



# THE CENTRAL NEW YORKER

<http://nysutretireecouncil7.org/>

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## Local Leader is Remembered

Sylvia Matousek, a respected labor leader and member of the RC 7 Executive Board, passed away on March 8, 2019 after a long struggle with cancer. A native of Ballston Spa, she watched factory workers struggle for a living wage as a child, establishing her beliefs that made her a formidable unionist.

After graduating from SUNY Oswego, Sylvia began her teaching career with the North Syracuse Central School District. She soon became the President of the North Syracuse Education Association (NSEA), where she served for 37 years. She led a teacher strike in 1976 and served, along with five other leaders of NSEA, a ten-day sentence in Jamesville Penitentiary.

Sylvia was the recipient of many local county, state and national awards, including NYSUT's Not For Ourselves Alone and AFT's Living legacy Award.



In retirement, Sylvia continued to work for teachers and educational professionals through her leadership in RC 7, served as a Chairperson of the Dewitt Democratic Party, and received the Onondaga County Democrat of the Year award in 2014. And throughout her life, she cared for her cats (as well as numerous other cats throughout the area), and was active in many cat rescue adventures.

Sylvia not only blessed the lives of her family, husband Vincent Ciccarino and Kathy, Suzanne, and Anthony and their children, but she blessed the lives of all of us - her union family. There are countless numbers of us who were inspired and counseled by Sylvia - and we will miss her quick wit and her straightforward opinions! Sylvia, please continue to watch over us and send us signs when you think we need a little shaking up! We will love you and treasure your memory forever.

*Memorials may be sent to  
CNY Cat Coalition  
PO Box 6182, Syr NY 13217  
or  
CNY Humane Assoc.  
PO Box 38, 4915 1/2 W. Taft Rd,  
Liverpool NY 13088*

**Lower your Insurance Cost**  **Reduce Points on your License**

NYSUT & National Safety Council's  
6 Hour Defensive Driving Class  
**Thursday April 25, 2019**

At the Regional NYSUT HQ, 4983 Brittonfield Parkway  
East Syracuse, NY 13057  
Class is open NYSUT Retirees, their family and friends  
Class 9:30AM - 4PM / Registration Begins at 9:15  
**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 315-431-4040 to register.

**RC 7 TRIP  
BRANDYWINE VALLEY and  
PHILADELPHIA**

**JUNE 3 - 6, 2019**

**Visit mansions, gardens, shops,  
the Liberty Bell and more!**

**Cost \$660pp/Triple,  
\$750pp/Double, \$1025pp/Single**

**RC 7 TRIP  
MACKINAC ISLAND  
ESCAPADE**

**SEPTEMBER 9 - 13, 2019**

**Visit Frankenmuth, Grand Hotel  
take a Carriage Ride and more!**

**Cost \$935pp/Triple,  
\$1050pp/Double, \$1400pp/Single**

*For more trip info contact*

**Kathy LaRocca 315-466-9463 [kplarocca@msn.com](mailto:kplarocca@msn.com)  
Bella Tours 315-652-0121 [bellatours.travel@gmail.com](mailto:bellatours.travel@gmail.com)**

*Our newsletter is posted on the RC 7 Website before it is mailed from NYSUT Headquarters. Check the site for luncheon information and avoid sending in a late reservation due to unexpected printing and/or mailing delays.*



**Retiree Council 7 Membership Form 2018 - 2019**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

District retired from \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

**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  
Box 247  
E. Syracuse, NY 13057**

### 2018 - 19 MEETINGS

May 21 - Pascale's Italian Bistro at Drumlins, Syracuse

• **NOTE VENUE CHANGE** •

June 18 - The Lodge @ Welch-Allyn, Skaneateles  
Reservation forms on page 3

# From the President's Desk...

*Loretta K. Donlon*

## Grandfather cannot be relied on any more!



Most families feel that their *Grandfather* is a proud ancestor who has been a column of strength to their family. He gave sage advice, with experience to protect the family and always was part of the big family discussions when expensive projects were to

be undertaken. **And, of course, he was forceful with his opinions in any political discussions.**

In those political discussions, however, the word *grandfather* takes on another meaning. It gives us a bit of comfort when we read or listen to the attacks that would change our pension, taxes, or would endanger our health plan or Social Security. Whether the discussions take place at home or at a union meeting, there is usually someone in the group that will chime in, saying, "That will never happen. And we will be *grandfathered* anyway!" **Well don't believe it!**

Retired teachers have lost their COLAs in the southwest, have had their defined pension plans switched to defined contribution funds, and their health plans have been changed without notice. While in the private sector, retirees in the auto industry have lost their benefits, and stories in the business section of the newspaper have headlines such as "Promises to retirees slowly erodes amid GE's struggles!" Whether the cuts and attacks are on pensions, Social Security or health care benefits, they can take a toll on the type of retirement we had planned for ourselves. You can no longer expect to be *grandfathered*. You have to speak up and show up to oppose anti - retiree efforts, **because grandfather will most likely not be around to protect you.**

It's time to take action! Attend the next NYSUT RC 7 meeting, CNY ARA meeting and join in a local rally for a worthy cause. Your participation as a collective member of NYSUT and RC7 is one way we can work to protect our well earned benefits. **Please join us in this effort – your Grandfather will be proud!**

### We Remember Fondly ...

**Baldwinsville**  
Donald Kasmer

**North Syracuse**  
Joan Bowers  
Susan Brewer  
Suzette Heinley  
Jean Hoy  
Mary Maher  
Sylvia Matousek  
Joyce O'Dell  
Raymond Papaleoni  
Bernard Sims  
Robert Spafford  
Edward Zwick

