

Good Times Newsletter

A Unit of the Central Western Zone New York State Retires Teachers' Association

FALL 2019

Officers

President:

Sandy Kushner 585-689-5271

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Secretary:

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Treasurer:

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Past President

Jean Galvin 941-629-4130 FL

Standing Committees

Legislative:

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Historian:

Pam Osgood 585-322-7684

Membership:

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Friendly Service:

Karen Ritenour 716-592-3962

Newsletter Editor:

Patti Bartz 585-409-6462

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Community Service:

President's Message: (Your) Membership Matters to WCRTA and NYSRTA!

The Wyoming County Retired Teachers' Association (WCRTA) welcomes all retired educators, whether you are a retiree from a Wyoming County school or retired from another school and you reside in the county. Retired educators include teachers, teaching assistants, aids, school nurses, and administrators.

As retired educators, we share a love of teaching as our common bond. We know the time we dedicated many working years to made a difference in the hundreds of lives we touched over our careers. Through our three community service projects at our meetings we continue to make a difference.

In retirement, through WCRTA, we can come together twice a year with past colleagues and friends to reminisce, share our joys and sorrows, and look toward future goals. Some people join WCRTA as soon as they retire. Others, "hit the road" doing things on their bucket list that were set aside for "someday" when retirement provided the time to roam. If you are one of those who have enjoyed your travels and now are staying closer to home we would love to have you join us at any time.

YOUR membership matters to the New York State Retired Teachers' Association (NYSRTA), as well. The NYSRTA motto states: *Working together to support and strengthen the quality of life for all retired educators, their families, and communities.* The state organization keeps abreast of all legislation concerning retired educators and lobbies for your benefits as their main focus. There are many benefits of membership which offers discounts on insurance programs, hearing aids, and travel opportunities. An underutilized benefit is financial assistance for members. The Robert R. DeCormier Trust Fund is designed to help NYSRTA members who are in need of financial assistance. If a member has an unexpected expenditure, such as a house repair, dental work, medical bills, or a utility bill that extends beyond the planned budget there are grant funds available to help members. Some members receive monthly stipends while others receive a onetime amount. For more information contact Karen Ritenour, Friendly Service or call me. NYSRTA is there to benefit all retired educators.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Glen Iris Inn on Wednesday, September 4, 2019, for our annual **Not Back to School Luncheon**. Please consider bringing a new member or a guest to join us.

Membership Committee Chairperson: Caren Dubay

Congratulations to all the new 2019 retirees of Wyoming County and the surrounding counties. We also have retirees from previous years that we are welcoming as new members. You are embarking on a wonderful phase of your life.

As the membership chairperson of the Wyoming County Retired Teachers' Association, I would like to invite you to please join us. We are a unit of the Central Western Zone (CWZ) of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association (NYSRTA). Some of our members belong to the Western Zone (WZ) as you retired from a Cattaraugus County school district. Our annual dues are only \$5. The first year of your membership is free. Enjoy meeting with former colleagues and making new friends from Attica, Letchworth, Perry, Pioneer, Warsaw, and Wyoming. We have luncheons twice a year, one in September when everyone is back to school and again in May. Information is provided on a variety of subjects that may be of interest to you in your retirement. The New York State Teacher's Retirement Association is our political action committee. They work to represent us in our retirement, preserving and enhancing our pensions and benefits. As new members, you will receive a letter of invitation in the mail about joining the State organization along with a membership application by the end of the summer. Applications will also be on tables at our fall luncheon. It explains why it is important for all retired teachers and teaching assistants to be members. You can take advantage of travel programs, product and service discounts, community service opportunities and insurance programs to name a few. Please consider joining and protecting our future. You can visit their website at www.nysrta.org. For current NYSRTA members, please bring your new membership card so I can update your membership number and expiration date.

We look forward to meeting and seeing you in September!

Community Service Committee

Chairperson: Claudia Cerasani

This year, we will continue to support Wyoming County Angel Action, our military and first responders, and the local food pantries.

