

RC 8  
Retiree



January/February 2019

RC 8

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mac.nysut.org



2020 is Not Far Away  
Jan Corn, President

This is my first opportunity to discuss the past midterm elections. I know it's been a while, but there are some important facts and issues I'd like to review.

We, as NYSUT members, started 2018 with a strong commitment to do whatever we could to oppose the harmful policy agenda of the Trump administration and to work for change in the November midterm elections. With your dedication and help, we succeeded!

Thanks to your support, we were able to elect the most diverse Congress in U.S. history. We elected a historic number of industrious, progressive women, a new Democratic majority in the House of Representatives and a Democratic majority in the New York State Senate. These newly elected officials will hopefully hold the president accountable while advancing positive, progressive policies to move our country forward.

In the midterms, NYSUT endorsed candidates who supported public education, regardless of their party affiliation. And, while we didn't win every NYSUT endorsed race, we won many. Ninety-five percent of NYSUT's endorsed candidates won for the Assembly. Eighty-eight percent of NYSUT's endorsed candidates won for state Senate. And eighty-one percent of NYSUT's endorsed candidates won for Congress. We made positive gains and set the stage for a new year of not just resisting but making tangible improvements.

We still face many obstacles: passing common sense gun reform; securing Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; promoting public education; maintaining pension security; improving the COLA and securing affordable, good health care benefits for all.

With these goals in mind, the RC 8 Steering Committee has formed a new Political Action subcommittee. This committee will promote positive actions to help elect future candidates who support retiree issues and public education. We are looking for committee members. If you are interested in serving on the Political Action subcommittee, please contact me or any member of the Steering Committee.

It's not going to be easy to achieve change with a Republican majority in the Senate and President Trump in the White House. But, with continued lobbying, phone calling, picketing, canvassing and educating others, we can make a difference. We have done it before and we can do it again!

VOTE-COPE and Politics

I was making phone calls recently as part of the NYSUT phone banks funded through VOTE-COPE. One member whom I called allowed the call to go to voicemail until she heard who I was. I gave my name and stated I was a NYSUT member; then she picked up and told me "we don't want anything to do with politics" so please don't call us.

I can understand her frustration considering the number of calls I receive at home. However, the "we want nothing to do with politics" disturbed me considerably. Having been working as a VOTE-COPE coordinator for over thirty years and being a NYSUT member for much longer than that, it has become second nature to me that politics is very much a part of any member's existence.

Do you want your pension to remain intact? Do you appreciate the COLA (cost of living adjustment) to your pension? Is Social Security important to you? How about Medicare? Each of these benefits provided to you can be changed by Congress or the State legislature. We are by our very nature immersed in politics whether we want to be or not. The fact that a small number of retirees, like the good people who represent your local associations as part of Retiree Council 8, carries the burden for the masses should not go unappreciated. These are the local militias who guard your rights and benefits and stand up to those who would like to take them away. Where would we be without them?  
*(continued on page 2)*

**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

**VOTE-COPE** *(continued from page 1)*

The calls I was making were in support of our endorsed candidates for office this past November. We endorse those individuals, whether Democrat or Republican, who support our “political agenda” in Albany and Washington. When one says “we want nothing to do with politics” does that mean “let someone else take care of that for me”? Would you be disappointed when a cut was made to your pension or your COLA was eliminated? Is the deficit that is building in Washington as a result of the tax cut really an intended rationale for eliminating Social Security and Medicare? That’s OK; don’t you worry about these issues; someone else will take care of it for you. Unless they don’t. Then you can complain that NYSUT doesn’t do anything. NYSUT is **US. WE** are NYSUT! Yes, now I’m on a rant.

Having identified myself by name and stating I was a NYSUT member, it would seem the caller could simply have allowed me to leave a message or—WOW—taken the call and thanked me for my efforts on her behalf. Maybe she would rather we not take any action to elect friends to public office. Let’s see—that huge pool of money that guarantees pensions in New York State could be borrowed against and used for other purposes and then when it is gone, and the pension program is no longer fully funded—Whoops—sorry about that. Shall we be another Detroit? Sorry, we are out of money and have to cut your benefits by 50 percent. Or maybe we could follow Wisconsin’s record of limiting collective bargaining.

Nobody has to agree with our endorsements, but we make them for very good reasons based on educational issues. Local leaders are given an opportunity for input in the decision. All of us depend on the outcome, both retirees and active members.

**WE** must want something to do with politics whether we like it or not. In the future consider volunteering for a phone bank and be sure to give to VOTE-COPE.

