

RC12 Membership Meeting September 30, 2021 Otesaga Resort Cooperstown, NY

President Stacey Caruso-Sharpe called the meeting to order at 9:50 with the Pledge of Alliance. She welcomed three new retirees. (Picture can be found at: <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>). The meeting began with a brief explanation of the difference between Retiree Council 12 (RC 12), The New York State Retired Teachers Association (NYSRTA), and the local unions. Representatives of ED 51 will meet in October for 2021 Fall Virtual Contiguous Retiree meeting. This year is the 30th year of Retiree Councils, and Stacey will be attending as a member of the Retiree Advisory Committee (RAC). Special thanks were given to our representatives of the past, by developing the councils, and the phenomenal work with the writing of the Constitution. The AFT (American Federation of Teachers) includes a nationwide standard retiree committee.

The ability to be able to meet in person for the first time today since the pandemic was celebrated by all.

Stacey introduced our NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant --Jennifer Shaad-Derby and all the members of NYSUT Retiree Council 12 present. (<http://rc12.ny.aft.org/leadership>)

A moment of silence was observed in memory of a valued past president, Don Griffith, who recently died.

In service members seem to be dealing with several issues including the ability to be tested for COVID, keeping testing confidential, along with the number of openings for substitute teachers and other personnel.

Trying to develop a data base to be able to reach out and stay connected to our new members and/or other retired teachers in the various districts continues to be a challenge due to privacy policies.

Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer, Dolores Talmadge, was not present, but Stacey reported that the RC 12 treasury is in a good spot right now. However, the membership was unable to vote on the budget due to technological difficulties. The budget developed was the same as last year's. The RC 12 board approved a donation to the Kate Mullany House that was damaged by a car accident recently. The audit report will be presented at the next general membership meeting.

Secretary's Report - Cathy Picciocca

Copies of the May online membership meeting were available for all to review. Mary Pritchard made a motion to accept the minutes. It was seconded by Vickie McGowan-Horan. The motion to accept the minutes as presented was approved by the membership.

Vice President's Report - Kathlene Lyman

Kathlene, Stacey, and Jen continuously try to get names of new retirees. If any member has names of new retirees, please feel free to pass them on. Welcoming newly retired people to NYSUT is a continuous mission. Anyone who contributes \$15 to RC 12 is acknowledged and listed in our newsletter.

Webmaster/Newsletter - Carolyn Darkangelo

Members were reminded to continue to supply articles and pictures. There was a brief introduction to the RC 12 Website. It was suggested that minutes be posted on the website.

2nd Vice President for Legislation - Bev Alves

Bev reported that she is a member of MYSIMA and developing curriculum for NYS She is currently on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity (DEI) Committee

Retiree Consultant for RC 12/13 - Jen Shaad Derby

Jen reported that she set up the Membership/Regional Conference that will be held May 12 at the Glen Sanders Mansion. Her position includes finding answers to questions for members. Back in 1991, NYSUT retirees began to get recognized. The importance to stay involved is of utmost importance. Her position is described as the liaison between NYSUT and retirees. The most recent accomplishment was organizing a Cherry Valley/Springfield retiree chapter. Retiree chapters assist locals in many ways. There are currently 13 retiree chapters in New York State.

NYSUT prints the RC 12 Newsletter *The Outlook*. Unfortunately, the printing limits the number of pages. RC 12 has an extended color version online. For more information, check out RC12 Website. (<http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>) It was suggested that a QR code is be utilized in the future.

Social Committee - Linda Zilka Chair reported the following trips:

-Mount Rushmore, Badlands and Black Hills of South Dakota trip is rescheduled for September 30-October 10, 2022. There are some openings. If you're interested in going, please call Linda Zilka 518-725-5139. A deposit of \$75 is needed. The price is \$1,035 double occupancy which is due July 23, 2022.

-Music Man April 6, 2022 one ticket left. If interested, contact Kathy Lyman

-RC 12 Trip to Mackinac Island Michigan is rescheduled for June 12 - 18, 2022. There are seven or eight seats left. Contact Phyllis Nicoella (phylc@hotmail.com) if interested in attending. This trip includes the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. If there are some openings for the trip, it will be announced in the August issue of *The Outlook*.

- Linda headed up the 50/50 raffle for RC 12.