Angel Action needs items for their Backpack Program this fall. Suggested materials are: non-perishable food (for children), paper, crayons, markers, gently used books, or any other school supply items.

The troops and first responders always are requesting handmade scarves and hats, socks, and dark colored bandanas. Also, other items needed are: playing cards, paper, pens, word searches, toothbrushes, hard candy, etc.

As before, we will collect food for our local pantries. Please bring two or more non-perishable items for the host's food pantry.

Thank you all for your continued generosity.

Health Care Chairperson: Judy Haberer

Hoping everyone is having a wonderful summer. Remember sun screen, hydration and hats. Congratulations to all those who retired at the end of this past school year. Welcome to the world of retirement. Hope to see all the new retirees in September.

FALL LUNCHEON – SEPTEMBER 4, 2019
Glen Iris Inn – See last page for registration

WCRTA yearly dues of \$5 due in the Fall

Friendly Service Chairperson: Karen Ritenour

As the Friendly Service chairperson, my role is to support members by sending cards (birthday, get well, thinking of you, and sympathy), handle requests for financial assistance- Robert DeCormier (see below for more information), send emails, and present Certificate of Appreciation. I need help from all members especially directors to help me to fulfill this service. Remember, if you have reached your 85th birthday your membership is free and you become an honorary member as long as I have your birthdate. Contact me if you are willing to be a key worker to assist me in taking care of all members. Please call me at home 716-592-3962, cell 716-982-2046, or email at karen.ritenour1@gmail.com.

Here is my home address: 60 East Hill Run
Springville, NY 14141

Do you know of a retired educator or spouse of a retired educator, who is experiencing difficulty in meeting the increased daily expenses of everyday living, and has a need for financial assistance in paying fuel, medical, dental, homecare or other bills? Or, do you find yourself in such a situation? **There is assistance available!** In memory of the first President, Robert R. DeCormier of the New York State Retired Teachers' Association, NYSRTA established a fund that continues to provide financial aid to retired members and spousal members, who are facing this dilemma. In some cases, a monthly stipend is granted, which enables an individual to continue to meet the daily expenses of living. In other instances, a "special grant" is given that provides coverage for an unexpected financial burden.

If you know anyone that is a member of NYSRTA, and **is in need of financial**

assistance, or for additional information, please contact Karen Ritenour at 716-592-3962. You may also download an application and/or learn more about the fund at www.nysrta.org. On the home page, click on "membership" and then "financial assistance". Please share this information with others who may not be familiar with this valuable resource.

REASONS TO BECOME A MEMBER OF NYSRTA

- **Automatically become a member of the Central Western Zone CWZ**
- **Provide a means to dissemination of information to members**
- **Support and strengthen retiree benefits at local, state and federal levels**
- **Encourage retirees to continue interest and active involvement in educational issues**
- **Facilitate the development of friendship among fellow retirees**
- **Promote approved programs and goals of NYSRTA**
- **Receive York State magazine**
- **Encourage pursuit of lifelong learning for all (program suggestions are welcome)**
- **Model retirement as an active and meaningful time of life**
- **Discount services and programs**
- **Collette travel adventures**

SHOPPING LIST FOR DONATIONS

ANGEL ACTION – nonperishable foods, school supplies, gently used books

TROOPS & First responders – handmade hats & scarves, socks, dark colored bandanas, playing cards, paper, pens, word searches, toothbrushes, hard candy, etc.

FOOD PANTRY (Attica) – two or more nonperishable items

NEWS FROM THE STATE BOARD

The NYSRTA Board of Directors approved the process to move forward in **changing our name, or DBA (Doing Business As) from New York State Retired Teachers' Association (NYSRTA) to Retired Educators of New York (RENY, pronounced wren ' knee)**. The Board also accepted the concept of a new logo and color scheme. Instead of being predominately red and white, the new logo will utilize autumnal colors and represent, in an abstract fashion, traces of an apple core and an apple seed.

