

NYSUT RC 12 Executive Board Meeting - 9 April 2020 Electronically on Zoom meeting

Present: Stacey Caruso-Sharpe, Cathy Picciocca, Dolores Talmadge, Theresa Kovian, Phyllis VanSteenburgh, Sue Proctor, Kathy Lyman, Jennifer Shaad-Derby, Jeanne Bennett, Vickie McGowan-Horan, Margaret Dafeldecker  
Absent - Karen Wojcik-Hess

I. Call meeting to order - 9:30 by Stacey Caruso Sharpe

II. Secretary's report - Cathy Picciocca

A. Cathy thanked Kathy, Phyllis, Kathy, and Margaret for sending reports and helping with the minutes.

Minutes were sent out via email.

B. Minutes from Nov 14 - Executive board meeting (corrections made)

C. Minutes from March 5 - General membership meeting

D. A motion was made to accept both sets of minutes by Vickie and second by Theresa. Motion carried.

III. President's report

A. COVID - 19 - latest update

At this point, what the governor announces what is happening. A detailed plan would have to be developed to move into our new world to end the stay at home order. Since individuals will continue to be contagious guidelines will need to be set. There are many unknowns regarding how people will get paid by their employers and if they will be kept on the payroll. Most school districts want their employees to be paid. There are many questions regarding people getting ready for retirement including SRP credit. Regent exams for 2020 were eliminated. If students are passing the course, they get credit. If they are not passing and need the credit, they will have to wait for August regent exams. All of this presents the dilemma of missing endings of goals set by students. The highest number of deaths were reported yesterday and there seems to be a leveling out of admissions. There are so many stories regarding educators and carrying on lessons to the students. There seems to be concerns regarding stereo types not wanting to wear masks, furloughs, and/or health insurance being taken away. So much uncertainty at this point during this pandemic.

B. RA & NYSUT elections cancellation - All of this is unprecedented and NYSUT is waiting to hear from attorneys.

C. RC 12 Elections will possibly be held in the fall.

D. Due to the epidemic, budget votes may have to be evaluated quarterly. The legislators are on break, so the decisions are being left up to governor. As districts prepare budgets there is a fear of not having the money needed. Everything seems tentative. School board elections are set for June 1. More decisions will be made in the future regarding how this will proceed.

E. May meeting - postponement. More information in NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant Report.

F. VOTE/COPE - Donations are still needed especially for the November election. Bernie Sanders couldn't justify going forward. He is currently staying on the ballot to help influence the party platform. Biden needs to reach out to the younger voters.

IV. Vice-President's Report - Kathy Lyman -

A. New membership report - Stacey will email an updated list to Kathy regarding new Schenectady retirees.

B. ED 51 meeting was cancelled

C. Kathy has not attended NYSUT sponsored meetings. Since NYSUT is closed there does not seem to be pamphlets available to send to new retirees. Vickie shared there may be information to distribute in her garage.

V. Treasurer's report - Dolores Talmadge

A. March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020 Total \$34,422.74

B. The proposed budget currently leaves everything the same. Communication from AFT is currently being sent to John Mazur and Dolores. A contact may need to be made to AFT to make Dolores the contact person for RC12.

C. Looked at AFT Regional needed to add to the budget.

It was suggested to add \$500 to the AFT leadership/convention. At our August meeting those who want to attend makes it known. Dolores sends funds for the group registration. This may not be held this year due to the virus. It was suggested to leave the amount at \$400 and if 8 people want to go, the board can send all 8 people.

D. Last raffle went to the NYSUT Disaster Fund, specifically Mohawk Valley

E. Mileage is currently reduced. Stacey is on the NYSUT board so costs will increase when her reign is over.

F. The amount used for the general membership luncheon decreased.

G. Dolores will make revisions and send it to Stacey. The board will vote via email. Results will be sent to secretary to be recorded.

H. Audit committee will make a date for a face to face meeting. Annual audit needs to be done by November 15. A letter addressing the audit will be submitted by John to the President and that report is sent in AFT.

## VI. Legislative Report - Stacey

A. NYS Budget - The legislator has closed so the budget is left up to the Governor. It will be recalibrated every quarter. School Districts and towns may have to do cuts due to the challenges facing our state.

B. AFT presidential endorsement and going forward. At the Regional Conference AFT was much more transparent and many town halls are being held. Information continues to be posted on AFT website. The Democratic presidential candidates continue to drop out of the race. Joe Biden has always been accessible to AFT and unions. However, we do have a lot of Trump supporters. Approximately 19% of our membership endorses Trump. We need to continue to be gentle to all members. We don't support a national candidate. It is suggested to pay attention and stay aware of the issues. We do endorse State candidates. It was suggested to sign up for Monday newsletter.

C. Bev Belvidge has agreed to become our Second Vice President. Dolores made a motion to appoint Bev to RC12 Board, Second by Kathy. Motion approved.

D. There was a discussion regarding absentee ballots for the Primary and November elections. Cuomo is already talking about paper ballots. At this point it is a wait and see issue. There also is some discussion regarding paper ballots and/or postponement of the election. More will be revealed as time goes on.

## VII. NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant Report - Jennifer Shaad-Derby

A. Conference and general membership meeting update

NYSUT has reached out to consultants to hold all conferences in the fall. Three fall dates were provided to Glen Sanders to reschedule May meeting conference. Since NYSUT oversees travel and conferences, Jen was unsure whether the deposit given to Glen Sanders would be returned. Wednesday September 30 is not acceptable because there is the trip to North Dakota returns the next day. It was suggested to ask to get deposit back or use it towards May 2021 Conference. It was suggested to call Onadaga for October 8 or 15. It was also suggested to check into booking the Lighthouse.

