

**Notes**  
*from the*

# BLACKBOARD

EDITOR- Kathy Grandjean

WINTER-SPRING-FALL 2020

## Officers

### President

Joyce Pittenger 315-594-8965  
6566 E. Port Bay Rd.  
Wolcott, NY 14590

### Vice-President- OPEN

THIS COULD BE YOU!  
Please consider volunteering for this position

### Secretary

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

### Treasurer/Membership-OPEN

THIS COULD BE YOU!  
Please consider volunteering for this position

### Legislation/Immediate Past

**President**  
William Lesniak 315-483-8061  
7449 State St. Sodus, NY 14551

### Parliamentarian – OPEN

THIS COULD BE YOU!  
Please consider volunteering for this position

## President's Message

I had the privilege in July of mailing 3 Barry Fleege awards to teachers in Wayne County: Laura Burghash from Kelley Intermediate in Newark, Victoria Converse from North Rose Elementary, and Haley Smith from Richard Mann Elementary in Gananda. They were chosen for their good teaching, participation in their schools' activities, and their desire to further their education. Not only is this an honor for them, but they receive a monetary award to help them with their graduate work.

Even though we are a teachers' association the Association is open to all non-certified staff who work in, or are retired from, an educational institution. The state retirement association is transitioning to include retired educators, not just teachers.

Our organization is still looking for members to step up to help by being an officer. We need a vice president, a treasurer, a membership chair, a parliamentarian, and a resolutions chair. There aren't a lot of requirements for each office, but if the same 2 or 3 people are doing more than one job, it becomes too much. My term as president expires this November 1, but I would be willing to hold it one more year, since this year hasn't had as many duties. The current officers are more than willing to help someone learn the duties of these offices. Remember, an organization is only as strong as its membership, and WE NEED YOU! We who have been covering these offices will be burned out soon. If replacements aren't found, this unit will have to be disbanded.

Due to the pandemic our fall meeting has been canceled. We also will not be collecting dues for this year. If you have prepaid, your dues will carry over into the next year. It is everyone's hope that a vaccine will be available next year and most normal activities can resume.

I hope you have all been staying safe and well, and that you and your loved ones are managing to keep your sanity through these quieter days.

Joyce Pittenger  
President WCRTA

WINTER-SPRING-FALL 2020

## Committees

### Community Service

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

### Friendly Service - OPEN

THIS COULD BE YOU!  
Please consider volunteering for this position

### Resolutions – OPEN

THIS COULD BE YOU!  
Please consider volunteering for this position

### Health Care

Sharon Maher 315-483-6055  
6578 Hunters Point Rd.  
North Rose, NY 14516

### Historian

Rita Lesniak 315-483-8061  
7449 State St. Sodus, NY 14551

### Newsletter Editor

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

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW RETIREES!!**

We hope you will join us when we are able to get together again.

**Lyons:** Michelle Fitzgerald, Laura Pyke, Darlene Rawden and Mary Ann Whyte.

**Marion:** Waverly Gruttadaurio and Elizabeth Roat.

**Newark:** Kathryn Beck, Tammara Brinkman, Christel Burm, Amy Lannon, Scott Martin, Margaret Russell, Lisa Trask and Mary Wage.

**North Rose Wolcott:** Frank Heffernan, Kristine Lyman, Tammy McNabb, John O'Brien, James Prentice and Tracy Keeton.

**Red Creek:** Mary Johnson, Jeannette Smith and Marie Smith

**Sodus:** Barbara Lucieer, Ronda Nelson and Ellen Scott.

**Williamson:** Carol Fox, Vicki Abbott Robusto and Brian Steurrys

*Current members are asked to reach out to these people so that they will feel comfortable joining us.*

We have not received the names of any retirees from Gananda or Clyde-Savannah. If you can help us with any of this information, please contact me: [kgrandjean@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kgrandjean@rochester.rr.com) or 315-333-1113.

### **Community Service – Elaine Leasure**

Hello everyone,  
COVID-19 has given all of us a chance to pause and reflect. Since we are unable to meet and support a local charity this fall, may I suggest that each of you choose a charity to support in some way. Jack and I have chosen our local food pantry and Family Promise. Hopefully, in the spring, we can gather together again and share some of our good deeds.

## **With Sympathy**

We have received the following names of people who have passed. We extend our sincere condolences to their family and friends.