Much is happening at NYSRTA /RENY. More than seventeen (17) monitors have come on board to help with the **new Health Insurance Information Network**. In January, 2019, an all-new web page was opened up on the nysrta.org web site. You can now view this web page to find out information about possible changes to school district provided health insurance in your area. This Information Network is NOT designed to scare you, but rather keep you informed and provide useful information for you to be a wise consumer of health insurance. The Health Insurance Survey is included in this York State.

Make and share a list of what NYSRTA offers such as the insurance, shopping and travel discount plans, in addition to social opportunities at luncheons and the annual conference. Our Friendly Service communicates with our members, especially the older members and shut-ins, and assists members in accessing financial aid available to them from NYSRTA. Emphasize the fact that NYSRTA focuses on the needs of the retiree and advocates for legislation to improve and ensure their retirement benefits. NYSRTA membership assures membership in the Zone, BUT a membership in the Unit does NOT ensure membership in NYSRTA or the Zone. A membership in the Zone is a membership in the state along with all the benefits it offers- and the cost is just 8 cents (\$.08) a day, \$30 a year. Where and what else can an individual obtain and/or benefit from for this amount? There were two new membership incentives approved at the NYSRTA Board of Directors meeting in April, one for the Zone and one for individual NYSRTA members. Beginning May 1, 2019, and ending on October 1, 2019, the Zone with the most new members (proportionately) will be recognized at the Annual Meeting in October, 2019, and receive a \$1,000 check to be used for Zone/Unit(s) membership activities. The second initiative is for any NYSRTA member. This program begins May 1, 2019 and ends December 31, 2019 will provide an incentive of \$50 to each NYSRTA member who recruits 5 NEW NYSRTA members from any Zone. Past due members rejoining, will not be considered new members. This is a perfect opportunity to encourage and recruit those unit members who are not NYSRTA members. The referring member must be sure to have each new member mention them as the NYSRTA referring member on their application whether completed online or by mail. Let's all move forward and promote this great organization!

Welcome to the All New NYSRTA's Health Insurance Information Network

As retired educators in New York State many of you retired with a school district provided health insurance plan. This health insurance coverage, in retirement may serve as a supplement to your Medicare coverage. NYSRTA's new "**Health Insurance Information Network**" will periodically post the latest information about school districts, across New York State that may be contemplating or changing health insurance benefits for retirees. As health insurance becomes increasingly expensive and politically under attack, it is important that you keep informed as to what may be happening to your entitled benefit.

Kevin Mulligan, President of NYSRTA encourages each member of NYSRTA to periodically check this new web site for updates on school district provided health insurance.

**Wyoming County Retired Teachers
“Not Back to School Fall Luncheon”
September 4, 2019 Glen Iris Inn**

Letchworth State Park
6699 Denton Corners
Castile, New York

Registration 11:00, Meal at 12:00

\$23.00 per person/per meal

1. Seafood Salad - shrimp +crab salad on a flaky croissant,
2. Chicken Caesar Wrap - grilled chicken breast w/ Romaine lettuce, cherry tomatoes + Caesar dressing in a flour tortilla,
3. Pot Roast – W/ mushroom brown sauce

PROGRAM: Information on the railroad trestles in the park.

Just a reminder your membership dues of \$5.00 are payable at this time. Please return bottom portion and check to.

Patti Bartz

by: August 25

10097 East Rd.

East Bethany, NY 14054

New 2019 Retirees free membership for this year.

585-409-6462

Make checks payable to WCRTA (Walk ins will not be able to be accommodated.)

____ I will be attending the Fall Luncheon and membership dues are included.

____ I am unable to attend membership dues are included.

Meal choice: ____1. Seafood Salad ____2. Chicken Caesar Wrap ____3. Pot Roast

Name _____ Guest _____

1) Local Address _____

2) Alternate Address _____

Dates of travel for #1 _____ and #2 _____

Birthdate: _____ Year retired: _____ School: _____

Email Address: _____

NYSRTA (New York State Retired Teachers Association) membership # _____ and expiration date _____

THANK YOU for updating information for our records!