

SCRTA SPRING

NEWSLETTER 2022

OFFICERS LIST

President: Carol Westlake
Vice Presidents: Karen Moretti and
Jane Spiwak
Secretary: Lynn Patti
Treasurer: Carol Lord
Friendly Service: Lynn Patti, Janet Driscoll
Phyllis Weeks and Maryann Dendis
Health Care: Ellen Clark
Historian: Norman Cayward
Publicity: Phyllis Dunlap
Legislation Actions: Judie Byndas
Membership: Carol Lord
Newsletter: Lynn Hefferon
Resolutions: Judie Byndas
Community Service: Cornelis Johnson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Spring Greetings Everyone!

It is a relief to be feeling warm again. This winter seemed long with our old fashioned cold and snow! I am showing my age remembering the drifts and ice of yore! I am glad to be looking forward to seeing you in May. It is great to be able to gather again and enjoy each others company and share our stories from our absence. Covid may not have been as virulent as the previous two years but many of us stayed more isolated than we had preCovid. It is refreshing and hopeful to be able to plan a fun outing with you!! Our Vice Presidents, Karen Moretti and Jane Spiwak have put together an tasty and interesting morning for us and we can munch and have our greetings with each other with our coffee. The meeting will follow and a guest speaker before more visiting time and lunch. Our minds and bodies can be nourished with all!

I urge you to reach out to your fellow members to encourage as many of us as possible to attend. Lets gather our experienced members and invite our newer members to come together. PLEASE seek out new members as well. We will be inviting our fresh retirees and I would be delighted if we could reach out to retirees who have been out a few years and might be ready to join us now. Lets search them out and offer our group to all! There are many benefits to belonging to New York state Retired Educators. Reny is our formal name now but we know who we are. This agency has been protecting and informing retired teachers for 100 proud years now!!! Such a milestone and you are part of this long tradition. Stand and be proud and welcoming. Let others know we are far more than a friendly lunch group. We come together to be informed about our local group and the zone and the state activities. Legislation information and participation is more important than ever. Our schools and educators and significantly our children have been strong and diligent throughout but also battered. They need us to help them rebuild spirit and enthusiasm for education. Teachers need to know someone is looking down the road for them so their

efforts may be rewarded with a healthy retirement fund! We have been fortunate to have the wisdom and stable management we have! Our society has worked with NYS to maintain and protect the money we live off of. Lets do our part to allow this organization to continue and thrive. We OWE it to the current teachers and to future teachers! This will not happen if we do not actually add to our membership. Lets Step Up and Step In to insure Reny's existence! Locally, we can keep our unit active with participation. Personally I am hoping someone will want to become president in the future. The other officers and committee chairs also have the hopes of willing members to continue their work. Very bluntly, we are not as young as we used to be and new ideas and energy are a must. Think ahead and let us know where you are interested in participating. Areas such as Community Service can use new ideas for donations. Health issues have held us in a firm grip and the info we get from the Health people are interesting and helpful. Legislation and resolutions to be carried on our behalf to our local and state representatives need attention. Our funds need caretakers and wise ideas for use. Our records and scrapbook are fun to help with. Please consider the options and talk to us. Your interest gives us a spark of fresh air!

Please enjoy your opportunities to get out and mingle with nature and friends. Spring will bring summer and more fun and freedom! I truly hope to see you all there in May! Carol Westlake

Greetings from your VPs

Happy Spring! We hope that everyone is happy, healthy and ready to get outside and bask in the sunshine. Our spring meeting is slated for Thursday, May 19th and will be held at Woody's/Killian's located in Waterloo's Quality Inn. We will gather at 9:30 for coffee, tea, and a variety of pastries, muffins and sweet breads. After our business meeting, we are very excited to have secured as our guest speaker local author Jeff Hoffman, a graduate of Waterloo High School and a Waterloo resident. Jeff wrote and published under the pseudonym Manlius Ledyard a children's Christmas book entitled *Ralph the Elf*. Jeff will share with us his idea for the book and how it took shape from inception, development, illustration and publication. A lunch buffet will follow Jeff's presentation. Until we meet again at our summer and fall events, we hope you enjoy our beautiful Finger Lakes Region with you family and friends.

Respectfully,

Karen Moretti and Jane Spiwak

Treasurer's Report: March Balance: \$725.30 Carol Lord:

Treasurer Membership Report: Carol lord, Chairperson

A sincere thank you to each of you that responded to the postcard that I sent last Fall indicating your membership status for Seneca County and Retired Educators of New York (RENY). Your commitment of support in retirement is so important. Volunteers at the local, zone and state level work very hard to monitor your retirement and provide benefits to you. If you did not join, let this serve as a reminder to send in your local dues now for the 2021-2022 year to me and go into the RENY website (<https://retirededucatorsny.org>) to renew or join the state organization. The Pi Lights magazine is also available online to keep you up to date on the Zone and State activities. I will not be marking your membership until the fall newsletter. I hope to see you at our May meeting. Feel free to contact me at anytime concerning membership at clord@rochester.rr.com. Have a great Spring!! Carol

Legislation and Resolutions

Retired Educators of New York are firmly opposed any reduction in Social Security benefits, including COLA and State Legislation appeals will include:

Strengthen principal and teacher preparation programs. Maintain and enhance school based programs in literacy education, vocations preparations, technical training, and art and music. Protect youth at all levels from bullying, harassment, and violence. Promote Increase number and protection of group homes for persons with disabilities now under aging adult care. Federal Legislation Lower Affordable Car Act premiums. Lower prescription drug costs.

Resolutions

Two of the state legislative actions and from resolutions from Central Western Zone and Seneca County; those on civic education and group homes for disabled individuals
Judie Byndas

Memorial Remembrance

12/19/21 **Marjorie Warren** Lafayette School Secretary in Waterloo for many years; 100 years old

1/1/22 **Donna Wilkes** Seneca Falls bus driver and Student Support Staff member

January 2022 **Mary Church** South Seneca Teacher retired and former School Board member

3/24/22 **Anna Haas** St. Mary's Catholic School in Waterloo, St. Patrick's Catholic School in Seneca Falls and Romulus

A VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

On April 10, a special lady, Clarice Coggins, a retired Waterloo Jr. High English Teacher, celebrates her 100th birthday. Several Special events are planned around that date, but a card, even if late, would make her day!

Clarice Coggins
1400 Route 96 #A-2
Waterloo, NY 13165

"Word" is she may be able to join us at our May 19th meeting. Please make a special effort to come and congratulate her on reaching this significant milestone in her life.

Barbara Rosecrans
CWZ Friendly Service

Community Service

This spring our community service focus will benefit a local and a global agency. Locally we will donate to the Beverly Animal Shelter. Suggestions are dog and cat food, kitty litter, old towels and blankets. Or, you may make a monetary donation with checks made out to the Beverly Animal Shelter. Bring donations to the May 19th meeting or drop off donations at the Shelter.

With the war in Ukraine, we decided another outreach project would be donations to the World Central Kitchen (wck.org) to benefit children and families. This non-profit organization describes itself as first to the frontlines in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. It has been feeding families in Ukraine and refugees in countries bordering Ukraine since the Russian invasion.

Relay for Life

Relay for Life of The Finger Lakes
Geneva Lake Front park, Geneva, New York
Saturday June 4, 2022
2:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Luminarias are \$5.00 ahead of time or \$10.00 each if you get them online or at the event.

All donations are Welcome! Please put SCRTA on your check so our team will get credit for it. So far, we have collected over \$462.00 for our team. Last year, we collected almost \$900.00.