



# THE CENTRAL NEW YORKER

<http://nysutretireecouncil7.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/nysutretireecouncil7>

## Retirees urged to mobilize for 2018 - 2020 elections

NYSUT retirees were urged to mobilize for the upcoming 2018 Congressional elections and to use their collective voting power to ensure their interests are protected.

Speaking to a room full of retirees attending NYSUT's 46th annual Representative Assembly in Buffalo, Rich Fiesta, executive director for the Alliance for Retired Americans, outlined the damage the Trump White House and Republican-controlled Congress has wrought on the programs and values important to seniors.

Fiesta pointed to how the Trump tax plan dramatically shifts the nation's wealth from the middle class to the wealthy, favors multi-billion-dollar corporations and hedge funds, and will increase the deficit by at least \$1.5 trillion — thus squeezing Medicare and Medicaid. Meanwhile the federal budget, he added, eyes cuts to Social Security, Medicaid and heating assistance.

Fiesta noted that every Democratic member of the House and Senate from New York this year scored an ARA rating of 100 percent on issues important to seniors.

Meanwhile, not a single New York Republican scored above 50 percent — including House representatives Claudia Tenney, who was graded at just 10 percent, and Tom Reed who received a big, fat zero.

Still, over the span of the last four Congressional elections dating back to 2010, the majority of seniors nationwide voted Republican — and thus against their interests.

“The 2018 and 2020 races are going to be very important,” Fiesta said.

Mel Stern, a Long Island retiree, said he believes retirees can make a difference on election night and pointed to the successful Assembly race won by Long Island Democratic newcomer Christine Pellegrino last year.

“I’m an optimist. We can do this,” said Stern. “We did something (in getting Pellegrino elected) that they said we could never do. But we got the vote out and we won. And I think we have a really good chance to change things in Congress.”

*~Taken for the Spring 2018 edition of THE RETIREE ORGANIZER.*

### *It's Time to Send in Your Participation Fee*

**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. **Associate membership** is open to the spouses of active members.

**One important note:** If you are retired from Auburn, ESM, Jordan-Elbridge, Liverpool, North Syracuse, or Port Byron, 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. Participation fees are accepted at any time. However, **to be able to nominate your child or grandchild for one of our June 2019 scholarships you must pay your participation fee by Dec. 31, 2018.**

#### 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  
East Syracuse,  
NY 13057**

### 2018 - 19 MEETINGS

September 18 – Lasca's, Auburn  
*See reservation forms on page 3*

October 16 – NYSUT, E. Syracuse

November 20 – Lakeside Fire Hall,  
Lakeland

December 18 – Bellevue CC,  
Syracuse

March 19 – Fireside Inn,  
Baldwinsville

April 16 – Barbagallo's, E. Syracuse

May 21 – Justin's, E. Syracuse

June 18 – The Lodge @ Welch-  
Allyn, Skaneateles

# From the President's Desk...

*Loretta K. Donlon*



*Thanks to Margo Buckingham for writing this article.*

Retiree Council 7's fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. That means it's time for you to pay your annual *participation fee* of \$10. This modest fee supports the work that we do for our members throughout the year such as lobbying and participating in our union's state and national governance. It also supports our newsletter, scholarships and donations to worthy local charities which help the area's children.

Each year we have some members who are unclear about how and when to pay the participation fee. Checks should be mailed to our membership chair as soon as possible after July 1. Even if you are someone who did it later in the 2017/2018 year and it seems like you just paid, we are asking you to send your fee in July to get you back on the right schedule. It will make the jobs of the Membership Chair and Treasurer **much** easier and will take one item off your "to do" list.

We also continue to have people who submit their fee more than once, so let's try this: In July when you mail your check, write "**RC 7, paid 2108/2019**" and the check number on your calendar. (Maybe even put a colored box around it to make it noticeable.) **At the same time**, on the December calendar page, write "**RC 7 paid -> 6/30/19.**" That way you will always know where to look if you don't remember whether or not you have sent your fee to become a participating member of RC 7. And if you have a grandchild who might be applying for one of our scholarships, you won't have to worry about the December deadline - job already done! The information will also be right there on the last calendar page and you can transfer it to July (for the next year) when you get your 2019 calendar.

We have also had questions about reminder cards. While some have been sent out in recent years, reminder cards for all is cost prohibitive. We have over 4000 members. Sending a card to each of them would cost over \$1400. So to rely on our members to send in their fees in a timely way seems best. We thank you very much for your support.

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NYSUT Retiree Council 7

NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO

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<http://nysutretireecouncil7.org/>  
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Loretta Donlon, ED 51 Director

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## We Remember Fondly ...

