



Central Square Teachers' Association

Retiree Newsletter

October 2023

The President's Message

After a beautiful summer it was good to meet up with members of the Central Square Teachers Association Retirees (CSTAR) at our new meeting place, the Central Square library. The library graciously opened their doors to us and we are appreciative of a climate controlled space. Our next meeting will be held at 11 a.m. on May 10, 2024 at the library. Please note that when attending our meetings, you may park in the parking lot found at the rear of the library, Jreck Subs, on the street or at the funeral home. (Please use the sidewalk when coming from the funeral home.)

Thank you to all who came to our fall meeting and for all who help us to stay abreast of what is currently happening in our legislation and other changes affecting education, health care and our retirement. This organization is our connection to the local CSTA, state organizations and other retired teachers. If you haven't already, please consider joining us. Our annual dues for 2023-24 are just \$10.00 with \$5.00 allocated to NYSUT and \$5.00 being used for donations to local nonprofits and our scholarship fund. To continue doing what we do, we need your membership along with your dues. Please consider donating to the scholarship fund when you pay your yearly dues. Thank you!

We continue to lack some email addresses of some of our members and are mailing newsletters twice a year to more than 75 retired teachers (some inactive). Beginning with this issue we will be unable to mail out newsletters to those inactive (non-dues paying retirees). If you are receiving this newsletter via US mail and have an updated email address, PLEASE let us know when you pay your dues.

It is with sadness that we share the passing of two of our members; Doris Hasto and Nick LaPre have passed since our last newsletter. Please share with us any deaths so we may include the information to share with others. President Helen Bolen

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Helen Bolen, Judy Windhausen, Linda Meredith, Dave Fries, JoAnne Kozloski, Ellen Wolitarsky, Bob Wolitarsky, Mary Barbera, Joe Barbera, Denise Corset, Fern Lewis, Donna Frani, Cassie Richmond, Elaine Suskin, Lynn Vanderveen, Teresa Burleigh, Liz Fleury, Lauren Lalley, and Michelle Lonergan

TREASURER'S REPORT: Judy Windhausen

There are 54 active members. The CSTAR falls under the auspices of the CSTA so our account is now associated with the CSTA account at Empower FCU. Nicole Heath, CSTA Treasurer, handles the reporting of our finances to the IRS. There are four people listed on the CSTAR account: Judy Windhausen, Helen Bolen, Nicole Heath (CSTA) and Jennifer Colvin (CSTA). Our year coincides with CSTA year- 9/1 to 8/31. Beginning Balance as of 9/1/22 \$2287,37 Deposits (Dues and Scholarship Donations) \$1270.00 Withdrawals: Essentials For Success \$100 Project Bloom \$100 Brewerton Food Pantry \$100 Divine Mercy FP \$100 North Shore FP \$100 Region 8 Dues \$210 Check Printing \$16.97 Newsletter Supplies \$134.19 Postage \$37.80 \$1898.96 Ending Balance 8/31/23 \$1658.41 Current Balance 10/13/23 \$1858.41

Dues are \$10 per retiree and are due by 12/31/23. Checks made payable to CSTA-Retirees. Mail to Judy Windhausen, 587 Little Canada Road, CSQ, NY 13036 using the included form.

Judy posed the question of whether we can have members pay dues more than one year at a time. After discussion it was concluded that it was too cumbersome for record keeping. Also Judy questioned whether we should begin a massive recruitment of new paying members to assure we have an adequate balance to support the Scholarships and Yearly Donations. We currently donate \$100 to the three local food pantries, Project Bloom and Essentials For Success plus one or two \$500 scholarships. Joe Barbera made a motion to raise dues to \$15 beginning in September 2024. Teresa Burleigh seconded the motion. The motion passed. Joe also suggested possibly having the Scholarships as a separate line item in the budget. Judy had been in contact with Region 8 treasurer who indicated to her that any CS retiree who is not an active member should not receive NYSUT extra benefits(Life Insurance). After discussion it was decided that this may be incorrect and it was tabled. Judy is going to contact Nicole Heath(CSTA Treasurer) to see if Venmo could be utilized for dues collection. Judy made a motion to donate \$100 to Essentials For Success. Dave Fries seconded the motion. The motion passed. CSTA/NYSUT Update (Joe Barbera) The CSTA has 20 new teachers and all have joined the union. The current CSTA contract runs through June 2026. There will be no new impacts on retirees until at least that point. Both CSTA meeting Minutes, Contract and other important information regarding retirees can be

