

RC 8
Retiree



January/February 2024

RC 8

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**Union for Life
Jan Corn, President**

Happy New Year! I know we all look forward to a healthy, happy year ahead where all our retiree dreams come true.

I'm sure by now you have heard NYSUT's motto "Union for Life." You may wonder how that affects you now that you are retired. The Union was an important part of your professional in-service life, but how does it help you in retirement? Hopefully, the following information will help with answers to these questions.

NYSUT has one of the most active and successful union retiree programs in the country. The NYSUT Retiree Services Program, part of Program Services, was established to help retirees organize and to act as a service provider for retiree groups. Retiree Councils were formed under this program. In an effort to better serve the growing numbers of retirees, Retiree Services Consultants were hired to serve members in the field. They serve as liaisons between retired members, Retiree Councils, and NYSUT. There are twenty-seven Retiree Councils in the state. Eleven Retiree Services Consultants service these councils. Retiree Councils work along with the consultants to improve your benefits in retirement. They also keep you informed on issues that are of importance to you such as Social Security, health insurance, Medicare, and pensions. Anne Marie Voutsinas is our Retiree Services Consultant.

Union for Life encourages members to stay active in union interests. Some suggestions... It's important to support your fellow retirees and in-service colleagues. Stay informed about education issues that affect teachers. Join your retiree chapter. Check out the great things NYSUT's Member Benefits has to offer you. Stay informed by reading the *NYSUT United* publication that you receive in the mail. Take advantage of the

information on the retiree section of the nysut.org website. Promote public education to others whenever possible.

On a similar note, I'd like to discuss the Tier 6 pension issue. NYSUT has made Tier 6's inequity one of its major priorities this year. As Union for Life members, we retirees need to support this effort. Many of you, like me, were hired under Tier 3. Tier 3 collected 3% of our salaries which, after tireless legislative efforts on behalf of NYSUT and its members, was capped at 10 years and the Social Security penalty was reduced for monies earned in retirement. We were able to retire at age 55 with 30 years of service without penalty, as well. Tier 6 members pay 3% rising to 6% of their salaries and have to work until age 63 to receive their full pensions. The pensions are lower creating disincentives in hiring and keeping good teachers. This undervalues the teaching profession and is so very inequitable from prior Tiers. For the future of education, we need to help fix Tier 6 as we helped fix Tier 3. Here are some ways you can help: Call your legislative representatives telling them that Tier 6 needs to be fixed to attract qualified teachers and support our schools. When talking to others, explain the Tier 6 situation in conversation—make them aware. Encourage teaching as a rewarding profession. And, of course I would be remiss if I didn't mention how important it is to donate to Vote-Cope where your dollars go to lobbying for important issues like this.

Union for Life gives new meaning to solidarity and is evidence that our members, old and new, are all in this together.

As always, thank you for your support, compliments, and suggestions. I look forward to hearing from and seeing you in 2024.

In solidarity, Jan

Medicare Minute Presentations

Join the Medicare Rights Center's FREE monthly Medicare Minute presentations. Each month's Medicare Minute will help you learn more about your benefits and make the most of your Medicare coverage. Learn more and register at <https://www.medicareinteractive.org/medicare-minute/schedule>

Source: Medicare Rights Center

Retiree Council 8 Steering Committee: Adirondack—L. DeSantis, H. La Fave; Canastota—B. Woodarek; Clinton—K. Foote, K. Moran; Holland Patent—C. Johnson, C. Zaleski; Oneida—K. Cartwright-Cox, J. Fiacco; Oneida BOCES—J. Furgal; Oriskany—S. McQueen, B. Sanford-Ferrick; Phoenix—C. Blackburn; Remsen—J. Corn; Rome—M. Byrne, W. Carey; Sauquoit—Y. Cortright; Stockbridge—L. Dunn; Utica—M. Balutis, N. Bender; VVS—K. Drake, S. Hauprich; Whitesboro—H. Chomin, F. Wood; Past Presidents—K. Drake, P. Corbett; RAC—C. Gehrig

Thank You

Thank you for supporting the Madison County Children’s Camp. Your contribution of \$225 helped us reach our goal of serving children from throughout Madison County. It has truly changed the life of a child and given many their only summer camping experience. (Madison County Children’s Camp)

Thank you for donating \$805. WCK has provided more than 300 million meals since 2010 in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises across the world. As Chef Jose Andres says, “World Central Kitchen was born from the simple idea that food has the power to create a better world.” (World Central Kitchen)

Thank you for your continued generous support of \$200 to our chapter and our mission, which is NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN. Many people don’t know there are so many kids sleeping on the floor or in other uncomfortable situations, and SHP aims to solve this crisis. To date, we have made over 1300 beds. (Sleep in Heavenly Peace)

Your generous contribution of \$200 will go right to work helping us fulfill our vision of *Keeping Families Together*. (ICAN—Integrated Community Alternatives Network)

Thank you so much for the \$200 in support of our mission. Your donation makes a wonderful difference in the lives we serve. (Brady Faith Center)

Thank you for your \$200 contribution. Because of support from you and others who care about our community, we can continue to invest in a broad range of initiatives, programs and services through nonprofit partners. (Community Foundation/Operation Sunshine Fund)

On behalf of the NYSUT officers, thank you for your support and very generous contribution of \$500 to the Florida NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund. Donations provide relief and support directly to other NYSUT members currently rebuilding from devastating losses due to natural disasters or storm-related damages.

