

RC 8 Retiree



March/April 2024

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mac.nysut.org



We Depend on You
Jan Corn, President

I hope you all have had a good winter. We've been spoiled with warm weather on and off and now, hopefully, spring is almost here. Our plethora of rain should bring lovely spring flowers this year.

I'd like to discuss two issues in this article. The first being the RC 8 Steering Committee. The second, VOTE-COPE.

In my recent travels to retiree functions, I have put out requests for some additional RC 8 Steering Committee volunteers. We haven't received any, so I thought I'd use the newsletter as a plea vehicle. We need more of our retirees represented on the Committee. Joining our discussion allows you to have a voice in the issues that concern all of us as NYSUT retirees. The RC 8 Steering Committee represents fee-paying retiree Chapters in Oneida, Madison, and Oswego Counties. Each Chapter is allowed two voting members on the Committee. Some of our Chapters are not represented at all on the Committee, and we have some with only one instead of the allotted two. It is important to note that we welcome all retired members to attend and participate in the discussion. You do not need to be an official Chapter representative to attend!

We meet the second Tuesday of each month (September-June) from 10 a.m.-noon at the NYSUT Regional Office in New Hartford.

We work to improve and maintain the rights and benefits of our retirees and locals through social and political avenues. We work to protect our hard earned benefits such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, health benefits, pensions, and COLAs. We also support public education and collective bargaining. Whatever your political party, we need you to help us fight for these benefits and keep them intact. We must support our own interests. We meet to take care of business, to continue our education, to communicate, and to stay informed.

As an incentive, we serve coffee and

breakfast treats, as well!

Please consider attending the Steering Committee as a Chapter representative or as an interested retiree. So, grab a retiree friend and come on over...we will welcome you with open arms!

In talking about our work to preserve and improve our benefits as mentioned above, we must remember that there is strength in numbers and using our collective voice. NYSUT'S political fundraising arm is VOTE-COPE, which is the non-partisan action fund that coordinates the voluntary contributions of members as well as supports their endorsed candidates that are pro-public education and pro-labor. It is one of these voices. (Remember...no dues monies are used to support VOTE-COPE.)

VOTE-COPE dollars work for both in-service members and retirees. The fund heavily supports our pensions, health benefits, public ed, and collective bargaining. As I'm sure you know, we have one of the best pension plans in the U.S. VOTE-COPE has been instrumental in building this plan.

As I'm sure you also know, the proposed State budget is calling for large education cuts. We need to contact our legislators on a regular basis to remind them to find ways to reverse these cuts. We must also communicate with our national level representatives regularly to promote retiree issues such as Social Security and Medicare. NYSUT has a legislative department that contacts all these reps often to complete this task. The Committee of 100, composed of in-service and retiree members from around the state, also meets with legislators to ask for their support. All these efforts are paid for through VOTE-COPE contributions. Your contributions make a difference! You can participate in your future and the future of public education through VOTE-COPE. Please contribute. We really depend on you. Thank you!

In solidarity
Jan

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

Join Us for the 2024 Canal Walk



Enjoying the sunshine at the 2023 Canal Walk

Everyone is invited to join us for
 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
 School is closed for the Juneteenth holiday.
 Invite in-service teachers, family, and friends to attend.
 Wear your walking shoes or bring your bike.
 Bring a lunch and beverage; RC 8 will provide water & cookies.
 More details will be in our next newsletter.
 For more information contact Carol Zaleski at
 315-281-7616 or carolzal65@gmail.com

We Remember Our Friends And Colleagues...

Susan Kornatowski	Adirondack	Yvonne Brandish	Mexico	Barbara Swiss	Rome
Arlene Forward	Camden	Douglas Pens	New Hartford	Concetta Broccoli	Utica
Jane Lavonas	Canastota	Juanita Skogland	Oneida BOCES	Robert Conklin	Utica
Thomas Moses	Canastota	Randy Bostwick	Oriskany	Melvin Foster	Utica
Mary Beeman	Central Square	Mary Hammill	Oswego	Edward Keeler	Utica
Patricia Hegarty	Central Square	Kathleen Benfey	Rome	Elizabeth Kelly	Utica
Arthur Blymiller, Jr.	Hamilton	Fiore DeCosty	Rome	Paul Rinko	Utica
Cecil Groban	Holland Patent	Kathleen Dowling	Rome/VVS	Charlotte Banas	VVS
John Stark	Holland Patent	Robert Mickler	Rome	Shirley Dykstra	Westmoreland
				Joyce LaManque	Westmoreland

FREE! NYSUT Member Benefits is pleased to announce the availability of the premium Calm subscription as a free benefit for all NYSUT in-service AND retiree members. Calm provides members with unlimited access to the full library of content at calm.com and in the Calm app, which can be utilized via desktop, laptop, tablet, or mobile device (IOS or Android). For more information, visit <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/free-member-benefits> and look for Premium Calm Service on the left side of the screen. You will need your NYSUT ID number to create an account with your email address.

Annual Mike Corn Leadership Award



The NYSUT Utica Regional Office is seeking nominations for its annual Mike Corn Leadership Award. Mike was a dedicated teacher and long-time union advocate. Any RC 8 retiree who has demonstrated involvement in union and political activities and community service is eligible to receive the award.

The application, due by April 29, 2024, can be obtained as follows:

online at www.retireecouncil8.org

Call or write to

NYSUT Utica Regional Office

7 Ellinwood Court

New Hartford, NY 13413

315-768-0131

SAVE THE DATE

NYSUT Regional Conference for RC 7 and RC 8
 Monday, September 23, 2024

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
Mike Corn Award Presentation
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Speaker: Assistant U. S. Attorney
Christopher Moran
Topic: Protecting Yourself From Scams
- 1:30 Closing

**Special luncheon collection will be donated to
CNY Food Bank**

If you would like to donate and can't attend, please make checks out to Food Bank of Central NY and mail to W.E. Carey 8623 Turin Road Rome 13440-7523

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, c/o RC 8, 7 Ellinwood Court, New Hartford, NY 13413**. Your check must be received by Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Late reservations can no longer be accepted.

Name _____

District Retired From _____ Year of Retirement _____

Address _____ **Menu #1** _____ **or Menu #2** _____

Email _____ 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.**

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.

