



THE CENTRAL NEW YORKER

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VOTE-COPE: Pay it Forward

By Bill Spreter, RC 7 2nd VP and VOTE-COPE Chair

VOTE-COPE is the political action arm of NYSUT. It uses dollars donated voluntarily to achieve policies we, as a union, endorse. Going through this pandemic, your donated dollars have paid off. That's why I am asking you to pay it forward to **VOTE-COPE** via pension deduction or by check. What did your dollars do?

- We averted a \$50 billion budget shortfall in New York with the American Rescue Plan.
 - We saved our schools with a \$1.4 billion in Foundation Aid.
 - We added another \$3 billion in K-12 Aid.
 - We made our schools safer for in-person learning.
 - We gave most taxpayers a \$1,400 credit for individuals and a child tax credit as well.
- The list of the American Rescue Plan goes on. And it worked.

Now, when you look at the bipartisan Infrastructure Bill just passed this fall and signed into law, our roads, bridges, mass transit and airports will be improved and become safer. Water systems will be renovated, and broadband will be extended to our rural areas. Jobs will be created, and an increased workforce helps everyone. Republican Congressman Katko voted for the bill. Even Senator Rob Portman, Republican of Ohio, said this bill will fight inflation.

And we continue to support initiatives on:

- Universal Pre-K
 - Elder Care
 - Child Tax Credit (to lift children out of poverty)
 - Prescription Drug Reform
 - Social Security Enhancements
- And much more!

So remember that **VOTE-COPE** is still delivering. For those 62 and five years out from retirement, pensions have been increased by \$21 dollars a month or \$252 dollars a year. **VOTE-COPE** political action achieved that COLA.

Remember also, it was the 2017 Constitutional Convention "NO" vote campaign, shepherded by **VOTE-COPE**, that defeated any attempt to change or diminish our pensions.

Then, in this new year, isn't now the time to Pay it Forward with an extra dollar or two donation to **VOTE-COPE**? Hope you have a Healthy New Year! And a Happy Spring ... where we can all see changes for the better throughout this year!

Have You Sent in Your Participation Fee?

Participation fees 2021 – 2022

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.

One important note: If you are retired from Jordan-Elbridge, Liverpool, North Syracuse, Port Byron, or Syracuse City, your RC 7 participation fee is collected with the dues for your local retiree chapter and then forwarded to us. You should not use the form here or mail dues directly to us. This is a change from previous years. Participation fees are accepted at any time.

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

RC 7 Membership Chair
NYSUT Regional Office
4983 Brittonfield Pkwy
E. Syracuse, NY 13057



2021 – 2022 MEETINGS

March 15 – Barbagallo's
April 19 – Mangia Bene

See reservation forms on page 3.

May 17 – Craftsman Inn June 21 - Traditions

Retiree Council 7 Membership Form 2021 - 2022

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

District retired from _____

Position _____



From the President's Desk...

Loretta K. Donlon

This issue of *The Central New Yorker* thanks **Karen Terwilliger**, a West Hempstead Retiree, for her column entitled "Oh No, Not Me!" which appeared in a recent RC 18 newsletter, *Linkage*. In 2020, the FTC reported there were over 1.3 million people who experienced identity theft. Her column was modified due to spacing issues. Here are her tips to stay proactive and know what to do if your identity is compromised!

- Never give any personal information over the phone if the caller has contacted you.
- Avoid opening emails or texts from unknown senders or numbers. These can be phishing schemes to collect your information.
- Put alerts on your bank accounts such as large deposits or withdrawals. These alerts can come in the form of a text message or email. Check with your banking institution.
- Monitor your accounts for very small, unexpected withdrawals, such as one cent to a few dollars. Schemers are looking to see if these transactions will clear and if withdrawals go undetected; these could lead to larger withdrawal amounts.
- Get a free credit report from all three major credit bureaus by either calling 877-322-8228 or going online at <https://www.annualcreditreport.com>. Every person gets a free credit report every twelve months. Once a report is received, check to see if there are any accounts that were opened without your knowledge. Then, work on getting them closed and removed. You also have the option to put a credit freeze on your accounts so nobody can open a line of credit under your name and Social Security number.
- Call Social Security and check to make sure there aren't any unauthorized claims on your account. Go online to ssa.gov to contact them. Consider making a my Social Security account to give you access to your records.
- Consider hiring a monitoring company such as Norton LifeLock to help track suspicious activity with your personal information. AARP and NYSUT sometimes offer discounts for membership to these companies. However, be diligent and do your research!

IF YOUR IDENTITY IS COMPROMISED:

1. Alert your bank and/or credit unions, as well as any other financial institutions you use.
2. Call your credit card companies and let them know your identity has been compromised. Check to see if there are any unapproved charges and ask them to be removed.
3. File a police report, and make sure you get the report number.
4. Alert health insurance companies as well.
5. Notify all three credit bureaus: Equifax - www.equifax.com/CreditReportAssistance, 1-888-378-4329; Experian - www.experian.com/fraud, 1-888-397-3742; TransUnion - www.transunion.com/fraud, 1-833-395-6938. Consider putting a fraud alert and/or freeze your accounts.
6. Use the Financial Trade Commission's official website - Federal Trade Commission/Protecting America's Consumer or call the FTC at 1-877-382-4357. Here you can report Internet fraud and manage identity theft. You can also read articles, view videos (such as <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/media-0098-pass-it>) and/or set up an account to help manage a to-do list if you have been victimized. They have the most up-to-date phone numbers for organizations and give tips to assist in the process of repairing your identity.

