

# Candidates for Offices for NYSUT RC 7

## 2020-2023

Uncontested offices were filled automatically.

### **President - NYSUT Delegate – AFT Delegate**

- Loretta Donlon – **Declared Elected**
  - Experience is the key asset in organizing a team of officers making NYSUT Retiree Council 7 an organization that delivers a venue that
    - Keeps us in contact with former colleges
    - Provides updates on state, national and union issues affecting our dignified retirements, and
    - Allows us to flex our collective strength.
  - As members of the state’s largest union, we propose legislation to safeguard education and the benefits we earned during our careers.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

- Candace Johnson – **Declared Elected**
  - After 35 years, I retired from teaching Social Studies at the middle and high school levels at Liverpool Central Schools. In addition, to my teaching duties, I was a Building Representative for Liverpool High School. Later I was elected 2nd Vice President on the the United Liverpool Faculty Association board. Among the roles I had in this position was organizing Making Strides against Breast Cancer, chair of VOTE/COPE, being a representative to the Committee of 100, and a representative at many NYSUT Conventions. All of these positions prepared me for my current position. I have held the position of 1st Vice President, Membership Chair, for the past three years and would like to continue in this capacity for the next three years.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

- William Spreter – **Declared Elected**
  - 34 years teaching English at the Hannibal Schools. - President, HFA 3 years, Vice Pres. HFA, 30 years - Delegate to NYSUT RA and AFT 30 years - Committee of 100, 30 years lobbying legislative leaders - Vote/Cope CNY Chair raising PAC funds to secure legislation - Continuing to lobby for education aid/teacher issues statewide - Lobbying on Federal issues for Older Americans - Present RC 7 2nd Vice President - President of the CNY NYSARA meeting monthly - Lobbying Congress to preserve and improve Senior programs - Future Goals: lower prescription drug costs, preserve and improve Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid and fund education - Extend Medicare to cover dental, hearing and vision

## Secretary

- Melody Mariani – **Declared Elected**
  - I was an English teacher who served as a teacher leader as well as a union rep/Chief Rep with STA for my entire career with the SCSD. During that time, it was my responsibility to make sure members of my team, department and/or staff were privy to the information that I had come to know in my position as teacher leader and union rep. I became known for my clear, concise, understandable notes that made it easier for everyone to keep abreast of what was going on. I promise to do the same for RC7.

## Treasurer

- Carol Graham – **Declared Elected**
  - I am running for Treasurer for Retiree Council 7. I have been in this position since July 2014 and I understand all that is required of me during the calendar year and am qualified for this responsibility. My background is "numbers" as I was a middle school math teacher in the Solvay School District for 33 years. I also held leadership roles in the Solvay Teachers Association before I retired, the last being Vice President for Negotiations for 8 years. I am still affiliated with Solvay as the liaison between the STA and the Solvay retired teachers.

## Board of Directors – 5 positions available

1. Phil DelloStritto
  - I have for many years provided volunteer services to United Way of Cayuga County, Community Preservation Committee, Cayuga Museum and asst. Churches, Charitable, Political Groups and Campaigns since the early 70's. I have been involved in RC7 as a representative for Cayuga County Teachers since 2002. I am currently a Member of the Town of Fleming Zoning Board. My most important position for the foreseeable future is to be the best Grandfather of my "Perfect" Grandchildren.
2. Paul Farfaglia
  - Jordan-Elbridge Teachers Association - Local Vice-President - 2014-2019 • Jordan-Elbridge Teachers Association - Local President 1989 - 2014 • Jordan-Elbridge Teachers Association - Local Treasurer 1986-1989 • NYSUT Board of Directors, At-Large Director ED 7-8 - 2005-2014 ○ NYSUT Executive Committee - 2011-2014 • Greater Syracuse Labor Council • Board of Trustees, New York State Teachers' Retirement System 2009-2019 • Committee of 100 • RA Delegate • Delegate to NYSTRS
3. Mary Hanus
  - I was an educator for 34 years. I retired. I have been taking care of RC7 Luncheons for the past 4 years, only because no one else would. I will be happy to continue arranging luncheons for the next term, or as long as I am able, unless- of course- someone else is volunteering.

4. Joanne Heisler

- Teacher in the Syracuse School District ( 1963-2002)  
Pres. of STARS ..Retiree Chapter of Syr.Tch.Assoc.(2003-Present)  
Board of Directors Retiree Council 7 (2003 -Present)  
Scholarship Chairperson for RC7 (2010-Present)  
Participated in RC7activities and will continue to do so.

5. Edward O'Rourke

- I have been a member of RC7 since retiring from the Syracuse City Schools in 2014 after 41 years. I have served as RC7 NYSUT Delegate since being appointed in 2019. I served on the STA Board of Directors and was STA Treasurer from 2003 until 2014. I served as a release labor relations officer from 2004 until 2014. I am a member of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ward Democratic Committee, Alliance of Retired Americans, Greater Syracuse Labor Council, SU Alumni Club of CNY, and NYS Band Directors Association, and NYS School Music Association.

6. Lilli Rastegar

- • Strong interpersonal communication, collaboration skills • Creative, flexible, staunch unionist • Various union leadership roles (local and state level) • RC 7 Executive Board Director, Program Chair • STARS Treasurer since 2014 • Syracuse University Field Supervisor since 2014 • STA 1st VP, 2002-2004 • NYSUT Health & Safety, Ad Hoc Finance Task Force • ER & D Presenter, 2003-2006 • Grievance Chair • SCSD Teacher Center Policy Board • Model Teacher Evaluation • Professional Development (pre-k -12) • Effective Practices • School Leadership • OCTA award 2000 • NYSUT Leader of Tomorrow 2000

**NYSUT Delegates** – 2 positions available

- Margo Buckingham
  - During my in-service years I served as a Building Rep, PAC Rep, Building President, Negotiator, AFT Delegate, FMTA Vice-President and President. I was secretary of Onondaga County TA and on NYSUT's Policy Board. In retirement I served as RC 7's Treasurer and as President for 10 years as well as NYSUT and AFT Delegate. I am currently RC 7's AFT alternate and RA Delegate and serve on the Credentials Committee, am on NYSUT's Retiree Advisory Council and on RC 7's Board as past president. I would appreciate your support in allowing me to continue my work for RC 7. Thank you
- Candace Johnson – see resume for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Edward O'Rourke – see resume for Board Member

**NYSUT Alternates**

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2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**AFT Alternate** – 1 position available

1. Margo Buckingham – see resume for NYSUT Delegate
2. Candace Johnson – see resume for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President