SAVE THE DATE! RC 8’s Second Annual Erie Canal Walk and Bike Ride, Wednesday, June 19, 2024, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Rain Date: Wednesday, June 26). Lock 20 Canal Park, River Road, Marcy. Join us to celebrate the official start of summer 2024. School is closed for the Juneteenth holiday. Invite active teachers, family, and friends to attend. Look for details in our next newsletter. For more information, contact Carol Zaleski at 315-281-7616 or carolzal65@gmail.com

*We
remember
our
friends
and
colleagues*

Andrew DeSetto	Adirondack	Russell Lupi	Oneida BOCES
Vallance DeVisser	Adirondack	Beth Hallinan	Pulaski
MaryRita Mathis	Adirondack	Marcelline Bilton	Rome
Patricia Beatty	Canastota	Fiore DeCosty	Rome
Phillip Gordon	Chittenango	Patrick Delpiano	Rome
Deanna Holmes	Holland Patent	Connie Froschauer	Rome
Margaret Leach	Holland Patent	Thomas Hoke	Rome
Mabel Schaefer	Holland Patent	Dorthea Iselo	Rome
Mary Ernest	New Hartford	Nancy Lovelace	Rome
Jane Gale	New Hartford	Patricia McCorduck	Rome/Madison BOCES
Wanda Gregory	New Hartford	Rebecca Mellay	Rome
Charlene Krol	New Hartford	Douglas Merritt	Rome
Robert Lewis	New Hartford	Angeline Money	Rome
Walter Ruzala	New Hartford	Rhonda Sherman	Rome
Jerome Aylesworth	Oneida	Natalie Czebieniak	Utica
Bryan Mellon	Oneida	Terri Palmiero	Utica
Mary Patricia	Oneida/VVS	Dr. Patrick Curtin	VVS/Oneida/ Canastota
Peter Tamburro	Oneida	Mary Anne Buteux	Whitesboro
Thomas Williams	Oneida	Donald Hayes	Whitesboro
Marsha Campanaro	Oneida		

Spring Luncheon: Thursday, May 16, 2024

TWIN PONDS
 169 Main Street, New York Mills

COST: \$28
Tax and Tip Included

MENU
Be Sure to Select Menu #1 or Menu #2
on Your Registration Form

Menu #1 Chicken Ravello—boneless chicken breast baked and topped with Italian greens, prosciutto and provolone, finished with a creamy garlic and herb Boursin cheese sauce.

Menu #2 Haddock Francaise—Fresh haddock filet dipped in a parmesan egg batter, pan sauteed and finished with a light garlic-lemon white wine sauce.

Included with both meals are a house salad, Brabant potatoes, rolls, butter, coffee, tea and cake

AGENDA

11:00 a.m. Registration

11:30 Introductions by Jan Corn
 RC 8 President

12:00 noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. Speaker: U. S. Attorney Chris Moran
 Topic: Protecting Yourself From Scams

1:30 Closing

Spring Charity Recipient will be announced in the next newsletter

RESERVATION FORM

Please send this form and your check for \$28 (made payable to Retiree Council 8) to the following address:
RC 8 Luncheon, NYSUT, 7 Ellinwood Court, New Hartford, NY 13413. Your check and reservation form must be received by Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Late reservations can no longer be accepted.

Name _____

District Retired From _____ Year of Retirement _____

Address _____ Menu Choice #1 ___ or #2 ___

E-mail _____ Phone _____

2023-2024 Participation Fee

IMPORTANT: Retirees from Adirondack, Canastota, Central Square, Clinton, Holland Patent, New Hartford, Oneida, Oriskany, Pulaski, Remsen, Sauquoit Valley, Stockbridge Valley, Utica, VVS, Waterville, Westmoreland, and Whitesboro **do not have to send \$5**, since the Participation Fee is contributed via retiree dues by your chapter. Rome Retirees may add the Participation Fee to their RTA local dues.

ATTENTION ALL OTHER RETIREES NOT BELONGING TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED LOCALS; please fill out the form below and mail as directed at the bottom of the form.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Retiree School District: _____ Phone _____

E-mail address: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND A \$5 CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO “RETIREE COUNCIL 8” AND MAIL TO: Wanona E. Carey, RC 8 Treasurer, 8623 Turin Road, Rome, NY 13440-7523.

