



# Wyoming County Retired Teachers' Association

SPRING 2020

.. To Continue the Calling..

A Unit of the Central Western Zone

New York State Retired Teachers' Association

[www.cwzretiredteachers.com](http://www.cwzretiredteachers.com)

## Good Times Newsletter

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### Fall Luncheon – Glen Iris

#### Wednesday, September 9

WCRTA yearly dues of \$5 due in the Fall

### Spring WCRTA 2020 President's Message - Sandy Kushner Stay Safe ~ Stay Well ~ See You in September

For everyone's safety, the Wyoming County Retired Teachers' Association (WCRTA) will **NOT** have a Spring Luncheon Meeting. The meeting was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at the Byrnclyff in Varysburg. So, for now, "Stay Safe! Stay Well! and (hopefully) See you in September!" The Fall "Not Back to School" Luncheon is planned for Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at the Glen Iris Inn, Letchworth State Park. **NYSRTA Rebrands for the Future.** In October 2019, at the Annual Meeting, the New York State Retired Teachers' Association voted to present their new brand for 2020. *In an effort to reinvigorate our organization, differentiate ourselves from other similarly named groups and resonate with new members, we will now be known as **RENY Retired Educators of New York.***

#### Financial Assistance Available for RENY Members:

If you are a member of RENY and are experiencing unforeseen financial needs due to the circumstances associated with the pandemic the **DeCormier Fund** offers a special grant for those who need immediate assistance and a monthly stipend grant for continuing assistance. Applications are on the RENY website [www.nysrta.org](http://www.nysrta.org) or contact Anne Flansburg at [anneflanswz@aol.com](mailto:anneflanswz@aol.com) or by calling (716) 863-3631. You may also contact me or Karen Ritenour, our WCRTA Friendly Service Chairman for help.

**Health Insurance Changes** for active AND/OR retired teachers: RENY has a Health Insurance Network to collect insurance information for retired teachers, and if needed, advocate for continued coverage for retirees. Contact me with your concerns that I can forward to RENY.

**Acronym Confusion** - The use of acronyms can be confusing for all of us. Maybe this short list can help you keep a small number of them straight.

**WCRTA** - Wyoming County Retired Teachers' Association, your local or unit group for retired teachers.

**RENY** - Retired Educators of New York is the (Doing Business As or DBA) for the state organization formerly referred to as **NYSRTA** -New York State Retired Teachers' Association. The mission of the organization is unchanged: *A dynamic organization of retired educators working together to support, and strengthen the quality of life for all retired educators, their families and communities.*

**CWZ** - Central Western Zone are the ten counties or Wyoming, Wayne, Seneca, Steuben, Allegany, Orleans, Ontario, Livingston, Monroe, and Yates. IF you are a RENY member, you are automatically a member of the CWZ, and you receive an annual newsletter from this group in the summer.

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**WZ - Western Zone** Many of you may be members of WZ if you retired from Pioneer, Attica or BOCES and live adjacent to the counties of the CWZ and have joined RENY.

**NYSUT -New York State United Teachers** - You most likely were a member of this union while you were an active educator, and continue to be a member during retirement. NYSUT does NOT advocate for retired teachers.

**NYSTRS - New York State Teachers' Retirement System** is where your state retirement check comes from each month. You receive newsletters from the NYSTRS, usually via email. If you need to contact them for any reason they have an Automated Hotline (800) 782-0289.

I do hope this newsletter finds you safe and well with the current pandemic situation. If, by chance, our quarantine has ended by May 19th, hurry out to see and hug family members and friends! Do the happy dance!! (and hopefully) See you in September.  
Sandy

**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

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.

**Health Care Chairperson: Judy Haberer**

I hope our newsletter finds everyone well and coping as best they can with the Coronavirus pandemic. We are all hoping the stay at home order and all the other means of preventing the spread of this virus will be lifted sooner than later. Please continue to practice all the safeguards set to protect yourselves and the people around you.

