



RETIREE COUNCIL 10 SKYLINE NEWS

ISSUE 5 2023-2024 JUNE, JULY

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

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From Your President:

There are multiple reasons to stay connected to your former in-service local. Among those reasons are the changes that are occurring regarding retiree health insurance. Some changes have been made because in-service members have been convinced that because they are young and healthy, the money allocated for health insurance costs would be better spent keeping the cost of the plan low and giving the money to the member to use for services. While that may appear to be fiscally prudent for our younger members, as we age, that model may not meet the medical needs of retirees and could significantly impact older members whose pensions and social security have not kept pace with inflation and increased medical costs. Newer retirees may not realize that the insurance they currently have will be secondary once they reach the age of 65+, when they will be required to enroll in and pay for Medicare as well as the plan under which they retired, which becomes their supplemental plan.

We have witnessed that over the years as more people leave the plans we have known for decades; the plans no longer have enough participants and will not be offered in the future. We may then be forced into these new high deductible models which have more oversight on expensive procedures and, ultimately, additional out-of-pocket costs.

Another disturbing trend is districts switching to plans that no longer recognize the providers with whom we have formed a relationship over decades. The newer plans may deem your provider as being "out of network" resulting in that provider not being covered for a procedure. This may include physicians, specialists, and hospital groups. Suddenly, you are asked to find a new provider or specialist that may or may not be participating with your new network.

Those of us who were active in our local governance structures were familiar with language as it was added to newly negotiated contracts. We added protections and benefits through the negotiation process that some of our newer members may not understand or recognize as important. Having a connection to your local in an advisory capacity can be the difference between losing an important piece of language and communicating the importance of that language to all members. Do you have language that requires annual meetings between the district and members of the negotiating team when changes are proposed regarding health insurance? Disregarding that provision could result in changes in plans in which members of the bargaining unit have had no input on the changes and the impact of those changes. A newer member may not understand the importance of that provision, but we remember why that provision was included.

I urge you to stay connected with your former local and offer input when major changes are proposed that could impact the contracts that were negotiated in the past. When Retiree Council 10 meets each month, we hear reports from locals where our members formerly worked. These reports keep us updated on the direction many of the in-service locals are moving in and give the rest of us an idea of the current trends. Currently we have representatives from Albany, Averill Park, Berlin, Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, Capital Region BOCES, East Greenbush, Guilderland, Hartford, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, Schodack, Shenendehowa, Troy, Washington Academy, and WSWHE BOCES. If you don't see your local represented, that means we are not getting timely updates on what is happening in your local. Please consider joining us at a future meeting to share any concerns you may have. We meet in Latham in the Capital District Regional Office at NYSUT headquarters on the third Tuesday of the month. Regular board meetings generally last 90 minutes, followed by lunch, where we can connect with other RC 10 members and talk about how we are navigating retirement.

RC 10 continues taking on new volunteer opportunities that help us to connect and remain visible in our communities. Maybe one of those organizations is what you have been looking for to stay busy. Reach out to anyone you recognize as an active member and ask any questions you may have or contact me.

As always, we hope you are enjoying retirement and benefiting from the information we share in our newsletters, website, and Facebook page. Please consider joining us for a future event or reaching out to one of our active members with your concerns or comments. Best wishes for a safe and active summer of 2024.

~Barbara McCarthy, President



Barbara McCarthy

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

TRAVEL/SOCIAL EVENTS



FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, THE DUTCH APPLE SIGHTSEEING CRUISE ON THE SCENIC AND HISTORICAL HUDSON RIVER. Travel from Albany south to Castleton on the Hudson on the cruise ship. Participants will meet at the dock at 12:15; board at 12:30; leave at 1:00, and return at 3:30. The Dutch Apple web site for tickets is <https://www.dutchapplecruises.com>. Tickets need to be purchased online before the trip. If you buy the day of the trip, the cost is higher. To register, please email Don Finelli at ddl2103@aol.com by August 23. Include your name and phone number along with the names of any guests.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024, RC 10 MEET AND GREET, ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER.

Come join RC 10 retirees for the annual meet and greet at the Italian American Community Center, 257 Washington Ave Extension, Albany from 11:30 to 2:30. A Subway box lunch will be served along with bottled water. The cost is \$12 per person non-refundable. Contact rc10communications@gmail.com to obtain a registration form. Make your \$12 check payable to RC 10 and mail the check and the registration form to Dina Ariemma, 10 Harvard Road, Watervliet, NY 12189, by August 28. Contact Dina Ariemma at fdariemma@verizon.net with any questions.

SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2024, WINERIES AND WATERFALLS IN THE FINGER LAKES. THIS TRIP IS PROVIDED BY YANKEE TRAILS. TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING HAVE BEEN ARRANGED BY THAT COMPANY.

