

The Link

Central Western Zone Link Letter



A Division of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association

www.cwzretiredteachers.org

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Central Western Zone's Annual President's Report 2015

By Timothy Quill

With my term of office ending on November 1, 2015, this is my last letter as president of Central Western Zone. I have truly enjoyed serving in this position over the last three years. I have had great support from our zone's dedicated Executive Committee. This committee's dedication and willingness to give their all to this organization never ceases to amaze me. I thank them for their dedicated service to Central Western Zone and to the New York State Retired Teachers' Association.

The three areas of my tenure as president that I am proudest of on behalf of my zone are: our Central Western Zone Annual Appeal; the ongoing commitment from our officers and committee chairs; and our zone's commitment to the state organization.

*When I started my first term as president of Central Western Zone, our finances were in the red. We discussed many ways of strengthening the treasury, some of them being raffles, dinners, dances, and community social events. Who would do the organization and work for such undertakings? The Executive Committee was already giving much time and effort to the zone and their counties, none of these would provide the monetary resources that we needed to **balance our budget and financial woes.***

Looking at how other organizations acquire funds, I proposed the Annual Appeal to our Executive Committee at our November 2013 meeting. The idea was to send out a letter from the president along with a brochure explaining CWZ and NYSRTA. It explained who we are, what we do, and why their financial support was a necessity to keep the zone financially strong. We asked members of CWZ, along with retired teachers who only belonged to the county units, to contribute. In our first year of the campaign we were overwhelmed with the response from the retired teachers in our area. We netted \$9,400. Expenses were \$800 for mailing and printing, with a profit to the treasury of \$8,600.00. In the second year, we collected \$8,700.00 with a profit of a little over \$8,000.00 after expenses. We are now conducting our third Annual Appeal,

and the returns look good at this time. The Executive Committee and I are very grateful to our CWZ members and their dedication to the organization for their financial support.

The second area that I am proud of is our on-going commitment from the zone committee chairs for community service. Under the direction of Elaine Leasure, we have given back to the community in many ways. Through donations to Read First, books were provided to school children. We contributed to NYSRTA disaster funds, walked for breast cancer, provided needed supplies to our troops and local food pantries. We have truly shown caring to our communities across the ten counties of the CWZ.

Kitty Braddon and Mary Prince-Walter have served as our Membership Chairs. They have worked with the Zone Executive Committee along with the ten county units to stress the need for increased membership at the county and state level.

We were represented at the State and Federal Legislation by William Lesniak. Bill has kept us informed of pending legislation and urged us to contact our local representatives and urged the passage of our legislation priorities. Bill has also served as our website coordinator, doing a fine job.

Barb Rosecrans has served as our Friendly Service Chair. Barb has worked with the local county units directing them and coordinating Friendly Service Projects. She is very dedicated and has been a big help to me the last three years.

Phyllis Dunlap has served as Zone Historian and Public Relations Chair. She, with the help of county historians, has recorded an amazing record of the story of the Central Western Zone and the ten county units in our scrapbooks. Phyllis also coordinates the articles submitted to YORK STATE from the local units along with publicizing zone events.

I would also like to thank Jay and Carol Ramsey who have worked on Resolutions for many many years. Their dedication to this committee and the organization will be missed since they have relocated to Ohio to be with family.

I would like to thank Jane Crosby our recording secretary, Pat Dick our corresponding secretary and Betty Pilato our

Continued from the cover
treasurer for their effort in keeping the
ship afloat. Without these people my term
as President would have been much more
difficult.

