



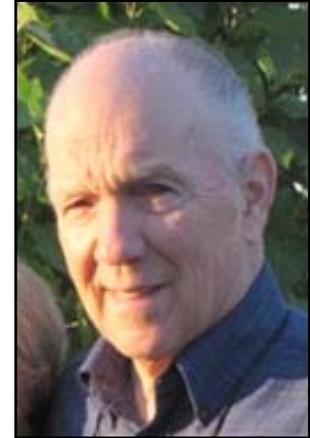
From the President

Kudos to Pete Herron for obtaining poet Patti Tana as the keynote speaker at RASCC's Spring General Meeting held at the Stony Brook Yacht Club. Ms. Tana gave an interesting and enjoyable reading of some of her poetry, ranging from sad to erotic to hilarious. Her entertaining delivery and sense of humor made this meeting one of the best we have experienced. *

On a more urgent note, there has been little response to our request for people to serve as officers of RASCC for the upcoming election at the end of this year. To date, these positions have been held mostly by charter members of RASCC. With more than 100 RASCC members, surely there are many qualified members who have retired in recent years who could fill leadership roles in our organization. Won't you please consider submitting your name for one of these positions? Without a steady influx of new ideas, stagnation is inevitable.

A good way to get an idea of the various roles the officers play is to attend our monthly meetings held the first Friday of each month at 9:30 AM at the Cottage on the Ammerman campus. I look forward to seeing some new faces at our next RASCC meeting on **September 4, 2015**.

*see pictures on page 7



Bud Macy

Dr. Shaun McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College, has invited all SCCC retirees to attend this year's convocation. This year's address will be delivered by the college's new Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Suzanne Johnson. At the end of the ceremony there will be an unveiling of the first mascot in the history of Suffolk County Community College.

This year's convocation will take place on Thursday, August 27, beginning at 4 p.m. The ceremony will be followed by a BBQ, and everything takes place at the Brookhaven Gym, Ammerman Campus, Selden. This will definitely be a very exciting afternoon.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP, include your name and the number in your party, to Ms. Sandra O'Hara, oharas@sunysuffolk.edu, in the President's Office. This will ensure sufficient seating and food.

For more pictures, information, upcoming activities and useful links go to the RASCC website at <http://www.rascc.org/>

Elder Issues

What is the Difference between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage?

Original Medicare is the traditional **fee-for-service** program. Fee-for-Service is a payment model where services are paid for as itemized as one would see in a hospital invoice. This payment method gives an incentive for physicians to provide more treatments because payment is dependent on the quantity of care, rather than quality of care.

Original Medicare is administered directly by the U.S. government. Under Original Medicare, you can see any doctor in the country who participates in the program, and most doctors do participate.

Original Medicare includes parts A, B and D:

Part A covers **Inpatient hospital** costs,

Part B, covers **Outpatient medical** costs;

Part D covers **Prescription drug plan**; in order to have prescription

drug coverage under Original Medicare, you must actively choose and enroll in a stand-alone Part D prescription drug plan.

With Original Medicare, after you pay your monthly premium you also pay a co-insurance (meaning you share in the costs of a covered health care service for each service that you receive). To cover coinsurance, with Original Medicare, you can purchase a Medigap supplemental insurance product to assist you with Parts A and B premiums and copays. Note: Medigap products do not assist with Part D prescription drug costs. Most of us, as Suffolk County retirees, also have supplemental insurance products through our union member benefits.

Medicare Advantage is a plan that contracts with the Medicare system to provide Medicare-styled benefits. Unlike *Original Medicare*, Medicare *Advantage* is administered by **private insurance companies**. Most Medicare *Advantage* payment models are different than that of *Original Medicare's* Fee-for-service model in that private insurance companies are paid a fixed amount by the U.S. government to provide Medicare *Advantage* services. Under Medicare *Advantage* a person must live in the plan's service area in order to enroll in the program. These providers make up the Advantage plan's network.

The most common types of Medicare *Advantage* plans are called Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs), and Private Fee-for-Services (PFFS).

Even if you join a Medicare Advantage plan you still belong to *Original Medicare*: You must still pay your Part B monthly premium (and a Part A premium, if you have one). Each Medicare *Advantage* plan must

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provide all Part A and Part B services, but they can do so with different costs and restrictions than *Original* Medicare. This can affect how and when you can get care. For example, Medicare *Advantage* plans require members to use their networks of doctors and hospitals. If you use an out-of-network provider, you may have to pay more for your care.