As of Jan. 7, 2022, the websites and numbers cited here have been verified. However, always double-check phone numbers and websites to make sure they are officially associated with the organization you wish to contact.

We Remember Fondly ...

Jamesville-Dewitt

Sandra Brown
Martha Decker
Robert Dewey
Betty Winfield

West Genesee

Elaine Buhaj
Mary Condon
Sandy DeCarr
Victoria DeMarchi

Auburn

Ruth Brown

Baldwinsville

Paul Gaffney
Ann Hart
Nicholas Petta, Jr.
Fred Smith + Syr
Patricia Tudman

Liverpool

Jane Axtman
Mary Bonus
William Crowell
Theresa Klosowski
Pamela Masucci
Nancy Sweeney

East Syracuse-Minoa

James (Craig) Collins
Frances Staniec
Janice Waters

North Syracuse

Carol Drenchko
James (Ned) Deuel +Westhill
Jonathan Skipworth.
Walter Uhlig.
Maureen Wentworth
Phyllis Zaleon

Cato-Meridian

Frank Bellardini
Debby Kanders

Lafayette

Martha Wheatley +JD, Syr

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Ethel Blatt
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NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO

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Loretta Donlon, ED 51 Director

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



Join Us on **Tuesday, March 15, 2022**, for the RC 7 Luncheon at **Barbagallo's, 6344 E. Molloy Rd., East Syracuse**
\$34 per person

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

Adam Sudman, Salt City Market, "Food, Culture, and People"

Entrée Choices:

Baked or Fried Fish with baked potato and green beans

Chicken Francoise with baked potato and green beans

Beef over Noodles with gravy and green beans

All entrees include garden salad, rolls, dessert, coffee, tea, and water.

Reservation Form RC 7 Luncheon - March 15, Barbagallo's

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

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

_____ Baked Fish _____ Fried Fish _____ Chicken _____ Beef

Number of reservations _____ at \$34. Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____ Cash _____

Please send reservation form and a check payable to **NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 7** to:
RC7 Luncheon Chair, NYSUT Regional Office, 4983 Brittonfield Parkway, E. Syracuse, NY 13057
Reservations must be received by March 4. No one can be seated without a reservation.

WE WILL FOLLOW NYSUT GUIDELINES AT THE TIME FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING AND WEARING OF MASKS.
MASKS COVERING NOSE AND MOUTH MAY BE REQUIRED (EXCEPT WHEN EATING OR DRINKING).

Join Us on **Tuesday, April 19, 2022**, for the RC 7 Luncheon at **Mangia Bene, 779 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse**
\$34 per person

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

Roger Misso, SU Program Director for National Security Innovation Network

Buffet includes Chicken Francaise; Beef Tips Marsala; Garlic Mashed Potatoes; Sauteed Zucchini, Carrots and Squash; Tossed Chef Salad; Fresh Rolls and Butter; Coffee, Tea and Water; Vanilla Cake with Butter Crème Frosting



Reservation Form RC 7 Luncheon - April 19 Mangia Bene

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

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 note dietary restriction: _____

Number of reservations _____ at \$34. Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____ Cash _____

Please send reservation form and a check payable to **NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 7** to:
RC7 Luncheon Chair, NYSUT Regional Office, 4983 Brittonfield Parkway, E. Syracuse, NY 13057
Reservations must be received by April 8. No one can be seated without a reservation.

At the time of this publication, there is still some uncertainty as to holding our in-person meetings. Events may change due to current conditions. If we must cancel an event upon directive of NYS, Onondaga County, or NYSUT, checks received will be shredded. It is critical that we have your email on file. Check our website and facebook page for updated info.

Check out all your union membership has to offer!



NYSUT Member Benefits

Every Dollar Counts!

When it comes to protecting yourself, your loved ones, your income or your most valuable possessions, NYSUT Member Benefits has insurance programs that fit the bill. Whether you are looking for **auto & home, life, disability, long-term care, dental, vision, or pet insurance**, there is a Member Benefits-endorsed plan that may be of assistance featuring value-added extras unavailable to the public.

Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org. There, you will find numerous tools and resources available to you as a NYSUT member – including a **Financial Learning Center** with articles designed to help educate you on financial decisions and topics.

Member Benefits also endorses several discounted shopping programs that can help you save on both everyday and more expensive purchases. Finally, if you ever have an issue or problem when using a Member Benefits program, our staff take great pride in their ability to quickly assist members with any concerns that may arise.

Visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** to learn more about the endorsed programs and services available to you through your union membership.



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.

Jan/Feb 2022