RC 7 Members and Leaders Active in Spring

On April 15 and 16, RC 7’s delegates attended the ED 51 Annual Meeting held in Utica. ED 51 Director Loretta Donlon welcomed delegates from across the state, including Margo Buckingham, Marge Schuster and Mary Jo Roberge, to “War Room Briefings: Targets Albany and Washington.” The delegates heard a union report from NYSUT Vice President Paul Pecorale and an update on state and local politics from former NYSUT Executive VP Alan Lubin. Each stressed the importance in remaining vigilant against the forces that are out to dismantle many of the aspects of public education. The delegates also heard from members of the NYSUT Retiree Advisory Committee and from the NYSTRS trustee, Paul Farfa, regarding the state of affairs affecting NYSUT retirees and their pensions. Delegates also discussed Resolutions that would be discussed at the upcoming NYSUT RA. Also in attendance at the meeting were Florence McCue, NYSUT Director-at-Large for ED 51-53 and Dr. Eric Kingson, SU Professor and co-author of “Social Security Works! Why Social Security Isn’t Going Broke and How Expanding it Will Help us All”. Delegates returned their respective RC’s armed with information to share with their members.

On May 1 – 2, Loretta Donlon, Margo Buckingham, Marge Schuster and Sylvia Matousek represented RC 7 at the NYSUT RA held in Buffalo, NY. The RA is the forum for directly impacting the focus and policies of NYSUT. While in Buffalo, delegates discussed resolutions that affect education in a variety of arenas, including Civil and Human Rights, Educational Issues, Healthcare, Political Action, Organization, and Pension/Retirement. More details regarding these resolutions can be found at www.nysut.org.

On May 13, RC 7 members joined with RC 8 members at the NYSUT Regional Retiree Conference held at the Doubletree in East Syracuse. Everyone had the opportunity to pose with the Governor and let him know what was on his or her mind. They also heard from NYSUT VP Paul Pecorale; Floyd Cameron, Retiree Services Manager; Chris Colabello, NYSUT CNY Region Staff Director; and Jan Phillips, the Regional Political Organizer during the general sessions. Mini-sessions on member benefits, technology, and brain and body health were also available. A variety of information tables provided handouts on CNY ARA, Vote-Cope, Member Benefits, NYSTRS, and the American Cancer Society. Thanks to the NYSUT Legislative office and the MAC, all participants received a backpack and water bottle. A musical theater troupe from Oasis entertained after lunch.

On May 21, RC 7 members participated in the “Reclaim the Joy” campaign at their monthly luncheon meeting. Dr. Eric Kingson, highlighted important facts and reminded us to stay vigilant in the fight to protect Social Security.

We must remain active. As we went to print, SED announced it will make changes to NYS’s Assessments and has selected a new vendor. Active teachers (and retirees) and parents were finally heard! Other things to watch for during the upcoming year include the Supreme Court’s hearing of the Friedrichs vs. California TA, and the move toward a Constitutional Convention in 2017. And it’s Social Security’s 80th birthday! Another busy and exciting year is ahead. We hope you’ll stay active and involved with us.

Active membership in Retiree Council 7 is open to every NYSUT retiree of any NYSUT represented group in Election District 7. ED 7 is comprised of all units in Cayuga and Onondaga counties. Active members are those who have paid RC 7’s participation fee of $10 per year and, if required by the local, payment of local retiree fees.

Associate membership is open to the spouses of active members. Participation fees should be received by September 1 but are accepted at any time. The membership year is July 1 through June 30.

One important note: If you are retired from Auburn, ESM, Jordan-EIGHL, Liverpool, North Syracuse, or Port Byron, your RC 7 participation fee is collected along with the dues for your local retiree chapter and then forwarded to us so you should not use the form here or mail the form directly to us.

See page 3 for a membership form.
From the President’s Desk…

Loretta K. Donlon

Scholarships Awarded to Outstanding Seniors

At the June meeting, Joanne Heisler, Scholarship Committee Chair, announced that many outstanding seniors, the children or grandchildren of RC 7 members, applied for the scholarship. The recipients of this year’s scholarships, named in honor of RC 7 members are as follows:

Robert Doyle Scholarship was awarded to Jennifer Burdick, West Genesee High School, grandchild of Robert Doyle, North Syracuse EA. Jennifer will be attending Monroe CC to study Early Childhood/Special Education.

Barbara Jacques Scholarship was awarded to Emily Park, Phoenix High School, grandchild of Barbara Dolny, Syracuse TA. Emily will be attending OCC to study Nursing.

