



THE CENTRAL NEW YORKER

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Retirees take their place to set policy for NYSUT

By Loretta Donlon
RC 7 President and ED 51 Director

We know how powerful a union NYSUT has become when we read our newsletters, NYSUT UNITED, and the local city newspapers, and see what has been accomplished for Retirees and in-service members. It certainly shows when reporters analyze the NYS Budget for the coming year which was passed last week. Although a week late, it answered many requests for monies. Included in the budget were increases to issues we advocate for - school funding, Higher Ed (which has been starved for years), and funding for mental health for children and adults, giving attention to the price of gas and the inflation we have all been facing. Your lobbying can take some credit for all of that. All this good news was delivered by the NYSUT Representative Assembly's special guest, Governor Kathy Hochul! It had been a long time since a governor has addressed a NYSUT convention and, with such a good message, she was very well received.

As Retirees, 80% of our pensions stay in New York State to help sustain the communities we live in and our votes help make the political rhetoric find funding and action.

RC 7's delegates' votes at the policing making body of NYSUT, the Representative Assembly, fill that same task through passing proposed resolutions submitted by locals on a variety of subjects including Retiree issues. Retirees now make up about one third of the organization, and it is our responsibility to be heard and promote what we believe is best for the organization's agenda, including Retirees.

This year's convention passed resolutions to advocate for temporarily improving the calculation of the final average salary for Tier III through Tier VI, but, as in other years, proposals to grant credit for non - public school service was not passed because it could cause a problem to the financial strength of the retirement systems.

Other resolutions concerning Retirees were referred to the NYSUT Board of Directors for further study. They included the right to use Member Benefits, that Members can join NEA as pre-retired life members, to consider adding an SRP Representative to the NYSUT Board, and to form a Task Force to review increasing the voting power of Retirees. Other committees that reviewed proposed resolutions included Healthcare & Workplace Safety, Educational Issues, and, of course, Legislative & Political Action.

Margo Buckingham, Candy Johnson, and I were elected to represent you! Margo and I attended the convention this year. Participating in this endeavor always invigorates us to advocate for a strong union and for a dignified retirement for all.

Together, with all of you, we remain
UNION FOR LIFE!

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.



2021 - 2022 MEETINGS

May 17 - Craftsman Inn
 June 21 - Traditions

See reservation forms on page 3.



From the President's Desk...

Loretta K. Donlon

This month, Loretta's column is on the first page of the newsletter.

NYSUT Retiree Council 7 of Central New York Scholarship

The 2022 RC7 Scholarship Application Form is now available on our website. The Application submission timeline began on March 15, 2022, and will end on May 31, 2022. Go to <https://www.nysutretireecouncil7.org/scholarship.html> to get the application. Applications must be postmarked by May 31, 2022.

The NYSUT Retiree Council 7 Scholarship is a \$2,000.00 award to a senior graduating from any New York State public high school or any private/parochial high school whose staff is NYSUT affiliated and who plans to enter a profession requiring higher education at an accredited institute of learning. Up to four scholarships of \$2,000.00 each may be awarded.

All Retiree Council 7 members who have a child or grandchild graduating from high school this year and have paid their Participation Fee (by 12/31/21) can sponsor their child or grandchild.

Scholarship winners will be invited to attend the June RC 7 Luncheon at Traditions at the Links.

We Remember Fondly ...

Fayetteville-Manlius

Albert Kouba
Carl Pesko
Donald Piddock
Patricia Relyea

West Genesee

Margaret Blondell
Donald Bogert
Angeline Locurcio
Eileen Mitchell
Margaret Sherwood
Helen M. Smith

Auburn

Patricia Perry

Liverpool

Joseph Grosso
Anne Hesler
Donald Loveless
Helen Rossi

East Syracuse-Minoa

Ronald Cronk
Patricia Grinnals
Rose LaMontagne

North Syracuse

Beverly Bacon
Paul Barkal, Sr
Maureen Mirucki
Barbara McClurkin

Cato-Meridian

Willis Vargason

Lafayette

Bernadette Johnson

Jordan Elbridge

Carolyn Mangin
Agnes Peer

Syracuse

Howard Baker, Jr.
Mary Cerreto
Mary Colgin
Filomena Ferrara
John Hayduke
Elizabeth Katerelos
John Oberbrunner
Georgianna Patterson-Pinkard
Melvin Shaw
Alice Shute

