



# Newsletter of CSTA-R

**May 2024 Central Square Teachers' Association - Retirees**

## **The President's Message from Helen Bolen**

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 October 17th at the library. ( Please note that this is a change of date from what was discussed at the May meeting.) When attending our meetings, you may park in the parking lot found at the rear of the library, on the street or at the funeral home. (When there isn't a funeral being held). Please use the sidewalk when coming from the funeral home. It has been requested that we no longer park at Jreck Subs.

Thank you to all who came to our spring meeting and for all who help us to stay abreast of what is currently happening in our legislation and about other changes affecting education, health care and our retirement. This organization is our connection to the local CSTA, state organizations and other retired teachers. To be a member of NYSUT/AFT retirees must be a paying member of the local chapter. Being a member of NYSUT provides you with member benefits. <http://www.retireecouncil8.org/member-benefits/> If you haven't already, please consider joining us. Our annual dues for 2024-25 are just \$15.00 with \$5.00 allocated to NYSUT and \$10.00 being used for donations to local non-profits and our scholarship fund. To continue doing what we do, we need your membership along with your dues. Please get your dues in by December 1 st for the fiscal year that begins August 31 st. Additionally, 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. 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.**

**Important Dates**

**June 4 th - Constitution Committee meets 11:00 at Central Square Library**

**June 14 th - CSTA Party at 918 Riverside. 3-6 p.m.**

**Oct. 17 th - CSTAR meeting at Central Square Library**

**Oct. 24 th – RC 8 Luncheon Meeting Valentino’s in New Hartford**

**Dec. 1 st – deadline for paying 2024-25 membership dues (\$15.00)**

**Minutes from our May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting**

**Treasurer’s Report by Judy Windhausen**

**Fiscal year starting balance as of 9/1/2023:                   \$1658.41**

**Revenue collected:           \$1755.00 with \$200 received from NYSUT for running  
their ad in our newsletter. \$610 from dues and \$945 received for scholarship  
donations**

**Expenditures:                \$384.69**

**Current Checking Account Balance: \$3028.72**

**Anticipated Expendures of \$940 from May – August include scholarship, Project  
Bloom, Brewerton UMC Food Pantry, Divine Mercy Food Pantry, North Shore  
Food Pantry and newsletter supplies.**

## Current Active Member List for 23-24

1. Donna Anguish
2. Debbie Ashmore
3. Carol Balintfy
4. Joe Barbera
5. Mary Barbera
6. Delores Beams
7. Helen Bolen – President
8. Teresa Burleigh
9. Barb Cavalier
10. Cindi Cornish
11. Denise Corsette
12. Had Coughlin
13. Dale Cripps
14. Richard Cripps
15. Liz Fleury
16. Donna Frani
17. David Fries- Secretary
18. Cindy Galutz
19. Linda Gebhardt
20. Sally Gewinner
21. Bill Griffin
22. Deb Howard
23. Anne Jones
24. Shirley Jones
25. Maria Kane
26. Dotty Kenyon
27. Lucinda Ketchum
28. Joanne Kozlowski
29. Ray Kozlowski
30. Lauren Lalley
31. Shelly Lee
32. Michelle Lonergan
33. Fern Lewis
34. Ann Losurdo
35. Betty Macera
36. Karen Marzynski
37. Phyllis McIntosh
38. Karen McPartland
39. Linda Meredith – editor
40. Donna Mierke
41. David Morris
42. Kathy Osborne
43. Nancy Ozaroski
44. Linda Palmer
45. Brenda Phillips
46. Mary Catherine Pugh
47. Ann Reed
48. Janice Reed
49. Barb Renne
50. Cassie Richmond
51. Megan Rothrock
52. Elaine Suskin
53. Diane Tallents
54. Sheila Turverey
55. Lynn Vanderveen
56. Agnes Wilk - Vice President
57. Sandy Wilkins
58. Judy Windhausen - Treasure
59. Ellen Wolitarsky
60. Robert Wolitarsky
61. Alice Young

**CSTA Liaison** between Actives and Retirees Joe Barbera shared information regarding the May 21<sup>st</sup> budget vote. 5.93% budget increase and a 4.23% tax increase was approved. The state currently has no salary cap on retirees who work in public education. NYSUT is continuing to fight Tier 6 and some modest improvements were made modifying the final average salary to the last 3 years instead of the last 5 years. Everyone is invited to join the actives at the CSTA Spring Party on June 14<sup>th</sup> from 3pm to 6pm at 916 Riverside. A basket raffle will take place to raise money for disaster relief in our community. Tim Hart has agreed to assist Joe as go between actives and retirees. Joe has always put so much time and effort into the union effort and we so appreciate the work and knowledge he shares with all of us.

### **In Memoriam**

It is with sadness we share the passing of dear friends and colleagues. We lifted them up at our meeting and shared anecdotes from our times together, their work for the school and our union.

*Paul Cardinali, Nick Lapre, Joe Dodge, Jim Baker, Rick Kenyon and Doris Hasto*

### **From the Editor**

You may or may not have read this article in the NYSUT article from May/June 2024. I think it surprised many of us. This article however lets us know that if we aren't continuing to be dues paying members through a retiree chapter we could lose our member benefits through NYSUT. Those benefits are important to many people who carry additional policies through member benefits.

It was suggested that we put it in our calendars to send our membership dues to Judy Windhouse on *Labor Day* by Shelly Lee. I think that's a great idea and a good reminder for all of us. Dues will continue to be a yearly payment as trying to pay for multiple years is recording nightmare for our volunteer treasurer.

