



RETIREE COUNCIL 10 SKYLINE NEWS

ISSUE 4 2023-2024 APRIL, MAY

**NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 10: SERVING OVER 11,000 NYSUT
MEMBERS WHO WERE EMPLOYED IN
ALBANY, RENSSELAER, SARATOGA, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES**

TEACHER AND SRP SOLIDARITY

RC10 Officers

President -

Barbara McCarthy
irishiz9@aol.com

1st Vice-President -

Cliff Brosnan
bro3892@gmail.com

2nd Vice-President -

Sandie Carner-Shafran
Scarner123@gmail.com

Secretary -

Colleen Condolora
rc10secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer -

Mary Kruchinski
mkruchinski5@gmail.com

NYSUT Delegates

Mary Kruchinski
Bonita Maxon
Barbara McCarthy

Alternate Delegates

Clifford Brosnan
Sandie Carner-Shafran
Colleen Condolora

AFT Delegate

Bonita Maxon

Membership Director

Davia Dymond
rc10membership@aol.com

Travel/Social

Don Finelli
DDL2103@aol.com

Webmaster and Newsletter Editor

Deb Escobar
rc10newsletter@gmail.com

RC 10 Email Communications

Laraine Gillette
RC10communications@gmail.com

Website:

<http://rc10.ny.aft.org>

From Your President:

In the past year, a recurring theme we have heard in every district is the difficulty schools are having filling positions for whom there are not a lot of candidates in the pipeline. Chemistry, physics, math, technology, and music teachers, as well as substitute teachers and bus drivers, are all in high demand. We undoubtedly will see future challenges in other areas if we don't make a concerted effort to make teaching and working in schools an attractive option to the next generation. Encouraging young people to look at our profession, given the challenges our colleagues have faced in the last four years, has not been easy; but I believe that what drew all of us to teaching is still an attractive option for young people today.

Teachers have a unique opportunity to make a profound impact on young minds, shaping the future of individuals and society. For young people passionate about making a difference, teaching offers a direct path to influencing the next generation. Teaching can be incredibly rewarding, providing a sense of fulfillment that comes from helping others learn and grow. The opportunity to witness the progress of students over time can be deeply gratifying.

Teaching is a profession that encourages continuous learning and growth. Teachers are constantly exposed to new ideas, technologies, and approaches to education, keeping the work dynamic and engaging. The opportunity to be a life-long learner is always available, encouraged and often rewarded with in-service salary credits.

Teaching allows for a great deal of creativity in designing lessons and engaging students. Young people who are creative and enjoy thinking outside the box will find teaching to be a stimulating and fulfilling career as they engage their students in new ways of learning.

While no career is entirely immune to economic fluctuations, the need for teachers is generally stable. Education is a fundamental aspect of society, ensuring a consistent demand for qualified educators. As we work to improve Tiers 5 and 6 pension categories, we will make teaching in NYS an attractive choice due to the retirement benefits.

Teaching often offers a more predictable schedule compared to other professions, with weekends, holidays, and summers off. This can be especially appealing to young people looking to balance work with other interests and family responsibilities. (I say that tongue in cheek because all those sacred times for me were interrupted by spill over work on weekends, holidays, and summers. I didn't mind.)

Teaching provides opportunities for young people to take on leadership roles and mentorship responsibilities, both within the classroom and in the broader education community. There's always a job to do, a committee to head, a program to design, and an opportunity to spread your wings and connect with other like-minded individuals.

Teachers play a vital role in their communities, contributing to the social and intellectual development of not just their students, but also the community at large. Young people who value community involvement may find teaching to be a fulfilling way to give back, especially if they live and work in the community in which they teach.

Currently New York is facing declining enrollment in teacher education programs around the state resulting in some programs being eliminated entirely. The recent closure of St. Rose has certainly impacted those currently enrolled at that school. Because we expect that more than a third of the current teacher workforce will retire soon, it is estimated that we will need as many as 180,000 teachers in the next 10 years. The current areas of concern include science, social studies, special education, ELA, world languages, and career and technical education. Will we have enough programs to educate the next generation of teachers to fill these needs?

