

Steuben County Retired Teachers' Association Newsletter: Spring 2018 CWZ/NYSRTA

A Message from your President: Teresa Stephens



Hello SCRTA Members!!! Welcome Spring!!! It has certainly been a long winter for me. I am ready to get busy with our fellow members in Steuben County.

Steuben sent a beautiful basket last fall to the CWZ Annual meeting to be raffled off. Thank all of you for voting **NO** on the New York State Constitutional Convention. Our legislative chairpeople, William Messner and John Murawski have had discussions with Bill Lesniak, our CWZ chairperson, and state representatives. A short report is printed in this newsletter. A full report can be read at: www.cwzretiredteachers.org.

I have taken the Membership Chairperson responsibilities. Over 90 letters were sent to SCRTA members to update their addresses, school retired from, when retired, phone numbers, birthdays, and emails. I'm pleased that 60 forms were returned. This is very important because the State Association (NYSRTA) needs to verify who is a NYSRTA member. The number of delegates who can vote and attend the State Convention are determined by membership. Being a Steuben member does not automatically make you a NYSRTA member. If you are a NYSRTA member please send me your **5 digit membership number on your card** and the **expiration date**. It is easy to join NYSRTA. Go to the website: www.nysrta.org and you will be quite impressed with the many benefits NYSRTA offers including the Magnificent Seven (7) Strengths of NYSRTA!

Thank you to Jane Behnk for the many years you have committed to SCRTA; as a President, historian and secretary. Jane resigned this last winter as secretary because of her demanding role with CWZ (Co-President), family matters, church and community commitments. Jane has been instrumental in keeping this Steuben Unit together. Thank you to Joanne Bennett and Sharon Mitchell who have helped with selecting the luncheon sites, suggesting ideas for community service, taking pictures of our events and putting together attractive informative pages for the historian scrapbook.

Our constitution states that new officers need to be elected every two years. At this spring 2018 meeting we will need to appoint a nomination committee to present a new

slate of officers. Please contact any present officer of a position that **YOU** are willing to serve. The elections will take place at the fall meeting. It really helps when the responsibilities are spread out among the members. Everyone's help is needed if SCRTA is to remain a strong and viable organization.

Current Officers:

President: Teresa Stephens	teresa72stephens@gmail.com	ph: 585-770-4948	
Vice-President: Vacant			
Secretary: Vacant			
Treasurer: Joanne Bennett	jombennett1@hotmail.com	ph: 585-728-2074	
Membership: Teresa Stephens	see above	ph: 585-770-4948	
Legislation: Bill Messner	bhmessner@bluefrog.com	ph: 607-382-2441	
	John Murawski	johnmurawski@gmail.com	ph: 607-324-6313
Historian: Joanne Bennett	see above		
	Sharon Mitchell	s55Mitchell@frontiernet.net	ph: 585-728-5122
Friendly Service: Barb Watson	barbsam418@gmail.com	ph: 607-776-4637	
Resolutions: John Roy	jaroy43@aol.com	ph: 607-583-4439	
Nominations: John Roy	see above		
	Gil Ferris	ferrisgilbert@yahoo.com	ph: 607-776-7101

IN MEMORY

Our Steuben Unit has made a concerted effort to keep track of members that have died within the last few years. We do not have the exact dates of passing but still want to acknowledge that their membership was important to us. The following members have passed: LM means Lifetime Member.

Vesta Bembower -LM- Wayland
Margaret Cannon- LM- Hornell
Ruth Griswold - LM - Hornell
Willard Kesel - Cohocton
Phyllis G. Morseman - LM- Addison
Norman Pfeiffer - LM - Webster
Lillian Schattner - Cohocton
Sheryl Skillman - LM - Avoca
Anthony Versage - Bath

Ray Duke - LM- Canisteo
Mrs. Ronald Fries- LM- Bradford
Katherine Hoover- LM- Ashville
Lois Lasher- LM - Wayland
Lucyna Perkins - Hammondsport
Constance Quanz - LM -Wayland
Gayle Shaver - LM - Wayland
Doris Sproul - Cohocton
Doris Whitney - LM -Geneseo

If a passing member is not listed or a member passes during the coming year, please notify an officer and we will list them in the next newsletter.



