



THE CENTRAL NEW YORKER

<http://nysutretireecouncil7.org/>

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Why NOT a Constitutional Convention?

Every 20 years, by New York State Law, NYS residents are asked a simple question. This question will appear on the ballot in 2017:

Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend same?

There are two ways to amend the constitution:

- Pass an individual bill through two sessions of the state Legislature. This is how casino gambling (2013) became law.
- Hold a constitutional convention, which COULD result in full re-write of our Constitution. Delegates are CLEARLY those folks currently in power (members of the legislature, political parties, and office holders). Proposed changes are then submitted to the voters for approval or rejection.

Why is this important to my family and me?

Changes can be made to the fundamental rights, which you have:

- Guaranteed free public education
- Prohibiting reduction in public pension benefits
- Rights to Workers Compensation
- Rights to join a union and collectively bargain
- Requiring NYS provide for social welfare needs

If YOU were a state legislator, what might you want changed?

- Expand state funding to private/religious/charter schools?
- Reduce public pensions?
- Remove the right to bargain and join unions?
- Reduce food stamps and/or rent subsidies?
- Remove environmental protections?

Residents of NYS should vote **NO**. There is sufficient ability to amend via the normal legislative process. In that process, transparency and legislator accountability are KEY to any changes. To learn more about this issue, or how you can be involved, visit the MAC at NYSUT.org.

~Sylvia Matousek, RC 7 Director



NOTICE: The December 16, 2015, end of year budget deal between congressional leaders and the White House did not repeal the "Cadillac tax" but delayed it for two years raising doubt about whether it will ever take effect, especially now that every major presidential candidate opposes it.


The Budget deal defers this tax on expensive employer health plans. The new tax has been dubbed the "Cadillac tax" because it applies to high-priced health-insurance plans only. If this tax is not changed or repealed, many NYSUT members would be negatively impacted by a dramatic increase in taxes on their health-insurance plans.

More information about the "Cadillac tax" can be found at:

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/12/white-house-obamacare-cadillac-tax-216881#ixzz3yfiyvvnQ>

- *NYSUT Regional Retiree Conference for RC 7 & 8 Tuesday, May 3, 2015 8:30 am - 3:00 pm Doubletree Hotel, E. Syracuse*
- Invitation will arrive soon •
- *Remaining RC 7 Denim Shirts will be distributed at the April Meeting.*

Active membership in RC 7 is open to every NYSUT retiree of any NYSUT represented group in ED7. 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.

Lower your Insurance Cost  *Reduce Points on your License*

NYSUT & National Safety Council's
6 Hour Defensive Driving Class

Thursday April 21, 2016

At the Regional NYSUT HQ, 4983 Brittonfield Parkway
East Syracuse, NY 13057

Class is open NYSUT Retirees, their family and friends

Class 10AM - 4:30 PM

Registration begins at 9:45

Cost: \$25.00 per person includes Snacks

Maximum of 40 people (minimum 10) Reserve your spot now!

30 minutes for lunch is included in the time, Bring a bag lunch or order pizza as a group.

You Must Bring your License and Payment that Morning.

Call 431-4040 to register.

2015-16 MEETINGS

April 19 - Hilton Garden Inn,
Auburn

May 17 - Lakeshore CC,
Cicero

see page 3 for reservation forms

June 21 - NYSUT

From the President's Desk...

Loretta K. Donlon

Waiting for the other shoe to drop!

What can a court case about a California teachers association have to do with New York State retirees? Well, the answer is a lot!

The case which was just argued before the Supreme Court, Friedrichs vs. California Teachers Association, can impact the future of all public sector unions in the country and laws about unions in every state. We are all waiting to hear the results of those arguments which were set to be published in June.

If Ms. Friedrichs wins her case, she would no longer have to pay her union any share of the dues although she would receive all the benefits of collective bargaining. This doesn't seem "fair" to us as members who knew the dues that are paid by members allow the union to carry out activities to improve working conditions and protect individual rights.

If "Fair Share", or agency fee as it is known, is found to be unconstitutional, imagine what might happen to union membership and the union's power to represent, negotiate, and defend Social Security and Medicare for retirees, let alone, all the classroom issues we hear about.

The unexpected death of Justice Scalia added another wrinkle to this possible crisis. Because the decision of the justices was not published before his death, the case might be void and the lower court's decision upheld. Thus public employees are nervously waiting for the sound of that shoe.

NYSUT's legal department tells us that there are other cases making their way through the courts which would be as disastrous for union rights. All of them showing attacks leveled at education's issues like tenure, seniority, as well as fair share.

We retirees built the union and we always expected it to be there for us - to protect a stable and dignified retirement, but, as we have learned through the many attacks on public education, defined pensions, union rights and labor, we cannot assume that the union will stay strong without retirees staying informed and ramping up their activism. Be mindful of that when asked to write a legislator or attend a rally to stand up to our attackers.

It's Time to Apply for a Scholarship

Each year, RC7 awards up to three scholarships of \$1000 to qualifying children or grandchildren of an RC 7 member (whose participation fee was paid by December 31) who will graduate from any New York State public high school or any private/parochial high school whose staff is NYSUT affiliated and who plan to enter a profession requiring higher education at an accredited institute of learning. The application is available on the website. They will also be at the March and April RC7 meetings. You may request an application from Joanne Heisler at jh5012@aol.com. Please use your name and RC7 in the subject line of the e-mail.