found on the CSTA Website cstaonline.com and the password is [cslocal2554](#) (Linda Meredith) 1. Nicole Heath 2. Bill Spreter 3. Doris Hasto SCHOLARSHIP: (Liz Fleury) Liz will make some changes to the scholarship application and then forward them to Linda Meredith for inclusion in Fall Newsletter. PRESIDENT(Helen Bolen) Helen has been attempting to contact Ann Marie Voutsinas(NYSUT Retired Teacher Representative for assistance with the CSTAR creating and writing a new Constitution. She has not heard back from her yet after several attempts. Linda Meredith said she would reach out to current CSTA LRS for assistance with this. When we have made contact we will form a committee to create the new Constitution. Helen and Dave Fries will be attending the NYSUT Retiree Council 8 meeting in the spring of 2024. NEW Business: Bob Wolitarsky mentioned the new tier 6 retirement and how that would deter people from attempting to enter the teaching profession. Public education would lose out on quality teachers if this remains in place. Joe Barbera mentioned that NYSUT is fighting this and urged all members to give to Vote Cope to assist in the fight. Next Meeting: May 10th 11:00 AM at Central Square Public Library There is limited parking behind the Library (8 Spots). Parking is available at Jreck Subs across the street, Traub Funeral Home and on-street parking.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Helen Bolen adjourned the meeting at 11:58 AM
Respectively submitted, Secretary Dave Fries

Volunteer Opportunity

High School Business Teacher Nicole Heath is looking for volunteers who would be interested in doing mock interview simulations for graduating seniors. Students will sit with a professional from the community to go through a 10 minute practice interview. The hope is that before our seniors graduate they will have a better understanding of what it means to prepare for and complete an interview.

Wednesday, November 15 (7:40am - 10:40am)

Wednesday, November 15 (11:45am - 1:30pm)

Thursday, November 16 (7:40am - 10:40am)

Thursday, November 16 (11:45am - 2:45pm)

Friday, November 17 (7:40am - 10:40am)

Friday, November 17 (11:45am - 2:45pm)

If you are interested and available to volunteer, please complete the Google Form.
<https://forms.gle/3CAu6it6na41bJrVA>.

If you can't access the google form, you may email me directly with dates/times you can volunteer at nheath@cssdapps.org.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to support our students. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. And if you know of anyone who might be interested in volunteering, please share this email with them.

Nicole Heath

PVM Business Teacher and Work Based Learning Coordinator

315-668-4231, ext. 52217

Message from Bill Spreter, VOTE-COPE Coordinator, CNY

Bill encourages any interested retiree to join the New York State Alliance for Retired Americans. They meet the second Friday of every month at NYSUT, 4983 Brittonfield Parkway, East Syracuse from 10 am until noon. Donuts, coffee, etc. are free for our members. All NYSUT retirees are members without having to pay.

In other matters, State Senator John Mannion, former NYSUT President of the West Genesee TA, and endorsed by NYSUT and CSEA will run in the Democratic primary next June. Should he win, he will face Congressman Brandon Williams. Williams, originally from Texas, does not live in the district and has previously voted against the Chips Act that is bringing Micron to our area. We are also concerned about his position on Social security and Medicare.

Remember, even in retirement we support education and our local districts. This year funding for schools may be difficult since Federal pandemic payments are gone and revenue projections are down. In addition, the new Tier VI is considerably worse for teachers, forcing them to teach to age 63 and even then have a reduced pension and contributing up to 6% of their pay for their teaching career.

Moreover, we are trying to begin a discussion on how best to improve the NYSTRS pension COLA that can be supported by all unions. That would take legislation.

As a result, please give to Vote-Cope to support our schools and improve the lives of in-service and retiree members!

CSTA-R Scholarship

Award Amount:

A \$500.00 scholarship to be awarded one time.

Criteria:

The **Central Square Teachers' Association- Retired** wishes to award this scholarship to a member's child/grandchild who will be attending college next year. Applicants must be the biological, adopted or step child/grandchild of a CSTA-R member. They must be attending a 2- or 4- year college in any field of study. The CSTA-R member must be up to date with dues by December 31st of the current year in order for the applicant to be eligible.

