

**Retiree Council 8**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
Election District 51 (AFT # 9508)

**MINUTES**  
**2.14.17**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting at the NYSUT office at 7 Ellinwood Ct. New Hartford, NY was called to order at 10:00 by Vice President Howard LaFave. The note taker was Secretary Linda Dunn.

**II. ATTENDANCE**

Howard LaFave .....	Adirondack	Jan Corn .....	Remsen
Yvonne Emery.....	Adirondack	Wanona Carey.....	Rome
Janet Furgal .....	BOCES	Peg Corbett.....	Rome
Marie Duink .....	Clinton	Linda Dunn .....	Stockbridge
Jeannine Grossman .....	Holland Patent	Janice Okey .....	Utica
Dan Schue .....	Holland Patent	Nan LaBrecque .....	Waterville
Doreen Markson.....	New Hartford	Michael Berardino.....	Waterville
Anne Marie Voutsinas .....	NYSUT	Helen Chomin .....	Whitesboro
Jim Fiacco .....	Oneida	Florence Wood.....	Whitesboro
Keri Cartwright-Cox.....	Oneida		
Diana Inserra .....	Oriskany		
Bonnie Walsh.....	Oriskany Guest		
Carole Gehrig.....	RAC		

Julie Metz, RC8 Administrative Assistant at NYSUT office, [Jmetz@nysutmail.org](mailto:Jmetz@nysutmail.org)

**III. MINUTES**

Introduction of Bonnie Walsh, guest from Oriskany, and Janice Okey, substitute from Utica.

Correction to minutes: None

**MARIE DUINK MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES.**

**DAN SCHUE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**IV. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Received dues from 4 more chapters, and currently have checks from 3 additional chapters.

Will send envelopes to a couple other chapters.

Received a few more participation checks from non-chapter members.

Received 2 checks from NYSUT for newsletter ads totaling \$200.00.

**FLORENCE WOOD MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT. KERI**

**CARTWRIGHT-COX SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Howard attended the Oneida Presidents Meeting. Issues prevalent were those of health care negotiations and cell phone policies.

**VI. NYSUT CONSULTANT**

Anne Marie attended NYSUT webinar – budget issues.

May 1, 2017 conference – Paul Pecorale will attend. Karen Magee was invited but cannot attend. Floyd Cameron is scheduled.

Several workshops are scheduled as well as afternoon entertainment.

Carole Gehrig will be trained and available to present discussions of the Constitutional Convention as of March 6, 2017.

**VII. NEWSLETTER**

Newsletter is almost finished for the March 1, 2017 deadline.

Reminder that the 100 word (or less) statement is due from candidates for offices.

Jeannine Grossman will run for alt. delegate.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

*INDIVISIBLE* guide summary is completed. Yvonne emailed it last night.

## IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. Program

Everything is almost done for May 18, 2017 Spring Luncheon. Waiting for communication from Dibbles about final price. Speaker is David Keefe. Peter Savage is the speaker for the Fall Luncheon.

### 2. Legislative Issues

Will attend the Committee of 100 on March 6 and 7, 2017.

Keep up on legislators and contact them by e-mail, fax, letter or calls. They are pro Constitutional Convention. Reminder from Peg about Assemblyman Brindisi's Town Hall at Rome City Hall from 6-8. He has 4 scheduled. Discussed placement of amendment on ballot and confusion.

Discussed need for more people to donate to Vote Cope.

Note that Congresswoman Tenney now has a local office.

### 3. Labor Council

Written report submitted by Wanona.

Group Indivisible is forming. Contact Labor Council for more information.

Other groups are "Rise Up Mohawk Valley," "Forward Mohawk Valley" and "Citizen Action."

Irish night will be on March 31, 2017. Some of the money donated by Labor Council will be given back to the food pantry.

Worker day will be April 27, 2017 and more information will be forthcoming.

St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on March 11, 2017.

### ARA

Meeting was held last Friday and featured two speakers.

CSEA speaker discussed arguments against holding a Constitutional Convention including such things as payment of salary plus convention pay for legislators, timeline of up to one year or more and a cost of 35 million.

Occupational Health Center speaker discussed diagnosing job related diseases in Syracuse and other places across the state.

### 4. Membership

Report from Florence that Whitesboro's membership is 173 out of 250. Vote Cope donations are at 60% from retirees.

### 5. ED

Committee of 100 on March 6 and 7 mentioned earlier.

### 6. Ed Issues

PAC meeting held here at NYSUT on Thursday night with a short version of both the Presidents meeting and PAC.

Mentioned two news articles about need for Constitutional Convention, but issues can be addressed without holding the Convention.

Mention of Michigan and destroyed pensions.

Need to do more to inform all people of how the Constitutional Convention can affect the entire state.

Suggested NYSUT signs on lawns. Suggested need to send letters to membership.

Also suggested letter writing campaign- letters to the editor.

Group to write letters to the editor would work together on talking points, fact sheet, etc.

Discussed need to involve other organizations that will be affected.

### 7. Election –

Provided sheet with offices and nominees.

No nominee for secretary as yet.

Nominations close end of January. Can come up from the floor.

**8. Political Action**

PAC meeting on Thursday.

**9. PR - none**

**10. Social Justice**

Discussion of charities for donation at the luncheon. Summer Feeding Program for Children discussed since the money can be designated for specific counties. Also discussion about having people who can't make the luncheon able to donate by making a check to the Food Bank and sending it to Wanona at her home address.

MOTION TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE CNY FOOD BANK FOR THE SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN DESIGNATED FOR THE COUNTIES OF MADISON, ONEIDA, AND OSWEGO. **JIM FIACCO** MADE THE MOTION. **JEANNINE GROSSMAN** SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**11. Sunshine- none**

**X. DISCUSSION PERIOD -NONE**

**XI. NEW BUSINESS -NONE**

**XII. LOCAL REPORTS**

- Adirondack ..... Presented Vote Cope information at meeting.
- BOCES ..... Started Negotiations
- Holland Patent ..... Meeting on Thursday at Symeon's.
- New Hartford ..... Co-pay update- cards sent out – Medicare is primary
- Oneida ..... Three-school luncheon. Group of retirees getting together for political action.
- Oriskany ..... New Principal, Reminder about the National Abolitionist Exhibit opening at MVCC.
- Remsen ..... No meeting held in January, due reminder and Constitutional Convention, Interim from Camden.
- Rome ..... Peg attended Rep Council - Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 vote at Stanley. Rob Wood is working to get Health Committee working again. Health Consortium meets once a month, and according to freedom of information is a body under open meeting law, but there is no rule that people have a right to speak.  
Need to keep an eye on Health Insurance.  
Peg is writing a short article on Medicare for the newsletter.  
Home office of Congresswoman Tenney is at 555 French Road and the office number is 315/737-0713.
- Stockbridge ..... Counselor position, Constitutional Convention info on YouTube sent out to membership
- Waterville ..... Actives filing grievance for retirees
- Whitesboro ..... Meeting in March, Negotiations started, Helen pointed out the Florence is one of 7 women to be honored on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Daniele's.
- No reports ..... Canastota, Clinton , Utica , VVS

**XIII. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Discussion of reason for only family and individual health insurance.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY **FLORENCE WOOD**.  
SECONDED BY **JEANNINE GROSSMAN**. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Linda W. Dunn, Secretary, Retiree Council 8 Steering Committee