Marcellus

Mary Bostick
Irene McQueeney + Syr

Solvay

Joanne Addabbo
James Milden

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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

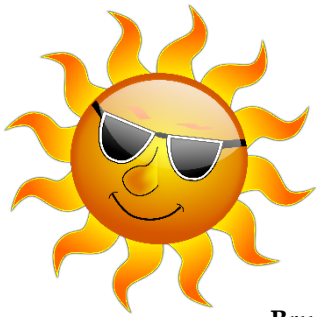
Onondaga CC

Merilee Freeman
Robert Steingraber

Skaneateles

Richard Bendall

We honor and remember the individuals listed here who worked at our local school districts and have passed away. It should be noted that there are often multiple persons who share the same name. The names listed are not forwarded anywhere for any legal purposes - they are simply noted here. If an error is ever made, we will apologize and print a retraction.



Join Us on **Tuesday, May 17, 2022**, for the RC 7 Luncheon at **Craftsman Inn, 7300 E. Genesee, Fayetteville**
\$31 per person

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

Sean Kirst, Local Author and Newspaper Columnist, will be our Guest Speaker

Entrée Choices:

- Finger Lakes Cobb Salad** with grilled chicken, avocado, bacon onion tomato, egg, and cheese.
 - Bruschetta Chicken** with marinated tomatoes, mozzarella, balsamic wild rice and seasonal vegetables.
 - Steak and Portobello Mushroom Sandwich** with Swiss cheese, caramelized onions, horseradish sauce and fries.
- All entrees include seasonal soup, Signature GF chocolate cake, coffee, tea, and water.

Reservation Form RC 7 Luncheon - May 17, Craftsman Inn

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.

_____ Cobb Salad _____ Chicken _____ Steak Sandwich

Number of reservations _____ at \$31. 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 May 6. No one can be seated without a reservation.

Join Us on **Tuesday, June 21, 2022**, for the RC 7 Luncheon at **Traditions at the Links, 5900 N. Burdick St., E. Syracuse**
\$35 per person

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

Scholarship Winners will be recognized

Entrée Choices:

- Chopped Salad** with grilled pesto chicken, tomatoes, mozzarella, cucumbers, olives, pesto dressing
 - Little Italy Panini** with roast chicken breast, mozzarella, tomatoes, baby spinach, red peppers, mayo
 - Cavatappi Pasta** with broccoli, sun-dried tomatoes in a light-cream vodka and cheese sauce
- All entrees include strawberry shortcake dessert, coffee, tea, and water.



Reservation Form RC 7 Luncheon - June 21 Traditions at the Links

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.

_____ Chopped Salad _____ Panini _____ Pasta

Number of reservations _____ at \$35. 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 June 8. No one can be seated without a reservation.

At the time of this publication, there is still some uncertainty when holding 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.

Explore all your union membership has to offer!

When you're planning for the future, what's at the top of your list?

- A comfortable nest egg for retirement
- Providing for your family
- Purchasing a new home
- Home improvements
- Purchasing a new vehicle
- Travel and entertainment



NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs to help turn those dreams into reality.

When it comes to saving you money, protecting your family and helping you plan for the future, NYSUT Member Benefits has a variety of programs and services to help with your goals. Whether you are just starting out on your journey, well into your career or enjoying a well-deserved retirement, 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 important **legal and financial services** along with an **online savings program** featuring some of today's most competitive interest rates.

Next up would be looking in the "Shopping, Travel & Personal" section of our site for **MB Discounts & Deals**. This program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to provide NYSUT members with exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on restaurant dine-in or take out, groceries and food delivery, clothing and shoes, hotels and flights, vehicle maintenance, and much more.



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. Mar/Apr 2022