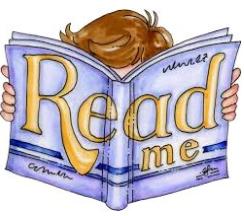


Alphabet Soup



**Spring 2017
Vol. 7, Issue 2**



Our spring **YCRA** luncheon/meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 5th at 12:00 at the Moose Lodge**. Please come and join your fellow retired educators for an entertaining luncheon/social time along with the opportunity to learn from one of our own hometown heroes.

Our speaker will be Nancy Richardson, a LVOY volunteer, who has made a huge difference in the lives of our Yates County students. She will be speaking about her experiences as an avid advocate for those, who seek out the services of Ontario-Yates Literacy Volunteers. Nancy will be honored June 8 with the *Sharing the Light Award*, given by Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes, for giving so much of her time and talent to the betterment of our community. We look forward to hearing your story, and congratulations, Nancy!

Box Tops

Please remember to bring your *Box Tops for Education*, and we will get them to the schools. Even better—look around your neighborhood (or your family) for elementary aged kids. They will be thrilled to take them to their classroom. The BIG Smile you will get will make your day! Computers, books, and playground equipment are just some of the ways schools have chosen to use the funds raised through Box Tops for Education.



Yates County Officers

2016-2018

- President:** Robyn Ballard.....607-243-5619
- Vice President:** Ronald Miller.....315-729-7858
- Secretary:** Linda Snyder.....315-536-8844
- Treasurer:** Mary Hanlon.....315-694-1161
- Friendly Service:** Elaine Gleason..315-536-8870
- Community Service:** Lyn Fitch....315-536-9811
- Legislation:** Nancy Scher315-536-4890
- Membership:** Kay Meisch585-396-9735
- Historian:** Connie Castelluzzo315-536-4125
- Past President:** Mary Ellen Morgan 315-536-8440

From our President

We are asking each of you to bring a retiree friend to our June meeting. It may be someone, who has not attended for a while or maybe not at all in the past.

Let's see if we can welcome a record number of retirees!



Do you enjoy meeting and socializing with other NYS retirees? Central Western Zone (CWZ) of our New York State Retired Teachers Association (NYSRTA) is looking for someone or a pair of members to chair the Membership committee. It's an extremely important position and needs to be filled. See Robyn Ballard for more information.



Our CWZ Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 28 at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. Attendees will enjoy meeting retired educators from surrounding counties, a delicious luncheon and an awards ceremony. Some of our own retirees will be honored at this meeting. See Robyn Ballard if you are interested in attending.

Members of our executive committee will be attending the annual NYSRTA Convention being held from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1.

FRIENDLY SERVICE: ELAINE GLEASON

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our June 5 meeting. I hope you have had a healthy and happy winter. Seems like a long time since we have all been together.

At our meeting, we will be hearing from Nancy Richardson as a representative of **Literacy Volunteers**. We are looking forward to having Nancy as our guest and supporting the Literacy program with our **50/50** that day. Also as a part of literacy, we are asking each of you to **bring a book or two for the WIC program**. These books are for our little ones... AGES BIRTH TO AGE 5. These should be picture books, board books, or something easy for a parent to read to a very young child.



Thank you to all the "friendly service helpers" for sending out cards to our members. I will be soon contacting you with our end of the year "card count" for CWZ and The State. If any of you know of a member who has moved that doesn't attend our gatherings, please let me know their new address at the meeting. We want to keep our records updated and cards in the mail! Also, we would love to have EVERYONE'S birth month and day for our records! You can keep the year a secret! See you soon!

MEMBERSHIP: KAY MEISCH

If you are not a member of Yates County Retired Educators (YCRE), you are encouraged to join our group. There are no dues for the first year and after that, the dues are \$5/year. Retired teachers from Dundee, Penn Yan and Marcus Whitman are invited to join our group plus retired teachers from other schools that are now living in Yates County. YCRE is one of 10 County Units making up Central Western Zone. New York State Retired Teachers Association (NYSRTA) is made up of zones in each part of the state. The cost of joining NYSRTA is \$30/year and gives you many benefits such as: travel opportunities, newsletter, insurance and annuity programs, variety of volunteer and social activities. By the way there are 137 retired teachers in NYS that are over 100 years of age. The secret to longevity is keeping actively involved and so I encourage you to join YCRE and NYSRTA.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: LYN FITCH

Please think about all the walking you have done since October. Do you walk along the road, on a treadmill, or around a track? Or did you get that bike on the road? Maybe you walked in a fundraising event like the Hope Walk, the Crop Walk or any health causes—or you sponsored a walker. We will have sheets on the tables for you to record the information and I will send them in for the June deadline. Thanks!!



LEGISLATION: NANCY SCHER

What you need to know about the upcoming NYS Constitutional Convention 2017

There is a push by some political factions in New York State to hold a new Constitutional Convention. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has expressed his belief in the past that a state constitutional convention is the best route to achieve comprehensive reform in New York. You can bet he will be pushing for it to happen.

Not only would a Constitutional Convention needlessly cost the New York State taxpayers an estimated \$100-million, but it could jeopardize the current level of pension benefits already received by retirees and promised to active members.

Public sector pensions are guaranteed against diminution thanks to powerful language present in the current New York State Constitution. In the event of a Constitutional Convention, the language could be tampered with, thus eliminating that guarantee and paving the way for a reduced pension benefit.

It won't matter if you have been retired 1 year or 20 years. YOUR BENEFITS WILL BE REDUCED, YOUR PENSIONS WILL BE REDUCED. A Convention may open up New York's Constitution to hastily thought out changes and reversal of laws and protections that in some cases took more than 200 years to put into effect.

A referendum whether or not to engage in a Constitutional Convention will be on the ballot for voters in the next election, **November 7, 2017**.

VOTE "NO" when and if the CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION is placed on the ballot in November of 2017. There are much better ways in which \$100-million or so of our tax dollars may be spent.