Our luncheon has been canceled due to the uncertainty of the timetable for the stay at home order. Our speaker for that day was going to be Emilie DiChristina, director of Charlotte House in North Java. In the hopes someone will ask her to speak at one of our next meetings I will not give you the story of Charlotte House and what it offers to its clients but will tell you it is a comfort home. Charlotte House depends on grants, direct donations and memorials for lost loved ones and fund raising. Fund raising is a very big component of their budget. There is always a need for paper products, new bath towels and wash cloths, trash bags, laundry soap and even fresh baked goods. Volunteers are very important part of Charlotte House and help keep the cost of operation down. Volunteers are also need to crocheting prayer shawls and helping with routine housework. For more information on Charlotte House like them on Facebook at their Charlotte House Comfort Care page and watch for announcements of events, opportunities, wish lists and lots of fun information and updates. At this time Charlotte House remains open while other comfort houses in our area have closed temporarily due to the Corona Virus. Charlotte House is located at 4316 Route 98, PO Box 123 North Java NY 14113. Phone number for the office is 585-535-4065 Until we see each other again stay safe and well. I'll see you in September at the Glen Iris.



**Membership Committee Chairperson - Caren Dubay**

I hope our spring newsletter finds all of you and your family members healthy and safe. We will miss seeing you at our spring luncheon. We can look forward to our fall meeting as we will be welcoming our new retirees. Please encourage former retirees to join us. It will seem good to get back to "normal."

New York State Retired Teachers' Association (NYSRTA) is our political action committee. They are now doing business as RENY (Retired Educators of New York). They are a unique resource and a support team for retired educators of all levels. They work to represent us in our retirement, preserving and enhancing our pensions and benefits. 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. Membership numbers have dropped by close to 1,000. Zones with 100 members have a delegate that attends the convention. The hope is the new name will be less confusing and help us improve our recognition and interest. You can join by going on line and visiting their website at [www.nysrta.org](http://www.nysrta.org)

Look for something positive every day. One of my 94 year old mom's favorite sayings is "This too shall pass."

Today

Outside my window, a new day I see,  
And only I can determine  
What kind of day it will be.  
It can be busy and sunny, laughing and gay,  
Of boring and cold, unhappy and grey,  
My own state of mind is the determining key,  
For I am only the person I let myself be,  
I can be thoughtful and do all I can to help,  
Of be selfish and think just of myself.  
I can enjoy what I do and make it seem fun,  
Or gripe and complain and make it hard on  
someone.  
I can be patient with those who may not understand,  
Or belittle and hurt them as much as I can.  
But I faith in myself, And believe what I say,  
And I personally intend to make the best of each  
day.

**Community Service Committee  
Chairperson: Claudia Cerasani**

Thank you for your generous support to Angel Action, Wyoming County food pantries, and the military/ first responders. This past October, seven large boxes full of supplies went to Operation Gratitude, two boxes were delivered to Angel Action in Wyoming County, and a van full of food supplies was delivered to the food pantry. In addition to all of this, \$150 was sent to each food pantry in Wyoming County, the Angel Action Back Pack Program, and Operation Gratitude to be used towards necessary items.

Since we will not have a meeting this May, I will not be collecting any items, but if you wish to send a donation to your local food pantry, I am sure they would be appreciative especially during this difficult time for many families. Thank you again for your support to our community service program and hope to see everyone in the fall.

**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**

### Inspired Heart

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you and shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere.

Why did you spill the coffee?

Because, someone bumped into me!!!

Wrong answer.

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup.

Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea.

Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen),

whatever is inside you will come out.

It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

So, we have to ask ourselves...what's in my cup?

When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratefulness, peace and humility?

Anger, bitterness, harsh words and reactions?

Life provides the cup, YOU choose how to fill it.

Today, let's work toward filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy,

words of affirmation and kindness, gentleness and love of others.

(Shared from a friend whose cup is full of goodness and inspiration.)

### Face the Sun

Don't hunt for trouble, but look for success!

You'll find what you look for - don't look for distress!

If you see but your shadow, remember, I pray,

That the sun is still shining, but you're in the way!

Don't grumble, don't bluster, don't dream and don't shirk.

Don't think of your worries, but think of your work.

The worries will vanish, the work will be done \_

No man sees his shadow who faces the sun.