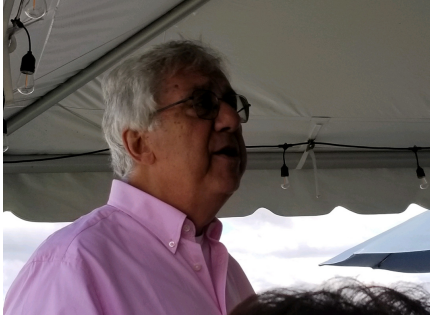


SRTC - SEA

Retiree Connections

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

December 6, 2023 Volume 17 Issue 2



President's Corner by Phil Lima

As the sun begins to retreat into early darkness and we begin our journey into winter, many begin to succumb to the pre-holiday blues. We are constantly bombarded with ads encouraging us to purchase those fabulous deals on Black Friday or Cyber Monday. We can see an uptick in traffic on local streets and highways as cars zoom past us heading for shopping centers and malls for that perfect gift. For some, the stealthiness of our stalking for a parking space, the rapid pace through the mall, or the thrill of standing on a checkout line is exhilarating. Yet, for others, it's a living nightmare. As your blood boils because the spot you've been waiting for a half hour was grabbed by a parking space pirate, or the kids behind you on line have been screaming for their parents to take them to see Santa. Oh that empty feeling you get when you are ordering something online and your computer screen freezes and the only item left that you desperately needed vanishes into cyberspace and leaves you exasperated. By the time the day for celebration arrives you are too crazed or tired to enjoy the time with the people you love the most.

How do we regain that holiday spirit? How can we once again feel that sense of wonder and awe that at this time of year widens the smile of so many little ones who await their special holiday? Take the time to impact one person's life. Someone who you may or may not know. Make a meal for someone or a family who could benefit from a random act of kindness. Pay for someone's meal at a restaurant or diner. Call someone who you haven't spoken to in awhile. Make a difference in one stranger's life, or make amends with someone you may have had a disagreement with.

Just imagine how important that would be for someone. Just imagine the good vibe you would feel while bringing a smile or hug from that someone. Just imagine the example you will leave for others to follow.

From our house to yours, wishing everyone a very special holiday season filled with friendship and love; Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Feliz Navidad, Buon Natale, Joyeux Noel, Frohe Weihnachten!

"When darkness surrounds you and all you see is despair, look again, you are the light."

Author unknown

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Executive Committee

President: Phil Lima
Vice President: Tom McTaggart
Secretary: Elaine Salierno
Treasurer: Judy Veltidi
Vote-Cope Chair: Nancy Pratt
Membership Committee Chair: Anne Clark

Community Relations PAC: Joyce Nencetti & Sue Roberts
Board of Ed Liaison: Judy Veltidi [SCSD BOE Meetings](#)
Webmaster: Rich Deibler [SRTC-SEA Website](#)
Newsletter Editors: Eleanor Cerny & Andrea Edwards
Newsletter email: srtc.connection@gmail.com

COMMUNITY ACTION



VOTE COPE 2023 PAC by Nancy Pratt

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER December 1, 2023

Our 2023 VOTE-COPE Campaign will be ending December 29, 2023.

To date THANKS to so many of you, we have totaled \$9,010
(does not yet include all Pension Deduction contributions).

I have received 124 contributions.

If you are in that group, know your effort benefits ALL of us and is appreciated.

THANK YOU!

If you haven't yet been able to mail your check,
please send it before December 29 to:

Nancy Pratt
202 Willow Point Road
Beaufort, SC 29906

We have been supporters of VOTE-COPE for many years.

Let's make 2023 a record for our retiree local.
Happiest of Holidays to all.

COMMUNITY ACTION



Community Relations

T. McTaggart, J. Nencetti, & S. Roberts

2023 Donations to the Christ Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen

Total Spring Donations: \$2,065.00
Total Fall Donations: \$4,195.00
2023 TOTAL Donations: \$6,260.00

Thank you to all for your generosity!

Your support for the Feeding Ministry at Christ Church is always needed and appreciated!

In 2023-24 we will continue to build on our successful fundraising for the Christ Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen and the Sloatsburg Food Pantry.

Christ Church Soup Kitchen:
Make checks payable to "Christ Episcopal Church" (memo: Soup Kitchen) and mail to:
Joyce Nencetti
371 Heights Rd.
Wyckoff, NJ 07481



2023 Donations to the Sloatsburg Food Pantry

As of December 4, 2023: \$4,605

Thank you to all for your generosity!

Sloatsburg Food Pantry:
Make checks payable to "Sloatsburg Food Pantry" (memo: Donation) and mail to:
Tom McTaggart
14 Waldron Terrace
Sloatsburg, NY 10974

Thank you for your continued generosity to these two organizations which help to feed so many of our residents

District News & Updates

MOUNTIES ON THE MOVE

The Suffern Central School District has initiated "a new campaign highlighting SHS grads who are living their best lives".