Joanne Bennett is presenting a donation check to Eugene "Gene" Baker of the Erie Depot Museum. Our Steuben Unit enjoyed the many exhibits and railroad stories within this region.



Member Enrollment form for Steuben County Unit:

Please return this section to: Joanne Bennett, SCRTA Treasurer, 129 Riptide Drive, Wayland, NY 14572 Dues: 1 year: **\$5.00** Lifetime membership: **\$25.00**

First year membership is free to newly retired educators. Membership year extends July 1 through June 30. Yearly membership dues are payable by October meeting.

Make checks payable to:

Steuben County Retired Teachers' Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Newsletter will be emailed unless noted to come by regular mail.

Birthday:mm/dd/yr: _____ Year Retired: _____

School Retired From: _____

This is the Sugar Shack that the Genesee Country Museum has built with the help of our donation last spring.



SCRTA SPRING MEETING and LUNCHEON:

Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at the Wayland Historical Society , 100 S Main St., Wayland.
Catered by Simply Autumn's Cafe. **Buffet:** tossed salad, rolls, chicken Marsala, California blend vegetables, garlic mashed potatoes, apple crisp/ice cream, coffee, tea, lemonade

10:30 - Meet and Greet 11:00- Meeting 12:00 - 12:45 - Lunch **Cost \$17.00**

After lunch, members may tour the Wayland Historical Museum.

Community Service is a monetary donation to the Wayland Historical Society.

50/50 TICKETS: \$1 for 1 ticket, \$2 for 3 tickets, \$5 for 10 tickets

A check will be sent to the winner if not present.

Please fill out the registration form below and send a check for luncheon, donation and/or raffle payable to **SCRTA**. Mail form to **Joanne Bennett, 129 Riptide Drive, Wayland, NY 14572**
Deadline for reservation is **Tuesday, May 15, 2018.**

Name: _____ # Attending _____

Donation to Wayland Historical Society: _____ 50/50 Tickets: _____

Total sent: _____



FALL LUNCHEON: Thursday, October 11, 2018 at Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, Bath, NY
Meal will be catered by church members with a slide presentation about the stain glass windows at First Presbyterian Church. After the presentation, members may go to the Presbyterian church for a walking tour.

Legislative Report:

State Priorities: ** Minimum Pension Bump up: This bill would extend the minimum retirement allowance provided to long standing retired members of the NYSRTS who retired prior to July 1, 1980 and increase the minimum retirement allowance for all such retirees to \$550 per year of NYS service up to a maximum of \$19,250.

** Improve Pension COLA: NYSRTA supports making improvements to COLA legislation by raising the base benefit amount upon which the COLA is computed from \$18,000 to \$25,000.

**For Ethics Reform: There is talk of term limit bills for Senate and Assembly seats (this would take action for two years and a constitutional referendum) and talks of term limits of legislative leaderships (this could be done with bills passed in legislation). Seeking info from Legislators on their feelings on these issues.

**New York Health Act: NYSRTA has no official position on this legislation but are asking questions like, "How will passage of this Act affect our retirees?" Seeking feedback from legislators of why or why not support this.

Federal Priorities: ** Negotiation of Covered Medicare Part D Covered Drugs: Allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate covered Part D drug prices for Medicare Beneficiaries.

** Strengthening Social Security and Medicare Trust Fund: Support and increase to the average beneficiary of \$800 per year. Change the cost-of-living calculations to reflect the living expenses of Social Security Beneficiaries. NYSRTA opposes any cuts to Medicare benefits.

** Observation vs. Impatient for coverage under Medicare: To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to stabilize and modernize the provisions of hospitalization services under the Medicare program. Although a **federal law was passed requiring notification it has not been** uniformly applied by hospitals and patients are **STILL** being surprised by having been listed **under observation**. Patients are faced with excessive charges that **should have been covered by Medicare** and learn that entry into rehabilitation is denied as Medicare will not pay **due to observation status**.

** School Safety: School facilities are requesting more funding to better the security on the campuses: more police officers on grounds, alarm detectors, bullet proof doors, training.

Teresa Stephens
3235 Sawdust Road
Wayland, New York 14572
Steuben County Retired Teachers' Association