### RC 7 TRIP TO BURLINGTON, VT

**OCTOBER 10 - 13, 2018**

**Three Nights Hotel, Three Breakfasts,  
Two Dinners (One at Von Trapp Lodge),  
Dinner Cruise, Visits/Tours to  
Shelburne Museum and Country Store,  
Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream,  
Lake Champlain Chocolates,  
Quechee Gorge, King Arthur's Flour Store,  
and Dakin Farms!**

**Cost between \$520-- \$925** based on  
participants and room type.

*Need More Info?*

**Kathy LaRocca at 315-466-9463 or  
Bella Tours  
bellatours.travel@gmail.com  
315-652-0121**

**Baldwinsville**  
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Jennie Halsey  
Gail Wagner  
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**Fayetteville-Manlius**  
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**Onondaga Central**  
Carol Merrell  
John Parvese

**Port Byron**  
Robert Hart

**East Syracuse-Minoa**  
Norma Bickford

**Solvay**  
Mary Ann Bardou  
Suzanne Capella  
Jeannette Fogarty

**Liverpool**  
Jon Davis  
Thomas Hutt  
David Kidd + SCSD  
Jane Thornburg  
Barbara Warner

**OCC**  
Dennis Fleck  
George Kelley

**Auburn**  
Ardyce Walters

**Westhill**  
Elizabeth Dumanian  
Stanley Kowalczyk

**Syracuse**  
Carl Bennett  
Helen Catalino  
Anne Dobbelaere  
Jacqueline Eaton  
Audrey Grunfeld  
Patricia Hayes  
Irma Hilts  
Diane Kline-Morrison  
Ruby Loomis  
George Loveless  
Gwendolyn Mack  
Lucille Mayne  
Diane Murphy  
Martha Rossi  
Kennard Scott  
Doris Spiegel  
Gladys Stevenson  
Julie Trainham

Join Us on **September 18, 2018** for the RC 7 Luncheon at *Lasca's Restaurant, 252 Grant Ave., Auburn*  
 \$21per person

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

**Program**

**A Panel of NYSUT Representatives** will share information on NYSUT's activities since the Janus decision, the continuing organizing plan and the upcoming elections.

*Directions: From Syracuse, take 690 West to 695 W to the end. Exit right onto Rte. 5 W. Travel approximately 20 miles into Auburn. Lasca's Restaurant is on the left. Or take the NYS Thruway to exit 40. Turn right onto Rte. 34S. Turn left onto Rte. 5E (Grant Ave.). Restaurant is on the right.*



**Reservation Form RC 7 Luncheon - September 18, Lasca's**

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*All entrees include side salad, baked bread and butter, dessert, and beverage.*

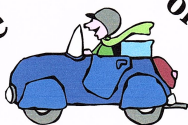
**Please indicate entrée choice below. If including multiple reservations, indicate names clearly next to meal choice.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chicken Parmesan with Pasta**    \_\_\_\_\_ **Baked Scrod with Rice**    \_\_\_\_\_ **Baked Lasagna**

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 September 1. No one can be seated without a reservation.

**Lower your  
Insurance  
Cost**



**Reduce Points  
on your License**

**NYSUT & National Safety Council's  
6 Hour Defensive Driving Class**

**Tuesday Oct. 23, 2018**

At the Regional NYSUT HQ, 4983 Brittonfield Parkway  
 East Syracuse, NY 13057  
 Class is open NYSUT Retirees, their family and friends  
 Registration Begins at 9:15AM, Class 9:30AM - 4:00PM

**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.  
 We suggest bringing a bag lunch.

**You Must Bring your License. Pay with Check or cash.**

To register call NYSUT at 315-431-4040

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



**Making Strides Against Breast Cancer**  
**Sunday, October 14, 2018**  
**SRC Arena @ Onondaga Community College**  
 Registration begins at 8:30 am @ NYSUT Booth  
 Walk begins at 10:00 am

Go to [makingstrideswalk.org/Syracuse](http://makingstrideswalk.org/Syracuse)  
 or call 1-800-227-2345 to register

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

## Financial advice shouldn't be a one-size-fits-all approach!

Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- the program provider of the NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Financial Counseling Program -- understands the unique benefits and retirement options of NYSUT members and how to address your specific financial needs.

**There are two types of services available: a Full-Service Program and a 403(b) Advisor Option.**

### Financial Planning Center

Member Benefits also offers NYSUT members access at no charge to an online Financial Planning Center. Choose from more than 100 modules on a variety of financial topics.

### **NEW! -- Student Loan & Debt Consolidation Services**

The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation is pleased to announce the endorsement of Cambridge Credit Counseling as a provider to assist NYSUT members and their loved ones with better understanding their student loan re-payment options and/or debt consolidation. **Learn more about this new endorsed program by visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org/cambridge](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org/cambridge).**

## Expert legal assistance for NYSUT members

### The program offers:

- Low annual cost of just \$85 (\$55 for retirees)
- Unlimited toll-free legal advice
- Includes Simple Will, Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy & Living Will
- Two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney

Did you know NYSUT members have access to expert legal assistance for everything from preparing crucial estate planning documents to dealing with traffic violations?

Provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C., the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan offers access to a national network of attorneys that deal with personal legal matters.

For an additional fee, Plan participants can add an Elder Law Rider and/or Business Protection Rider that provides access to attorneys who specialize in these areas.



Learn more by visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or calling 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

May/June '18

❖ 9/18 @ Lasca's, Auburn