This is an active tour and requires 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.** Celebrate retirement in September by joining us on gorgeous waterfall hikes and informative and tasty winery tours of the Finger Lakes. Yankee Trails will provide round trip transportation with hotel accommodations at Lakefront Hotel in Geneva, located right on the shore of Seneca Lake. Highlights of our tour include guided tours of waterfalls in Ithaca, admission to Glen Curtiss Museum, tasting and tours at Bully Hill Winery, Wagner Vineyards, New York Kitchen, Lively Run Goat Dairy (goat cheese), a boat ride with Seneca Lake Reel Tours, a visit to Sauder's Amish Market, and admission to Willard Chapel as well as three breakfasts, one lunch and two dinners. Gratuities are included for the driver and guide, but not for meals. This will be an active tour and requires walking and standing. **Cost:** Double (2 people sharing a room w/ 2 queen beds), **\$1,028** (includes cancellation insurance); Single (1 person in a room w/ king or 2 queen beds), **\$1,320** (includes cancellation insurance). The registration fee for sustaining members is \$25 and non-sustaining registration fee is \$50. **Registration fee is due by July 1, 2024. Send the registration form and fee to Dawn Castle, 48 Rose Lane, Rensselaer, NY 12144. Registration is prioritized for sustaining members with a limit of 1 non-sustaining member registration per sustaining member. Once we receive your registration fee a link will be sent to you so that you can register with Yankee Trails.** A \$150 deposit will be required when registering with Yankee Trails; the rest is due 30 days before the trip. Please contact Dawn Castle at dmcastleeg@gmail.com for any questions you may have including your membership status.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, GILDED AGE ARCHITECTURAL TOUR OF HISTORIC DOWNTOWN TROY. While seeing the history of the City of Troy and its architecture, participants will understand why the downtown historic district became a popular spot for filming. During the tour, locations from Seasons 1 and 2 of the Gilded Age will be highlighted as well as some fun background stories and adventures the tour guide had with the film crews. There will be audio receivers, so everyone will be able to hear the tour guide. This 1.5 mile tour starts at 10:30 at the Hart Cluett Museum and ends at the Museum. While the terrain is mainly flat, there is a slight rise as you go from Division to Congress. There are slate sidewalks and uneven pavement, so we encourage those people who use a cane to bring it. This would be very difficult for someone using a wheelchair. The tour takes approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes. The cost is \$30 for sustaining RC 10 members and \$35 for nonmembers. Limit to one guest per member. Contact rc10communications@gmail.com to obtain a registration form. Please send your registration form and check made payable to Retiree Council 10 to Fran Hyde, 1538 Tibbits Avenue, Troy, NY 12180 no later than September 30, 2024. Any questions, contact Fran at lighthouse1@aol.com.

IN THE PLANNING STAGES—*Christmas in Newport.*

RETIREE COUNCIL 10 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND HONOREES

RC 10 offers a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a student who plans on having a career in education. One winner is chosen from each of the counties represented by RC 10: Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Washington. The Scholarship Committee met on April 11 to review all applications and select the recipients. Scholarship committee members Jeanne Bush, Betty Close, Stephanie Copeland, Mary Lou Dunham, Jill Eaton, Karen Fein, Laraine Gillette, Beth Johnson, Maureen Lee, Barbara McCarthy, Helen Tomaso, and Barb Zukowski reviewed 21 applications. Members were pleasantly surprised at the high quality of this year's entries.



We send heartfelt congratulations to Ian Shaffer, Albany County from Guilderland High School; Molly Graiff, Rensselaer County from Columbia High School; Amelia Miller, Saratoga County from Stillwater High School; and Molly Abate, Washington County from Greenwich Central High School. This year we are also pleased to be able to honor an additional student through a generous donation from retiree Tony McCann who is honoring his friend and fellow educator Patrick Longo by sponsoring a \$1,000 Scholarship. Congratulations to the recipient from Ravena Coeymans Selkirk's High School, Carl-Hanee Coquillon.

We wish all the best to these aspiring teachers as they begin what we hope will be a fun and exciting career in education. Retiree Council 10 also honors retirees from the Council. This year's honorees are Jeanne Bush, Albany County; Michele Doodian, Rensselaer County; Cliff Brosnan, Saratoga County; and Ruth Shippee, Washington County.

ANNUAL RETIREE COUNCIL 10 CONFERENCE

This year the host county for our conference on May 9 was Washington County. Our idyllic setting in Greenwich was worth the drive for those from our southern counties. Our speakers ranged from NYSUT staff to area entertainment to land stewardship.

After being greeted by RC 10 Vice President Cliff Brosnan, Regional Staff Director Mike Rowan brought us up to date on things happening in and beyond the Capital District Regional Office. One item he discussed was signing petitions to help get a contract for a new group at a charter school. *Union work remains a lifelong effort.*

Peter Kim, NYSUT Regional Organizer, shared with us various aspects of what the department is working on.

Kyle West from Fort Salem Theater in Salem, NY, shared his journey to becoming a part of this non-profit theater in Washington County. Area residents not only can see amazing productions but also have opportunities to be involved. Their summer program for children and special performances that schools can take part in were especially interesting. This year schools will be invited to "Our Town."