*The first year as Zone President, I had
no Vice President. In my second year, two
very talented people and leaders stepped
forward to serve as Co-Vice Presidents for
the zone. They are Jane Behnk and Sandy
Kushner. They made a difficult job much
easier. They helped coordinate the third
Annual Appeal, worked on zone awards,
organized the annual meeting and devel-
oped the newsletter. For this I am grateful.
On November 1, 2015, they will take over
as Co-Presidents, and I am leaving the
leadership of the zone in excellent hands.
They will help the Central Western Zone
grow and flourish.*

*Ann Czajkowski and Mariann
Holcomb coordinate the Barrie Fleegel
Active Educator Award and our funding
through Split Club tickets for this award.
Their hours of work on this project do not go
unnoticed.*

*During my term, Doris Whitney, Joan
Irwin, and Jane Crosby have served as Bulk
Mailing Chairs coordinating the distribu-
tion of zone publications as well as helping
counties with mailing issues. Their service is
greatly appreciated by many members.*

*John Hogan and Carol Lord, previous
Central Western Zone Chairs, have been
there to assist and help me through the last
three years. I thank them for their help and
dedication.*

*I also have been blessed with a group
of talented and dedicated county presidents.
Through the past three years some have
come and gone, but many stay active in the
CWZ, either by taking zone or state posi-
tions. All the county presidents I have had
the pleasure to work with have done their
best to represent their counties at Executive
Committee meetings, zone functions and the
NYSRTA conventions.*

*The third area I am proud of is our
Zone leadership in the state organization.
Judy Byndas, our outgoing NYSRTA
President, has served as CWZ President.
Sharon White was our Bylaws Chairman
has served as NYSRTA Membership Chair.
Carol Lord serves as State Historian. She
was our past CWZ Co-President. Doris
Whitney has served in many positions
in both the zone and state levels. Central
Western Zone has truly served as a breeding
ground, providing many excellent leaders
for NYSRTA.*

*In closing, I have thoroughly enjoyed
serving as the CWZ President for the past
three years, and I wish Jane and Sandy
much success as co-Presidents in the future.
Thank you.*

Friendly Service

By Barbara Rosecrans,
CWZ Chairperson

The Friendly Service Committee attempts
to bridge the gap between the CW zone
and local units. Our State Vice President
for Friendly Service, Mary Ella Moeller,
continues to keep all parties "in the loop"
of FS.

Unit chairpersons this year include:
Allegheny--Doris MacFarquhar and
Marjorie Lehman; **Livingston**--Betty
Grant and Pat Muscarella; **Monroe**--
Norma Clement and Ronald Hofmann;
Ontario--Laura Janas; **Orleans**--Eileen
Wuethrich; **Seneca**--Lynn Patti; **Steuben**--
Barb Watson; **Wayne**--Linda VanderBrook;
Wyoming--Karen Ritenour; **Yates**--Lyn
Fitch, Elaine Gleason.

Many thanks to retiring Carol Hall
of Yates who has served long and very
well. These FS chairs together with 42
keyworkers send cards, make phone
calls, present Certificates 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! Many thanks to all FS
workers for a job well done this year.
Consider what YOU can do for Friendly
Service. Your neighbor or friend down
the street might appreciate your thought-
fulness and pass it along someday.

Central Western Zone

SCRAPBOOK

By Phyllis Dunlap--Historian

I have passed out two scrapbook pages to
each county unit to fill out about their
county's officers, events and meetings (in-
cluding pictures and newspaper articles)
for our CWZ scrapbook which will be
displayed at the 2015 NYSRTA conven-
tion. I will be collecting these at our
CWZ Annual Meeting at the Notre Dame
Retreat in Canandaigua on Thursday,
September 24, 2015. We are all working
together to make our 2015 CWZ scrap-
book the best ever and to truly be a won-
derful record of all our Central Western
Zone Units.

Thank you in advance for your cooper-
ation: MaryJane McNeil-Allegany, Susan
Moses-Livingston, Jane Crosby-Ontario,
Helen Rosenthal (who has had to retire
due to health reasons), Norma Cayward-
Seneca, Joanne Bennett and Sharon
Mitchell-Steuben, Rita Lesniak-Wayne,
Pam Osgood-Wyoming, Connie
Castelluzzo-Yates and Monroe (TBA).
Please forgive me if I have omitted
anyone.

All of your time and effort are greatly
appreciated. Any questions pbd106@
yahoo.com or 315-539-3352 or 23 S.
Walnut Street, Waterloo, NY 13165.

