

THE CENTRAL NEW YORKER

http://nysutretireecouncil7.org/

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NOTICE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS – NYSUT RC 7

*President and First NYSUT Delegate/AFT Delegate *1st Vice President *2nd Vice President *Secretary *Treasurer *Five (5) members - Board of Directors *Two (2) NYSUT Delegates *Three (3) NYSUT Alternates *One (1) AFT Alternate

Term of Office: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026

The Nomination Form with detailed information is available on our website, Facebook page and at the NYSUT Regional Office. The form must be submitted through US Mail by March 13, 2023.

> Mail to: Chair, RC 7 Elections Committee NYSUT Regional Office 4983 Brittonfield Pkwy. East Syracuse NY 13057

Travel with RC 7 in 2023

Join Lasting Impressions Tours and RC7

"Coastal Massachusetts' Hidden Treasures" June 6 - 9, 2023 Cost determined by number of participants.

For more info, go to the RC 7 website http://nysutretireecouncil7.org/ or contact Kathy LaRocca @315-466-9463 or www.lastingimpressionstours.com

The Elections Committee will meet to determine the eligibility of nominated candidates and will announce the candidates on the RC 7 website on March 21st.

Resumes of all candidates will be available at the April 18th membership meeting and on our website.

The election will be conducted at the RC 7 membership meeting on Tuesday, May 16th at NYSUT Regional Office.

All NYSUT Retirees of ED 7 are eligible to vote; you do not need to attend the luncheon. Balloting will be held from 11:45am – 12:15pm. The Elections Committee will conduct the election and tally the ballots.

The luncheon will follow at approximately 12:30pm.



The NYSUT Retiree Services Program, part of Program Services, was established by NYSUT to help its retirees organize and to act as a service provider for those retiree groups. https://www.nysut.org/members/retirees

Update your information with NYSUT and RC 7. If you have a new address, phone number, or email address, please email AnneMarie.Voutsinas@nysut.org or leave a message at 315-431-4040.

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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 are accepted at any time. Please only send in your fees once per year (July 1st - June 30th).

2022 - 2023 MEETINGS

April 18 - Lasca's, Auburn

See reservation form on page 3.

May 16 – NYSUT, E. Syracuse

June 20– Persimmons @Timber

Please mail membership form with your \$10.00 check payable to NYSUT RC 7 to:

RC 7 Membership Chair c/o NYSUT 4983 Brittonfield Pkwy E. Syracuse, NY 13057

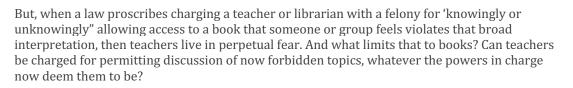
Retiree Council 7 Membership Form 2022 - 2023				
Name				
Address				
City	_State			
Phone				
Email				
District retired from				
Position				

From the President's Desk... Loretta K. Donlon

Thanks to Bill Spreter for writing this issue's column.

Is There a Felony in a Teacher's Future?

"Teachers in Florida are emptying classroom libraries to avoid going to jail." So reads a headline from 'Vice' news. Splashy and shocking but true. It appears teachers could be charged with, "...felonies for exposing students to books considered 'prurient' or 'offensive,' according to the article. Now, teachers generally have gone by the term age appropriate when ordering books for their classroom and the state curriculum. Also, many of those books have been approved by the school board. In fairness, it could be argued correctly that the state and school boards have a right to decide what goes in that classroom.



According to 'Vice,' "In the first month of 2023, 17 bills have been proposed across 13 states that would allow for civil and criminal prosecution of librarians, educators, higher education faculty, and museum professionals." The article opines that a flood of such legislation could limit students' abilities to think critically. Much of these laws have been promoted and financed by an organization called, Moms for Liberty. This group also has been effective in electing school board candidates who propose rules and legislation such as the one in Florida.

As retired teachers we are still interested in the pedagogy of the classroom, and we should have a vested interest in seeing children become critical thinkers. In the past some of us may have had books challenged by parents. Usually there was an established school board policy. Perhaps it was a committee of teachers, a librarian, and an administrator, possibly parents. The issue of the book's appropriateness was examined, and a recommendation given. Perhaps the findings went to the school board for a final decision. But, in none of these instances, usually was a teacher or librarian subject to civil or criminal felony charges.

This Florida law and others is part of a continuing attack on teachers and public education. But we have an answer. NYSUT's Vote-Cope is our voice in Albany and Washington. And it supports legislators and school board members who understand and respect the judgement of teachers. It supports not only full funding of schools and the health and welfare of its members, but their ability to teach a generation of critical thinkers. So, if your in-service local or NYSUT directly asks for an increase in your Vote-Cope contribution, please give. Not only will you benefit, but you are paying it forward to students and teachers alike. Your donation may prevent a felony in a teacher's future!

The Governor's Proposed Budget Is Out, Hooray?

Well, yeah, kinda. Governor Kathy Hochul's executive budget hit recently. There is much to celebrate. Fair and full funding for K-12 public schools; fulfilling the 3rd year promise. Money for the expansion of universal pre-kindergarten and affordable childcare for working families. Workforce development to help provide alternate paths for students to lifelong employment in good paying jobs and initiatives to expand affordable housing. Infrastructure, community development, mental health supports. Good stuff, right?

