You have probably received a postcard in the mail reminding you to complete the 2020 census. If not you will soon. For the first time the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online, although you can still respond by phone or mail.

It is important to respond whichever way you choose. An accurate count of people is needed to create fair maps that truly represent the communities where we live. It determines how many congressional districts each state will have for the next decade. States could gain or lose a district based on the census data. It will determine how $700 billion in federal funds will be distributed annually for public schools, hospitals, fire departments, veterans, roads, transportation, and health care. These funds will help children, families, and seniors. You won’t be asked for personal information such as Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, donations or political information. There is no citizenship question.

Please encourage participation by talking to others and also use social media to spread the word. The census is important to us all!

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**5 Reasons to Take Part in the Census**

- **Don’t let New York get shortchanged.** We need every single adult and child in NYS to be counted.
- **New York could lose congressional seats.** Fewer seats means less say in federal policymaking.
- **New York could lose BILLIONS of dollars.** Census data determines how the federal government distributes more than $700 billion for schools, hospitals and roads.
- **The census is safe for ALL state residents.** The law prohibits the census bureau from sharing personal data with other federal agencies.
- **Because it’s easy.** Filling out your census form only takes a few minutes online.

Source: nysutcounts.org/pledge #CountMeIn #NYSUT counts

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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 Log In (upper right corner) and enter your membership number and password. Select Take Action, VOTE-COPE.

If you send a check, please include your name, address, NYSUT membership number, 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.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**NYSUT REGIONAL CONFERENCE for RC 7 and 8**

**JUNE 1**

DOUBLETREE, EAST SYRACUSE
Steering Committee Officer Candidate Biographies

PRESIDENT—JAN CORN (Remsen)—I have been involved in both local and state-level union activities for over 30 of my 39 year teaching career at Remsen Central School. I continue to serve the union in retirement. I was elected to be president of RC 8 in 2017. The learning curve has been huge, but I'm feeling more confident in the position daily thanks to support from NYSUT, the Steering Committee, and our local Chapters. I would like to serve as RC 8's president for another term to continue our important, necessary work. Therefore, I would appreciate your vote at the spring luncheon. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT—HOWARD LA FAVE (Adirondack)—I would like to continue as RC 8 vice-president and delegate. I have attended the Representative Assembly for several years serving as Sergeant at Arms since 2011. I have been representative to the Committee of 100 for RC 8. While an active teacher I was the RA alternate and Committee of 100 representative. I have represented local retirees on the Adirondack Teachers’ Association Executive Committee and the RC 8 Steering Committee since 2004. I also attend ED 51 meetings. I feel my knowledge of legislative practices and issues and political relationships formed over the years and my experience working with RC 8 members will allow me to effectively represent RC 8.

TREASURER—WANONA CAREY (Rome)—It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve in the position of Treasurer for RC 8. We have increased our membership and continue to spread our message as teacher retirees. In addition, I am proud to be a retiree representative to the Rome Teachers Association and a delegate to the CNY Labor Council. Through thoughtful and careful financial management, our Retiree Council 8 continues to advocate for you at the annual NYSUT Representative Assembly, send a delegate to monthly CNYARA meetings, host guest speakers at our luncheons, fund our website, and modestly donate to worthy causes with your participation fees. I would appreciate your vote, support, and good wishes for the next term as RC 8 Treasurer.

CO-SECRETARIES—KATHY FOOTE AND KATHY MORAN (Clinton)—We are applying for the position as Co-Secretaries for RC 8. We have been in the position for two years and would like to continue. Thank you for your consideration.