It's shocking how the pendulum has swung so far since I began my career in the early 70's. Jobs were hard to find, and one didn't leave a stable position because another job might not be easy to find. That dynamic has changed and now folks teaching in those areas that have fewer available candidates leave for jobs that have fewer preps and higher salaries. The small rural schools and large city districts struggle to keep experienced instructors.



Barbara McCarthy

Continued on Page 2

TO UPDATE YOUR
PERSONAL CONTACT
INFORMATION,
CALL NYSUT MEMBER
RECORDS (518) 213-6000

NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT RC 9/10

Ruth Shippee (ruth.shippee@nysut.org), Phone 518-321-8676

From Your President, Cont'd From Page 1

I would encourage all RC 10 members to think about how you can be a catalyst in this process of fostering an interest in teaching. Find out if your former school district has a program for encouraging future teachers. If they do, investigate how you might assist in mentoring someone that has shown an interest in teaching.

On a final note, RC 10 will again be offering **four** \$1,000 scholarships to students planning to enter the field of education who currently attend a school in one of the four counties we represent (Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Washington Counties). We will be reviewing applications in early April and celebrating our winners and their families on June 6 in Albany. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend an inspiring event as we honor these outstanding individuals for their accomplishments as well as their interest in educating the next generation of students.

For more information on NYSUT's initiative to strengthen the educator pipeline in New York, go to www.takealookatteaching.org.

As always, I hope every day is filled with great books, trips to places you never had time to visit, and time well spent with loved ones. 2024 is well on its way!

~Barbara McCarthy, President

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

At the January Board of Directors meeting, the Ronald McDonald House was added to the list of Social Justice projects. There was an immediate and heartfelt response to the email asking for volunteers. Four members of the Board met with the RMHC Director for a tour and information session and were impressed by the scope of their program and the many ways in which they serve their clientele. RC 10 volunteers will focus on three options to start!

First, the RMH is always in need of food items, snacks, personal hygiene items, etc. Below is a link to the RMH Winter Wish List as well as the Wish List that is posted on the Amazon site. Items can be dropped off or mailed to the **RMH Charities at 139 S. Lake Avenue, Albany, NY 12208**.

<https://rmhcofalbany.org/wp-content/uploads/Winter-Wish-List-2023-1.pdf>

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/D5H7SUNWDPVR/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex (Check back, as the list is updated frequently)

Second, there is a need for Micro Preemie hats. **These are the only knitted/crocheted items needed at this time.** Only 100% acrylic hypo-allergenic yarn should be used: no wool. Below are three sites that offer this specific size preemie hat. Should you have other resources at your disposal, be sure the size indicates Micro Preemie. Items can be dropped off or mailed to the RMH Charities at 139 S. Lake Avenue, Albany, NY 12208.

Oombawaka Designs

<https://oombawkadesigncrochet.com/category/oombawka-design-free-crochet-patterns/crochet-patterns-micro-preemie/>

Mariannas Lazy Daisy Days (Please do not post on any website or webpage)

<https://mariannaslazydaisydays.blogspot.com/2017/06/micro-preemie-baby-hats.html>

YHN Fiber Company

<https://www.yarnhookneedles.com/crochet-preemie-hat/>



Last, our final opportunity involves an in-person Service Day at the RMH. Because of the immediate response, this day has enough volunteers. Other days will be planned. With over 30 volunteers already, there is much interest in this newest Social Justice outreach. Once we participate in the Day of Service and evaluate the feedback from the volunteers, we will offer additional opportunities including:

Love Is Served Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily. Teams of two to five people can sign up to prepare a meal at the House as a one-time only activity or on a rotating basis.

RMH 5K Event: June 15, 2024

Read for RMH Program: August-September 2024

If you would like your name added to the list of those who are interested in potentially volunteering and would like to be notified when opportunities become available, please email Paula Johannessen at pmjohannessen4@gmail.com.

WREATH REMOVAL AT SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Retiree Council 10 members helping to remove wreaths from graves at Saratoga National Cemetery on March 2. Wonderful to see so many people coming to help and show respect.

