

Good Times Newsletter

.. To Continue the Calling..
A Unit of the Central Western Zone
New York State Retired Teachers' Association
www.cwzretiredteachers.com

Officers

President:

Sandy Kushner 585-689-5271

Vice President:

Claudia Cerasani 585-457-3248

Secretary:

Sally Conrad 585-493-2803

Treasurer:

Sandy Smith 585-457-9648

Standing Committees

Legislative:

Virginia Fugle 585-813-4227

Historian:

Pam Osgood 585-322-7684

Membership:

Caren Dubay 716-492-3840

Friendly Service:

Karen Ritenour 716-592-3962

Newsletter Editor:

Patti Bartz 585-409-6462

Public Relations:

Sandy Kushner 585-689-5271

Community Service:

Claudia Cerasani 585-457-3248

Health Care:

Judy Haberer 585-492-1775

Directors

Attica:

Patti Bartz 585-409-6462

Virginia Fugle 585-813-4227

Letchworth:

Nancy Berwagner 585-322-3529

Sandy Kushner 585-689-5271

Perry:

Cathy Mlyniec 585-237-2785

Pioneer:

Judy Haberer 585-492-1775

Warsaw:

Ruth Ann Fultz (585) 704-8354

Wyoming:

Mary Carlson 585-689-2197

Key Worker

Christine Bonacquisti GV BOCES
585-278-8558

Spring Luncheon

May 17, 2022 @

Byrncliff – register by Friday,
April 29

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE WCRTA WELCOMES SPRING!!! Finally, the Wyoming County Retired Teachers' Association (WCRTA) can make concrete plans to meet in person for our Spring Meeting on May 17, 2022, at the Bryncliff Restaurant in Varysburg. The last time we were able to see each other in the springtime was 2019! I would like to thank Arcade Director, Judy Haberer for planning this meeting (three times). I would also like to extend our gratitude to the Byrncliff for being patient with us since we had to cancel in both 2020 and 2021. I am looking forward to seeing familiar faces in person at this unique Wyoming County venue to welcome spring.

The Spring Meeting is a business meeting and the Election of Officers, our first opportunity since May 2018. The Officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. When I became President, in 2012, past Presidents Jean Galvin and Eleanor Slazyk gave me their notes, a "To Do" list, and lots of encouragement. I knew if I had a question they were only a phone call away for advice. To the new President, I will pass on a monthly calendar, a list of responsibilities, and lots of notes. (I am only a phone call away, if needed.) As teachers, we are planners for both the day to day lesson plans to making unit plans, as well. As President, planning ahead for the spring and fall meetings is much the same as making those unit plans. Plus, you are not alone in these jobs because the members of the Executive Committee each do their part for the success of each meeting, and more importantly for the overall good of the organization. Thank you to all members of the Executive Committee, both presently and to any others who have served in the past, for being so helpful and always doing your jobs so willingly for the good of our county unit.

Continued

I have really enjoyed the job of being the WCRTA President and meeting so many of our members. While serving as both Co-Vice President and Co-President of the ten county Central Western Zone (CWZ) I met even more retirees. By attending state meetings and conventions I was able to see the Big Picture of the Retired Educators of New York (RENY), and how it works tirelessly for all New York retired teachers throughout the year. One lesson I have learned is that no organization should have the same leadership for an extended period of time. New leadership is vital for the good of the organization. Units across the state have shut down because members would not assume leadership positions, and this should not happen. By nature, teachers are leaders. The job does not take a great deal of time, and the help from others can be counted on to make each newsletter and meeting successful and enjoyable. I am counting on a member to come forward and say YES to leading the WCRTA at our May Meeting. Please give me a call or send an email to discuss your interest. Don't wait to asked. You can DO IT, and you will enjoy the job.

I look forward to seeing all your smiles on May 17, 2022 at the Byrncliff. Until then, keep smiling!

**Sandy Kushner (585) 689-5271
skushner13@hotmail.com**

Community Service Cairperson: Claudia Cerasani

Thank you for your generous monetary contributions in September. We were able to send \$ 100 to each food pantry in our six school districts. Also, Operation Gratitude, Angel Action, and the local food pantry benefited from your generosity this past fall.

At our Spring meeting, we will continue to support Operation Gratitude with only hats, scarves, and socks (dark colors) due to increase postage costs.

Angel Action needs items for the Children's Backpack Program. Suggested items are: non-perishable food for children. (ex. Drink boxes, cheese and crackers, granola bars.....)

As usual, we will collect food for our local pantry. Please bring two or more non-perishable items that will be donated to Pioneer School pantries, our host.

Legislation: At the 2021 Annual Meeting three Resolutions were presented, discussed and voted on. These three were passed by the voting body.

Resolution C-21: Disability Residence

Resolution D-29: Civics Education,

Resolution C-22: A resolution in support of greater assistance to senior citizens in their effort to get the appropriate Covid-19 vaccinations and future related matters. You can see the whole resolution in the Winter 2021 YORK STATE.

This article was also in that newsletter.

Sandy Kushner, Wyoming County President Wyoming County Retired Teachers' Fall "NOT BACK TO SCHOOL" Luncheon was held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at the Glenn Iris Inn, Letchworth State Park.

