



Good Times Newsletter

Wyoming County Retired Teachers' Association

.. To Continue the Calling..
A Unit of the Central Western Zone
New York State Retired Teachers' Association

www.cwzretiredteachers.com

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This Job Could Be Yours

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This Job Could Be Yours.

President's Message by Sandy Kushner "When Did We Ever Have Time to Teach?"

Many people utter a similar sentiment when they speak of how busy they are during their retirement. At the Spring WCRTA Luncheon many in attendance took the time out of catching up with old friends and colleagues to jot down how they volunteer in the community *now* during their retirement. It was no surprise that the list of volunteer involvement was both long and varied. Here is just a sample of the involvement by the retirees of the Wyoming County Retired Teacher' Association membership:

Members participate in fundraising activities to raise money for the Golisano Hospital Fund, Ride for Roswell, Relay for Life, Love for Lexi, Walk for Down Syndrome, and Cantor for Cancer. Members serve as library trustees, members of cemetery boards, community clubs, Rotary, Project Read of Wyoming County, Wyoming County Community Hospital Auxiliary, All Babies Cherished, Farm Bureau, The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming, Meals on Wheels, Girls on the Run, Literacy Volunteers, the Arts Council for Wyoming County, and the New York State Retired Teachers' Association. Members volunteer at church, grange, schools and preschools, help handicapped riders, therapy dog visits to nursing homes, write publicity and hold a variety of offices in community organizations, or serve as docents for historical societies. Some lucky snowbirds volunteer in both the north and south, depending on their residence during the year. Our communities are lucky to have us! If you are not affiliated with an organization just ask the person sitting next to you at the fall luncheon, and you just might find your niche as a volunteer.

I was asked recently to pass along this request. Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, located in North Java, is in need of volunteers. The center is a nature education facility. There are opportunities to fit every interest. If you would like to visit you are welcome to attend an open volunteer day or contact Karen Michel at kmtmichel@gmail.com or by phone at 716- 870-2327.

Many retirees gave unselfishly while teaching, and now they seem to have continued or merely "stepped up" even more so. We are a busy bunch, but we still find time to get together with old friends at the Fall "Not Back to School" Luncheon. I look forward to seeing you on **Thursday, September 10, 2015** in our beautiful Letchworth State Park at the Glen Iris Inn.

Bylaws Revisions: The Executive Committee is still reviewing revisions to the Bylaws. There will be no action taken on the revisions at the Fall Luncheon.

As the Friendly Service chairperson, my role is to send cards- (birthday, get well, thinking of you, and sympathy), make phone calls, present Certificate of Appreciation, handle requests for financial assistance, make visits, send e-mails, deliver small remembrances to shut-ins and conduct birthday celebrations for shut-ins, 90 year olds and more. I need help from all members especially the directors to help me to fulfill this service. Contact me if you are willing to be a keyworker to assist me in taking care of all our members. Please call me at home: 716-592-3962 cell 716-982-2046 or email me at karen.ritenour1@gmail.com. Here also is my home address:
60 East Hill Run Springville, NY 14141
Thanks! Karen Ritenour, Friendly Service

**Membership Committee Chairperson:
Caren Dubay**

Congratulations to the new 2015 retirees of Wyoming County. You are embarking on a wonderful phase of your life! As the membership chairperson of the Wyoming County Retired Teachers' Association, I would like to invite you to join us. We are a unit of the Central Western Zone (CWZ) of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association (NYSRTA). The annual dues are only \$5. Enjoy meeting with former colleagues and making new friends from Attica, Letchworth, Perry, Pioneer, Warsaw, and Wyoming. We have luncheons twice a year, one in September when everyone is back to school and again in May. Information is provided on a variety of subjects that may be of interest to you in your retirement.

The New York State Teachers' Retirement Association is our political action committee. They work to represent us in our retirement, preserving and enhancing our pensions and benefits. You will receive a letter of invitation in the mail about joining the State organization along with a membership application by the end of the summer. It explains why it is important for all retired teachers to be members. You can take advantage of travel programs, product and service discounts, community service opportunities and insurance programs to name a few. Please consider joining and protecting our future. You can visit their website at www.nysrta.org.

Help Wanted to fill Legislation

Each year the New York State Retired Teachers' Association (NYSRTA) drafts a platform of legislative issues to benefit retired teachers which they take to our elected legislators all across the state. Each county unit needs a **Legislation person** to convey state legislative priorities to us, the local members, as well as taking them directly to the elected officials that represent us in the New York State Senate and Assembly. The 2015 State Legislative Priorities included:

- **Minimum Pension Bump Up** for members who retired prior to July 1, 1980 and increase the minimum retirement allowance for all such retirees.
- **Improve Pension COLA** to more accurately account for increases in inflation.
- **Elder Abuse** changing the language to make abusive caregivers accountable;
- **Remove the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA)** from the school aid formula and allow school districts to begin the reduction recovery process so that our students have access to all programs necessary for a quality education.

Our Wyoming County unit has not had a **Legislation person** in four years. NYSRTA advocates for all retired teachers, and this position is the liaison between NYSRTA and WCRTA to keep us informed of the issues important to all of us. Please consider filling this position to benefit our local membership. Contact Sandy Kushner if you are willing to serve as our **Legislation person**. There is a training packet to guide you through the entire process.

**Community Service Committee Chairperson:
Claudia Cerasani**

As we continue to support our military troops, please bring scarves, hats, and socks that you may have made this year to our Fall meeting. Other items the troops could use are : hard candy, gum, pens, pencils, paper, envelopes, playing cards, etc. All of these items will be mailed out at the end of October. Also, remember our local food pantries. Please bring two or more canned goods or non-perishable items that will be donated to Perry and Wyoming pantries, our hosts for the Fall 2015 Luncheon.

**Health Care Chairperson
Judy Haberer**

I am beginning my fourth year of retirement from the Pioneer Central School District Arcade Building. I was the school nurse for 26 years and subbed in the district for 2 years before becoming full time at Arcade. Since retiring I subbed in the district but have finally "retired" as of this June. It was a great way to see how former students had grown and changed. I am treasurer for my church and the Salvation Army. I am also involved with the Tri County Federal Credit Union housed in our district. My church has a community dinner twice a month and I prepare the meal for one of them. I have 3 children, 2 boys and 1 girl and 2 granddaughters and 1 grandson, all grandchildren are in Greensboro, NC. I am looking forward to learning about senior health issues since most of my career has been devoted to pediatrics. I welcome input from the members as to what issues concern them.