

Madison-Oneida-Oswego

RC 8
Retiree



March/April 2019

RC 8

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You Make a Difference Jan Corn, President

As I write this article, winter is coming to an end. Spring is right around the corner with its vision of new growth and hope. As the weather improves, I expect we will all become more active physically, socially, and politically. I'm hoping that the issue of the increasing number of charter schools in our country is of concern to you, and I'm hoping that this concern will be on the list of your political actions this spring.

Across the nation public schools are disappearing. Charter schools are replacing public schools everywhere. Charter school vouchers take taxpayer money from public schools and give them to private and religious schools. Some religious schools are even changing to charter schools in order to get public funds. Charter schools are marketing themselves under the guise of providing "choice." Charter schools often claim that their students have better test scores than those in public schools. This is not true. Some studies show that students who leave public schools with vouchers often do worse in the charter schools.

The Koch brothers have targeted five states in which they will try to eliminate public education. Other billionaires are supporting charter schools as well. School privatization is a real threat.

Once again your help is needed. As more and more hopefuls are entering the race for president, we must be vigilant and grade these candidates on their positions regarding charter schools, vouchers, and high-stakes testing. Are they taking money from the billionaires who believe in privatization of public schools? Do they support charter schools? Do they support vouchers? Do they support reforms to make charter school management more transparent and accountable to the public? We must ask these hard questions to ensure we are supporting candidates with our best interests in mind as retired public school teachers and support staff. With repeated efforts and educating the candidates on the benefits of public schools, we can initiate change. We've done it before and can certainly do it again.

We must also hold our newly elected officials' feet to the fire on these issues. Through town hall meetings, rallies, letter writing campaigns, and phone calls, we can ensure that these legislators hold to their campaign promises.

We need politicians and someone in the White House that understand the value of our public schools. We need representatives that will fight for and help keep and improve our existing community public school system. Please do what you can toward these goals.

As always, thank you for your involvement and support. You make a difference. Happy spring!

Donation to Feed Our Vets

As 2018 drew to a close, the RC 8 Steering Committee members decided to make one final donation to a community organization. Members chipped in and collected \$550 to send to Feed Our Vets. The following is a response from Rich and Michele Synek, Founders and Executive Directors, to that donation: "On behalf of Feed Our Vets, thank you for your support and generous \$550 donation. What a phenomenal collection stemming from your December meeting! You are a very caring 26! You are helping to feed veterans, their spouses, and children whose circumstances have left them on the battlefield of hunger. Eighty-eight percent of all donations go directly to feeding our veterans. Thank you so much for this tremendous donation. It will go a long way in feeding our veterans."

SAVE THE DATE

NYSUT REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR RC 7 AND RC 8
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019
DOUBLETREE, EAST SYRACUSE

Retiree Council 8 Steering Committee: Adirondack—Y. Emery, H. La Fave; Canastota—B. Wood-arek; Clinton—M. Duink, C. Wheat; Holland Patent—J. Grossman, C. Johnson; New Hartford—D. Markson; Oneida—K. Cartwright-Cox, J. Fiacco; Oneida BOCES—J. Furgal, C. Zammiello; Oriskany—S. McQueen, D. Inserra; Remsen—J. Corn; Rome—W. Carey; Sauquoit—Y. Cortright; Stockbridge—L. Dunn; Utica—N. Bender, A. Cohen; VVS—K. Drake; Whitesboro—H. Chomin, F. Wood; Past presidents—K. Drake, P. Corbett; RAC—C. Gehrig; MVCCPA—B. Perrotti



Completed applications for the annual award honoring Mike Corn are due April 3.
The application can be obtained one of three ways.

Online at www.retireecouncil8.org

Call NYSUT at 315-768-0131

Write NYSUT at 7 Ellinwood Court, New Hartford, NY 13413

Help Put a Stop to More Increases

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) isn't giving up on their effort to raise your prescription drug costs by reopening the Medicare Part D "donut hole"—and so we need to keep up the pressure on Congress to say **NO**.