B. NYSUT will be hosting a series of webinars for retirees. They are looking for suggestion of topics and presenters are requested. Suggestions included StateWide Senior Action Council Marcus Hazarin with Gail Meyers. and Steve Cramer from NYSUT.

## VIII. Elections Committee - Phyllis VanSteenburgh

A. A copy of the ballot with nominations was sent to all for approval.

B. The May election is postponed and hopefully it will be held at the fall meeting. Nominations to director seats are available for Herkimer and Montgomery County.

C. Copies of the ballot could be made by NYSUT or ATA

VII. Outlook Newsletter Report - Carolyn Darkangelo

Approval is requested before the Outlook is sent out. Run any changes to the rc12.com website by Stacey and she will get changes to Carolyn

VIII. Social Committee Report - Linda Zilka, Kathy Lyman

First and foremost, the RC 12 Social Committee hopes that all of you are safe and healthy.

As the country follows the government's guidelines to fight this Coronavirus, life has changed. Travel has been halted and the committee wants to share updates to our planned 2020 trips.

A. AIN'T TOO PROUD, April 15, 2020 has been canceled as Broadway is dark. Refunds will be given for tickets and transportation. Once the refund from Broadway Inbound is received, Treasurer Dolores Talmadge and Organizer Kathy Lyman will pass it on.

B. Mackinac, Michigan. This trip has been rescheduled to June 13 - 19, 2021. There will be no increase in price. The trip remains full.

C. PLAZA SUITE, July 1, 2020. This trip is on hold. At this time, it appears that Broadway will not open soon. If cancelled, you will be notified.

D. Yankees Baseball, July 10, 2020. This trip is on "wait and see". The baseball season has not started and it appears games may be played without spectators.

E. Glimmerglass, August 17, 2020. The Sound of Music is still on the schedule and there are about 9 tickets left.

F. Fall trips: Mt Rushmore and the Badlands, Sept-Oct. THE MUSIC MAN on November 11. These trips are still on the schedule. Mt Rushmore has a wait list. There are three tickets available for THE MUSIC MAN.

G. Please continue to check the website: [RC12.ny.aft.org](http://RC12.ny.aft.org) for the latest information.

Stay well,

RC 12 Social Committee: Linda Zilka, Kathy Lyman, Dolores Talmadge, Phyllis Nicolella, Wendy Wilson, Gloria Kimball, Stacey Caruso-Sharpe

IX. Statewide Senior Action Council - Kathy Lyman

A. Since the RC 12 General Membership meeting on March 5, 2020 I "attended" (via Zoom) the StateWide BOD meeting on March 31 and April 1, 2020

B. Deputy Director Gail Myers gave a very detailed Legislative report. StateWide budget recommendations include:

1. Maintaining NY StateWide's Patient Rights Helpline (800-333-4374)

2. Medicaid: Ensure changes do not result in inappropriate denials that will impact applicants to an entitlement program. Oppose elimination of "spousal refusal", oppose ending ability of family caregivers to work under the consumer directed initiative, and oppose extending the community-based Medicaid look-back period.

3. EPIC: Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage. Oppose cuts to the program.

4. Address the Home Care Worker Shortage.

C. StateWide has a special MEMBER UPDATE: Coronavirus Special Edition: Mailed to many.

D. Patient Advocates Program Telephone Teach-in April 21. "Empowering New York Consumers in an Era of Hospital Consolidation." Time: 10:00 - 11:00 am; Call in number: 1-605-562-0400 Access code: 4715203#

E. BUDGET UPDATE: Call in for StateWide's Annual Briefing on the proposed state budget.

1. Call in Friday April 17, 2020 10:00 am Final budget negotiations impact on programs that support older residents.

2. Friday, June 19, 10:00 am: Federal legislation and budget issues that impact older New Yorkers.
- F. StateWide is organizing its Central New York Health Task Force. It will be led by Emily

Akpan, 347-728-2910.

G. Check out StateWide's website: [www.nyseniors.org](http://www.nyseniors.org)

H. Teach ins regarding acute care patients and caregivers will be held on May 19 and June 23. Call in to reserve a spot 899 333 4374.

#### XII. Committees -

A. Budget- The budget was reviewed. Changes will be made and emailed to Stacey who will email it to all to approve or vote against.

B. Constitution- meets every two years

C. Election - Since the May meeting isn't being held the election of RC officers will be held at the fall meeting

D. History- Margaret and Phyllis volunteered to be on the committee. Vickie was placed on the committee by Stacey in November. The committee will develop five questions that could be asked. Suggestions will be presented at the fall meeting to review.

E. Fall general membership meeting will be arranged by Dolores. It may be a joint meeting was discussed. Speaker suggestions were requested

#### XIII. Inservice Pre-Retirement Meetings Jeanne

A. At this time there are no preretirement meetings scheduled

B. Beth Chetney who teaches in Syracuse is a member on Retirement Board would be a great speaker for the future.

C. David O'Keefe President of NYS Teacher's Retirement System is another speaker option.

#### XIV. Date for Summer Executive BOD meeting August 6...Johnstown Holiday Inn

#### XV. New Business

A. There was a brief discussion revolving around the low attendance at our March meeting. We explored whether the attendees weren't interested in the topic or if traveling in winter months kept members away. This annual membership meeting is held prior to RA so it needs to be held in February or March. NYSUT wanted to keep the census in the forefront of our minds.

B. There was some confusion in the past regarding contacting Laura Bernstein as a speaker from The League of Women's Voters since they supported a Constitutional Convention. Other speaker suggestions included Derrick Clement and Pete Savage ,

E. There is probably going to be a change of Census dates due to the Corona Virus. It seems they are still looking for individuals to work for the census this summer. Many unknown factors are currently coming into play.

#### XVI. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Picciocca  
RC12 Secretary

