

WAYNE COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Spring 2019

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES

President:

Joyce Pittenger 315-594-8965
6566 E. Port Bay Rd. Wolcott, NY 14590
jpittenger@rochester.rr.com

Vice-President: OPEN**Secretary:**

Julie Wunder 315-946-6393
39 Dickerson St. Lyons, NY 14489

Treasurer: OPEN**Parliamentarian: OPEN****Historian:**

Rita Lesniak 315-483-8061
7449 State St. Sodus, NY 14551
NYToyLady@aol.com

Community Service:

Elaine Leasure 315-986-1423
3280 Orchard St. Walworth, NY 14568

Friendly Service:

Sue Nellany 315-589-2876
4041 Wayne St. Williamson, NY 14589

Health Care:

Sharon Maher 315-483-6055
6578 Hunters Point Rd.
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Immediate Past President/Legislation

William Lesniak 315-483-8061
7449 State St. Sodus, NY 14551
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Resolutions: OPEN**Membership: OPEN****Newsletter Editor:**

Kathy Grandjean 315-333-1113
2601 Lake Rd. Ontario, NY 14519
kgrandjean@rochester.rr.com

Greetings from the President of the Retired Teachers of Wayne County.

I would like to invite each of you to attend the Wayne County Retired Teachers' Association Luncheon on June 4th at the Ontario Golf Club.

An organization is only as strong as its membership. We need to encourage our retired partners in education to become involved. We also are in dire need of officers: Vice President, Treasurer (our long standing one recently died) and Membership Chair. Please consider stepping up into one of these positions. Perhaps you know someone who would be a good fit for one of these jobs. Each of these jobs requires some work a couple of times a year, but nothing that is ongoing throughout the year.

Remember the adage, "Many hands make light work", really applies. We currently have 2 people who are trying to cover all these positions besides their own. I would be happy to assist anyone to learn the job descriptions of these positions. My phone number is on this page and my email address is jpittenger@rochester.rr.com. Please contact me to help us out. We need YOU to make us strong!

Joyce Pittenger, President

If you would like to receive notices via email and have not provided Bill Lesniak with your email address, or it has changed, please send Bill an email with your address: wmllesniak@aol.com

Thanks to all who have been sending news items for the newsletters. Keep them coming!!

NEWS AND NOTES

In Memory:



It is with great sadness that we share the news that Sharon White, our long time treasurer and membership chairperson passed away on February 5th 2019. Her obituary follows.

Sharon J. White, 75, of Parish, NY; died on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at the Morningstar Residential Care Center in Oswego, NY. Funeral services will be at a time to be announced. Arrangements are in the trusted care of the Harter Funeral Home, Inc., 2983 W. Main Street, Parish, NY. Please consider a contribution in Sharon's honor to the Parish Public Library, 3 Church Street, Parish, NY 13131. Please share expressions of sympathy at www.harterfuneralhome.com

Sharon worked tirelessly for our organization at the County, Zone and State levels. She was an Epke-Maher Award winner. She was active in her Wolcott community as well as that of her hometown of Parish. She was involved with the Wolcott Volunteer Ambulance Corp and many aspects of the village government. In Parish, she was involved with the Historical Society and the Library.

She will be greatly missed by our organization and her communities.

In Memory:

CR Burcroff, Husband of Jan Burcroff (Williamson)
Lane Clute, Husband of Kebby Clute (NRW)
DeRue, Paul, Marion
Kanrowski, Karen, Red Creek
Wilkins, Kay (Williamson)

Legislative Report by Bill Lesniak

Pension Info:

Since our pension is a big concern of all of us, a note to let you know what's happening with the funding of it. At the January meeting of the NYSTRS Board, the System's Actuary estimated that the employer contribution rate (ECR) for the 2019-20 school year will be 8.86% of payroll, down from the 10.62% rate to be applied to 2018-19 payroll. The final rate will be adopted by the Retirement Board at its July 31 meeting. Over the past 30 years, investment income has accounted for 85% of NYSTRS' income. Member and employer contributions made up the other 15%.

Plus:

Traditional defined benefit pension plans are a vital tool for attracting and keeping highly qualified, experienced public-school teachers in the classroom, according to a new report from the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS). In addition, defined benefit pension plans ultimately aid local economies by being more cost-efficient and providing greater retirement security than 401(k) retirement accounts, the study concluded.

The study warned that shifting from pensions to 401(k) or other account-based plans, such as cash-balance plans or hybrid defined benefit/defined contribution plans, will increase teacher turnover, significantly reduce the retirement income of long-term teachers, and ultimately reduce consumer spending by those teachers.

Legislative Report by Bill Lesniak cont'd

NYSUT's statement on the passage of the 2019-20 state budget:

"Despite tough fiscal challenges, we are thankful for the increased funding provided to She was public schools in this year's state budget. This budget also finally takes action to fix the state's broken teacher evaluation system, marking a significant victory for educators, parents and students. Unfortunately, this budget — and the undemocratic tax cap it makes permanent — still will leave districts with difficult decisions ahead. We are disappointed that the TAP Gap was not addressed, and more was not done to support public higher education and SUNY hospitals. Further, we remain concerned about the ability of CUNY adjunct faculty to earn a living wage. We are thankful for the adoption of increased protections for public sector unions. As we enter the second half of the legislative session, our fight for policies that support strong public education, human services and health care will continue."

Voting Bill

After years of delay, the Legislature also passed critical reforms to New York State's voting laws, making it easier for citizens to vote. The set of new laws will allow early voting up to 10 days before elections, will consolidate federal and state primary dates and allow 16 and 17-year-olds to pre-register for the ballot, making them automatically registered to vote on their 18th birthday. The law also makes it easier for registered voters who move to different counties within the state to maintain their voter registration.