In Remembrance...

West Genesee
Estelle Green
Carolyn Smith

North Syracuse
Anna Armstrong
Suzanne Berti
Robert Biswanger
Anita Fodera
Jack Godleski
James Relihan
Joyce Sisto (+B'ville)

Liverpool
Sharon Bahn
Pasquale Caramanna
Claire Deloria
Genevieve Pulvere
Barbara Jean Roache
Kristen Russell
Anne Sweeney
Dorothy Walker

East Syracuse-Minoa
Noreen Condon
Marie O'Kipney

OCC
Diane Tarbell

Jamesville-Dewitt
Margaret DeLancey

Onondaga Central
Donald Pertilla

Westhill
Clara Sue Bajish
Patricia MacKillop
Diane Moore
Richard Varre

Baldwinsville
Amelia Fauler
Susan Darmstedler
Thomas Moore
Diane Rice

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NYSUT Retiree Council 7

NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO

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

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Loretta Donlon, ED 51 Director

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Anne Marie Voutsinas
Retiree Services Consultant

Lynn Davis, Web Master

EditorRC7@gmail.com

Skaneateles
Susan Sylcox

Fayetteville-Manlius
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**Join Us on April 19, 2016 for the RC 7 Luncheon Meeting at
Hilton Garden Inn, 74 State St., Auburn
\$20 per person**

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

*Enjoy a buffet luncheon of mixed green salad and potato salad; artisan rolls and butter;
sliced meats – house roasted turkey, house roasted beef and ham; lettuce, tomato, red onions, pickles and roasted red peppers;
homemade potato chips; assorted fresh baked cookies; coffee and tea.*

Paul Farfaglia, one of three teacher members of the 10-member NYSTRS Board, will present on our **NYS Retirement System**. Paul also serves on several subcommittees, including Compensation and Disability Review, and Audit and Investment. A teacher in Jordan-Elbridge for 30 years, Paul has served NYSUT in several capacities, including chair of NYSUT’s Pension and Retirement Committee and as a member of NYSUT’S Board of Directions. Paul’s presentations are packed with great information and delivered with great humor as well!

Directions: Take 690W/695W to Rte 5. Stay on Rte 5 to Auburn. The Holiday Inn is on the right.

Reservation Form RC 7 Luncheon – April 19, 2016

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____

Number of reservations _____ **at \$20.** **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 April 1. No one can be seated without a reservation.**

**Join Us on May 17, 2016 for the RC 7 Luncheon at
Lakeshore Yacht and Country Club, 6777 Lakeshore Rd., Cicero
\$20 per person**

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

Enjoy friends and a beautiful view of the lake! Meals include Entrée Choice, Garden Salad, Warm Rolls and Butter,
Chef’s Choice of Starch and Vegetable, Brownie and Ice Cream, Beverage

Susan DeCarlo, a NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist for 19 years, will present **Chair Yoga**. The workshop comes as a request from many who took and enjoyed her presentations in past years. Sue is a certified Yoga Instructor having earned her certification at Infinite Light Yoga. She enjoys working with a wide array of audiences to teach the physical and mental benefits of yoga, especially as a form of stress reduction! She is the owner of Belle Ame Yoga (belleameyoga.com). Thanks to this busy mother of two for sharing her time with us!

Directions: Take Rte 81 N to exit 30. Turn right onto Rte 31, then left onto Lakeshore Rd. The venue is on the left.

Reservation Form RC 7 Luncheon – May 17, 2016

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____

Please indicate your Entrée Choice below:

_____ **Chicken Piccata** _____ **Boston Baked Haddock** _____ **Eggplant Parmesan**

Number of reservations _____ **at \$20.** **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 May 1. No one can be seated without a reservation.**

****PLEASE SEND A SEPARATE CHECK FOR EACH LUNCHEON EVENT.****

The Value of NYSUT Membership

You may not be aware that your NYSUT membership allows you to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality, competitive insurance plans.

Member Benefits strives to provide the highest-quality programs for NYSUT members and closely scrutinizes all proposals from reputable vendors before any endorsements are given.

While we work continuously to maintain quality benefit programs at competitive prices, you are encouraged to shop and compare before making any purchasing decisions.

MetLife Auto & Home®



Call MetLife Auto & Home to learn about the special savings and discounts you may be eligible for.

1-866-NYSUT-22

If you are looking for potential savings on your auto or homeowners insurance, consider enrolling in the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed MetLife Auto & Home Insurance Program.

This program offers special group rates on personal property and liability coverage not available to individual MetLife policyholders. NYSUT members can choose from a variety of coverages that include auto, homeowners, boat, renter's, and much more.

Policyholders can earn extra discounts for good driving, multiple policies and anti-theft devices. MetLife Auto & Home recently raised the multi-policy discount on its homeowners insurance with auto from 7% to 15%. The multi-policy/multi-product discount on auto insurance with home remains at 8%.

Visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** for specific details about this program or other Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services.

MetLife Auto & Home is a NYSUT Member Benefits Trust (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 5.5% of total premiums for this program. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Mar./Apr. '16

❖ 4/19 @ Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn 5/17 @ Lakeshore CC, Cicero