Barrie Fleegel Memorial Grants 2015

By Mariann Holcomb and Ann Czajkowski

The Barrie Fleegel Memorial Active Educator Grant Program is ten-years-old! This year grants totaling fourteen hundred dollars were awarded to eleven outstanding educators pursuing permanent certification or higher degrees. Seventeen applications were received from six of our ten CWZ counties and evaluated by the grant committee composed of Carol Lord, Mariann Holcomb and Gene and Ann Czajkowski.

Grant recipients for 2015:

- Allegheny** - Kelly Dunham \$100, Belfast CSD;
Justin Worboys \$100, Genesee CSD.
Livingston - Alyson Mercedes Tardy \$100, York Elementary.
Monroe - Christine N. Green \$200, Honeoye Falls-Lima CSD;
Linda Crist \$150, Monroe 2 Orleans BOCES;
Brian Powers \$150, Willink Middle School;
Hope Kantor \$100, Hillel Community Day School.
Ontario - Michelle Walpole \$100, Naples Jr/Sr High.
Steuben - Mary Christine Clark \$100, Addison Middle/High School;
Laura Moore \$100, Prattsburgh CSD.
Wayne - Timothy Burns \$200, North Rose-Wolcott CSD.

The grants awarded during the ten years of this program total \$15,350.

The committee appreciates the efforts of all those at the county level who presented the certificates and wrote up the event in their local newspapers. This way the CWZ of NYSRTA is becoming known as an active organization of retirees.

Let's make 2016 our best year yet!

CWZ Split Club Members Make It Happen!

By Mariann Holcomb and Ann Czajkowski

Split Club supporters have made it possible to award one thousand four hundred dollars in grants to eleven active educators across CWZ's ten counties for 2015. Our Split Club will fund the **Barrie Fleegel Memorial Active Educator Grants** again for 2016. Two blue tickets are included here for purchase by CWZ members at twenty dollars each. Half the funds collected will be used to fund the grants. Additional donations in any amount are appreciated and will go directly toward the grants.

Checks should be made payable to **CWZ Active Educator Grant**. Send ticket stubs and donations to **Ann Czajkowski, 2311 Johnson Creek Road, Barker, NY 14012**. Ticket stubs must be received before January 10, 2016 to be eligible for all fifteen Split Club drawings. Other donations are accepted year round.

Split Club winners in 2015 were: January - Kathryn Lewis, C. Kathy Stewart and Sandy Kushner; February - Jeanne Flynn, James Watkins and Marlene Lo Turco; March - Carole W. Clow, Sherry Watson and Susan Hengelsberg; April - Jack Leasure, Kathryn Lewis, Richard Adamus, Victoria Daly, Rich Byndas and Kathy Grandjean.

A big thank you goes out to Carol Lord for her assistance with Split Club sales this year. Thank you to all participants and congratulations to the winners!

York State CWZ Articles

By Phyllis Dunlap--Public Relations 2015

I hope you have enjoyed reading the *York State* as much as I have putting them together. Thank you to these people for submitting articles: Jane Behnk- Steuben, Elaine Leasure and Sue Nellany-Wayne, Sandra Kushner and Claudia Cerasani-Wyoming, Robyn Ballard-Yates, Joan Handfield and Jane Crosby-Ontario, Frank Berger-Orleans, Joan Irwin-Livingston, Sheila Harp-Monroe and Me-Seneca County. Please forgive me if I have omitted anyone.

The Winter *York State* will be full of Convention News. So relax and take a break because we won't need many articles until the Spring *York State* or should I say until January 2016. Thank you for helping NYSRTA to read about what a great unit we are of all our active members. If you have a suggestion for an article contact me at pbd106@yahoo.com or call me a 315-539-3352 or mail to 23 S. Walnut Street, Waterloo, NY 13165. It has been a privilege to work with all of you and make new friends.

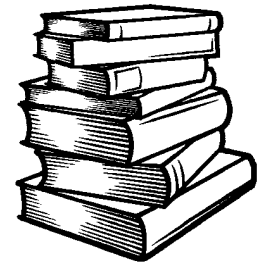
Community Service

by Elaine Leasure

Many good things are going on within our zone. Every county does some kind of community service, and many have on-going projects that take place continuously. You are all to be congratulated.