Following Kyle, Rene Bouplon and Kara O'Malley-Scieszka from Agricultural Stewardship Association explained how this organization works to keep agricultural land protected from development. They can assist farmers financially to keep their land in production. They also have a few properties that have public access to the land so visitors can learn to appreciate it even more.

After lunch, NYSUT Second Vice President Ron Gross shared his journey from educator to NYSUT officer serving Retiree Services.

The day closed with Steve Kramer, NYSUT Member Benefit's Legal Plan. Steve again helped us to understand why it is so important to take advantage of the Legal Plan for only \$50 per year through payroll deduction. Through this plan you can obtain your will, power of attorney, living will and health care proxy. Steve also discussed trusts and how they can help us protect our assets. Please take advantage of this plan.

Hope to see many of you at next year's conference!

ON THE MOVE WITH RC 10

MAY 1-3, 2024, HISTORY IS NO MYSTERY IN NYC. Twenty-five Retiree Council 10 members and guests had a great time in New York City as the photos show. They went to "A Beautiful Noise" (fantastic show!), Summit (Wow- a must-do experience), The Tenement Museum, a food and beverage tour, Ellis Island and The Statue of Liberty.



MAY 21-23, MONTREAL. The trip to Montreal hosted 33 RC 10 members who enjoyed cruising the St. Lawrence, sampling regional foods at the Jean Talon open market, and visiting the Notre Dame Basilica. The botanical gardens and biodome were additional treats. Yeah for penguins!



RETIREE COUNCIL 10 EMAIL

Does RC 10 have your email address? Those who receive emails are the first to be notified of Travel/Social Events. There is a trip being planned to Newport for Christmas. Interested? Be sure to receive the information first by adding your email to the list. Please contact rc10communications@gmail.com to be added to the list.

If you are receiving the emails but your situation has changed, please contact rc10communications@gmail.com to be removed from the list.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

RC 10 retirees were busy throughout the 2023-24 school year contributing in so many ways and in so many communities! At this time of reflection, much has been accomplished and plans for the 2024-25 school year will be taking place soon.

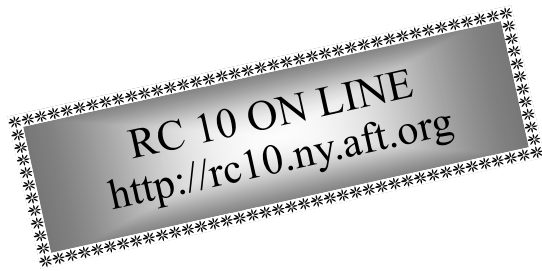
With Gratitude

Thank you to all members who assisted the Regional Food Bank during the 2023-24 school year. From sorting Stewart's milk and egg coupons for the Backpack Program, to sorting food and household products at the warehouse, to donating more than **\$25,000 to the Backpack Program!** Thank you for your support! **Donations to the Backpack Program are welcome** through the summer and can be made by check or online. CHECKS are payable to: The Regional Food Bank. In the memo section, write: RC 10 Backpack Program/School to support. Example: RC 10 Backpack Program/South Glens Falls. Mail donations to: Mary Ellen Caporta, 6 West Bayberry Road, Glenmont, NY 12077. ONLINE: <https://give.classy.org/RC10> or SCAN CODE:



Thank you to those who participated in the Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk in October, as well retirees that laid and collected holiday wreaths at Saratoga National Cemetery in December and March.

Thank you to many who have provided "Days of Service" at the Albany Ronald McDonald House since March, as well as to those who donated items from the Wish Lists. Be on the lookout for RC 10's Social Justice Committee Open Forum to be held at NYSUT headquarters in the fall (date to be determined). All are invited to share new ideas for the 2024-2025 year.



NYSUT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

Members make their voices heard by electing local delegates who represent them at NYSUT's annual convention, the Representative Assembly. The RA is the union's highest policy-making body, except for a membership referendum. All NYSUT members are welcome to attend the annual Representative Assembly, but only duly elected and reported delegates may debate and vote on proposed resolutions and other business that might be brought before the Representative Assembly. Representing RC 10 this year in New York City on May 3 were Cliff Brosnan, Colleen Condolora and Bonita Maxon. As delegates, they attend Committee meetings ahead of the resolutions to decide which ones are brought to the floor of the convention.

On Friday, many NYSUT services and benefits were on display. During the two days there were many speakers including, Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Chuck Schumer, NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, and Randi Weingarten. But the most inspiring speaker was NY Attorney General Letitia James. She had the group chanting "We will not go back."

President Melinda Person spoke about legislative wins and talked about the Pipeline Project, funded by Vote-Cope, which supports educators that run for office. She also stated that since 2020 Vote Cope has had a down trend, BUT in 2023 contributions increased to \$11,356,316. A motion was passed for Eric Iberger to remain on the board of the NYS Teachers Retirement System.

Members can go to the NYSUT Website to hear many of the speakers, read about the resolutions, and learn more about the RA.