

Notes from the

BLACKBOARD

EDITOR- Kathy Grandjean

WINTER-SPRING 2022

Officers

President

Della Ludwig
3093 Greig St. Port Gibson, NY
14537

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/Immediate Past President

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

Legislation

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

It is a great joy to greet you as your new president and to invite you to join us for our Spring meeting and luncheon to be held in June. Additional information is included in our newsletter. Although our gathering in the autumn was small, we thoroughly enjoyed the meal and time for warm fellowship. We had a truly informative presentation on Revolutionary & Civil War medicine by "Dr." Les Buell.

I have been asked to provide a brief introduction. I currently live in Port Gibson, having purchased my grandparent's home which is nestled between my parents and aunt. I was graduated from Newark Central School District and attended SUNY College at Brockport where I earned my BA, MA, and CAS. I began my career teaching for a decade at LeRoy Central School. Taking a leave from education, I then worked ten years as the director of marketing for a Fortune 500 company. Hungry to return to the classroom, I joined the faculty at Williamson Central School, teaching there for twenty years until retirement. Although I spent a few years as a technology coordinator, the love of my experience was teaching English to middle-school students.

(Cont'd on next page)

WINTER-SPRING 2022

Committees

Community Service/Friendly Service

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

Historian

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

Resolutions – OPEN

Health Care – OPEN

Membership - OPEN

THIS COULD BE YOU!
Please consider volunteering
for one of these position

Newsletter Editor

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

President's Message Cont'd

Nearly eight years ago, I was called to ministry and began a course of study at Wesley Seminary in Washington DC. I have served as the pastor at Rushville United Methodist Church and Newark Emmanuel UMC for the past six years. This work keeps me active, especially during the pandemic when Newark Emmanuel's free lunch program served nearly 30,000 hot meals to the most vulnerable in our community. I also serve as webmaster for Omega Chapter of DKG and am a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. In my free time, I most enjoy visiting with family and friends and learning new things.

I am honored to step into the role as your president and am thankful for the support of the executive board and various committees. It is our hope that you will encourage those in your district to attend our next meeting. We so look forward to reconnecting.

Sincerely,
Della Ludwig

Community Service – Elaine Leasure

It was decided that at our next meeting we should collect money for the people of Ukraine. Based on the following information we will take a vote to see which of the following you would like to donate to.

- United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries. One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause. The United Methodist community in Ukraine, though quite small, is actively engaged in assisting neighbors in need.

Global Ministries is in touch with the church's leadership as well as with church leaders in countries welcoming those who are fleeing from violence in Ukraine.

- Jane Crosby of CWZ sent out an email with the following information from Stasia, a friend of hers:

Many of you know that my friend, Father Filip Wodecki is from Poland, and his family is telling him of what is happening there. The Ukrainian refugees are coming into Poland seeking help... and several busloads have come into the towns where his family lives. His family is working independently through their church to provide for the people. They came with literally only the clothes they were wearing. And his family said that they are working with their church, which is collecting food that is sent back in the buses and is being smuggled into the Ukraine to bring food to the soldiers and civilians that are left there fighting. - Stasia

Jane wrote: In talking with Stasia today she told me her friend, Father Wodecki, wires the money as soon as he receives it to his family who then use the funds to purchase essentials like food, health care, diapers, etc. If you wish to donate through this direct link to aid Ukrainian refugees, you can send your check directly to:

Stasia Plump
9781 Ibis Court
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

We will vote at the meeting on June 7th as to where you would like to donate your money.

Fall Luncheon



No Actual
Blood Was
Shed!! 😊



We were so grateful
to welcome Della
Ludwig as our new
President!!



Fred and I helped out "Dr. Buell" with
his demonstration of various medical
procedures from both the
Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Les
always puts on a great program.

Congratulations to the Ludwigs!!!



Fred and Lois Ludwig
(Della's parents) are
faithful supporters of our
organization and always
attend our meetings.
Since our last luncheon,
Fred celebrated his 90th
birthday in December;
they celebrated their 71st
wedding anniversary in
March and Lois will be 90
this month. We wish them
continued health and
happiness.

With Sympathy

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

Bev Camp, Red Creek, October 2021

Doris J. Coffman, Marion, September 2019

Janice E. Langville, Wolcott, August 2019

Mary Mikell "Mike" O'Neil, Sodus, August 2021

Legislation - Bill Lesniak

wmllesniak@aol.com

The Legislative priority items that RENY has set for this 2022 year:

For the State:

1. In order to deal with the massive and current teacher shortage, RENY supports bills creating the "Underrepresented Teachers of Tomorrow Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program" such as A4556 Hyndman & S342 Persaud

2. RENY supports legislation to create an elder abuse registry and to increase penalties for financial exploitation of the elderly.