*Eunice Barnes, Clyde-Savannah, Jan. 2020*

*Randall Baker, Pal-Mac, Oct. 2017*

*Robert Binggeli, Newark, April 2020*

*Mary Boogaard, Red Creek & NRW, July 2020*

*Thomas J. Castellano Jr., Clyde-Savannah, July 2020*

*Leonard "Rocky" Colvaito, Newark, June 2020*

*Marjorie Harding, Williamson, Dec. 2019*

*Wanda Jansen, Williamson, June 2020*

*Nancy Johnson, NRW, Oct. 2019*

*Kristine Lester, Pal-Mac, May 2019*

*Charles Matchett, Pal-Mac, Nov. 2018*

*June Renner, Pal-Mac, Oct. 2019*

*Eugene "Bud" Seymour, Husband of Jean Seymour, Newark, Feb. 2020*

*Deborah Trombino, Pal-Mac, March 2020*

*Gerald "Jerry" Weisenreder, Wayne Central, Oct. 2019*

*Sharon Wilber, NRW, May 2020*

*Theodore "Ted" Woods, NRW, March 2020*

*Patricia "Pat" Younglove, Clyde-Savannah, June 2020*

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Wayne County Retired Teachers Association The Heights – Sodus Point - October 8, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15AM by President Joyce Pittenger followed by the Pledge to the flag and a moment of silence for departed friends. Kathy Grandjean then shared the Thought for the Day.

Joyce shared that notes had been received thanking the unit for donations in memory of Marg Hunt. She introduced Heidi Dates, a new retiree and Robyn Ballard, co-president of CWZ. She also introduced the other officers and recognized the past presidents of WCRTA that were present: Earl Buchanan, David Taber, John Hogan, Kathy Grandjean, Sue Nellany and Bill Lesniak. Joyce also recognized two members of the over 90 group – Earl Buchanan and Alice McRae.

She reported the attendance from each district: Wayne 8, Williamson 6, Pal Mac and Red Creek both had 4 and Marion had 1.

Joyce presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Kathy Grandjean.

#### **Secretary's Report: Julie Wunder (absent)**

Minutes from the June 2019 meeting were included in the mailing to all members and were available at the tables. Bill Lesniak moved, seconded by Elaine Leasure to accept the minutes. The minutes were approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report: Joyce Pittenger**

Starting Balance as of May 31, 2019 - \$6318.52

Income - \$1589.48

Expenses -\$1504.42

Checking Balance - \$6403.58

Savings - \$812.98

DMA - \$2515.36

CD - \$4479.44

#### **Health Care: Sharon Maher (absent)**

#### **Friendly Service: Sue Nellany**

Sue resigned her position. Pat Dick volunteered to fill her spot.

#### **Community Service Report: Elaine Leasure**

Elaine announced that today's donations were going to the Victim's Resource Center. In addition to the items brought by members, there were blue cups on all of the tables for members who wished to make a monetary donation.

#### **Federal/State Legislation: Bill Lesniak**

Bill first reminded everyone that local elections were coming up. He stated that most members should have received their COLA notifications. There was a legislative meeting coming up at the State convention and he would have more information after that.

#### **Historian Report: Rita Lesniak**

Rita thanked everyone for the obituaries and news about members that have been sent to her. She asked that members please continue to send articles, etc. to her. It's nice to hear about the things members are doing to contribute to the community.

#### **CWZ**

##### **Co-President: Robyn Ballard**

Robyn informed the members that CWZ is also in need of a Vice-President. She and Mary Ellen Morgan have been doing the work of both positions. The annual Convention was upcoming and discussed the name change of the State organization. It will now be known as RENY (Retired Educators of New York). A new logo will be voted on at the convention.

Joyce Pittenger again made a plea for someone to step up and fill the vacant positions of the organization.

She asked for volunteers for the decorations for the Spring Luncheon. Sue Nellany volunteered.

Elaine Leasure spoke about the need of our members to join the State Organization. It is \$30 for a year, and she asked that people try it at least for a year. The State Organization is very active in addressing the needs of retired educators.

Retta Smith moved, seconded by Jan Baist that the meeting be adjourned, all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00AM

## Meeting Minutes Cont'd

**Program:** Art Mason, Director of the Elder Abuse Prevention Program at LIFESPAN, provided a wealth of information on the prevalence of elder abuse and what is being done to address the issue. He identified the services available in our area, how to report elder abuse and what the procedure is after abuse is reported.

He also talked about the various phone scams that are so prevalent. He, along with other members, recommended the use of a program called NoMoRobo. Parts of the program are free and will stop many of the robo calls that we get.

### Grace

Irene Bierer offered the blessing followed by lunch at 12:00.

**Minutes written by – Kathy Grandjean**

**Next meeting - June 2, 2020**

### Speaking of Irene Bierer....

Irene has written another play. This one was a history of Gates Hall, ***She's a Grand Old Dame!*** and was performed at Gates Hall on October 2, 2019. Retired Wayne County educators who were in the cast are Gary Buehler, Perry Howland, Chuck Monsees, Lynda Parmalee, Linda Perkins, and Nan Hanna-Paquin.

*Congratulations to Irene and the cast!  
We love hearing about what our members  
are doing out in the community.*

### And speaking of community.....

Gene Bavis, retired teacher from Wayne Central, is a Co-Chair for the Wayne County Bicentennial which will take place in 2023.

Gene said there are a lot of plans in the works and according to Gene, "There are **MANY** opportunities for Wayne County Retired Teachers to get involved with these projects and we hope they will."

