

SENECA COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



OFFICERS

President: Carol Westlake
Vice President: needed
Secretary: Lynn Patti
Treasurer: Carol Lord
Friendly Service: Lynn Patti
Janet Driscoll
Phyllis Weekes
Maryann Dendis
Health Care: Ellen Clark
Historian: Norma Cayward
Publicity: Phyllis Dunlap
Legislation Actions: Judie Byndas
Membership: Carol Lord
Newsletter: Lynn Hefferon
Resolutions: needed
Community Service: Cornelia Johnson

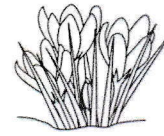
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It was a V-E-R-Y long winter!!! I am so happy that we have arrived at the change of season and can meet and enjoy a day together in May!!! I am hoping you will mark your calendars and join your fellow retirees at Woody's Grill for good food and good company!!

NYSRTA has not been idle since we last met. The work on our behalf goes on. Our local zone, Central Western, has new leaders that are working hard for us. Robyn Ballard and Mary Ellen Morgan generously picked up the reins and have been keeping track and passing along information. CWZ met in March and tackled issues that concern us all. These ladies have been on the ball for us!!

Kevin Mulligan is the new state president of NYSRTA. He has long been active in the group and dove into issues like health insurance to benefit all retirees. He is collecting information on current retiree insurance that many have via their schools. There is little commonality in programs across the state. He is working with our information to try to form a plan that would

SPRING 2019



coordinate programs across NY. We did send in data for our 4 districts pertaining to contributions from each district for strictly retirees, differences of amounts given to different retirement years, length of contribution, etc. Mr. Mulligan is also a strong proponent of lowering pharmaceutical costs for all of us. **NYSRTA's** legislative folks are keeping track of news concerning Social Security and pushing to make it stronger including raising the base our COLA is figured on. Safe School legislation is another area that is being watched and supported.

We all need to Spring into action to strengthen our local **SCRTA** and **NYSRTA**!!! Membership is vital to keeping our voices alive and working for retirees! Many of us belong to **NYSUT** as well as our **NYSRTA**. While **NYSUT** is covering retirees and current educators, **NYSRTA** is strictly focused on **US!!** Retirees need a voice to protect ourselves and to prepare a safe financial "**bed**" for future retirees. What benefits those of us who are lucky enough to be enjoying retirement now, will be a blessing for those who follow!! We must never feel too safe!!!! Our country is under continuous change! Our tremendous work to vote down the Constitutional Convention to protect our funds from being dipped into by state fingers could be voted to again fight for this at any time. It only takes a couple votes at the state level to reintroduce this. We must be diligent! Our Social Security and insurance benefits are essential to enjoying our retirement! This is a bit of what belonging to **NYSRTA** at state and local level does for **YOU!**

Every one of us must try to bring in new membership!!! It is time for newer voices and energies! Please contact anyone you know who is eligible and bring them along in May! Many recent retirees have not been ready to join immediately after retirement. It is a bit overwhelming! Contact folk who have been out a year or two or three!!! Bring along older members who need a ride. Talk to not only retired teachers but assistants!!! This is

a garden we need to plant!!! Growth is essential to our health and future!!! We can do it!!!

Carol Westlake

Promote Literacy: Books for Seneca County Children

Please continue to donate new and gently used children's books for children birth to grade level 5 for the Red Bookshelf Project. The books are distributed by the United Way of Seneca County to agencies which serve children and their families such as the WIC program. Clients at the agencies are encouraged to select a book to take home to read together. Thank you for your continued support of literacy in the county.

United Way

Each fall the annual campaign of the United Way of Seneca County begins and each year our retired teachers have contributed generously exceeding our goal! Thank You! You can still contribute to the campaign. As of the last report we are only a few hundred dollars short of our goal.

United Way of Seneca County

PO Box 623

Waterloo, NY 13165

315-539.1135

www.uwseneca.org

The Beverly Animal Shelter

Each spring the SCRTA donates supplies to the Beverly Animal Shelter. Suggested donations include dog and cat (canned or dry), kitty litter, detergent, and towels. Monetary donations are also welcome.

Many of you may know that on March 23rd Jan Driscoll was honored as the Woman of the Year for 2019 by the Seneca County Women's Coalition. Proceeds from the dinner and ads will benefit Jan's favorite charities: United Way Substance Abuse Coalition and It's a Wonderful Life Museum.