*Submitted by Ed Blake Vote/Cope Regional Coordinator Central NY-Utica, Whitesboro retiree*

## ANNUAL MIKE CORN AWARD

The NYSUT Utica Regional Office is seeking nominations for its annual Mike Corn Award. Corn 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 3, 2019, can be obtained as follows:

**online at [www.retireecouncil8.org](http://www.retireecouncil8.org)**

**Call or write to**  
NYSUT Utica Regional Office  
7 Ellinwood Court  
New Hartford, NY 13413

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Corn at 315-896-9808 or [jdhcorn@gmail.com](mailto:jdhcorn@gmail.com)

## Social Security: When & How to Apply for Benefits

You should apply for Social Security benefits three months before the date you want your benefits to start. You can apply in one of the following ways:

- Visit your local Social Security office. Call 1-800-772-1213 to find the nearest office.
- Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can call Social Security at TTY 1-800-325-0778.
- Go Online: <https://secure.ssa.gov/iClaim/rib>

*Source: <https://retiredamericans.org>*

## CHANGES?

If your address changes, please contact Anne Marie Voutsinas, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant, at 315-431-4040, Ext 40 or at [avoutsin@nysutmail.org](mailto:avoutsin@nysutmail.org) with the following information:

Your Name  
Old Address, New Address  
District you retired from

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RC 8 Retiree

Spring Luncheon, Thursday, May 16, 2019

<p>The New Hartford American Legion Post 1376 8616 Clinton Street, New Hartford</p> <p>Cost \$20 (Tax and Tip included)</p> <p>MENU Ziti and Meatballs Sausage &amp; Peppers Baked Chicken Roast Beef w/Aujus Sauce Greens, Roasted Potatoes Salad, Rolls, Dessert Coffee, Tea, Water, Soda Cash Bar available</p>	<p>AGENDA</p> <p>11 a.m. Registration</p> <p>11:30 Welcome Jan Corn, RC 8 President</p> <p>12:00 Lunch</p> <p>1:00 Speaker: Sheriff Maciol</p> <p>Topic: Keeping Seniors Safe</p> <p>1:30 Closing</p>
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RESERVATION FORM

Please send this form and your check for \$20, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

As you can imagine, it has become more and more difficult to make late reservations at local restaurants. They are as busy or perhaps busier than we are, and the food needs to be ordered ahead of time from their vendors. We know you'll understand, therefore, that we can no longer take reservations after the stated deadline listed on the reservation form. Don't forget 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. 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.**



## Benefits designed exclusively for NYSUT members

NYSUT members and their loved ones have access to dozens of endorsed shopping, travel & personal programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits, including discounts on hotels & vacations; car & truck rentals; international group tours; sports & concert tickets; theme parks & attractions; and more.

Whether you are participating in one of our shopping/entertainment/travel offerings; auto, homeowners or life insurance plans; or financial or legal services, NYSUT members have the "Power of the Union" behind them ready to serve as their advocate.

### The following is just a sample of the endorsed programs available to NYSUT members:

**Bose --** NYSUT members receive special educator pricing on high-end, high-quality electronics such as music systems, headphones and bluetooth speakers. You must contact Bose toll-free at 877-709-2073 and mention "educator pricing" to receive this exclusive pricing.

**Orlando Employee Discounts --** NYSUT members save up to 30% on unforgettable Orlando, FL excursions to Disney World, Universal Studios and many other attractions.

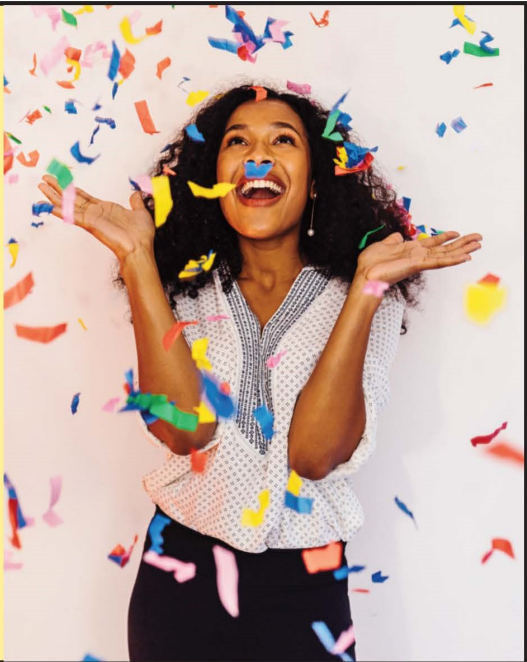
**Grand Circle Travel --** NYSUT members can enjoy a number of unique travel deals on international river cruises and other travel opportunities with Grand Circle's small ship cruise tours, river cruises and land tours.

### Member Appreciation Month is back!

One of our most popular annual events is set to return this February. The 2019 Member Appreciation Month celebration will be filled with a series of prize drawings for items donated by NYSUT Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers -- including gift cards, iPads, Echo Dots and more!

As a MAP Alert member, you are eligible to win prizes every single day throughout the month of February.

All MAP Alert members are already entered to win; if you have colleagues who would like to be eligible to win, they simply need to sign up for our MAP Alert service on the Member Benefits website. Prize winners will be listed daily on the Member Benefits website.



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.

Jan./Feb. 2019