On the facing page I have included some of the information that Gene provided about the Bicentennial.

Gene's contact info is:

[genebavis@rochester.rr.com](mailto:genebavis@rochester.rr.com)

315-573-2768

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity for a little editorializing.

First, I would like to thank Joyce for being willing to stay on another year as President. I was willing to do the same but not without her.

I joined this group right after I retired and have met so many people and experienced so many things that I would have missed if I hadn't been willing to take on some responsibility. If the load is shared, it is not a burden. We really need some people to be willing to take on a few of the jobs or, as Joyce said, this organization will fold. Many of us have served in the different positions that are open and are more than willing to help someone learn the ropes. If you find yourself with extra time on your hands because of the pandemic, we would be very grateful for some help!!

Kathy

## Bicentennial Bytes and Updates - July 30, 2020

This edition of Bytes and Updates by Gene Bavis

### Projects in Progress:

- 2022 – 2023 Bicentennial Calendar
- Banners for display in lobbies, etc. depicting important Wayne County Themes
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Bicentennial Minutes
- Historic Markers for each town
- Town Brochures for each of the Towns in a similar format
- Pictorial Postal Cancellations
- Wayne County NY Challenge
- Children's Activity Book
- Books
- Geocaching
- Torch Relay
- Bicentennial Float
- Bicentennial Souvenirs
- Bicentennial Photo Quilt & Poster

### NEWS:

- Three Town Committees have been established and have held meetings
  - Old Wolcott (Wolcott, Butler, Huron & Rose) - Rosa Fox, Chair
  - Sodus – Steve Heald, Chair
  - Walworth – Amber Linson, Chair
- Static Cling Stickers (3" x 4") have been ordered & received to be put on doors and windows of businesses and offices to call attention to the upcoming Bicentennial
- Mailing stickers have been ordered and received.
- The Pomeroy Foundation has agreed to work with us on the creation of Town Historic Markers commemorating the founding of each town.
- The Towpath Volunteers Fife & Drum Corps will be hosting an international gathering of fife and drum corps in 2023 and wants to work with us.
- Linda Guest is working with other geocachers to create more geocache sites in Wayne County particularly at historic sites.
- Bob Mogray has agreed to work on a Photo Quilt of Wayne County similar to the one he

created for the Walworth Historical Society, but in vertical format so that it can also be made into a poster. The Quilt will be raffled and the poster will be sold as a fundraiser.

- Dick Lasher has agreed to work on a Bicentennial Float with a big birthday cake on it.

We hope to have it in as many local parades as possible during 2021-2023.

- We have reached out to artists and photographers to get them involved in projects where we need visuals, especially of pre-photography times.
- A group of volunteers has been discussing the Wayne County NY Challenge, a program to entice kids (and the young at heart) to explore the Wayne County Historic Sites, many of which are in the online WHO Database ([www.waynehistorians.org](http://www.waynehistorians.org)). Current plan is to have a booklet ready for distribution by the spring of 2021.
- Jim Darnell & the Finger Lakes Stamp Club have agreed to work on special pictorial postal cancellations and to assist local committees if they want to do them also.
- Galen & Savannah plan to create a joint committee as "Old Wolcott" did.
- 2023 is also Macedon's Bicentennial.
- The 2-year Bicentennial Calendar has been revised slightly. The 2022 part will focus on events prior to 1923 and the 2023 part on events since 1923.
- Bruce Farrington has completed 15 Bicentennial Minutes so far.
- A Torch Relay Committee meeting will be held sometime in August to begin planning.
- We now have a WC Bicentennial page on the Wayne County Website:  
<https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/index.php/wayne-county-bicentennial/>  
More information will be added soon. Please add the link to YOUR website(s).
- We have recruited new Wayne County Bicentennial Committee members. They are: Alicia Linzy, Teacher, Lyons Central School  
Phil Eygnor, Huron Town Supervisor  
Theresa Streb, Librarian, Lyons Public Library  
James Schuler, Wayne County Youth Advocacy Program

**NEW YORK STATE RETIRED TEACHERS, INC.**  
**Central Western Zone/Wayne County Unit**  
**Kathy Grandjean**  
**2601 Lake Rd.**  
**Ontario, NY 14519**

**NON-PROFIT**  
**Prsrt Std**  
**PAID**  
**Lyons, NY 14489**  
**Permit # 26**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Wayne County Unit**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**If possible, our spring meeting will be**  
**held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021**

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

### **Please Note**

Our Treasurer's position is still open. Joyce has been doing the banking and I am doing the record-keeping. Please let me know if you think there is an error with your dues.

The year after your name on the address label indicates the year through which your dues are paid. Due to Covid, we are not collecting dues this year so everyone has been credited with an extra year.

Please remember that our membership decided that if someone doesn't pay dues for 5 years, their name is dropped from the mailing list.

Kathy Grandjean

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