Reminder- we did not receive any names of retirees from BOCES, Clyde-Savannah, or Gananda. We did get names from Wayne but no addresses. If you can help us with any of this information, please contact me: kgrandjean@rochester.rr.com or 315-333-1113.

DeCormier Fund

Do you know a retired teacher who is struggling financially?

Robert R. DeCormier was the first president of NYSRTA, and a dedicated advocate for retired educators. In memory of his service and to honor his commitment to past, present, and future colleagues, the Robert R. DeCormier Memorial Trust Fund was established.

This fund provides monetary assistance to retired educators who are in financial need.

The DeCormier Memorial Fund offers two different grants to assist NYSRTA members:

The Monthly Stipend Grant sends a check to the grant recipient each month as long as there is a need shown.

The DeCormier Special Grant is a lump sum grant that can be used to pay for an unexpected, un-reimbursed emergency expense, such as a necessary furnace replacement, dental or medical bills, a fire or natural disaster, etc. The check is sent directly to the designated payee or provider of services.

To be eligible to apply for either of these grants, the applicant must:

1. be a current member of NYSRTA with a minimum of three years of immediate prior membership
2. be at least 55 years of age
3. have (or member's spouse have) a minimum of fifteen years as a New York State school employee
4. complete and submit an application.

For more information go to nysrta.org

Awards

Applications for awards are available on the CWZ website – cwzretiredteachers.org

Epke-Meagher Award – for teachers that will retire in 2019 who are active in school and in the community. They are treated to the CWZ annual luncheon and 1 year paid membership to NYSTRA.

Barry Fleegel Award – for active teachers who are pursuing advanced degrees or certification. The awards range from \$50 to \$200 cash.

Hudson-Cramer Grant – (available every other year) – for an active teacher in CWZ counties to implement or supplement innovative school projects. The award is \$1000 cash.

Do you know someone who qualifies for any of the above? If so, please have them check out the applications on the website.

WCRTA dues are \$5 per year
NYSRTA dues are \$30 per year or \$450 for lifetime membership.

Why Join?

- Social Connections
-we're all educators
- Benefits
-special rates on insurance, etc.
- Website
-packed with helpful info
- Travel Opportunities
-cruises, bus trips
- Community Service
- Programs
-some inform, some entertain
- And so much more...

WCRTA & NYSRTA

**Wants
YOU!!**

Community Service- Elaine Leasure

Our guest speakers at the spring meeting will be from Laurel House Comfort Care Home in Newark. We thought that it would be appropriate to have our donations at this meeting go to Laurel House.

The following is an excerpt taken from the Laurel House website:

"Laurel House will be the comfort care home that is the first choice for families of Wayne County, NY who need help in caring for a dying loved one. We will develop and maintain a reputation as a welcoming, supportive environment for everyone who comes through our door. A place where volunteers are valued and succeed in providing an unequalled community service to their friends and neighbors. A community resource that compliments its neighborhood and contributes to a higher quality of life in the county. An opportunity for residents and caregivers alike to share in completing a life well-lived. A place of final departure that eases a loved-one to the ultimate end, supporting caring family and friends along the way."

After hearing the program, we hope that you will support this organization as generously as you have always done for others in the past.

We are hoping to see many of you at the luncheon in June. The Ontario Country Club is under new management and we are looking forward to meeting there again.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES!!

NYSUT meeting – Oct. 1

WCRTA Fall Luncheon – Oct. 8 (location TBD)

Decorations – Sodus

CWZ Annual Meeting – Sept. 19th

NYSRTA Convention – Oct. 9, 10th & 11th

REMINDER: If you see an article or obituary regarding a retired Wayne County Teacher, please send it to our Unit Historian, Rita Lesniak. Her address is: 7449 State St., Sodus, NY 14551. Her email is: NYToyLady@aol.com

Dues:

The date after your name on the address label tells your paid dues status, for example, "18CO" would mean your dues for July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 are paid.

*Please send your \$5 (checks made out to WCRTA) to:
Joyce Pittenger
6566 E. Port Bay Rd.
Wolcott, NY 14590-9559

Your support is needed to keep our organization alive and well!

**If you think there is an error, please contact Joyce or Kathy Grandjean.

We are grateful to the Reliant Community Credit Union for making the printing of this Newsletter possible.

Cut and return this reservation form

Price: \$19.00 (Those 90 or over - \$9.50)

Deadline: May 24, 2019

Send to: Joyce Pittenger, 6566 E. Port Bay Rd., Wolcott, NY 14590 (315-594-8965)

(check payable to WCRTA)

(\$19.00 lunch and \$5.00 dues for 2019-2020 would total \$24.00)

Total Enclosed _____

Name _____

Lunch Selection:

- _____ Turkey Bacon Avocado Wrap
(Roasted turkey, avocado slices, lettuce, tomato and crisp bacon rolled in a flour tortilla)
- _____ Chicken French
(Chicken breast dipped in an egg & flour batter, topped with a white wine & lemon sauce)
- _____ Eggplant Napoleon
(Stack of Eggplant, portabellos and Roasted Red peppers, topped with marinara sauce and mozzarella cheese)

School District _____

E-mail address _____

Guest's Name _____

Wayne County Retired Teachers' Association
Meeting and Luncheon
Ontario Country Club
2101 Country Club Lane, Ontario
Tuesday, June 4th, 2019

9:45 Coffee, doughnuts and conversation

10:15 Wayne County Retired Teachers'
Association Meeting

11:00 Special guest speakers: Representatives from Laurel House in Newark

11:45 Music provided by Wayne Central High School Choir Group

12:15 Lunch (Entrees include house salad, roll and butter, rice pilaf and fresh fruit, dessert)