

**Steuben County Retired Teachers' Association Newsletter: Fall 2018**  
**CWZ/NYSRTA**

**President's Message: Teresa Stephens**

Hello SCRТА Members!!!

What a hot and muggy summer! I am actually looking forward to a cooler fall. 37 new retirees from Steuben and Allegany counties have been sent welcoming letters and a free one year membership from our Unit. Hopefully these retirees will take advantage of our invitation and attend our meetings this fall and spring. They will also receive this newsletter informing them of the many efforts NYSRTA, CWZ and our Steuben unit do to protect their retirement benefits and pensions.

**FALL MEETING: Thursday, October 11, 2018 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 122 Liberty Street, Bath, NY.** Meeting, Luncheon, slide show of the First Presbyterian Church in Bath and then a **walking tour** at the First Presbyterian Church afterwards. The First Presbyterian Church is located on the square, 6 East Morris Street. Free parking behind the church. The meal will be catered by the church ladies and the menu will be soup, a large selection of make your own sandwiches, dessert and beverages. **Cost: \$16.00.**

Meet and Greet: 10:30 Meeting: 11:00 Lunch: 12:00 Slide Show: 1:00 Walking Tour: 2:00

Community Service will be a monetary donation to St. Thomas for their food pantry.

**50/50 TICKETS: \$1 for 1 ticket, \$2 for 3 tickets, \$5 for 10 tickets**

A check will be sent to the winner if not present.

Please fill out the registration form below and send a check for luncheon, donation and /or raffle payable to **SCRТА**. Mail this form to **Joanne Bennett, 129 Riptide Drive, Wayland, NY 14572**  
**Deadline** for reservation is **Thursday, October 4th, 2018.**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ #Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to St. Thomas Episcopal Church: \_\_\_\_\_ 50/50 Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount sent: \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory** to the following members and Life Members who have passed away:

Sara E. Arcangeli--LM--Hornell School  
C. Federick Pierson--LM--  
Anne Spear--LM--Bath, Haverling  
Lorraine McKeever--LM--

Anthony Cicero--LM--Addison CS  
Irvn C. Spear--LM--Bath, Haverling  
Sara Wheaton--LM--Avoca CS

My sincere apologies for listing Lillian Schattner as deceased. Lillian is alive and well and lives in Cohocton.

### **Membership**

Our Steuben Unit has 253 total members. 169 are Life Members. We have one new member this year! Please try to recruit new members and revive participation amongst our current members. The best way to get the word out is through personal contact. Included in this newsletter is a copy of our membership form. Bring folks to join us in meetings and take an interest in what is going on for us in NYSRTA. If you are not a member of NYSRTA, please join!!! For \$30/year or \$450 Life Membership, NYSRTA has many benefits for you: insurance programs; travel and tours; discounts on products and services; legislative advocacy; financial assistance; social opportunities! I have enrollment forms or you can go online to the New York State Retired Teachers' Association, [www.nysrta.org](http://www.nysrta.org), or call 518-482-3509.

### **Barrie Fleegel Award**

Central Western Zone has awarded the 2018 Barrie Fleegel Award for Steuben County to **Rachael McCloud**, a 17 year math, science and special education teacher at Hammondsport Central School. Rachel has completed her Doctorate from Walden University in Education w/specialization; self designed in assessment & special education & 7-12 educator. Rachael has been a recipient of this award in the past.

### **Epke-Meagher Award**

Wayland-Cohocton retiree, **Rhonda Parker**, is one of two recipients awarded the 2018 Epke-Meagher from The Central Western Zone. Rhonda first taught music in the Middle School and then in the Elementary School. She has organized and directed many impressive musicals utilizing both the school and community. Rhonda will be presented this Certificate at the CWZ Annual Meeting September 20 at Club 86 in Geneva. **Juli Severson**, a past winner of this award from Wayland-Cohocton, will be the presenting speaker for Rhonda.

Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I have served SCRTA as an officer (Membership, Secretary, and President) for 15 straight years and CWZ for 9 years so far. I had recently "retired" from being an officer in SCRTA and will complete my term as CWZ Co-President on November 1, 2018. I have very much enjoyed both of these experiences, having met and worked with many wonderful people. However, I am not done attending or contributing to both organizations. The NYSRTA is important to me and should be to all of us. Retired teachers need the support and protection of their benefits that NYSRTA can help provide as well as the other programs available. Once a teacher, always a teacher. Be PROUD! THANK YOU!

Jane M. Behnk  
WCRTA, SCRTA, CWZ, NYSRTA

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**Membership Enrollment form for Steuben County Unit/Time to pay dues:**

\*\*\*\*LIFE TIME MEMBERS: If your information hasn't changed you do not need to fill out the form below. Yearly membership and new members: Fill out this form and send it to: Joanne Bennett, SCRTA Treasurer, 129 Riptide Drive, Wayland, NY 14572      Dues: 1 year: \$5.00  
Lifetime Membership: \$25.00      First year membership is free to newly retired educators. Membership year extends July 1 through June 30. Yearly membership dues are payable by October meeting. Make checks payable to: **Steuben County Retired Teachers' Association**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter will be emailed unless noted to come by regular mail.

Birthday:mm/dd/yy: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Retired: \_\_\_\_\_

School Retired From: \_\_\_\_\_

**Current SCRTA Officers:**

President: <b>Teresa Stephens</b>	<a href="mailto:teresa72stephens@gmail.com">teresa72stephens@gmail.com</a>	Ph: 585-770-4948
Vice-President: Vacant		
Secretary: Vacant		
Treasurer: <b>Joanne Bennett</b>	<a href="mailto:jombennett1@hotmail.com">jombennett1@hotmail.com</a>	Ph: 585-728-2074
Membership: <b>Teresa Stephens</b>	see above	Ph: 585-770-4948
Legislation: <b>Bill Messner</b>	<a href="mailto:bhmessner@bluefrog.com">bhmessner@bluefrog.com</a>	Ph: 607-382-2441
<b>John Murawski</b>	<a href="mailto:johnmurawski@gmail.com">johnmurawski@gmail.com</a>	Ph: 607-324-6313
Historian: <b>Joanne Bennett</b>	see above	Ph: 585-728-2074
<b>Sharon Mitchell</b>	<a href="mailto:s55Mitchell@frontiernet.net">s55Mitchell@frontiernet.net</a>	Ph: 585-728-5122
Friendly Service: <b>Barb Watson</b>	<a href="mailto:barbsam418@gmail.com">barbsam418@gmail.com</a>	Ph: 607-776-4637
Resolutions: <b>John Roy</b>	<a href="mailto:jaroy43@aol.com">jaroy43@aol.com</a>	Ph: 607-583-4439
Nominations: <b>John Roy</b>	see above	
<b>Gil Ferris</b>	<a href="mailto:ferrisgilbert@yahoo.com">ferrisgilbert@yahoo.com</a>	Ph: 607-776-7101

This Fall we will have elections for officers. I would like to continue my roll as President. It is my hope that members will step up and fill the current vacancies and of those positions that become open. Many of the current officers have held these positions for many years and are ready to let someone else take their spot. Please contact any present officer of a position that **YOU** are willing to serve. Everyone's help is needed to keep **SCRTA** a strong and viable organization.

**Legislative Report:**

State Priorities: Tedisco **Improve Pension Cola:** NYSRTA supports making improvements to COLA legislation by raising the base benefit amount upon which the COLA is computed from \$18,000 to \$25,000. This change is long overdue. Bill# and sponsor A.06045 Steck S.03306 **Minimum Pension Bump Up:** This bill would extend the minimum retirement allowance provided to long standing retired members of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System who retired prior to July 1, 1980 and increase the minimum retirement allowance for all such retirees to \$550 per year of NYS service up to a maximum of \$19,250. Bill # and sponsor A.06603A Brindisi S.5329A Ritchie for **Ethics Reform:** There is talk of term limit bills both for Senate and Assembly seats (this would take action for two years and a constitutional referendum) and talks of term limits of legislative leaderships (this could be done with bills passed in legislation).

