Retirees Join Efforts at the NYS Fair: 
Ask Governor to “Be FAIR to Public Education”

On the opening day of the NYS Fair, retirees from around the State joined their in-service colleagues to greet Governor Cuomo as he opened the 2015 Fair. Clad in “Call Out Cuomo” tour shirts and prepared to discuss the current state of education with the Governor, the participants began their day at 8:00 AM – except the Governor was not in attendance to cut the ceremonial ribbon on Governor’s Day! Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul had the pleasure of meeting and greeting the well-informed educators who flooded the Fair.

While the public wasn’t invited to enter the Cow Barn where the official ribbon cutting took place, Beth Chetney, President of the Baldwinsville Teachers Association, was able to engage the Lt. Governor in a conversation over lunch.

NYSUT members spent the day informing Fair attendees and the media of the issues facing educators today – including unfair funding for schools, excessive testing for students and harsh punishments for our teachers.

As our political season begins, it is important that we remain staunch advocates for issues that affect all of us and to support those in office who understand them. Bill Spreter, RC 7’s 2nd VP (pictured on the right in the photo above with Jerry Lotierzo at the NYS Fair), reminds us to remain politically active. Be sure you are registered to vote and have filed for an absentee ballot if you will not be in town when the elections are held. Many candidates, especially in local campaigns, will welcome our support for various tasks of the campaigns. Check with local campaign offices and with NYSUT for opportunities to assist in such endeavors. An hour in a phone bank or posting a sign on your lawn is invaluable. Be active on the MAC and sign up for alerts when your voice is needed for important issues that affect our in-service colleagues and students in the schools in which we spent our careers. And, to help make sure our voice is heard, don’t forget to send in your contributions to VOTE-COPE!

Welcome New Retirees from...


HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR PARTICIPATION FEE?

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. See form on page 3.

2015-16 MEETINGS

October 20 – NYSUT see reservation form on page 3
November 17 – Elk’s Lodge, Camillus
December 15 – Bellevue CC
March 15 – NYSUT
April 19 – Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn
May 17 – Lakeshore CC
June 21 - NYSUT
From the President’s Desk…

Loretta K. Donlon

A Working Retirement

As we see the summer weather fading away and the brisk fall season roll in, we should be reminded that just as the seasons change and as in all those years we returned to school from summer vacation, it is again time for us to “Get Back to WORK.”

And just what is my work in retirement, you ask? Well, it is to preserve and defend the fine retirement benefits we earned and saved during our careers. We as a profession have never been under such attacks as in the past few years. There are proposals to cut Medicare, reduce Social Security, and challenges to a defined pension plan – the three pillars of our secure retirement. There is legislation like the “Tax Cap” which is strangling school districts and inappropriate testing which is demoralizing entire school staffs and usurping student learning time. These issues affect all of us as retirees.

In addition there are forces which strike at the hearts of our union. Groups like ALEX draft language which if enacted would weaken or destroy the rights of the labor movement and the benefits of the middle class that unions helped create.

This paints a pretty dismal picture for the profession of our lives. So what can you do about all this? The answer is fight back before it is too late. Here are two ways:

Know the issues: Find out and remind others why these issues like a Constitutional Convention should not be voted for when it is placed by law on the ballot in 2017. Learn how issues such as the Tax Cap and Fair Share affect retirees!

Contact your legislators: Protest cuts to Medicare and Social Security, tell them to support the growing legislation to enhance Social Security, and to rethink how cutting Health Care legislation like Medicare and Medicaid will affect their constituents, as well as the community they are sworn to represent.

That is our job in retirement - to advocate not just for ourselves, but also for the people in the next generation. Our collective action is the only thing that can attempt to match our multi-millionaire foes that want to remove or diminish a stable and dignified retirement for everyone. It’s your job, and the rest of us are depending on you!

Use NYSUT’s print and web resources and attend your RC 7 meetings for information.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Sunday, October 18, 2015

Clinton Square   Downtown Syracuse

Registration begins at 8:00 am - NYSUT Booth
Walk begins at 10:00 am

Walk with “NYSUT RC 7”
Go to makingstrideswalk.org/Syracuse
or call 1-800-227-2345 to register and
JOIN OUR TEAM!!
Join Us on October 20, 2015 for the RC 7 Luncheon Meeting at NYSUT Regional Office
4893 Brittonfield Parkway, E. Syracuse
Registration at 11:30 • Meeting at Noon
Catered Luncheon at 12:30 • Program after Lunch

Enjoy a buffet luncheon from Tabatha’s Family Tree!
Baked Penne, Italian Meatballs, Chef Salad, Bread and Butter, Cookies, Iced Tea and Coffee

Steven Kramer, Feldman, Kramer and Monaco, PC, will be our guest speaker. He will present information on the NYSUT Benefits Trust Legal Plan and share legal tips for seniors, including wills, trusts and estate planning.

Reservation Form
RC 7 Luncheon – October 20 at NYSUT Regional Office

Name______________________________________ Phone________________________
Email_______________________________________
Number of reservations ________ at $16. Amount enclosed $________

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 October 1. No one can be seated without a reservation.

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

Now is the time to order your long-sleeved, union made in America denim shirt and show your pride as an RC 7 member! The shirts will have a red logo on the right hand side of shirtfront and are available in both Men’s and Women’s sizes S – 5XL. Orders will be taken at the October meeting. Payment for shirt must be made when ordering. No orders will be accepted after October 20.

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; 3XL $39.50; 4XL and 5XL $41.50.

If you can’t attend the October meeting, 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.

In Remembrance….

Baldwinsville
Arlene Campbell
Henrietta Hughes

West Genesee
Ann Casler

North Syracuse
Patricia Eichorn
H. Robert Simser

Jamesville-Dewitt
Josephine Peterfreund

Marcellus
Doris Moore

Onondaga Central
Agnes Korzeniewski
Susie Shearer

Liverpool
Robert Kaljeskie
Leonard Middleton
Nancy Muraco + FM
Maryjane Raite
Ruth Weigand

East Syracuse-Minoa
Diane Meyer

Fayetteville-Manlius
Mynra Benedict
Larry Caffrey
Marceline Pelley
Betty Smith

OCM BOCES
Dorothy Benjamin
Donna Oberlander

Lafayette
Bernice Bush

Solvay
Mary Galko
Angelo Greco
Elizabeth Sedwick

Westhill
James Christy

Jordan-Elbridge
Michael Kulak

Cato-Meridian
Mona Thompson

Syracuse
Kathleen Buffington
Barbara Burke
Elisa Cardone
Angela Caruso
Robert Holl
Kenneth Huffman
Michael Longo
Dorothy Mnick
Rosalyn Post
Ruth Spiegel
Norma Tangredi
10/20 Luncheon @
NYSUT