So, why the "meh"? Well, it's not what's in - it's in what's missing. While K-12 schools see appropriate funding (thank you Vote-Cope), SUNY and CUNY colleges and public hospitals continue to struggle. Despite the opportunities provided by our public colleges and the superhuman efforts of hospitals like Upstate they are at the lowest level of state funding in decades. While our schools are on the cusp of providing the wrap-around mental health and social services kids and families need - we see unsupervised and unaccountable charter schools poised to bleed money from public schools that are working. As we see preschool and childcare recognized as vital - we see programs and services for preschoolers with disabilities languishing and closing. And, finally, as we see teachers and school workers hailed for their dedication and hard work - we find the state unwilling to address the teacher shortage by continuing to penalize new staff with the unfair burdens of Tier 5 and 6.

What do we do? Well, what we do best - standing up and speaking out! Connect with the Governor, Assembly and Senate members via the NYSUT MAC app, attend Assembly and Senate town hall meetings, call their offices to tell them what they're missing in the budget- and that we vote. - *Phil Cleary, NYSUT PAC, RC 7 Board Member*



The Central New Yorker is published by

NYSUT Retiree Council 7

NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO

Officers

Loretta Donlon, President Candace Johnson, First VP William Spreter, Second VP Melody Mariani, Secretary Carol Graham, Treasurer Margo Buckingham, Immediate Past President

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Phil Cleary Mary Duffin Paul Farfaglia Edward O'Rourke Lilli Rastegar

> NYSUT Regional Office 4983 Brittonfield Parkway E. Syracuse, NY 13057 315-431-4040

http://nysutretireecouncil7.org/

https://www.facebook.com/nysut retireecouncil7

Loretta Donlon, ED 51 Director

Anne Marie Voutsinas Retiree Services Consultant

Lynn Davis, Web Master

nysutRC7@gmail.com



Join Us on **Tuesday**, **April 18, 2023**, for the RC 7 Luncheon at *Lasca's*, **252** *Grant Avenue*, *Auburn*. \$32 per person

Registration @ 11:30 • Meeting @ Noon •Lunch @ 12:30 Program after Lunch

Program: Joseph Driscoll, I-81 City Project Director for Syracuse

Family Style Menu:

Roast Chicken Lasca's Style, Roast Beef Au Jus, Roast Ham, Pasta, Garden Salad, Vegetable, Baked Bread with butter and tomato oil, Dessert, Coffee, Tea, and Water.

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mail				
		on as provided by the American ase contact Mary Duffin at ma		ct, or need a dietary
Number of reservations	at \$32.	Amount enclosed \$	Check #	Cash
Please send re	servation form	and a check payable to NYSU	T RETIREE COUNCI	<u>L 7</u> to:
RC7 Luncheon Chai	r, NYSUT Reg	cional Office, 4983 Brittonfield	d Parkway, E. Syracus	e, NY 13057
		ed by April 1. No one can be s		

We Remember Fondly		<u>Syracuse</u> Marian Albright	<u>Marcellus</u> June Ast	
<u>Baldwinsville</u> Cynthia Buckley + JD Mary Dow Mary Frances Forchion Caroline O'Connor Susan Stauffer	<u>East Syracuse-Minoa</u> Paul Brown, Jr. + Westhill Kathleen Candela Jean Case Virginia Spencer + SCSD <u>Iordan Elbridge</u>	Ruthie Alexander Caroline Barnes Joan Burke Michael Dooley Beverly Druce Danielle Forgensi Patricia Freund Linda Grosso	<u>Solvay</u> Frederick Shuler <u>Westhill</u> Stephen Jachym <u>Tully</u> Richard Perry	
<i>Jamesville-Dewitt</i> Cynthia Buckley + Bville Ruth Foley + L'pool Daniel Gaworecki Lila Hafter Ida Mescon Judy Ann Norton Betty Sterzer <i>West Genesee</i> Eleanor Felice Nancy Myers Catherine Noboa Patsy Ann Wilson Eileen Wolfe + OCC <i>Union Springs</i> Millicent Lewis	Richard Westcott <u>North Syracuse</u> Deborah Bobo John DiGesare. Thomas Fredette Daniel Griffith. Anthony Kordziel Maryanne Lorenz Paul Modafferi Jr. Edward Schone Nancy Stark Marjorie Strother Judith Watson <u>Auburn</u> Mary Deso + Marcellus	Sharon Hyla. Dorthey LaBeff Ann McDonell Jewel Melton Robert Pucello Peter Scheibe Mary Ann Silino Jacquelin Sobey Shirley Spara. Mario Tomasetti Lois Verret-Devall Ann Young Jeanne Zaricznyj <u>OCC</u> Georgia Schneider <u>Onondaga Central</u> Addie Rae Dole	Liverpool Barbara Aitken Michael Bronchetti Marianne Decker Christa Eallonardo Mary Kowalski Shirley McMahon Edith Oliver Rosemary Quigley Frank Sofia Jean Straub Margaret Tracy Lafayette Cecelia Reardon <u>Cato Meridian</u> Betty Lou Townsend	

<u>Please Note:</u> Our newsletter is posted on the RC 7 Website before it is printed and mailed from NYSUT Headquarters. Be sure to check the site for luncheon information and avoid sending in a late reservation due to unexpected printing and/or mailing delays.

Check out all your union membership has to offer!

LEGAL SERVICE PLAN

Plan benefits include:

- Crucial estate planning documents (a Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Durable Power of Attorney)
- Free telephone consultations
- Guaranteed maximum fees for specific legal matters

FINANCIAL COUNSELING PROGRAM

Plan benefits include:

- Unbiased objective advice
- Free telephone & virtual consultations
- Assistance with retirement planning, 403(b) savings, college savings, tax planning and more





Learn more by scanning the QR code to the right, visiting **memberbenefits.nysut.org** or calling **800-626-8101.**

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Jan-Feb 2023