Requirements:

- High School GPA of 85-100 or college GPA of 2.0 or better (must include a high school or college transcript)
 - Two current recommendations from two different people from the community or from an academic background
 - List of activities both in and out of school
 - Essay on "My Most Memorable Teacher"
 - Return the attached application, essay, two recommendation letters and transcript to: **Elizabeth Fleury, 5071 Guy Young Road, Brewerton, NY 13029**
- or send as a PDF to efleury1953@gmail.com (please put CSTAR scholarship in the subject line)
- Any questions call/text Liz at (315) 481-9307 or email her at efleury1953@gmail.com (please put CSTAR scholarship in the subject line)
 - Applications must be received by April 1st and will be considered only if they **are submitted on time, are complete and if the CSTA-R member has paid the current year's dues by 12/31.**
 - It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure that all parts of the application are turned in. *Applicants will not be notified if their applications are incomplete.*
 - This scholarship is subject to change, upon review.

Application for the CSTA-R Scholarship

CSTA-R Member's Name

Student's

Name _____

Address: _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

Current HighSchool/College

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Counselor's Name

Counselor's Signature _____

Please list activities in and out of school.

(Class office, clubs, sports, volunteer work, community work, etc)

University or college attending _____

Course of Study _____

Submit the completed application form, transcripts, two recommendations and essay "My Most Memorable Teacher" and mail to Elizabeth Fleury, 5071 Guy Young Road, Brewerton, NY 13029 or email to efleury1953@gmail.com Files must be in PDF format.

Everything must be received by April 1st.

Applicant's

Signature _____ Date _____

Fellow retiree Jane Powell reached out to say she has moved to The Cottages in Cicero! (Cottage 11, room 11) She would love to have some visitors and her email is 22ladyslipper@gmail.com. It was wonderful to hear from her!

Please take a moment to send your yearly dues to keep yourself in good standing with our group! Dues are payable by 12/31/23.

Join the CSTA-R(Central Square Teachers' Association - Retirees) by filling in the information below and sending it with your check made payable to CSTA-Retirees to:

Judy Windhausen

587 Little Canada Road, CSQ, NY 13036

Feel free to email Judy with any questions at jwindhausen001@twcny.rr.com.

Name _____

Email Address: _____

Enclosed is my \$10.00 dues fee: _____

Scholarship fund contribution _____

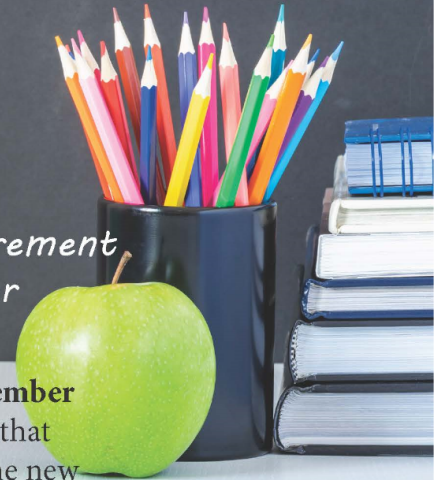
This year in particular we are looking for scholarship donations to help keep our fund solvent. Thank you in advance for giving and supporting scholarships for

graduates! Total enclosed _____



Back to school can mean a lot of different things:

- Starting a new career
- Planning for the future
- Balancing work and home life
- Making difficult decisions
- Enjoying your final year before retirement
- Recalling memories of a proud career



Regardless of what you might be doing this fall, **NYSUT Member Benefits** offers a variety of endorsed programs and services that could help make you as prepared as possible for whatever the new school year may throw at you.

Whether you are looking to save money, protect your family, or plan for the future, **NYSUT Member Benefits** is a great place to start. With dozens of endorsed insurance, legal, financial, shopping, travel, and discount programs, you are certain to find something of interest that could benefit you or your loved ones.

And speaking of savings, the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to offer all NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) exclusive access to savings of up to 50% at 850,000 locations -- including more than 21,200 New York State deals. If you have not already done so, head over to mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com to create your account with your NYSUT ID number, preferred email address, and password.

You'll then be eligible to save on restaurant dine-in or take-out, flowers and gift baskets, Bose electronics, clothing and shoes, oil changes and vehicle maintenance, sporting events, hotels and flights, car rentals, theme parks, movie tickets, and much more. Members are encouraged to download the MB Discounts & Deals mobile app for the best user experience with this program.

Check out all your union membership has to offer!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, 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.

Sept/Oct. 2023