ED51 - Stacey

The meeting is next week so there is nothing to report currently. As already shared, there is a continual effort to connect with retirees because there is no data base available.

StateWide Senior Action Council - Kathlene Lyman

Kathy is currently on the board along with Mary Pritchard in the Saratoga Chapter. Retirement Council 12 belongs as a group, and one of our board members usually attends conferences for free. Anyone can join StateWide as an individual member. The purpose of this organization is to make the lives of senior citizens the best they can be. There is continual health care and Medicare information. Becoming informed regarding patients' rights and health care, as a senior citizen, is extremely important.

The celebration of StateWide's 50th anniversary will take place next October. Several freebees were passed out at registration compliments of StateWide. Kathlene shared a story in *The Outlook* regarding a recent hospital visit. Being familiar with patients' rights made a huge difference regarding her safety at discharge.

Capital District Chapter of the New York State Alliance of Retired Americans (NYSARA) - Stacey

Sign up for Monday Alert at <https://nystate.retiredamericans.org/>

Other announcements -

Kathlene shared information about a NYS organization, Mothers of Twins, that helps with college tuition. Due to the lack of students pursuing the education field, we need to be ambassadors!

March 15 is RC 12's next membership meeting and it will be held at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown.

The **RC 12 2020 Award for Excellence** was supposed to be presented to Paul Pecorale. However, Paul was not available to attend the luncheon. He's back teaching in the classroom, and he felt he couldn't take time off at this time. However, we were told he wears a Yankee shirt with great anticipation and apologizes to Red Sox fans!

Stacey announced that Capital District Regional Staff Director Mike Rowan was in attendance.

NYSUT Second Vice President Ron Gross shared that this was the first in person meeting he's been able to attend since COVID arrived. He shared how important it is to continue to get people to stick with us during retirement. Staying aware of everything that continues to happen, including inservice issues is important. The continued focus on the pandemic means there are continual crises to be addressed. There continue to be major changes in our profession. Social distancing, vaccinations, hybrid learning, on and off days of teaching, and supporting the use of the vaccine and testing is only a part of our new dilemmas. NYSUT does not support the vaccine mandate however, NYSUT continues to listen to the majority. There is continual concern for SRP;s and having workers available to provide much-needed services. Many of these issues will be discussed at the NYSUT Conference. Health and Safety concerns, Social Services, Leadership training, and listening to health care workers are of utmost importance.

The NYSUT Legacy Fund is a new NYSUT program that enables locals, chapters, retiree councils or members to honor activists with statewide recognition. The NYSUT Legacy Fund is now available to recognize members of the union who worked but did not get recognition. Its purpose is to bring awareness to someone who should be recognized. The individuals chosen may be in service, retired, or deceased. This concept will give money back to retiree councils and bring attention to these councils. Designated members will receive a certificate and a pin. Ten members have been recognized already, and three are from various retiree councils.

When the Janus decision was reached, we really didn't lose the membership we thought we would. However, problems are developing now because people are angry with the union due to the pandemic. There seems to be all kinds of splintering into different corners and threatening actions from members. Our goal is to keep educating members to weather the storm. The union has always had incidences where people were not in agreement. We continue to want members to get their messages heard. If anyone wants to be heard, all are advised to contact Ron. (ron.gross@nysut.org)

Social Emotional Learning (SML) is currently a needed service of our workers to acknowledge the stress level since the pandemic. This involves everyone involved, including our local leaders. NYSUT continues to look for mental health supports. There are federal funds available to hire back retired teachers to provide smaller groups. Negotiations are necessary to continue to attract newcomers to our profession.

Marcus Harazin, NYS StateWide Senior Action Council, provided a wealth of information and handouts to help members become aware of medical rights. Pamphlets regarding Your Discharge Planning Checklists, an envelope containing Patient Rights Toolkits, Information for Caregivers, Guide for Choosing a Hospital, Medicare Waste, and Your Rights as a Hospital Patient in NYS were available. For more information, use the following connections:

New York State StateWide Senior Action Council Helpline 800-333-4374

www.nysenior.org

patientsrights@nysenior.org

LIVANTA (1-866-815-5440)

The retired educators present seemed to enjoy this fall day in Cooperstown. The 2022 in person RC12 gatherings will be March 15 at the Holiday Inn in Johnstown and May 12 at the Glen Sanders in Scotia.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Picciocca

Secretary RC 12