**Syracuse**  
Wanda Benz  
Doris Blue  
Nancy Campagna  
Carmen Cesta  
Valerie Crowder  
Margaret Egan  
Jean Emerson  
Ursula Hubby  
Mary Lou Karrat  
Muriel Kirkpatrick  
Jane Miller  
John Mullane  
Connie Pallotta  
Ed Shults  
Emmet Stopher

**Mohawk CC**  
Ethel Fine

**Liverpool**  
Richard Drumm  
Ruben Marshall  
Irene Quig  
Mary Elizabeth Quilty

**East Syracuse-Minoa**  
Fritz Hess  
Ann Snook-Hall

**Solvay**  
Margherita Bacola  
Joseph Farnett

**OCC**  
Kathleen Forrest

**Westhill**  
Robert Lundblad

**Marcellus**  
Wilbur Hoyt

**Fayetteville-Manlius**  
Susan Burnette

**Fabius-Pompey**  
Florence Harris

**Jordan-Elbridge**  
Alma Greenwald

**OCM BOCES**  
Irvin Henry

**Lyncourt**  
Lucy DelVecchio

**Weedsport**  
Charles Jayne

**West Genesee**  
Lee Porter

**Jamesville-Dewitt**  
Nyla Hilfinger

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NYSUT Retiree Council 7  
NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO

### Officers

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William Spreter, Second VP  
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Carol Graham, Treasurer  
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NYSUT Regional Office  
4983 Brittonfield Parkway  
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315-431-4040

<http://nysutretireecouncil7.org/>  
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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

**NYSUT REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
FOR  
RC 7 & RC 8  
Wednesday, May 29, 2019  
Doubletree, East Syracuse**

*Send your reservation today!*



Join Us on May 21, 2019 for the RC 7 Luncheon at Pascale's Italian Bistro at Drumlins 800 Nottingham Rd., Syracuse Registration @ 11:30 • Meeting @ Noon • Lunch @ 12:30 • Program after Lunch Two Feet Short, a local music duo, will entertain us with Oldies You'll Love to Remember!

\$21 per person

Directions: From the East take Rt. 481 S toward Jamesville. Take Exit 2 and turn RIGHT onto Jamesville Road. Take first LEFT onto Nottingham Road. We are located just past Drumlins Terrace on the left hand side. From the City of Syracuse take Rt. 81 S toward Syracuse. Take South State Street, Exit 17, toward South Salina St/Brighton Ave. Turn RIGHT onto S State St. Turn RIGHT onto East Colvin Street. Turn RIGHT onto Nottingham Road. Drumlins is on the right hand side just past Tops Market. \*LOOK FOR THE BLUE ROOF TOPS!

Reservation Form RC 7 Luncheon - May 21, Pascale's Italian Bistro at Drumlins

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

All entrees include dessert and beverage.

Please indicate entrée choice below. If including multiple reservations, indicate names clearly next to choices.

\_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable Lasagna \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Alfredo

If you require any device or accommodation as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act, or need a dietary accommodation, please contact Mary Hanus at mary.hanus@gmail.com.

Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_ at \$21. Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send reservation form and a check payable to NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 7 to: RC7 Luncheon Chair, 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.

Join Us on June 18, 2019 for the RC 7 Luncheon at The Lodge at Welch-Allyn

Registration @ 11:30 • Meeting @ Noon • Buffet Lunch @ 12:30 • Scholarship Presentations after Lunch

Buffet includes selection of greens with large variety of toppings, and dressings; seasonal meats and seafood selections; seasonal vegetables; fresh rolls and butter; desserts and beverages

\$26 per person

Directions: From Syracuse take Rt. 690W to 695, to Rt. 5. Turn left at Rt. 321. The Lodge is on the right about 9 mi South. From Auburn, take Rt. 20 W to Rt. 321. Turn left. The Lodge is on the left.



Reservation Form RC 7 Luncheon - June 18, The Lodge at Welch-Allyn

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_ at \$26 Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you require any device or accommodation as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act, or need a dietary accommodation, please contact Mary Hanus at mary.hanus@gmail.com.

Please send reservation form and a check payable to NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 7 to: RC7 Luncheon Chair, NYSUT Regional Office, 4983 Brittonfield Parkway, Box 247, E. Syracuse, NY 13057 Reservations must be received by June 1. No one can be seated without a reservation.

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



**Legal Service Plan**

NYSUT members have access to dozens of endorsed programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality legal and financial planning assistance services that can help to protect their loved ones and provide them with peace of mind.



For an annual fee, the **Legal Service Plan** -- provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. With the base plan, you'll get access to unlimited, toll-free advice from plan attorneys.



**Financial Counseling Program**

Meanwhile, the **Financial Counseling Program** -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides you up with to six hours of toll-free phone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.

And unlike with purchasing products available to the general public, there's no need to go it alone when Member Benefits has your back. Member Benefits acts as your advocate for any program you participate in, and we'll do our best to quickly resolve any issues or concerns you may have.

Whether you are participating in one of our legal or financial services; insurance plans; or shopping, travel or entertainment offerings, NYSUT members have the **"Power of the Union"** behind them.

**A wealth of financial information -- Now available on the NEW Member Benefits website**

**MEMBER BENEFITS**  
**nysut**  
Working to Benefit You

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call **800-626-8101**.



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

Mar./Apr. '19

❖ 5/21 Pascale's @Drumlins, Syracuse      6/18 Lodge @Welch-Allyn, Skaneateles