Jeanette Pietrantoni Scholarship was awarded to Sarah Garraffo, Baker High School (B’ville), grandchild of Elizabeth DeFazio, Liverpool TA. Sarah will be attending St. Bonaventure.

Joanne thanked committee members Rose Hurd, OCM BOCES, and Cindy Kiehl, FM, for serving on the committee. She reminded members of the criteria for applying for a 2016 scholarship. It is essential that criteria and deadlines be met. Any child or grandchild of an RC 7 member (whose participation fee is paid by December 31, 2015) that is a senior graduating from any New York State public high school or any private/parochial high school whose staff is NYSUT affiliated and plans to enter a profession requiring higher education at an accredited institute of learning is eligible. Up to three scholarships of $1000 each may be awarded.

Watch for more information in future newsletters, on our website and on Facebook.

Editor’s note: The President’s column will resume in the next issue.
Reservation Form  
RC 7 Luncheon – September 15 at Lasca’s, Auburn

Name_________________________Phone_________________________
Email_________________________

Please indicate your Meal Choice below:

______Marinated Grilled Chicken Sandwich with Chips  _______Fresh Fish Sandwich with Chips
______Baked Eggplant Rollette with Pasta  ____________________

All meals served with soup, coffee or tea, and sherbet.

Total amount enclosed #_____@$16 = $__________

Please send reservation form and a check payable to NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 7 to:
FRAN HUDSON, NYSUT Regional Office, 4983 Brittonfield Parkway, Box 247, E. Syracuse, NY 13057
Reservations must be received by September 1. No one can be seated without a reservation.

Join Us on September 15, 2015 for the RC 7 Luncheon at Lasca’s Restaurant, 252 Grant Ave., Auburn
$16 per person
Registration at 11:30 • Meeting at Noon • Lunch at 12:30

Directions: From Syracuse, take 690 West to 695 W to the end. Exit right onto Rte. 5 W. Travel approximately 20 miles into Auburn. Lasca’s Restaurant is on the left. Or take the NYS Thruway to exit 40. Turn right onto Rte. 34S. Turn left onto Rte. 5E (Grant Ave.). Restaurant is on the right hand side of the street.

Retiree Council 7 Membership Form 2015-2016

Name_________________________Address_________________________
City_________________________State_________________________Zip____
Phone_______________________Email_________________________

District retired from_________________________Position_________________________

Please mail form with your $10.00 check payable to NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 7 to:

RC 7 Membership Chair
NYSUT
4983 Brittonfield Pkwy Box 247
East Syracuse, NY 13057

The form is also available on our web site: http://nysutretireecouncil7.org/
RC 7 Denim Shirts... Place Your Order Today!

It’s time to order your long-sleeved, union made in America denim shirt to show your pride as an RC 7 member! The shirts will have a red NYSUT RC 7 logo on the right hand side of shirtfront and will be available in both Men’s and Women’s sizes Small -XXXXXL. Orders will be taken at the September and October meetings. Payment for shirt must be made when ordering.

Men’s and Women’s sizes Small, Medium, Large and XL are $35

Larger sizes for both Men and Women are priced at 2XL $38.00; 3XL $39.50; 4XL and 5XL $41.50.

If you can’t attend the September or October meetings, we will also accept orders via US mail. Send your order to Rose Hurd at 201 Snowdale Drive, Syracuse, NY 13209. Please be sure to include your check payable to “RC 7”, your name, phone number, and shirt size. Shirts will be distributed at the November and December meetings.

9/15 Luncheon @
Lasca’s in Auburn

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

RC 7 Trip to Lancaster PA on September 29 - October 1, 2015. Limited seats are still available. See the May/June newsletter or RC 7’s web site for details. Or call Bella Tours at 315-652-0121.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk - Sunday, October 18, 2015. Plan to join RC 7’s team! More information will be in the next newsletter.

Defensive Driving Workshop - Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at NYSUT Syracuse Regional Office. More details will be in the next newsletter. Call 431-4040 to register.

RC 7 Trips for 2016. Niagara on the Lake - May 18-19, 2016; Bar Harbor, Maine - August 23 - 26, 2016; Tioga Oktoberfest Express, Wellsboro PA – Oct. 22, 2016. Detailed trip information will be distributed at the RC 7 luncheons and will be published in the upcoming newsletters, on the website and on our Facebook page. Or call Bella Tours at 315-652-0121.