DELEGATE—CAROLE GEHRIG (Whitesboro)—I am asking for your continued support for RC 8 Delegate. I have been actively involved in NYSUT since 1976. In RC 8 I served as Vice-President and Retiree Advisory Board (RAC) representative. Being your RAC representative would allow me to bring that knowledge and voice of our retirees to the leadership in Albany. I was also your Retiree Consultant for 8 years, which provided me with information on retiree issues. With all of the above experience, I feel I can represent RC 8 well with the knowledge of issues and my voice. I am asking for your vote.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE—KEN DRAKE (Vernon-Verona-Sherrill)—Ken Drake is a retiree of the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill CSD and is the VVSRTA representative on the Retiree Council 8 Steering Committee. Ken is a past president of RC 8 and serves on various subcommittees. He is seeking the position of Alternate Delegate to the NYSUT Representative Assembly because of his prior years of service as RC 8 president and his familiarity with the responsibilities that come with being a delegate at the Representative Assembly.

NYSUT is committed to helping members in times of need through its NYSUT Disaster Relief and Scholarship Fund. One of the charitable purposes of the fund is to promote and enhance the welfare of NYSUT members who are in need of assistance because of the occurrence of a natural or man-made disaster. The NYSUT Disaster Relief and Scholarship Fund provides relief support for eligible losses stemming from: (a) man-made occurrences (such as an accidental house fire); (b) natural disasters not designated as federally declared qualified disasters; and (c) federally declared qualified disasters.

Applications are available at https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources/sites/disaster-relief/apply-for-relief
VALENTINO’S BANQUET HALL
3899 Oneida Street, New Hartford

Cost $20 (Tax and Tip included)

BRUNCH MENU
Pasta Marinara, Chicken Riggies, Greens Maria
Omelets, Bacon, Sausage, Roasted Potatoes
French Toast, Belgian Waffles, Maple Syrup
Cherry Topping, Whipped Cream
Miniature Bagels
Orange Juice, Cranberry Juice, Coffee, Tea
Sheet Cake
Cash bar available

AGENDA
11:00 a.m. Registration
11:30 Election of Officers
Welcome—Jan Corn, RC 8 President
12:00 noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Speaker: Jon Rogers
Topic: Wonders and Messages of Nature
1:30 Closing

Special luncheon collection will be donated to the
NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund

RESERVATION FORM
Please send this form and your check for $20 made payable to Retiree Council 8, to the following address: Keri Cartwright-Cox, NYSUT, c/o RC 8, 7 Ellinwood Court, New Hartford, NY 13413. Your check must be received by Thursday, May 7, 2019. Late reservations can no longer be accepted.

Name ___________________________________________________________________________________
Street Address: ____________________________________City/State/Zip_________________________________
Retiree School District: _______________________________Phone______________________________________
E-mail address: ________________________________________________________________________________

Cash bar available

If your address changes, please contact Anne Marie Voutsinas, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant, at 315-431-4040, Ext 40 or at avoutsin@nysutmail.org with the following information:
Your Name
Old Address, New Address
District you retired from

2019-2020 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. 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.
Save on travel with NYSUT Member Benefits!

NYSUT Member Benefits understands the challenges the dedicated members of the NYSUT organization face when it comes to stretching their hard-earned dollars, including when booking vacations and making other travel plans. That is why we encourage all NYSUT members to look to NYSUT Member Benefits before making any purchasing decisions.

Save up to 30% on Orlando, FL excursions with our endorsed Orlando Employee Discounts program. Enjoy discounted tickets to Disney World, Universal Studios, Sea World and several other Orlando area attractions. Orlando Employee Discounts also offers up to 60% off rack rate at select hotels close to or on theme park property; hotel and theme park ticket travel packages; and a free 75-page Disney World Guide.

Our endorsed Grand Circle Travel program offers NYSUT members special pricing on a variety of international river cruises, tours and destinations around the world. Save $100 per person on published tours simply for being a NYSUT member, and enjoy other discounts and savings opportunities available for specific tours. Discovery opportunities, activities and discussions are included with each trip.

Whether travelling for business or leisure, NYSUT members can save up to 25% on car rentals with our endorsed car rental companies. Browse rates from Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz or National.

Learn more by visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or calling 800-626-8101.

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