## Retirees must maintain NYSUT membership

**F**or those NYSUT members who have recently retired or plan to do so in the near future, it's important to take some proactive steps to make the transition from in-service work to retirement an easier process. If you are currently enrolled in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs and would like to continue participation, you must maintain your NYSUT membership as a retiree.

This can be accomplished in one of two ways:

1. Continue membership within your local if retiree membership is offered. Contact your local to find out if any retiree membership requirements are in place. You must comply with these retiree membership requirements to continue your membership in NYSUT and our national affiliates, the American Federation of Teachers and National Education Association.
2. Continue as an at-large member of NYSUT through the Retiree Council in your region. Contact your local to ensure you will be reported as retired to NYSUT. This will provide you with membership in the Retiree Council in your region along with NYSUT, AFT, and NEA.

- Professional Staff Congress/CUNY members: **212-354-1252**
- All other NYSUT members: **800-342-9810**

If you have questions about maintaining NYSUT membership or would like further information about NYSUT retiree programs, contact the NYSUT retiree services consultant serving your region. You can also find this information at [nysut.cc/rsc](http://nysut.cc/rsc).

- Retiree Councils 1, 2, 3 & 44 (Buffalo region): Janet Goddard, 716-634-7132 or [janet.goddard@nysut.org](mailto:janet.goddard@nysut.org)
- RC 4 & 46 (Jamestown region): Louise Ortman, 716-664-7425 or [louise.ortman@nysut.org](mailto:louise.ortman@nysut.org)
- RC 5 & 6 (Rochester region): Peter Randazzo, 585-454-5550 or [peter.randazzo@nysut.org](mailto:peter.randazzo@nysut.org)
- RC 7 & 8 (Syracuse/Utica region): Anne Marie Voutsinas, 315-431-4040 or [annemarie.voutsinas@nysut.org](mailto:annemarie.voutsinas@nysut.org)
- Retiree Councils 9 & 10 (North Country/Capital District region): Ruth Shippee, 518-783-7977 or [ruth.shippee@nysut.org](mailto:ruth.shippee@nysut.org)
- RC 11 & 45 (Southern Tier region): Mark Padgett, 607-786-5742 or [mark.padgett@nysut.org](mailto:mark.padgett@nysut.org)

### Transitioning from payroll to pension deduction

Moving from payroll deduction of Member Benefits-endorsed programs to pension deduction is NOT immediate nor automatic. Following the steps below should help to ensure a smooth process.

1. Contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 when you have your definite retirement date. Member Benefits will then communicate that information to each plan administrator of programs you participate in.
2. Call each plan administrator of programs you participate in to verify your mailing address so you can be billed at home once payroll deductions stop. Member Benefits can provide you with the contact information for plan administrators if needed.
3. If you do not receive a bill for each program you had on payroll deduction, contact the applicable program administrator to verify a bill was mailed to your correct address. All discounts provided through payroll deduction will continue for up to one year with direct billing; pension deduction offers the same discounts as payroll deduction.

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System, or receive income from a monthly lifetime annuity from TIAA to be eligible for pension deduction of Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

5. When you receive the bill for the next premium, it should include a Pension Deduction Authorization Form. Complete and sign the form and send it back with the bill to the plan administrator in lieu of payment. If you do not receive a Pension Deduction Authorization Form with your second bill, contact Member Benefits for one to be sent to you.

Upon receipt of your Pension Deduction Authorization Form, the plan administrator will transmit details to Member Benefits regarding pension deduction of your program(s). Member Benefits then submit this information to the pension system to start the deductions with your next monthly

## Welcome New Retirees! You Made It!

The day you thought would never arrive is here...congratulations! It's great to see so many familiar names on this list. We wish you all the best and we hope that you will join us at CSTA-R so that you stay in touch with what is happening locally. Remember future CSTA members play a role in what happens to your future benefits, so stay informed. Thank you for your service to the children of Central Square and welcome to the next adventure of your life!

Alison Casella, Brenda Metrick, Ed Audley, Fred Covert, Jim Petrella, Jim Collett, Kelly LaBlanc, Kathy Stropp, Debra Ostrowski, Mitch Brousseau, Tami Grover, and Linda Lamanna

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** and mail it to our treasurer at the address below.

Judy Windhausen

587 Little Canada Road, CSQ, NY 13036

Feel free to email Judy with any questions at [jwindhausen001@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jwindhausen001@twcny.rr.com).

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are my \$15.00 dues for Fall 2024 -Fall 2025: \_\_\_\_\_ These dues are payable between September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Scholarship fund contribution of: \_\_\_\_\_(optional but appreciated)



## WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS THIS SUMMER?

NYSUT Member Benefits offers a variety of endorsed programs & services that can help you enjoy today, while planning for tomorrow.

As a NYSUT member, you have access to participate in a number of programs and services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits. These products have been carefully cultivated to provide members with quality programs at competitive prices, including insurance programs to help you protect your family; legal and financial plans to help you plan for the future; and shopping, travel & personal services to help save you money.

Member Benefits also offers a number of benefits available free of charge to members such as the premium Calm service, Peer Support Line, Financial Learning Center, and more.

Participation in our endorsed programs features the added protection of having a trusted advocate on your side. Our staff take great pride in stepping in to support members with any questions, concerns, or issues that may arise.

**No matter what your plans may be, NYSUT Member Benefits is a great place to start. Explore all that your union membership has to offer!**



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org), or calling 800-626-8101.

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



May/June 2024