Pictured from left: Ruth Shippee, Faye Mihuta, Maureen Lee, and Barbara McCarthy.



RETIREE COUNCIL 10 COMMUNICATIONS

What has been going on with Retiree Council 10 members? What are some of the projects being planned? Below are ways to obtain this information:

- **NEWSLETTER:** The newsletter is published five times a year and is mailed by NYSUT to the list of RC 10 members. The digital copy is emailed to the RC 10 email list before it is mailed.
 - **EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS:** If you received this newsletter in your email, you are on the list. If not, please contact rc10communications@gmail.com to receive these announcements.
 - **WEBSITE:** Visit the website at rc10.ny.aft.org.
 - **FACEBOOK PAGE:** Register for the private Facebook group called NYSUT Retiree Council 10. Once you answer three questions, you will be admitted into the group. www.facebook.com/groups/351691680661183
- Any questions, contact rc10communications@gmail.com.

TRAVEL/SOCIAL EVENTS SPRING 2024



HISTORY IS NO MYSTERY IN NYC, MONTREAL IN MAY, AND CRUISE ON LAKE OTSEGO AND LUNCH AT OTESAGA ARE PROVIDED BY YANKEE TRAILS. TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING HAVE BEEN ARRANGED BY THAT COMPANY. These are all active tours and require a large amount of walking and standing. Be sure to assess your personal physical stamina before registering. Registration is prioritized for sustaining members with a limit of one non-sustaining member per sustaining member. Contact rc10communications@gmail.com to obtain a registration form. **YOU MUST FIRST REGISTER WITH RC 10 IN ORDER FOR YANKEE TRAILS TO ACCEPT YOUR DEPOSIT. UPON REGISTRATION, INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTER WITH YANKEE TRAILS WILL BE EMAILED TO YOU.**

MAY 1-3, 2024, HISTORY IS NO MYSTERY IN NYC. LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE. Highlights include matinee performance of *A Beautiful Noise*, dinner at Carmine's in Times Square, Tenement Museum Tour, pub and food tour with a local guide through historic neighborhoods, and Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island tours. Two breakfasts and two dinners as well as gratuities are included. Hotel accommodations will be at The Hampton Inn, Elizabeth, NJ. Cost which includes cancellation insurance: per person \$975 Double (2 people sharing a room w/ 2 queen beds); \$1,221 Single (1 person in a room w/ king or 2 queen beds). The registration fee is \$25 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee; \$50 for guests and non-sustaining members. Contact Dawn Castle at dmcastleeg@gmail.com with any questions.

MAY 21-23, 2024, MONTREAL IN MAY. Come see Old Montreal, visit the Biodome or Botanical Gardens, enjoy a sightseeing cruise on the St Lawrence, experience the Giant Ferris Wheel and a culinary tour. Yankee Trails will provide round trip bus transportation. **A VALID PASSPORT OR ENHANCED DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIRED. INDIVIDUALS WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD OF ANY KIND WILL BE DENIED ENTRY; FOR EXAMPLE, DWI.** Accommodations are at Le Nouvel Hotel. Price, including cancellation insurance, per person is \$802 Double (2 people sharing a room w/2 queen beds) and \$989 Single (1 person in a room w/king or 2 queen beds). The registration fee is \$25 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee; \$50 for guests and non-sustaining members. Registration needs to be completed by **April 21, 2024**. Contact RoseMarie Carey at rcarey03@rochester.rr.com with any questions.

JUNE 7, 2024, CRUISE ON LAKE OTSEGO AND LUNCH AT OTESAGA HOTEL. Enjoy a day in Cooperstown with a quick stop at Fly Creek Cider Mill to use your \$7 shopping voucher. Then cruise Otsego Lake aboard the Glimmerglass Queen followed by a buffet lunch at the Otesaga Hotel. Base Price \$129. After lunch you will have the afternoon in Cooperstown to enjoy the Baseball Hall of Fame (\$26 additional), the Farmer's Museum & Fenimore Art Museum (\$23 additional) or spend time on your own. The additional museum tour tickets may be purchased when you make your reservation. Return will be approximately at 6 p.m. in Albany. The registration fee is \$5 for those members who have paid the annual sustaining membership fee; \$10 for guests and non-sustaining members. Registration needs to be completed by **May 7, 2024**. Contact Dina Ariemma at fdariemma@verizon.net with any questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MAY 9, 2024. The annual conference sponsored by NYSUT and supported by Retiree Council 10 will be at the Christ the King Conference Center in scenic Greenwich in Washington County. A separate mailing will include instructions on how to register for the conference and the schedule for the day which will be filled with various speakers, food and interacting with other retirees.

