

NYSUT Retirees of Central New York

Cayuga and Onondaga Counties

Retiree Council 7 Constitution & By-Laws

Adopted February 5, 1992
Amended April 25, 2000
Amended November 19, 2003
Amended June 20, 2006
Amended December 5, 2006

Amended 2008

I. Name

The name of this organization shall be NYSUT Retiree Council 7 of Central New York.

II. Purpose

- A. To maintain existing benefits as well as protect the security, interests and general welfare of NYSUT retirees.
- B. To promote the aims and objectives of NYSUT and its national affiliates.
- C. To represent NYSUT Retiree Council 7 members to NYSUT, American Federation of Teachers, and other organizations.
- D. To keep members informed of legislation and other factors which affect their well -being and to work toward solutions to existing problems.
- E. To promote mutual assistance and cooperation with other organizations with which Retiree Council 7 is affiliated.
- F. To promote professional and social relationships among our colleagues.

III. Affiliations

NYSUT Retiree Council 7 of Central New York shall be affiliated with NYSUT and its national affiliates.

IV. Superior Rules

These rules shall, at all times, be consistent with the rules of NYSUT and its national affiliates and, where inconsistent therewith, the highest authority of the state and/or national organization shall be applicable.

V. Membership

- A. Membership in this organization shall be open to all from Election District 7 who are eligible for retiree membership in NYSUT.
- B. Members shall have the right to attend and speak at all general meetings, hold office, serve on committees and vote.
- C. Associate membership is open to any retired teacher or school-related personnel not eligible under section A. and also to the spouses of active members.
- D. Associate members shall have all the rights of active membership except the right to vote and to hold office.
- E. Active membership shall be determined only through the payment of NYSUT Retiree Council 7's participation fee and, if required by the local, payment of local retiree dues.
 - 1. The participation fee for NYSUT Retiree Council 7 of Central New York shall cover the period of the fiscal year of July 1 through June 30.
 - 2. Any change in the participation fee shall be proposed by the Executive Board and approved by the membership at a General Membership meeting.

VI. Officers

A. Officers of NYSUT Retiree Council 7 of Central New York shall be: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five (5) Directors. They shall constitute the Executive Board. The Immediate Past President shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Board.

B. Duties of the President

1. Preside at all meetings of the General Membership and the Executive Board.

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2. Call regular and emergency meetings of the General Membership and the Executive Board.

3. Establish committees and appoint their chairpersons.

4. Be Chief Executive Officer of NYSUT Retiree Council 7 of Central New York and administer all affairs and execute all policies of the organization.

5. Attend NYSUT leadership meetings or send a designee.

6. Serve as the first delegate to the NYSUT Representative Assembly and the AFT Convention.

7. Represent the organization with all external groups and agencies.

8. Obtain approval of the General Membership for any expenditure over \$300 that is not defined within the budget.

9. Appoint and convene, between June 30 and September 1, an Audit Committee to review and examine the income, expenditures and fiscal procedures of RC 7 for the just completed fiscal year. This committee shall be composed of RC 7 members who have paid their participation fees and are not on the Executive Board.

10. Assist in the preparation of materials for the Audit Committee and arrange for the committee's report to be presented to the Executive Board and the General Membership as soon as feasible after the Audit Committee meeting.

11. Fulfill such other duties as the office requires and as are consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws.

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C. Duties of the **First Vice President**

1. Assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in his/her absence and perform such other duties as the President may designate.

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2. Serve as Chair of the Membership Committee.

3. Organize and conduct membership campaigns for enrollment of new members.

4. Keep membership records, delineating details (e.g. school district, e-mail) to facilitate communication between the organization and its members.

5. Present a detailed report monthly to the Executive Board and to the General Membership at the November, December, March and June meetings.

D. Duties of the **Second Vice President**

1. Assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in the event the First Vice President is not able to, and perform such other duties as the President may designate.

2. Act as legislative chair, reporting to the Executive Board and the General Membership as issues affecting us as public employee retirees emerge.

E. Duties of the **Secretary**

1. Take minutes of the Executive Board and General Membership meetings.

2. Present the minutes of the previous meetings for approval.

3. Keep all records organized and secure.

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F. Duties of the **Treasurer**

1. Receive and deposit all funds belonging to the organization within a reasonable length of time.

2. Record all receipts and expenditures approved by the Executive Board and/or the membership.

3. Present a report to the Executive Board at least six (6) times during the fiscal year.

4. Present a report to the General Membership at least four (4) times during the fiscal year.

5. Present an end-of-the-year report to the Executive Board by its August meeting.

6. Present a Proposed Annual Budget to the Executive Board at its March meeting.

7. Present a Final Annual Budget to the Executive Board at its April meeting for approval as a recommendation to the membership.