In Memory:

Ann Cramer December 17th, 2018
Seneca Falls Librarian 16 years
James Alessio December 27th, 2018
Principal Seneca Falls Elementary Schools
Angela Jones January 7th, 2019
Language – Spanish Waterloo High School
John Roy December 25, 2018 CWZ
Sharon White February 5, 2018 CWZ
Donna Pascucci March 13, 2019
Waterloo High School Librarian

Membership dues for SCRTA is \$7 per year and for NYSTRA it's \$30 per year or \$450 for a lifetime membership



- **WE REALLY need MORE MEMBERS FOR OUR SCRTA TEAM. HOPE MANY OF YOU WILL JOIN US. RELAY FOR LIFE IS JUNE 7th. WE need PARTICIPANTS AND DONATIONS.**

NYSRTA MEMBERS PLEASE WATCH FOR YOUR CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE NEWSLETTER, THE LINK, WHICH WILL BE SENT IN AUGUST. THAT WILL GIVE THE DETAILS FOR THE ANNUAL ZONE MEETING TO BE HELD OCTOBER 24TH. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

- Hello Seneca County, Retired Teacher members!! What a really nice Fall meeting we had at Taste of Wine Country in Ovid. The pastries and desserts were just wonderful, and it was very comfortable there. Change is good sometimes. Take a ride and go see Mary on Rt. 96, Ovid for an excellent meal.

Thanks to those who sent in their \$7.00 dues for 2018-2019. I will again mark the front of your newsletter for dues owed: a red dot indicates that yes you do owe this year's county dues and a blue dot indicates that you are not a member of NYSRTA. Our county is one of ten in Central Western Zone of the New York State Retired Teachers (NYSRTA). Judie Byndas is a past state president and many of our members have served the state organization. It works hard to represent all state retired teachers: monitoring our pension funds, legislation affecting our lives and offering many benefits.

Please go to www.nysrta.org for more information and to find a membership application. Do put May 16th on your calendar for our Spring meeting and send in your reservations today!! Enjoy Spring, be well, and I'll see you there. Carol Lord

Legislation and Resolutions

Legislation concentrations include attempts to improve retirees' finances and support. Federal issues focus on maintaining Medicare and Social Security. State is focusing on school retiree's health insurance and continuing push for an increased bump up in pension base. This has been requested for years by NYS Teachers Retirement system which cannot grant increases even if money to do so is adequate.

No resolutions have been submitted to Central Western Zone for approval. Many of our concerns on schools, retirees, etc. are under consideration and may be passed before June and reactions ensue. Any suggestions you have may be submitted to Judie Byndas for writing and approval by CWZ board at their May meeting.

Awards

Applications for the following awards are available for local active teachers at website:

cwzretiredteachers.org

1. Epke-Meagher Award- for teachers retiring in 2019 active in school and community affairs. Award: CWZ luncheon and 1-year free membership to NYSRTA.
2. Barry Fleegel Award-active teachers who are pursuing advanced degrees or certification. Award: \$50 - \$200 cash.
3. Hudson-Cramer Grant- available every other year. Active teacher in CWZ counties to implement or supplement innovative school projects. Award: \$1000 cash.

If you know any teacher who qualifies for the above awards, please encourage them to check the website.

Seneca County Relay for Life

Relay for Life is a Western theme on Friday, June 7, 2019. Ya'll come over and walk some laps. At 5:00 P.M. there will be a Chuck Wagon Dinner for Survivors and Caregivers! Opening Ceremony is at 6:00 at Mynderse Track Field behind the school. After the

ceremony there might even be some foot stomping 2 step dancing and round or square "dancing". Join us at 9:00 for a campfire and Luminaria Light Ceremony around the corral and track dedicated to loved ones touched by cancer. There will be a Bouncy House and may be Buckin Broncos!

WE WANT TO STOMP OUT CANCER!

Don't forget your cowboy or cowgirl hat and boots. Live Country Band-Prizes-Drawings-Games and Booths till midnight.

Yes, our SCRTA Team will be raffling off another beautiful donated Quilt for the Relay. We will have tickets at the Spring meeting. Be the first to buy your tickets.

Phyllis Dunlap

Our *Annual meeting for CWZ* is in Canandaigua on Sept. 19th at King's Catering on Rte.5&20.

Our **FALL LUNCHEON** will be October 24th. The place will be announced later.