- A7634 Serino & S3854 Cruz— expanding mandated reporting of elder abuse and creates an elder abuse registry.
- A6447 Crespo & S0450 Parker - Establishes a trust fund to expand programs to fight elderly abuse crimes.
- Reintroduce from 2017 A8160 Lupardo & S2154 Serino Creating a Senior Hotline

3. RENY supports measures to increase residential options for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Related to this issue RENY also support to increase the minimum wages and reimbursement rates for home health care workers under Medicaid and managed care plans.

- supports a dramatic increase in funding to build additional residential beds to prevent a residential housing crisis
- supports the passage of A06329 & S05374 to increase wages and reimbursements for home health care workers

RENY also supports:

4. Expansion of civics education to all NY State students K-12.
5. Increasing the base amount used for COLA calculation from \$18,000 to \$21,000

Legislation Cont'd

For the Federal Level:

1. RENY supports Senate passage of the Build Back Better Bill. RENY Supports standalone bills or another package including the following parts of the BBB bill.

- Expansion of rural broadband
- Home Health Care tax credits/Family Caregiver Compensation
- Lower drug costs
- Expansion of Medicare & Medicaid
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten
- Paid Family Leave

2. RENY supports the *Reopen & Rebuild America's Schools Act* H.R.504 Scott & S.95 Reed to fix the massive infrastructure needs of schools. The bill:

Sets forth allocation to states and establishes a need-based grant program for educational agencies (LEAs) to improve school facilities, specifics allowable uses of grant funds for major repairs, improving indoor air quality, and making facilities accessible to disabled individuals

3. RENY supports reintroduction of the *Preserving and Protecting Social Security Act* (Former H.R. 2302 & S.1132) to ensure the viability of Social Security for the long-term.

RENY also supports:

4. Protection against elderly victimization by increasing penalties for scams and fraud aimed at seniors.
5. S.1567 Brown & HR 3165 - Nurse Staffing Standards for Hospital Patient Safety and Quality Care Act of 2021
6. The Save Education Jobs Act HR542 which would provide \$261 billion to stabilize the education workforce.

We will also see a new map for our congressional district, at present the proposal is for it to go from Oswego all the way to Niagara Falls around Rochester and most of Monroe County. It is in the courts at this time.

Wayne County Bicentennial Updates

By Gene Bavis

If you have access to a computer or even a smart phone or tablet, you can read the official newsletter of the Bicentennial online. Produced by Patti Holdraker, they are called "Bicentennial Bytes and Updates." We publish them at least once every other month or sometimes monthly. Here is that link: <https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/544/News--Bicentennial-Bytes>

Now to the latest news:

The first posting of **Bicentennial Minutes** was made on April 6. There will be 52 of these short videos posted on YouTube and social media. Soundbites have been sent to WACK radio and press releases to the local newspapers. The Times of Wayne County will be publishing them all on their history page. Tentative publication dates are posted on the website: <https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/DocumentCenter/View/4047/Bicentennial-Minutes-Publication-Dates-PDF>

The **Activity Book** for elementary aged students has been released. This project headed by Marion Historian, Caryn Devlin resulted in a 60-page book printed with County funds and is available **FREE** of charge at all Public Libraries in Wayne County. We are working to get copies to historical societies and others. Some of the public schools will be using them this spring with their 4th graders. Others will be using them next school year (or both years). Caryn & her team did a GREAT job.

Seven of the **Town Rack Cards** have been completed thanks to the design expertise of Amber Linson. Huron and Walworth have been printed and the others are going to press very soon. Amber also designed two topical cards, one about the Fox Sisters and Modern Spiritualism and the other about Cobblestone Masonry. These will be distributed **FREE** of charge at events around the county. More to come.

Amber Linson is also heading up the **Memories Book** project. Over 140 submissions have been submitted and her team is in the process of reviewing, editing and laying out the book. It is expected to be available this fall and would make a GREAT Christmas gift.

Speaking of great gifts –

The Wayne County 2022-2023 **Bicentennial Calendar** is still available! Filled with over 800 Wayne County historical facts and 300 colorful images, this calendar is a keepsake everyone will enjoy looking at hopefully to the next county milestone in fifty years. Calendars are available through the Museum of Wayne County History – <https://www.waynehistory.org/product-page/bicentennial-calendar>. Or you may visit the Bicentennial website to find out where you can purchase a calendar near you. <https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/DocumentCenter/View/3171/Where-toFind-a-Calendar-PDF?bidId=> If someone didn't already buy you one, we suggest you buy yourself a gift calendar. It's packed with facts and photos.

(They will be available at the WCRTA luncheon in June.)

Bob Mogray and the Reverse Curves Quilt Club are creating a **Wayne County Photo Quilt**. Forty photos are done and layout work has begun. A **poster** of this quilt will be created and made available hopefully by summer. When completed the quilt will visit as many festivals and public events as possible.

