



THE CENTRAL NEW YORKER

<http://nysutretireecouncil7.org/>

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What We OUGHT to be About Musings on Retirees

As a retiree who now serves on the Board of Directors of RC 7, I would like to share some thoughts with you. Feel free to pass this information on to others!

Our Retiree Structure (YAWN...)

- We have 600,000 + members throughout NYS (and Florida).
- The NYSUT Board of Directors has three Retiree Reps from across the state who are elected every three years. Our rep is Loretta Donlon.
- Retirees are divided into Election Districts (EDs) of their locals based on geography and are called Retiree Councils (RCs). We are RC 7 which includes retirees from locals in Onondaga and Cayuga Counties.
- Each RC elects its own officers. Our current president is Loretta Donlon.

Loretta does a great job as both a member of the Board of Directors for ED 51 and head of RC 7. However, the jobs are separate and distinct and could be held by two different people.

Maybe We Get Tired, But We're Tough!

At 600,000+ Strong, We Don't Realize Our Power! Ninety (90) percent of NYSUT Retirees are registered to vote. That's huge, when compared with the general population in which less than one third are even registered.

And, our retirees VOTE in far greater proportion than the general population.

Data from 2014 indicates that 66% of public employees (including NYSUT members) supported union-backed candidates, compared with 32% supported by the general population. (Peter Hart Associates)

Conclusion: We have power when we use it collectively.

Consider These Thoughts

There are "double barrel" issues (my name for them) that are important to both retirees and inservice folks. Those issues are the social safety net issues of pensions, social security, and health care. (PLUS we need to add affordable child care and affordable college!) We KNOW these issues, we CARE about these issues and they're IMPORTANT to everyone!

The Ed Reform battle may best be left to the inservice folks who live it daily and understand it, but retirees can certainly focus on the double barrel issues.

We were fortunate to inherit a social safety net from our parents. It falls to us to protect and enhance it and assure that our kids inherit a social safety net from us. That's the whole reason the retirees unit exists, i.e. to protect the benefits that we fought for and earned.

SO...Pick/Contribute!

We are, after all, retired. We've paid our dues, fought our battles and done our jobs. But we're SMART and we're TOUGH and we VOTE! And, that counts for a lot! Collectively, we make a HUGE difference. Pick a bit-sized piece to do, something comfortable:

- Join retirees to make phone calls for Hillary, as you can.
- Stay informed. The Alliance for Retired Americans is a great news source and you can sign up on line.
- Give a donation to VOTE-COPE.
- Spread the word to vote "NO" on a constitutional convention.
- Come to the RC 7 lunches as you can.

Stay in Touch!

Do A Small (Or Large) Part!

Together, We Are Powerful

~Sylvia Matousek



Retiree Council 7 consists of all the NYSUT retirees who worked in Cayuga and Onondaga Counties. Send your Participation Fee early for 2016-17! Please mail form and a check for \$10.00 payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 7 to:

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

All retirees from Auburn, ESM, Jordan-Elbridge, Liverpool, North Syracuse and Port Byron will send participation fees directly to your local retiree chapter. You do not need to send to RC 7.

RC 7 MEETING
June 21 - NYSUT
Reservation form on page 3

Retiree Council 7 Membership Form 2016 - 2017

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

District retired from _____

Position _____

SAVE THE DATES

RC 7 Meetings for 2016-2017

- September 20, 2016
- October 18, 2016
- November 15, 2016
- December 6, 2016
- March 21, 2017
- April 18, 2017
- May 16, 2017
- June 20, 2017

From the President's Desk...

Loretta K. Donlon

A Glimpse at the NYSUT RA

This past month you were represented at the NYSUT Representative Assembly, the RA for short, by the delegates you elected - Marjory Schuster, Sylvia Matousek, Margo Buckingham and me. We went to Rochester to decide what policies NYSUT would pursue in the next year. As you remember, the RA is the policing making body of the union. Locals prepare resolutions seeking action on issues important to in-service members as well as retirees. Committees at the RA review them and recommend them for passage or not. I think you, as a retiree, will be happy that resolutions to protect Social Security, Medicare, and several others urging our national affiliates to strengthen their pressure on Congress to keep these staples of a good retirement from falling victim to those groups calling them entitlements rather than our earned benefits, were passed.