Medicare *Advantage* plans must limit the amount you spend out-of-your own pocket for health care. These limits tend to be high but are helpful if you need a lot of care. *Advantage* plans can also offer additional benefits that *Original* Medicare does not cover, like routine vision or dental care. Generally, if you want to enroll in a Medicare *Advantage* plan and also need drug coverage (Part D), you must join a plan that includes drug coverage. If you have a Medicare *Advantage* plan, you cannot purchase a Medigap policy.

Even if you are satisfied with your current Medicare coverage, it is important to investigate options during the annual Fall Open Enrollment period. In reviewing your plan, you need to decide whether other Medicare options may better suit your individual needs in the next calendar year. Research shows that people with Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) could lower their costs by shopping among plans each year. Being proactive about your coverage can help to reduce costs and make sure that your health care needs are met.

Consult the Experts! If you have questions about your Medicare coverage, NYSUT has contracted with the Medicare Counselor Hotline: 800-333-4114 (hours 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.). This service is provided by the Medicare Rights Center.

If you have questions about this article please contact Mitchell Clark (mailto:mclark@medicarerights.org).

The Medicare Rights Center is a national, nonprofit consumer service organization that works to ensure access to affordable health care for older adults and people with disabilities through counseling and advocacy, educational programs and public policy initiatives.

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For further information about this and other issues important to us as retirees visit the rc39 website at:

<http://rc39.ny.aft.org/>

Member Profile

Bill Lowen

I have been asked several times to write a column as to what my wife, Lori, and I have been doing during my 20+ years of retirement. But first let me say that I had a wonderful career at SCCC. I was appointed to the position of assistant professor in the Natural Science Department at a time when the college was in its relative infancy. After a few years, and an increase in department size, the department was split into the Biology Department and the Marine & Technology Department. I was appointed the first Biology Department chairman, a position that I occupied for ten years. After another 10+ years, I retired at the end of December in 1992. In February 1993 we moved to New Mexico and moved into our new home in June 1993. Shortly thereafter I received the happy news that I was designated Professor emeritus of Biology. Lori, who is a pediatric nurse practitioner, received an appointment as Instructor of Nursing at Albuquerque Technical and Vocational Institute (TVI). TVI is now Central New Mexico Community College which shares the same initials, CNMCC, as the Central New Mexico Correctional Center. CNMCC is superficially similar to SCCC because of similar size and number of campuses, but does not have the same breadth nor depth of courses.



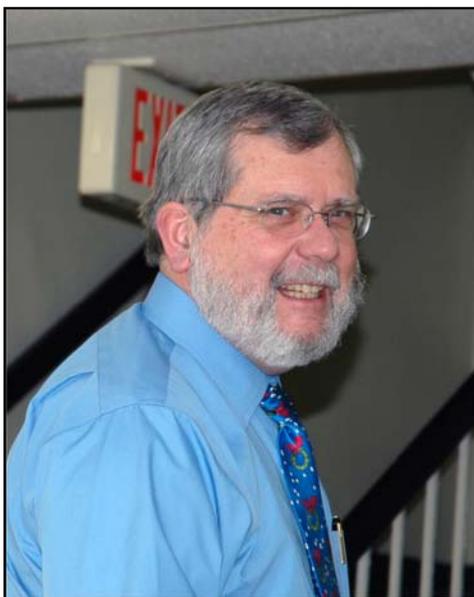
When a person retires he/she should have an idea in mind as to what they are going to do with all this available time. I chose, as did Lori who retired four years ago, to become involved in non-profit, humanitarian organizations. I began this quest with my joining the Rotary Club of Rio Rancho. Rotary is found in approximately 200 countries and has about 1.3 million members. Rotary is not political nor is it religious. Rotary is the oldest service club and its sole purpose is to make the world a better place for all. It wasn't long before I became secretary of my club. I have been secretary ever since with the exception of one year when I was president of the club. I have also been secretary of Rotary District 5520, which is all of New Mexico plus a goodly part of west Texas. I have been an assistant governor of the district for six years and lieutenant governor for three years. It was through my Rotary contacts that I became involved in other organizations. Soon after I joined Rotary I became a member of the board of Storehouse West, which is the official food pantry for Sandoval County and the Kids Clothes Closet which supplies clothing to children up to the age of eighteen. I was on this board for over fifteen years including a stint as president of the board. We not only supplied food to the hungry, a means test was required, but we also helped out with emergency payments for utilities and rent or mortgages.

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Passings

In memoriam: Brad Boyer

By Bob Stone



Brad Boyer died this Memorial Day at the age of seventy one, succumbing to an aggressive cancer. I have known Brad professionally and personally from his first appearance at Suffolk, through our faculty and administrative years and during his retirement.