Please follow the Bicentennial's daily posting on **Facebook & Instagram**. LOTS of interesting stuff there!

Minutes

Wayne County Retired Teachers Association The Heights-Sodus Point October 6, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM 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 introduced the officers that were there, two newly retired teachers and also Past Presidents of the WCRTA. Kathy Grandjean noted that our membership was going down. We have less than 500 members. People need to join the State Association (RENY) as well as Wayne County.

Secretary's Report: Julie Wunder

Minutes from the October 8, 2019 meeting were included in the mailing to all members and were available at the tables. Rita Lesniak moved, seconded by Elaine Leasure to accept the minutes. The minutes were approved. Julie also shared notes received from several of the Wayne County Food Pantries for our Christmas monetary donations.

Treasurer's Report: Joyce Pittenger

As of August 31, 2021:

Income: \$1712.72

Expenses: \$2462.36

Checking Balance: \$4950.69

Savings: \$813.67

DMA: \$2522.05

CD: \$4534.51

Moved by Elaine Leasure, seconded by Jan Baist to accept the report. The report was approved.

Health Care: No report

Friendly Service: Elaine Leasure

Elaine briefly explained the role of Friendly Services representatives. We are in need of several volunteers.

Community Service Report: Elaine Leasure

Elaine announced that today's donations were going to Newark Wayne Hospital's Pediatric Center. In addition to the items brought by members, there were blue cups on the tables for members who wished to make a monetary donation. Elaine also moved that we donate \$200 to the Center. The motion was seconded by Jan Baist. The motion was approved.

Federal/State Legislation: Bill Lesniak

We have a new Governor! We also have a new COLA. The State Convention is October 13th and 14th in Albany. There is an issue that people are not members at the State level. Positions are open at all levels.

Historian Report: Rita Lesniak

Rita thanked everyone for their donations. Please continue to send items.

CWZ: Elaine Leasure

Elaine explained the workings of the Central Western Zone as neither of the co-presidents were in attendance. It is a go between the State Association and the Local Chapter. She wanted to make members aware of the benefits that belonging to the State organization would provide. Among other things they have a travel program, 3rd Party Insurance, hearing and eye programs just to name a few.

Election of Officers: Joyce Pittenger

After much discussion, the following slate of officers was nominated:

President: Della Ludwig

Vice President:

Secretary: Julie Wunder

Treasurer: Joyce Pittenger

Moved by Lois Ludwig, and seconded by Pat Dick. The motion was approved.

Banking Authorization:

Moved by Kathy Grandjean: I move that, effective November 1, 2021, Della Ludwig, as WCRTA President and Joyce Pittenger, as WCRTA Treasurer will serve as WCRTA's authorized agents to conduct transactions at Reliant Community Credit Union.

This motion was seconded by Jan Baist. The motion was approved.

Good of the Order:

Some future suggestions were:

Meet later in the morning

Have a BBQ

Use treasury to help with lunch costs

Kathy Grandjean moved and Elaine Leasure seconded that we adjourn. The motion was approved. We adjourned at 11:13AM.

Program

Les Buell entertained us with an 18th and 19th Century Medicine Program. It was all about the Revolutionary War and the Civil War Eras. Thanks so much Les!

Minutes written by Julie Wunder, Secretary

Cut and return this reservation form

Price: \$15.00 (Those 90 or over and new retirees- \$7.50)

Deadline: May 23, 2022

Send to: Joyce Pittenger, 6566 E. Port Bay Rd., Wolcott, NY 14590 (315-594-8965)

(check payable to **WCRTA**)

(\$15.00 lunch and \$5.00 dues 2021-22 (if not paid) would total \$20.00)

Total Enclosed _____

Name _____

Lunch: Buffet Lunch put on by North Coast Caterers

Includes: Chicken French Bites, Ziti with Marinara Sauce, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Broccoli Salad,
Rolls & Butter, Garden Salad and Apple Crisp

School District _____

E-mail address _____

Guest's Name _____

CUT HERE-----

Wayne County Retired Teachers' Association
Meeting and Luncheon
Young Sommer Winery
4287 Jersey Road, Williamson, NY 14589
Tuesday, June 7th, 2022

9:45 Coffee, doughnuts and conversation

10:15 Wayne County Retired Teachers' Association Meeting

11:00 Special guest speaker: Gene Bavis & Rosa Fox: Wayne County Bicentennial

12:00 Buffet Lunch

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!!
Our Fall meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022

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 DUES

The date after your name on the address label tells your paid dues status, for example, "22" would mean your dues for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 are paid.

*Please send your \$5 (checks made out to WCRTA) to:
Joyce Pittenger
6566 E. Port Bay Rd.
Wolcott, NY 14590

**if you think there is an error, please let Joyce know. 315-594-8965

Your support is needed to keep our organization alive and well!

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