



# LCRTA Newsletter

Livingston County Retired Teachers Association is on FaceBook. Find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/521086584982897/>

## Welcome!

Welcome to all our new retirees. Just like all first days, school, college, teaching, and the first day of watching the school bus pass by knowing that you're not going to be in your classroom this year, can be both exciting and terrifying.

But, as the crisp fall days settle in, we in the Livingston County Retired Teachers Association want to be a part of your new life. We meet twice a year for an opportunity to connect and meet folks from around the county. All new retirees are invited to find out what our group has to offer at our Fall Luncheon on October 16 at The

Gaslight Grill in Dansville. See below for details.

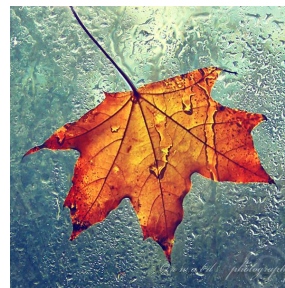
The LCRTA is an important building block of the New York State Retired Teachers Association which works to further the interest and protect the pensions of retirees. Thank you to all who continue to support both the LCRTA and the NYSRTA!

We always need more active volunteers to share the work of keeping our organization viable. Our newest volunteers are Anne Hasler, Community Service and Virginia Johnson, our new vice president and organizer of the Fall luncheon.

## Thank You!

A very special thank you to Maureen Kingston for three years of service as Vice-president. Maureen organized several of our meetings, attended CWZ meetings when Vicki could not and is a vocal advocate for membership in the NYSRTA.

And, a very special thank you to Vicki Universal for her years of service as President. During that time, she has attended the CWZ meetings, brought back information, organized our local meetings, recruited an active group of volunteers, and is a leading advocate for the work of the association. Fortunately, she has agreed to continue as a mentor to the new president for the coming year.



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## We Help:

Anne Hasler has volunteered to be in charge of Community Service. This year's gift will support the CWZ project and go to the **Geneseo Parish Outreach Center**. If you can donate, make checks out to LCRTA and **send** to our Treasurer, Gayle Stout, 9686 Highland Ave., Dansville, 14437 or **give** them to her at the Fall luncheon.

Save the Date! Fall Luncheon – October 16,

**Look for the reservation form on the attached page of this newsletter. Reservations due by October 6!**

## Meet the new members of the Executive Committee

### Vice-President, Virginia Johnson

Virginia Nolan Johnson retired in June of 2018 from Dansville Central School after 31 years of teaching. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from SUNY Geneseo and taught high school history and sociology. She resides in Dansville, where she raised two sons, Alex (24) and Caleb (20). Virginia is enjoying retirement and new activities that full-time teaching did not allow. She is an active member of American Legion Auxiliary and a member of the Dansville Teachers Association executive

committee serving as retiree representative. During warm weather months she can be found on Silver Lake, near Perry NY, taking in beautiful sunsets.

### President, Mary Corey

Mary is a retired associate professor of American history and social studies education from The College at Brockport, and former teacher of American history at Dansville High School.

Since retiring, she's remained active as a member of the

Organization of American Historians and other professional organizations and as a writer. Her most recent publications are the textbooks, *United States History, Parts I and II*, for the National Center for Migrant Education and *The Political Life and Times of Matilda Joslyn Gage*.

She's now living lakeside in Hilton with Bootsie Kitty Cat and overseeing endless repairs and renovations to what she affectionately calls her shack with a view!

## Membership Report: New Retirees Contacted

Over the summer, I contacted the eight school districts in Livingston County and received the contact information for 37 new retirees. Our congratulations go out to them on reaching this milestone and entering a new and exciting part of their life's journey! Thank you to Mary Corey for writing the new retirees a welcome letter. I sent it along

with our last newsletter and membership forms for our association and the New York State Retired Teachers Association. Central Western Zone for local members to join and maintain their membership in

**A friend commented on how busy she's been since retiring, "I don't know how I ever found time to teach!"**

NYSRTA. We have received 5 new memberships, and others have expressed interest. We would like to welcome our new members: Lori Cisco (Livonia), Laurie Combs (Monroe BOCES #1), Cathie Gehrig (Keshequa), Angela Munto (Dansville), and Elizabeth Peck (Avon). We're happy to have you join us!

Submitted by Barb Hellwig

## Historian's Report

As the Livingston County Retired Teachers Association Historian, I maintain a scrapbook with photos, newspaper clippings and other information. These items are used to highlight our county's Spring and Fall meetings and programs. The scrapbook also has obituaries of our past members. I submit pages from our scrapbook to be included in the Central Western Zone Scrapbook. If you have something

that you would like to have included, bring it with you to our next meeting.

Submitted by Sue Moses



## Friendly Service is especially important during the winter months

Our Friendly Unit is comprised of one or two volunteers representing each of our eight school districts in Livingston County.

Our purpose is to maintain contact with retired members who reside in our area, especially those over 90, and those in nursing homes or homebound with “thinking of you,” get-well, and sympathy cards.

Other services provided by the Friendly Service volunteers include:

Holiday remembrances to shut-ins.

Coordination of financial assistance through state agencies and the Barrie Fleegle Grant.

Volunteers submit an annual report of their activities to the CWZ Friendly Services Chair.

Our coordinators are Betty Grant and Pat Muscarella. Thank you both for doing such a terrific job!

## DeCormier Fund

Do you know a retired teacher who is struggling financially? Perhaps someone who needs a new roof, furnace, or help paying for utilities? Funds may be available through NYSRTA. Find out more at [NYSRTA.org](http://NYSRTA.org)

## Legislative Representative Report:

Our new Legislative Representative is Beth Peck. She retired 3 years ago from Avon CSD after 34 years of teaching. She has sent the following legislative updates that are of interest to teachers, both active and retired.

- New COLA (cost-of-living-adjustment) begins with September payment with eligible retirees receiving an additional \$15 monthly.
- August 24 signaled the start of the Red Flag Law, which enables a school administrator or designee to file an application (petition) for an extreme risk protection order against an individual they believe may be a threat to him or herself or others. If such an order were granted, the individual would be prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm.
- On July 31, a bill signed by the governor **forbids teachers from carrying firearms**.
- Law passed that **eliminates the religious exemption from mandated vaccines** to attend school. This was a contentious & difficult issue but necessary to keep students and staff safe.
- Beginning January 1, 2020, **public employee retirees may earn up to \$35,000** in a position of public service without impacting their retirement benefits.
- The final state budget includes \$1.5 million to support enhanced mental health and school climate support services, specifically targeted to middle and junior high schools. Up to \$500,000 of this funding can be used to support a school mental health technical assistance center.
- The final budget eliminates the mandate to use 3-8 grade tests and other state exams as the measure of student growth in APPR while also eliminating the state growth model. The student growth measure will still be required as an assessment and the district will be required to collectively bargain the selection of the assessments. Additionally, the prohibition on state 3-8 exam scores appearing as a part of a student’s permanent record was made permanent.
- While the final budget provides non-public schools (community & day care centers) access to \$25 million in new funding for building safety and security, as well as \$15 million for health and safety equipment, *no additional school safety funds were provided for public school districts*.
- The final budget includes an additional \$15 million for prekindergarten expansion grants for three- and four-year olds in half- and full-day programs, but did not include authorization to make prekindergarten transportation aidable.