JUNE 6, 2024. The annual Spring General Meeting and Dinner will be held from 4-7 at the Italian American Community Center in Albany. The 2024 RC 10 Scholarship winners, as well as the RC 10 honorees, will be recognized. Please consider joining us as we celebrate the future of our teaching profession. The registration form is below or email rc10communications@gmail.com for a form.

SPRING, SUMMER, FALL. Volunteer opportunities at the Ronald McDonald House. Contact Paula Johannessen at pmjohannessen4@gmail.com for more information.

REGISTRATION FORM ANNUAL SPRING MEETING DINNER June 6, 2024

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Checks should be made out to RC 10 and mailed to Jeanne Bush, 102 Southbury Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065 by May 25, 2024. Contact: 518-371-1738 or Jeannebsh50@gmail.com if you have questions.

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING DINNER (\$25) SELECT ONE

- Chicken Parmesan, Lightly Breaded Chicken Sautéed Golden Brown, Homemade Sauce, and Melted Mozzarella
 Baked Salmon, Balsamic Glazed, Fried Leeks
 Eggplant Parmesan

Total Enclosed _____

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE NEWS

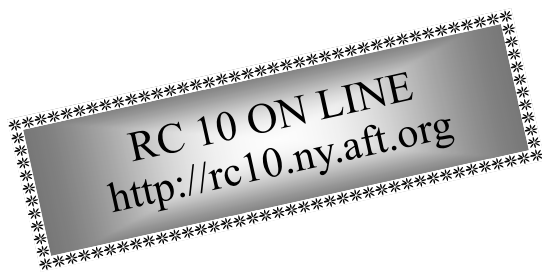


REGIONAL FOOD BANK BACKPACK PROGRAM: The “Holiday Drive for Donations” in November and December reached a record high of \$7,613! RC 10 members’ generosity and support providing healthy food on weekends when family budgets were stretched during the holiday season was phenomenal! THANK YOU! 2024 is off to a fantastic start! January and February donations total was \$4,544. The donation total for July 2023-February 2024 is \$22,502. With the goal to finish the 2023-24 school year strong, please consider supporting this program in the district/school near and dear to your heart.

A donation in any amount is appreciated!
TO DONATE BY CHECK:

Make checks payable to: The Regional Food Bank
In the memo section write: RC 10 BackPack Program/District/School
For example: RC 10 BackPack/Lansingburgh
Mail donations to: Mary Ellen Caporta, 6 West Bayberry Road, Glenmont, NY 12077
TO DONATE ONLINE: Visit <https://give.classy.org/RC10>

REGIONAL FOOD BANK WAREHOUSE VOLUNTEERS: Teams of six to eight dedicated members have sorted and packed various food, household, and hygiene products every month since September 2023. Volunteer Food Bank warehouse teams are in place for the spring months March, April and May. THANK YOU to all who have participated!



MEMBER BENEFITS FOR YOU

Have you heard? NYSUT Retirees have access to many benefits. Member Benefits <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/> has programs that could be of interest to you.

Here are some highlights:

- Need a will? Using pension deduction, you could get one, with a power attorney, health care proxy and living will for \$50/year. There are many other aspects of the program: see it at <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/legal-and-financial>.
- Feeling a tad bit stressed? Like to try meditation? NYSUT has been able to obtain the CALM app for all of us (and we can share with 5 other people) at no cost to us. Go to <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/free-member-benefits>.
- Do you or a family member need hearing aids? Or Life Line to help keep loved ones safe? Check these out at <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/shopping-travel>.