8. Present the Proposed Annual Budget to the General Membership at its April meeting.

9. Present the Proposed Annual Budget to the General Membership at its May meeting for approval.

10. Prepare materials and provide all documentation for the Audit Committee.

11. Prepare all forms and documentation required by the Internal Revenue Service and make these available to NYSUT and AFT on request.

12. Balance account records with bank statements.

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G. Duties of the Directors

Each director shall be responsible for a project or task determined by the President and the Executive Board.

VII. Executive Board

A. The Executive Board shall be composed of the duly elected officers, directors and the immediate past president (ex officio.) Officers of Retiree Council 7 must be eligible under NYSUT rules.

B. Duties

1. Act upon expenditures as required.

2. Interpret and enforce the Constitution and By-Laws.

3. Act on policy matters for the organization between meetings of the General Membership.

4. Make policy recommendations to the membership for their consideration.

5. Perform all other duties as enumerated in the Constitution and By-Laws.

C. The Executive Board shall meet at least four (4) times during the year. Special meetings may be called by the President or by petition of a majority of the Executive Board.

VIII. Nominations

A. An Elections Committee composed of five (5) members who are not seeking office shall be appointed by the Executive Board in January of each year in which elections are scheduled. The committee shall select one member to be chairperson.

B. Notice of the open positions shall be placed in the February newsletter along with a form for anyone wishing to seek office. Members shall submit a completed form to the

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Chair of the committee. Nomination forms must be received by the Elections Committee no later than one week prior to the March General Membership meeting.

C. The Elections Committee shall affirm the eligibility of those seeking office and shall announce the candidates for each office or position at the March General Membership meeting. They shall submit candidate information for publication in the May newsletter.

D. Candidates may seek only one office on the Executive Board.

IX. Elections

A. All NYSUT Retiree Council 7 retirees are eligible to vote.

B. A separate notice announcing the place of the election shall be printed in the February issue of the newsletter which is mailed to each member at his/her last known address.

C. The Elections Committee shall meet on a day after the close of nominations, but prior to the May meeting, to review the nominations and prepare a ballot.

D. Elections shall be by secret ballot and decided by a majority vote at the May meeting. A tie vote for any office or position will require a new, immediate election between tied candidates.

E. In the event there is no contest for a position of officer or director, the Elections Committee shall declare the candidate elected.

F. The Secretary shall preserve all election records, including ballots, for a period of one year.

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X. Terms of Office

A. Duly elected officers and directors shall serve a three (3) year term commencing July

1. Each officer and director shall remain in office until his/her successor assumes the office.

B. If nominated, each officer and director may succeed him/her self or run for any other office.

C. Vacancies

1. If the office of President becomes vacant, the First Vice President shall assume the office of President for the remainder of the term.

2. If any other office becomes vacant, it shall be filled by a vote of the Executive Board until the next election is held by the General Membership.

XI. Elected Representatives

A. Delegates and Alternates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly and the AFT Convention shall be elected by secret ballot in a manner not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-

Laws of the appropriate state and national organizations and with the law, when such representation is legitimized.

B. The Elections Committee shall hold delegate elections at the May meeting of each year in which an election is held.

C. There shall be three (3) Delegates and three (3) Alternates elected to the NYSUT Representative Assembly.

D. The number of AFT Delegates shall be determined by AFT rules.

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XII. General Membership Meetings

A. Meetings of the General Membership may be called by the President, by a majority of the Executive Board, or by a petition of ten (10) per cent of the membership.

B. Meetings shall be held monthly September through December and March through June.

C. Members present constitute a quorum.

XIII. Amendments

A. An amendment to the Constitution may be proposed by:
1. A majority of the Executive Board.

2. No less than ten (10) per cent of the membership.

B. A proposed amendment must be distributed in writing to each member at least fourteen (14) days before the ratification vote.

C. An amendment must be ratified by a two thirds (2/3) vote at a general membership meeting.

XIV. Parliamentary Authority

Meetings of all duly constituted bodies of this organization shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution and By-Laws.

XV. Committees

The President shall recommend and the Executive Board shall appoint all committees necessary for the functioning of the organization.

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NYSUT Retiree Council 7 Executive Board

serving through June 30, 2010

President: Margo Buckingham

1st Vice President: Joseph Drenchko

2nd Vice President: Marjory Schuster

Secretary: Loretta Donlon

Treasurer: Jeanette Pietrantonio

Directors

Phillip Dello Stritto

Joanne Heisler

Lucinda Kiehl

David Smithson

William Spreter

Robert Doyle (Emeritus)

Immediate Past President: Allene Ayling

NYSUT Retiree Consultant: Carole Gehrig
Newsletter Editor: Jeanette Pietrantonio