

## Co-Presidents' Report for May 3, 2018 Central Western Zone Meeting

### NYSRTA Board of Directors Meeting – April 16-17, 2018, Syracuse, NY:

- **Presidents' Meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>** each zone president shared news from their area. Many zones are seeing a drop in membership and attendance to meetings while others seem to be flourishing. One size does not fit all! We reported on our awards program to honor both active educators and retiring teachers.
- **The Bylaws Chair will be busy preparing for the July meeting with the following tasks:**
- 1) Clearly stating that NYSRTA is non-political, perhaps adding one line to the objectives of the organization rather than changing the entire Mission Statement.
- 2) A major change in the bylaws has been suggested by Senior Vice President, Kevin Mulligan suggesting **Co-Membership Vice Presidents and dividing the state into Membership Regions**. The East Region would be Long Island Zone, Eastern Zone, Southeastern Zone, Southern Zone and Northeastern Zone. The Western Zone would be Western Zone, Central Western Zone, Central Zone, North Central Zone and Northern Zone.
- 3) **In addition to Co-Membership positions there would be the options for Co-Vice Presidents for Friendly Service and Legislative Action**. Legislative now has two people working together; however, the bylaws do not address this situation. Now, they have one vote and remuneration for one attending meetings/convention. Much discussion followed these proposals, and now it is up to the Bylaws committee to put this into writing at the July meeting.
- 4) There was a petition presented, from Eastern Zone, to **change the term of the elected officers of the Association**. The current wording of ARTICLE VIII, *"The elected officers of the Association shall hold office for a term of one (1) year. Elected officers are limited to not more than three (3) consecutive terms.."* We petition that petition be changed to: *"The elected officers of the Association shall hold office for a term of two (2) years. Elected officers are limited to not more than two (2) consecutive terms..."*
- The Bylaws Committee will present this at the July meeting as well. **Both of these require action by the zones before the convention. If the second one, regarding terms of office is changed that would require a bylaws change for the CWZ as well.** Both of these discussions were lengthy.
- Also, there is no place in the bylaws that names the zones, these are only found in the Leaders' Manual.

- **NYSRTA Nominations** new Chair is Bill Cline. Nominations for 2018-2019 positions needed: President, Senior Vice President, Vice President for Friendly Service, and Vice President for Membership. Candidates need to submit a letter of intent with a resume and a letter recommending him/her from his/her zone president. Candidates appear before the Nominations Committee at a meeting on Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup> in Syracuse.
- **2018 Convention Theme: "Best in the West" will be hosted by Western Zone.** All information regarding the convention will appear in the summer *York State*. The entertainment on Thursday evening will be a TRIVIA CONTEST. Zones are encouraged to form teams with 1-8 members. Registration for the contest will take place before the contest. Prizes will be awarded. The bar will be open for both participants and observers. Western Zone hopes this will be a fun addition to the convention.
- **Membership**, Lois Thornberg Vice President for Membership, has been working hard with the zone Membership chairs to collect and compile data across the state.
- Kathi Bassett reviewed the process for reminding members to pay their dues, which is both lengthy and costly.
- **Public Relations**, Linda Crosby, is working with the five zones that will administer the Hudson-Kramer Memorial Grant this school year: Central, Long Island, North Central, Southern, and Southeastern.
- **Resolutions must be submitted by June 8, 2018**, thirty days prior to the July NYSRTA Board of Directors meeting.

#### **County Meetings:**

We attended Orleans County on April 12, 2018. At the meeting a vote was taken to dissolve the group, which passed. Sadly, no options or timeline was suggested for postponing this discussion/vote while new officers were sought. This county/unit group does have some officers willing to continue their positions. They needed a president, vice-president and a corresponding secretary.

Upcoming Meetings: Please send us your spring newsletters/invitations so we can attend your meetings.

**2018 Annual Appeal Letter** has been prepared. Address labels will be affixed at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, and Jane Crosby will mail them in June.

We look forward to seeing you on May 3, 2018 at the Legacy.

Jane Behnk and Sandy Kushner