The RA as a whole is a time to renew our energy to keep our union strong and to see we are not alone in that work. This year, President Karen Magee stressed three main points to remember as the delegates return to their locals: **Educate, Motivate and Activate.**

Our retired members are the first group to Educate on the issues like the disaster that could befall the state if a Constitutional Convention is approved in 2017 or the others aimed at making school districts and locals weaker that we read about all too often.

Our job as returning delegates is to Motivate all of you to take action in our own defense. We ask you to spread the word and Activate others. Including the community will give us more pressure to resolve the many attacks that we have felt in recent years.

While addressing the members of ED 51, I said I would add one more word to the three directives of the RA and that word is **VOTE**. That is how our power can and will be felt. NYSUT is introducing a new campaign "Pledge to Vote". Research has proven that **IF A PERSON MAKES A FORMAL COMMITMENT TO DO SOMETHING, THEY ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THAT COMMITMENT.** I hope you will take action right away. Encourage your children and grandchildren who are not yet registered to vote to do so, then "Pledge to Vote", as well.

NYSUT has set a goal of signing up 95% of its members in this "Pledge to Vote" Campaign. Volunteers will ask members to sign pledge post cards or to sign the pledge at pledge.nysut.org.

Can you be an educated, motivated and activated retiree and sign on to the "Pledge to Vote" Campaign even before you are asked? RC 7's delegates and Executive Board have signed on - NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

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NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO

Officers

Loretta Donlon, President
David Smithson, First VP
William Spreter, Second VP
Mary Jo Roberge, Secretary
Carol Graham, Treasurer
Margo Buckingham, Immediate Past President

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Joanne Heisler Fran Hudson
Sylvia Matousek Marjory Schuster

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4983 Brittonfield Parkway
E. Syracuse, NY 13057
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<http://nysutretireecouncil7.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/nysutretireecouncil7>

Loretta Donlon, ED 51 Director

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In Remembrance

Jamesville-Dewitt
Angela Marziale
Henrietta Merel
Robert Reals, Sr.

Liverpool
Gloria Bassi
Michael Gorman
Beverly Grome

Fayetteville-Manlius
Robert Avery
Betty Osborn
Alice Pearlman
Priscilla Steinbach

Baldwinsville
Mary Allen
Kenneth Cook

East Syracuse-Minoa
Charlene Connolly

Marcellus
Carmen Costa
Helen Ordon
Audrey Riggall

OCM BOCES
John Fiori + Syr
Dorothy Truex + Aub, Marcellus

Syracuse
Arthur Belge+ ESM
Gloria Butler
Sandra Carroll
Gary Crofoot
Peter D'Agostino
Audrey Damon
Paul Dievendorf
Vida Fellows
Joan Gilels
Betty Koziol
Maureen Mirabito
Caroline Richardson
Catherine Steiger

North Syracuse
Robert DeDell, Sr.
James Lamica
Edith Spann

Fabius-Pompey
Joyce Berg

Onondaga CC
Bernard Naselli

Westhill
Theresa Blair
Richard Pietrowicz

Port Byron
Jean Farrell

Auburn
Mildred Cefaratti
Alfred Farnell

West Genesee
John Calvert

Join Us on **June 21, 2016** for the RC 7 Luncheon at
NYSUT, 4983 Brittonfield Parkway, E. Syracuse
\$15 per person

Registration @ 11:30 • Meeting @ Noon • Lunch @ 12:30 • Scholarship Presentations after Lunch
Spend time with friends and colleagues and congratulate the scholarship winners!!

Luncheon Buffet catered by John's and Sons includes Chicken Cordon Blue, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables,
Romanian Strawberry Salad, Rolls and Butter, Cookies, Soda and Water

Directions: From Rte. 481, take exit 7. Turn right, then left onto Brittonfield Parkway. NYSUT is on the right.