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Our Spring Meeting and Luncheon will be **Tuesday, June 11, 2019** at the Kanisteo Historical Society in Canisteo, NY. A powerpoint presentation of Canisteo history is planned.



Joanne Bennett, SCRTA Treasurer, is presenting a check for \$151.00 to Robert Babcock and MaryLou Kiesl, SCRTA members and Wayland Historical Society Board members for the monetary donation from SCRTA to help fix their jukebox; pictured above.

**Resolutions Report:**

This is a brief outline of the **recommended** resolutions that will be voted on at the CWZ Annual Meeting, September 20, 2018. All the resolutions are posted on the CWZ website:

[www.cwzretiredteachers.org](http://www.cwzretiredteachers.org) **B-5-1: School Safety** The New York State Retired Teachers' Association resolves to challenge our state legislators to fully fund mandates for school safety in every school building in New York State to its fullest extent. **A-8: Loss of Retiree Benefits** Be it resolved that the NYSRTA act on behalf of these retirees to have their health insurance and benefits returned to their prior commitment, and be it further resolved that the NYSRTA seek legislation that protects and covers these retirees from discrimination due to retirement. **D-22: Gun Safety** Be it resolved that the NYSRTA requests the State Senate and Assembly members enact regulations banning assault weapon sales to citizens who are not security officers or armed servicemen, and be it further resolved, that the NYSRTA requests the State Senate and Assembly members increase the age limit for purchases of all firearms to age 21. **D-23: A Resolution in Support of Greater Protection and Safety for Educational Employees** Be it resolved that NYSRTA supports the enforcement of legislation dealing with the issue of violence against school employees, and be it further resolved that the NYSRTA supports the enforcement of the information in the NYS Compilation of School Discipline Laws and Regulations, and be it further resolved that the NYSRTA supports the enforcement of the Commissioner's Regulations dealing with the issue of violence against school employees, and be it further resolved that the NYSRTA supports further legislation and Commissioner's Regulations that address the safety of school employees from violent acts.

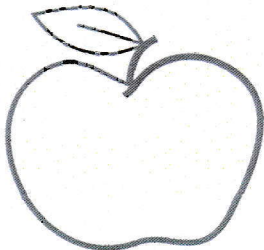
**D-24: A Resolution in Support of Greater Protection and Enforcement of Legislation and Regulations Against Gun Violence in Schools** Be it resolved that NYSRTA supports current legislation regarding the issue of gun violence in schools, and be it further resolved that the NYSRTA supports the efforts of legislators to press for further legislation regarding the issue of gun violence in schools, and be it further resolved that the NYSRTA supports the efforts of the NYS Commissioner of Education and educators to press for further regulations and legislation with regard to the issue of gun violence in schools. **D-25: A Resolution Concerning the Need for Metal Detectors in our New York State Public Schools** Be it resolved that the members of NYSRTA will endorse and support the funding and installation of metal detection systems in our state's public schools, and be it further resolved that the Legislative Action Committee for NYSRTA will communicate our endorsement of the implementation of metal detection systems to our elected representatives at the State and Federal levels. **E-20: A Resolution for Raising Concern with AARP about their Excessive Solicitation and Marketing Practices with the Elderly** Be it resolved, that the Board of Directors for NYSRTA craft a letter to the leadership of AARP, addressing the aforementioned concerns raised about over solicitation and marketing tactics that lead to confusion and overreaction by the elder recipients, and be it further resolved that the Legislative Action Committee follow up with further communication to AARP and address the areas of concern and work towards possible resolution. **F-5: Convention Locations** Be it resolved that we urge the NYSTRA to choose a more central location at which to hold the annual convention, or alternate the location of the Convention each year to accommodate all Zones more fairly.

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Teresa Stephens  
 3235 Sawdust Road  
 Wayland, New York 14572



*Lena*

*14551-905749*

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**Open: Great Information inside!!!**

