

SENECA COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS

SPRING 2018



OFFICERS

President: Carol Westlake
Vice President: needed
Secretary: Lynn Patti
Treasurer: Carol Lord
Friendly Service: Lynn Patti
Janet Driscoll
Phyllis Weekes
Maryann Dendis
Health Care: Ellen Clark
Historian: Norma Cayward
Publicity: Phyllis Dunlap
Legislation Actions: Judie Byndas
Membership: Carol Lord
Newsletter: Lynn Hefferon
Resolutions: needed
Community Service: Cornelia Johnson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to Spring!! I am looking forward to working with all of you as my term progresses! Everyone has ideas and I really do want to hear them! We have reached a time when we need to rebuild our organization and pitch in for all educators...retired and in the workforce! The thrilling results of last November's election and the sound defeat of the Constitutional Convention proposal were invigorating! It was very satisfying to see so many participating with signs, talking to friends (and anyone who would listen), turning out to vote, and making excellent use of social media to accomplish this. My thanks to all!

We very much need to increase our local and state membership! This is a cause each one of you can aid in. Please seek out members to come to our meeting with you! Call newly retired teachers to join us! Remind everyone it is Their Pension as well as yours that relies on the active voice of All of

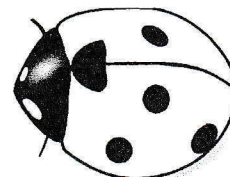
us that can protect what we worked so hard and long for! Please encourage yourself and your friends to participate in SCRTA. There are lots of ways to do this. We need a vice president and a resolutions chairperson. We also need folks to help the "Chairs do their job". Attending meetings (only 2x/year) and participating in Friendly Service and Relay for Life, proposing resolutions to be forwarded to NYSTRA, bringing books to exchange and books for children are all ways for you to pitch in. You are more than a "retired" teacher; you are a "lifetime" teacher! Teachers are community people! Let's share our resources and continue to Make A Difference!!!

Carol Westlake



Please look on the front of your newsletter near your address to see if you owe dues...a red dot indicates that you owe Seneca County dues for 2017-2018...a blue dot indicates that you are NOT a member of New York State Retired Teachers.

**The next Central
Western Zone Meeting is
September 20, 2018 at
Abigails.**



The Democrat and Chronicle published an article about New York State Retired Teachers statistics on March 6th:

Some statistics from that article:

TRS has 428,000 active and retired members. The average pension was about \$41,703 last school year. 48 retirees receive \$200,000 plus highest are from Long Island. James Feltman: \$326,610 Retired superintendent Commack Union Free Schools. 56% worked 30 years or more 24% of the 164,000 school pensioners live outside NY State. Over the last 20 years the fund has grown \$65.2 billion to \$116 billion a 20 year annualized rate of return 7.2%.

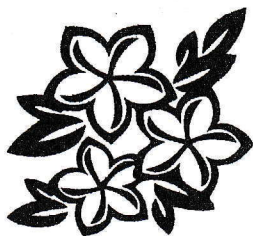
SENECA COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE

No Cancer Here-No Cancer There-No Cancer Everywhere!

I'm so excited; this year's theme is going to be a Dr. Seuss theme. Our SCRTA team is aiming for \$1,500 which is a thousand over last year's total. We will have a Beautiful Quilt Raffle at our Spring meeting. We also need more team members. Please tell Carol Fearon or Phyllis Dunlap if you are interested. We will also have \$5 Luminarias for sale. At the Relay they will be \$10. It is quite impressive to see them lit up around the track. See you at Mynderse H.S., Friday, June 1st starting at 5:P.M. Luminarias will be lit up at 9 P.M.!



Phyllis Dunlap and Carol Lord with quilts made other years for Relay for Life.



SENECA COUNTY DEATHS...Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

Kathleen Russo	November 22, 2017	Romulus English 1988-1999
Kathleen Oldfield	December 6, 2017	Waterloo English 1969-2002
Eugenia Marshall	January 8, 2018	Waterloo English 25 years
James Dickson	January 9, 2018	Mynderse 1970-1994
Harold Withiam	(spouse of Norma who attended with her) January 22, 2018	
Janet Fulkerson	January 26, 2018	Mynderse 5 th Grade

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Ah, to be retired and able to stay in if we chose on those cold winter days. It sure has been a long winter! I'm looking forward to our spring meeting and seeing many of you there to catch up and visit with. I have worked on our membership list this winter. We have 295 retirees on our active list. We have so many faithful county members and one of the largest New York State Retired Teacher Association membership percentages in our zone. I am proud to represent our county at zone and state meetings. It is important that we stay informed and insure that our pensions stay secure. We are very fortunate to have a retired teacher as chairman of the Retirement Board. NYSRTA has benefits for you to investigate: travel and discount programs; a friendly service program and our Decormier Fund to assist those retirees in need. If you would please look at the front of your invitation by your address, I have marked your membership status. If you see a red dot you do owe 2017-2018 dues of seven dollars. They can be sent to me at 39 Park Street, Phelps, NY 14532 and included with your meeting reservation. If you see a blue dot you are *not* a member of NYSRTA. I have enrollment forms or you can go online to the New York State Retired Teachers' Association, www.nysrta.org, or call 518-482-3509. Call me with any questions you may have 315-719-2163. Don't set this newsletter aside and forget to make your reservation, I know how easy that is to do! See you at the spring meeting....
Carol Lord

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Promote Literacy: Books for Seneca County Children

Please donate new and gently used children's books for age's birth to grade level 5 for the Red Bookshelf Project. The books are distributed by United Way of Seneca County to agencies which serve children and their families such as the WIC program. Clients at these agencies are encouraged to select a book to take home to read together. Dede Olufsen is active in this project. Thank you for your continued donations to the Red Bookshelf Project.

The Beverly Animal Shelter

Each spring the SCRTA donates supplies to the Beverly Animal Shelter. Suggested donations include dog and cat food (canned or dry), kitty litter, detergent, and towels. Monetary donations are always welcome.

United Way

Once again the Seneca County Retired Teachers have exceeded their goal for their donations to the annual campaign of the United Way of Seneca County.

The goal was \$13,000 and the donations totaled \$13,400 or 103%. Kudos to all!

NYSRTA PRESIDENT'S APPEAL

NYSRTA President, Angela Grande has opened the annual President's Appeal for donations. Due to decline of membership over the last few years, our organization has had to sell some of our assets to be able to continue business and services. We need to continue to offer our support to maintain our very active agenda to better the lives of our retired teachers throughout the state.

This is a way to be a productive member of NYSRTA and to help each of us to make a difference with our lawmakers and life for all teachers and our students. Our voice needs support! President Grande specifically asks each of us to recruit new members and revive participation amongst our current members. Please bring folks from each group to join us in meetings and to take interest in what is going on for us at NYSRTA.

Donations may be made by sending checks for any amount to: NYSRTA, 8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, NY 12110-6414.