Reservation Form RC 7 Luncheon - June 21 at NYSUT

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Number of reservations _____ at \$15. 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 June 1st. No one can be seated without a reservation.

RC 7 TRIPS

RC 7 Trip: Tioga Train "Oktoberfest Express" October 21, 2016

- ❖ Round trip motor coach transportation to Wellsboro PA
- ❖ One lunch aboard Tioga Railroad
- ❖ Tour of Leonard Harrison State Park and "Grand Canyon of the East"
- ❖ Admission to:
 - Tioga Railroad Scenic Tour
 - Harrison State Park
 - Highland Chocolate Factory Store

Maine Adventure Aug 23-26, 2016

- Acadia National Park
- Rockland, ME tour
- Boat Cruise on Camden Harbor
- "Lobsta" Bake
- Bar Harbor Shops and Yankee Candle Village

*Seats still available
See Jan/Feb Issue*

Tioga Train Trip Info: Cost is \$140 per person.

Initial deposit of \$40 per person and registration form is necessary to reserve your seat.

Balance will be due by September 15, 2016.

Bella Tours ~ 315-652-0121 ~ bellatours@hotmail.com

Questions? Contact Marge Schuster at 446-2037 or mschuster730@yahoo.com or go to RC7's website.



NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 7 & 8 Tioga Train "Oktoberfest Express" RESERVATION FORM

Please complete the following form for each traveler and return to
Bella Tours and Travel Inc. 305 Vine Street, Suite 9, Liverpool, NY 13088
Phone# 315-652-0121 Fax# 315-299-4733 email: bellatours@hotmail.com

Name _____ M _____ F _____

Address _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone# _____

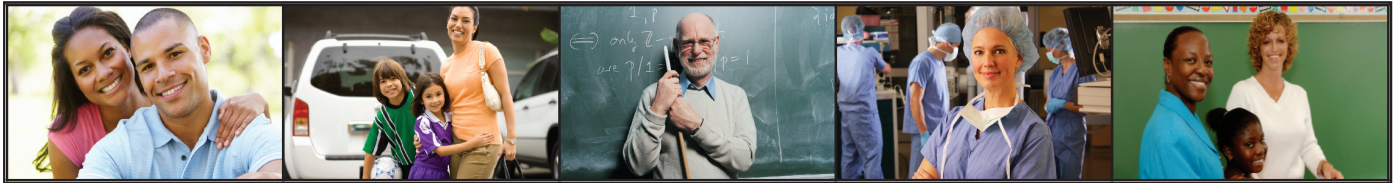
Optional Cancellation Insurance? Yes ___ No ___
(please submit with deposit - insurance is \$10 per person - additional info available at Bella Tours)

Method of payment: Cash ___ Check# ___ Credit Card ___ (call cc info into Bella) Money Order ___

Please indicate any physical limitations, and dietary restrictions.

Bring a list of medications and allergies with you on tour.

Make checks payable to Bella Tours and Travel Inc. (There will be a \$20 fee for any returned checks.)



Save with NYSUT Member Benefits

The NYSUT membership is made up of a variety of diverse professionals within the education and health care industries -- joining together in support of those who depend on them. We salute these men and women for their dedication and the sacrifices they make on a daily basis to help improve the lives of others.

And we are proud to offer you -- the hard-working NYSUT member -- an opportunity to participate in the more than 40 endorsed programs & services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits.

Look to Member Benefits for crucial insurance programs such as auto, homeowners, life, disability, or long-term care insurance. Member Benefits also offers a variety of travel, entertainment & shopping options to help you with everything from daily purchases to those special once-in-a-lifetime excursions.

The following is just a sampling of the endorsed programs & services available to NYSUT members & their families:

- Homeowners Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Legal Service Plan
- Financial Counseling Program
- Life Insurance
- Vision Plan
- ID Watchdog
- PayCheck Direct
- Car & Truck Rentals
- Wyndham Hotels
- Endless Vacation Rentals
- Buyer's Edge, Inc.



To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101**.



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.

➤ 6/21 @ NYSUT catered by
John's and Sons