Brad arrived at Suffolk in 1972 during the “great expansion” when eight full time faculty members were added to the bio department in less than two years. We had our offices upstairs in the Smithtown Building interspersed with faculty from chemistry and earth science. Brad and I spent many an hour in our offices or in the conference room discussing the state of science or the affairs of the world.

We were all young and mostly from out of town so the bio department became an important part of our social lives. We had summer parties at the Unitarian Fellowship in Bellport, Fred Drewes’ annual holiday party, sailing of Great South Bay, Don and Bonnie Kisiel’s summer pool party and numerous informal visits. Brad was always a

regular at these events.

I think of two examples when I learned how easily and naturally Brad and I worked together. Early on Brad and I were acting department and assistant department chairs for a sabbatical replacement. In addition to scheduling we had to hire a number of adjuncts. Our ability to state our positions, give and accept advice from each other and general sense of agreement became a hallmark of our relationship when we both had administrative positions over the years.

The second example is our Sunday morning basketball games. Young studs from math and bio would meet in the school gym on Sunday mornings for full court basketball games. Brad and I were not the stars of these games but as teammates we thought alike and could anticipate each other’s moves to make the most of our limited athletic abilities.

Brad found his happiness with Deanna Lytell whose vivacious and mercurial nature leavened Brad’s steady, low key demeanor. They traveled the world, made frequent trips to ballet performances in New York City and spent many hours renovating their home.

Brad was held in high esteem by all and will be missed by me and everyone who knew him.

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At the urging of my state senator I accepted an appointment on the Citizens Advisory Board to Intel Corporation of New Mexico. Needless to say it was an interesting position and somewhat important since the Intel facility in New Mexico was the biggest producer of computer chips in the world. I spent about three years on this board. About this time, or a little later, Lori and I made our first Rotary trip to Guatemala. Several clubs in the district were involved with improving the lot of the Mayan peoples who inhabit the high country north-east of Guatemala City, the capital. This first trip involved a clean water project for three villages and reworking the electrical system of the regional hospital. My club wholly paid for the rewiring in the hospital which eliminated brown outs and allowed for the use of refrigerators for blood storage, etc. I went on to write three successful grant applications for additional clean water projects, educational equipment and supplies for the Uspantan schools and lastly for the establishment of rural health clinics and rural ambulance services. Lori and I went to Guatemala four years in a row for at least ten days at a time. Wherever we provided clean water we cut the childhood mortality rate by 80%, for cholera was the primary cause of death among children.

Both Lori and I have been very involved with A Park Above, which is a park presently being constructed for peoples of all abilities. This park will be 100% accessible to people with handicaps, the first park like it west of San Antonio. This is a no fee park, everyone can use the park facilities. We expect that the park will open by September. Lori is vice president of A Park Above and I served on the board for several years. Two years ago I joined the board of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and I am presently 1st vice-president of NAMI Westside. It is an organization that educates the public, the care givers, and the patients about mental illness, treatment opportunities, etc. It also works to remove the stigma of mental illness.

Lori was on the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC). The purpose of this group was to develop a statewide, concept based nursing curriculum bridging nursing practice and education. This curriculum was put into place in 2014 and it provides a unified system of accessible, innovative, and state of the art nursing education.

Overall, we have enjoyed living in the southwest. New Mexico is beautiful, the people tend to be unhurried and friendly. In the winter, where I live, you can be skiing in the morning and playing outdoor tennis in the afternoon. The weather is wonderful, except that it usually does not rain enough.



Contributors needed

If you have any articles, pictures or information that you think might be of interest to the membership please send it to us.

Bob Stone (stone@rascc.org)

Marilyn McCall (mccall@rascc.org)

Spring Luncheon 2015



For more pictures of these and other events go to our website www.rascc.org

An Afternoon at the Theatre

On August 6th, twelve members of RASCC, including **Vivian and Bud Macy, Pete and Mona Herron, Jim and Rosemary Brennan, Marilyn McCall, Doris Stratmann, Linda Sabatino, Violet Schirone, Elaine Friedman and Ginny Trombetta** enjoyed a performance of "Billie Elliot, the Musical" at the Patchogue Theatre.

The musical was based on the 2000 film and revolved around a motherless boy who trades his boxing gloves for ballet shoes, along with the counter-story of a community strife caused by a miner's strike in England during the 1980's. The musical score was written by Sir Elton John.

When the musical premiered in London in 2005, it won four Laurence Olivier Awards and in New York it won ten Tony Awards and ten Drama Desk Awards. The performance contained all the elements of great entertainment: an interesting plot, laughter, drama and wonderful performances by all the actors, particularly by the young boy, "Billie."

Following the show, everyone headed for the Italian Bistro for dinner and some lively conversation....a great ending to a lovely day amongst good friends.

Ginny Trombetta

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