Americans already pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world. That's why Congress's decision to close the donut hole and lower drug costs was such an important victory for seniors. We can't let drug company lobbyists reverse this progress and raise costs again.

Send your letter now and tell Congress to stand up to big drug companies and not raise seniors' drug costs! You can also email or phone your representatives in Washington.

Source: <https://action.arp.org/site/Advocacy>; 2/6/19

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Senator Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
schumer.senate.gov
(202) 224-6542

Congressman Anthony Brindisi
Cannon House Office Building
Room 329
Washington, DC 20515
brindisi.house.gov
(202) 225-3665

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
478 Russell
Washington, DC 20510
gillibrand.senate.gov
(202) 224-4451

Congressman John Katko
2457 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
katko.house.gov
(202) 225-3701

Before you buy, consider...

How much of your \$100 purchase stays in your community when spent at

an independent
local store

an in-town
chain outlet

a remote online store
(if delivery driver resides locally)



\$48



\$14



\$1

Get the facts: amiba.net/multiply © 2015

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Protect public education, access to healthcare, labor rights and fairness for working families by supporting VOTE-COPE. Checks may be sent to VOTE-COPE, PO Box 5190, Albany, NY 12205-0190 or donate online at nysut.org. Click on *My NYSUT* (upper left corner) and log in with your membership number and password.

If you send a check, please include your address, NYSUT membership number, (your social security number will also work) and the name of your local chapter.

NYSUT does not use dues money toward political action campaigns to comply with Federal Election Laws. Without voluntary VOTE-COPE donations, NYSUT's ability to engage in political action would be very limited. It's also important to note that 40 percent of money donated is returned to the local chapter for political action purposes.

Spring Luncheon, Thursday, May 16, 2019

The New Hartford American Legion
Post 1376
8616 Clinton Street, New Hartford

Cost \$20/each for members and guests
(Tax and Tip included)

MENU

Ziti and Meatballs
Sausage & Peppers
Baked Chicken
Roast Beef w/Au jus Sauce
Greens, Roasted Potatoes
Salad, Rolls, Dessert
Coffee, Tea, Water, Soda
Cash Bar Available

AGENDA

11:00 a.m. Registration
11:30 Introductions by Jan Corn, President
12:00 Lunch
1:00 p.m. Speaker: Sheriff Maciol
Topic:
Keeping Seniors Safe
1:30 Closing

RESERVATION FORM

Please send this form and your check made payable to Retiree Council 8, to the following address: **Marie Duink, NYSUT, c/o RC 8, 7 Ellinwood Court, New Hartford, NY 13413**. Your check must be received by Thursday, May 9, 2019.

Name _____

District Retired From _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Please remember that **late reservations can no longer be accepted** and that even if you misplace your newsletter, the form is always available online on our website at retireecouncil8.org

2017-2018 Participation Fee

IMPORTANT: Retirees from Adirondack, Canastota, Central Square, Clinton, Holland Patent, Oneida, Oneida/Herkimer/Madison BOCES, New Hartford, 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. Some 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.



Legal Service Plan

NYSUT members have access to dozens of endorsed programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality legal and financial planning assistance services that can help to protect their loved ones and provide them with peace of mind.



For an annual fee, the **Legal Service Plan** -- provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. With the base plan, you'll get access to unlimited, toll-free advice from plan attorneys.



Financial Counseling Program

Meanwhile, the **Financial Counseling Program** -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides you up with to six hours of toll-free phone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.

And unlike with purchasing products available to the general public, there's no need to go it alone when Member Benefits has your back. Member Benefits acts as your advocate for any program you participate in, and we'll do our best to quickly resolve any issues or concerns you may have.

Whether you are participating in one of our legal or financial services; insurance plans; or shopping, travel or entertainment offerings, NYSUT members have the **"Power of the Union"** behind them.

A wealth of financial information -- Now available on the NEW Member Benefits website

Financial Planning Center

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101**.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.