNA (Nurses) and General Motors Strike which has been going on for four weeks

- Second movie on the value of Single Payer of NYS "NOW IS THE TIME"

- Randy Gunther rgunther@nysutmail.org 518-213-6000

- SAVE Wednesday May 13 2020 for NYSUT/Retiree Counsel 12 General Membership Meeting.

IX. ED-51 Kathlene Lyman

ED-51 will be meeting in Albany on October 24 - 25. The focus will be communication outreach methods, political action activities, community, membership, and social justice initiatives. There will be a review of the Resolutions.

X. Social Committee Report - Kathlene Lyman

Since May 2019

Nova Scotia 2019 had a waiting list//To Kill a Mockingbird - 40 people went in July to

NYC//Showboat at Glimmerglass in August//Amishland - September 28//Boston Trolley Tour

//Oklahoma NYC in October and there are openings available

2020 Mackinac Island - June 14 - 20 (wait list), The Sound of Music (Glimmerglass) TBD, NYC plays Spring and Summer (TBD), Mt. Rushmore and Badlands (September 25 - October 5) Music Man (with Hugh Jackman) tickets on sale NOW!!

XI. Statewide Senior Action Council - Kathlene Lyman

-2019 Annual Convention will be held next week and will be attending with other members from the Board. Theme is Let's Get Social (Social Security, Social Services, Social Justice, Social Media, Social platforms

- Attended seminar in Ilion with Jeanne regarding reaching 5% - 15% with health insurance
 - Attended Statewide Meeting in Saratoga to review and brainstorm mental health issues and services statewide and county wide
 - Member updates are available. Pay attention to special phone numbers...especially Medicare Patients Rights Helpline **800-333-4374**
 - In the spring State Wide testified in Albany on the need for improved Medicare for all. New York Health Act with long term care
- A Fall brochure was shared.

XII. Capital District Chapter of NYSARA- Karen Wojcik-Hess

Explained Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) Represents 33 states President is Barry Kaufman. In New York State found in Long Island, New York City, Buffalo, Syracuse, and Captial District. Can sign up to get Alerts every Monday via email at www.newyorkstate.ara.org. 518-783-6231. Now is the time movie is available regarding single payer insurance.

XIII. Directors Report - Vickie McGowan-Hess

Vickie shared about negotiations in the Schenectady School System regarding paraprofessionals.

XIV. Presentation of RC12 Award of Excellence Posthumously to Sandra Bliss by Jeanne Williams Bennett

Sandy's outstanding leadership has been noted and appreciated by RC 12's retirees. Our lives were made better by Sandy's efforts, her advocacy, and her dedicated service. A comprehensive list of her numerous accomplishments reviewed and award was given to her two sisters Amy Bliss and Laura Bliss Lamb in attendance. Sandra Bliss was a gift to the world and duly recognized by RC12.

XV. Keynote Speaker - Steve Cramer

Steve is an attorney that works for NYSUT who spoke about Elder law and estate planning. He provided a number of messages including the following: "Do NOT take the staples out of wills! //copies of wills really mean nothing//wills are not water proof/ A Power of Attorney needs professional attention//Health care proxy may consist of two people and reviewing it with

one agent at a time is suggested.//It is important to complete a health care proxy prior to becoming ill.//Include organ donations.//It seems that elders want to stay home and receive home care for activities of daily living.// Developing a Trust Fund for assets do not include retirement accounts. Looking into NYSUT Legal plans can help with all of the future needs. This service even writes letters to questionable areas where legal services may help.

XVI. This is Not for Ourselves Alone: Sandy Feldman Outstanding Leadership Award to Stacy Caruso-Sharpe by Jeanne Williams Bennett.

Stacy's leadership skills, accomplishments, and devotion to union activities were acknowledged. A video was provided by Carolyn Darkangelo from the 2019 Representative Assembly when Stacey was given this award.

Otesaga Grand Buffet Luncheon was enjoyed by all!

50/50 Raffle was held and half of contributions was given to Sandy Feldman's sisters to be sent to the place of their choice.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Picciocca
RC12 Secretary