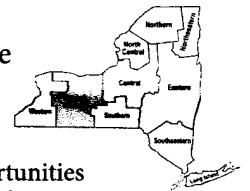
Our state Community Service group, in conjunction with health care, has started a program called NYSRTA walkers. We are interested in finding out what charity walks you attend or support, how many miles you walk, and how much money you or your group raised. Please keep this in mind as you participate in events during the summer. At the fall meetings, we will ask for this information to be forwarded to the state. Check out more information in the *York State* newsletter.

At our annual fall meeting, we will again take a donation for Read First, an organization that provides new books to poverty schools. For \$25, 10 books will be purchased and distributed. Please plan to donate to this most worthwhile cause.



New York State Retired Teachers' Association, Inc. • Central Western Zone

Membership Report 2015



Another year has flown by and again we would like to thank our unit membership chairs for all their continuing hard work:

Allegany: Gerald McGlynn (president)

Livingston: Ellen Mapes

Monroe: Dr. Ted Veremeychik and Samuel Montello

Ontario: David Bush

Orleans: Barb Dunham

Seneca: Carol Lord

Steuben: Christine Thomas

Wayne: Kathleen Clute

Wyoming: Caren Dubay

Yates: Kay Meisch

Membership continues to slowly decline. Currently we have a total of 2210 members. This number is down from last year.

Active Members (non life) 1059

90 Year Old 142

100 Year Old 17

Associate Members 0

Life Members (<90) 895

90 Year Old LM 89

100 Year Old LM 6

Current Non-Paid 100

Non-Paid 1yr. 48

We realize everyone has been working hard on membership. It is vital to continue our efforts. We would like to remind you of some of the benefits of NYSRTA:

- Employment Opportunities

- Financial Assistance

- Insurance Programs-medical-vision-dental and hearing plans

- Discount Programs

- Social Opportunities

- Legislative Advocacy

Remember this is the only organization that works solely for New York State Retired Teachers.

Recruitment of new members is everyone's job. When we all become involved and put forth effort membership will grow. The power of this association and what it can accomplish for us will increase also. Our strength is in our numbers.

Respectively Submitted,

Kitty Braddon

(gbraddon@rochester.rr.com)

Mary Prince-Walter

(cdgawitch@gmail.com)

CWZ Membership co-chairs

Central Western Zone Fall 2015 Meeting

Thursday,
September 24, 2015
Notre Dame Retreat House
5151 Foster Road,
Canandaigua, NY 14424,
(585) 394-5700

9:30 a.m. Coffee &
Pastries
10:00 a.m. Meeting
11:00 a.m. Program
12 Noon Buffet Lunch
CWZ Basket Raffle

Nominations for
Central Western Zone
2015 Annual Meeting
Co-Presidents - Jane Behnk and
Sandy Kushner
Vice President - Nominations
will be taken from the floor.
Recording Secretary -
Jane Crosby
Corresponding Secretary -
Pat Dick
Treasurer - Betty Pilato

*RSVP with your check made payable to:
CWZ Retired Teachers' Association
by September 16, 2015 to:*
Carol Lord, 39 Park Street, Phelps, NY 14532
(315-719-2163)
Luncheon Reservation \$20.00 Price Per Person
Please accept my reservation(s) for:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Number of Reservations: _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

I am unable to attend but wish to contribute \$10.00 for CWZ Annual Appeal.

Handicapped individuals: The walk from the entrance to the meeting/dining area may be too long for some people. For a shorter walk drive past the "No Entry Beyond This Point" sign to the cul-de-sac. Enter here and you will be by the area for coffee/pastries and right by the room for the meeting and program. If possible, return to the parking lot with your car. If this is not possible, there is limited parking near this entrance for a few cars providing the driveway to the house is not blocked.

Mark Your Calendars!

The NYSRTA 65th Annual Convention

ANNUAL WORKSHOPS & ANNUAL MEETING

Hosted by Eastern Zone

Turning Stone Resort &
Casino

5218 Patrick Road,
Verona, New York 13478
1-800-771-7711

~~Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday,~~

October 27 - 29, 2015

Registration:

Tuesday, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 21, 2015**