



LCRTA Newsletter

Spring???

I am creating this newsletter in early April while a mixture of snow, sleet and rain outside forces me to stay "on task" inside. Of course, I could be doing some spring cleaning. . . Looking forward to warm, sunny, blossom-filled days by the time of our Spring luncheon meeting on Wednesday, May 16 at the Yard of Ale. Please send in your reservation ASAP as I will have to cancel and go to plan B (which I do not have) if fewer than 25 people are registered by May 5th. Geneseo Professor Michael Oberg will be discussing Native American History and the Indian Boarding Schools established with the U.S. Government's 1871 policy of assimilation. These schools are yet another important lesson in our nation's history omitted from the texts used in high schools.

Membership: Jane Crosby has volunteered to be the membership chair of our Central Western Zone. Jane's focus is to encourage local members to join and maintain their membership at the state level of NYSRTA to ensure a vital and continuing organization. Membership is \$30/year and a renewal form is sent out yearly once you have joined. As our group's membership chair, Barb Hellwig has checked on the status of state membership for our local members. If you are not on the NYSRTA list you will be receiving a membership form with this newsletter. Memberships can also be completed online at nysrta.org. We all depend on our teacher pensions for our quality of life, so having NYSRTA ready to take action if that money is threatened certainly makes our contribution worthwhile. Last year's successful use of political action to inform voters and campaign for a NO vote on the NYS Constitutional Convention is a great example of why we need to support an organization that will work for our interests.

Leadership: A group cannot function without strong leadership and cannot grow without the vitality and energy of new leadership. At our May 2016 meeting a motion was passed to elect officers for 3 year terms, but modify that initially to allow for only one or two new elected positions at a time. We voted to end my term as President in May 2018 with the provision that I stay on as co-president for an additional year. I am hoping that someone will come forward to take on this challenge with the knowledge that it is a limited commitment, but that your service will allow our county unit of NYSTRA to continue. Please let me know if you are interested, or know someone who might be. We also need people to serve on legislative, community service, nominating and friendly service committees.

Executive Comm.

President

Vicki Universal
vuniversal@gmail.com

Vice-president

Maureen Kingston

Treasurer

Gayle Stout

Secretary

Barb Dantz

Membership

Barb Hellwig

Friendly Service

Pat Muscarella

Betty Grant

Historian

Susan Moses

Reservations

Cathy Schwalenstocker

Honor a Teacher

The Epke-Meagher Award is given each year by CWZ to recognize a deserving retiree. If you would like to nominate someone retiring this year please email me.



In Memory - We mourn the loss of several members of our group this year.

Ellen Mapes was our Membership chair for many years and the Friendly Service representative for Dansville. Ellen's legacy includes the impact she had on so many young lives in her 32 years of teaching, and the love of teaching she passed on to her children.

Jim Stewart taught for 31 years at Dansville and was a cross-country coach for much of that time. I was impressed by the way our students responded to his calm, kind manner and caring approach to them.

Margaret Preston, sister of our vice-president Maureen Kingston, was a retired Library Media Specialist from Dundee CS and an avid horsewoman who raced harness horses for many years.

Kenneth Morris had a 31 year teaching career at Dansville and *Edyth Martin* taught in Batavia.