There were 55 in attendance, including Janice Weitz who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. The Community Service projects for the meeting were donations to a local food pantry, hand knitted scarves and hats for Operation Gratitude, and school supplies for Angel Action. The speaker was Loren Penman, one of the women responsible for building the Autism Nature Trail that opened October 1, 2021, in Letchworth State Park. The organization presented a check for \$150.00 to Loren for the Autism Nature Trail, also known as the ANT.

Membership Committee Chairperson: Caren Dubai

dubayjc@earthlink.net cell 716-353-2247

After two years, I'm looking forward to being able to gather together for our spring luncheon. In January, our crab apple tree was full of robins. They ate all the berries and headed back to the woods. I'm beginning to see them again, so I'm sure it is a true sign of spring this time. I'm sure our May luncheon will be a beautiful day.

WCRTA tries to continue to make our active membership list accurate. If you have changes or additions, please email or text me. Please invite a former retired colleague who hasn't attended our luncheons to enjoy reuniting with friends from your district as well as meeting new friends.

RENY (Retired Educators of New York) is our political action committee. They were formerly known as New York State Retired Teachers' Association (NYSRTA). RENY is a unique resource 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. Membership has been declining for several years. Please consider joining and protecting our future. If you join or are already a member, please email or text me your membership number and date of expiration. I am keeping an excel sheet of our WCRTA members who have joined RENY. The CWZ (Central Western Zone) and WZ (Western Zone) membership chairs sent me the membership report from Albany. They have asked me to notify any of our members who have let their dues lapse. You will receive a call, text or email from me if your dues are delinquent. I will have applications available at our May meeting. You can also join by going on line and visiting their website at **retirededucatorsny.org**

Health Care Chairperson: Judy Haberer

I hope everyone has had a safe and healthy fall and winter. It seems great to be able to say Happy Spring, and by the time you receive our newsletter the word snow will no longer be a part of our weather forecasts. There are four areas I feel are important for us as aging people to continually work at to stay healthy in mind, body and spirit. The four I will be addressing in hand outs at our next luncheon are: Physical, Cognitive, Emotional and Social. I hope you will be able to join us on Tuesday May 17 at the Byrncliff Resort.

CNBC informs us there is a new subvariant called BA.2, which spreads 80% faster than the original omicron and cases have doubled in the US in the past two weeks as of March 23,2022 and will become the dominant variant in the US. Dr. Fauci, the White House chief medical advisor, states he doesn't believe another surge will occur right now but cases may rise. Ali Mokdad, a leading epidemiologist, states he expects cases to decline over the spring and summer but may surge during the winter. He states the pandemic is over in the opinion of epidemiologists and we are now in an endemic phase (a disease or condition commonly found among certain people or in a certain area). Why am I telling you this, because we still need to be cautious of our surroundings, wear a mask if you feel you may be in a place where you would be exposed to those who have not been vaccinated. Wear a mask when out in the community if you have health issues that make you more susceptible to catching the virus. Wear a mask if you are going to visit others in a nursing home or others at home who may be susceptible. Use social manners, wash hands or use sanitizer, cough into your elbow even if you are wearing a mask. Do your part in keeping yourself and others healthy.

Friendly Service chairperson: Karen Ritenour

As the Friendly Service chairperson, my role is to support members by sending cards, 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. 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. Please call me at home 716-592-3962, cell 716-982-2046, or email at karen.ritenour1@gmail.com if you know of anyone who needs some support. Here is my home address: 60 East Hill Run Springville, NY.

Robert R. DeCormier Memorial

Are you, or any member of RENY that you know, in need of financial assistance? If so, funds are available. The DeCormier Trust, named after the first President of the organization, provides help in the forms of Special Grants. These are one time grants, which help members who experience unplanned expense that would be difficult to cover. The Trust awards stipends for special needs such as dental, hearing aid, car and home repair payments, as well as purchasing a chairlift for assistance in mobility, and providing other necessities. The money is given as a grant. NO reimbursement is ever requested or expected from the individual applying. You may download an application from the RENY website: <https://retirededucatorsny.org> listed under DeCormier Trust or under "financial need". For additional information or to request an application, please contact me at 716-592-3962 or Karen.ritenour1@gmail.com.

Tuesday May 17th 2022
Byrncliff Golf Resort and Banquets
2357 Humphrey Rd.
Varysburg, NY 14167

Registration 11:00 Meal at 12:00

Soup and Deli Buffet: Chicken Noodle Soup, Mixed Greens with House and Ranch Dressings, Deli meats (turkey, ham, and salami), cheeses, lettuce, tomato & red onion. Assorted breads and condiments, vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce, Coffee, Tea and Ice Water.

Program: Kari Sears, the director of Charlotte House in North Java will be our speaker

Cost: \$24.00 per person/meal. Reservations due by Friday April 29, 2022. We are not able to accommodate walk-ins.

Please return the bottom portion of this form and make the check payable to WCRTA. Thank You.

Send To: Judy Haberer 451 West Main St Arcade, NY 14009 585-492-1775

Please remember to bring Community Service Donations to the luncheon.

Operation Gratitude: hats, scarves, socks (dark colored)

Community Service: Non-perishable items for the Arcade and Delevan Food Pantries

Angel Action: Backpack Program- non- perishable food items, school supplies

Name: _____ **Guest(s)** _____

Of reservations _____ **x \$24.00 =** _____

Special dietary needs? Please specify _____

New York Retired Teachers, Inc.

Central Western Zone

244 Warren Ave

Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Return Services Requested