It would be great to see some of our former students (and our children, if they went to Suffern) highlighted in this campaign. Reach out to those you are still in contact with and have them contact Jenny Mirmelstein, Director of Communications & Community Relations. This initiative is called *Mounties on the Move*. Click [here](#) to see the latest Mounties on the Move.
jmirmelstein@sufferncentral/org

SEA RETIREMENT PLANNING

Retirees:

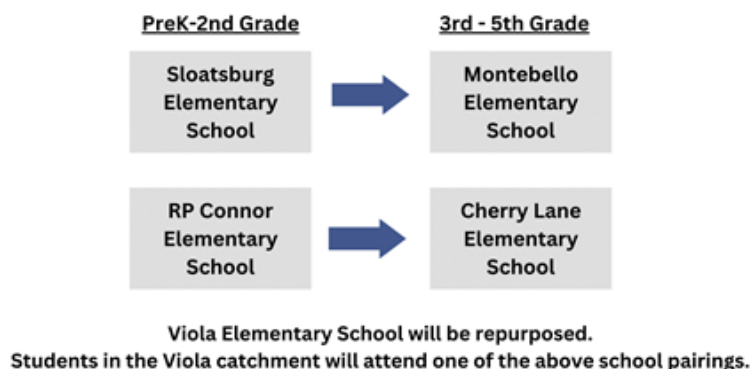
John Canty has asked for two retiree volunteers to speak briefly of their retirement experiences at the SEA Retirement Planning program on March 4 at 4:00 in the SHS auditorium.

Please contact Phil Lima at:
email: amigos48@aol.com or
text: 914-263-7073 if you can help.

SUFFERN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RESTRUCTURING PLAN

Suffern Central School District BOE voted to restructure the elementary schools. Below is a visual summary of what the restructure will look like. If you would like to keep up to date on this plan, please go to [SCSD Restructure Plan](#). You may also find the [November 6 article in LOHUD News](#) informative.

Elementary School Restructuring Plan



Reminders, Events & Notes

Ongoing Community Support

Donations to the SRTC sponsored Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry are always appreciated.

Christ Church Soup Kitchen: Joyce Nencetti, 371 Heights Road, Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481. (Checks payable to Christ Episcopal Church, please put "Soup Kitchen" in memo area of check).

Sloatsburg Food Pantry: Tom McTaggart, 14 Waldron Terrace, Sloatsburg, NY 10974. (Checks payable to Sloatsburg Food Pantry, please put "Donation" in memo area of check)



Your Member Benefits
Keep Up to Date

NYSUT Updates

Check out NYSUT news
<https://www.nysut.org/news>



To keep up to date with NYSUT updates, signup for MAC (Member Action Center) text alerts
Go to <https://mac.nysut.org/> scroll down, enter your cell number.

NYSTRS Updates

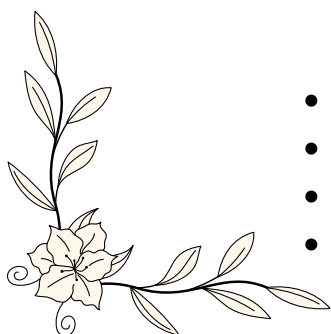
Read NYSTRS Newsletter for the Retired Members from the NYS Teachers Retirement System.



We Remember



- November 15, 2023 - Janyce Buono
- October 26, 2023 - Marge Gallo
- October 3, 2023 - Dr. Margaret A. Fiordalisi Dames
- July, 2023 - Linda LaBarge



If you learn about the passing of one of our members (or their immediate family) and would like us to send out an alert, please email: anneclark10987@gmail.com. Any additional information you can provide (i.e. obituary, services, address of next-of-kin) would be appreciated. Thank you.

Reminders, Events & Notes

Opportunities for Kindness

Navigating the Holidays and building on our president's message. "Take the time to impact one person's life" and don't forget to take care of yourself.

Holiday Donations

A donation to a SRTC sponsored Christ Church Soup Kitchen and Sloatsburg Food Pantry is greatly appreciated or your local Food Pantry organization.

Also consider:

- [Volunteer New York](#)
- [Meals on Wheels Blizzard Boxes](#)
- [Rockland County Clothing & Toy Drive](#)
- [Knits or Crochet Baby Blankets and Hats](#)
- [People to People](#) - Nanuet NY
- [Rockland County Food Pantries](#)

Click on name to access website for more details.

Self-Care - Take care of yourself so that you can care for others. As we continue to navigate uncertain times, the Holidays can bring great joy and excitement; but can also bring physical and mental stress. Even though we may talk to friends and family, sometimes we need just a little more.

Reach out and utilize your NYSUT member benefits:

- [NYSUT Member Benefits - Peer Support Line](#)
- [NYS - The Empire Plan Easy Ways to Reduce Holiday Stress](#)

Other resources:

Rockland County Mental Health Resources

- [NAMI Rockland County](#) (National Alliance on Mental Illness) - We are here for you! Our support groups, classes and education meetings are mostly VIRTUAL!
- [NAMI Helpline](#) (no matter where you live, if you or someone you know needs help) Call [1-800-950-NAMI \(6264\)](tel:1-800-950-NAMI), text "HelpLine" to [62640](tel:62640) or email us at helpline@nami.org
- AARP Mental Health

President Phil’s Trivia Question

What is special about the words: job, polish, herb?

The first person who sends in the correct answer will win a prize.
Submissions should be sent to Phil Lima at amigos48@aol.com.
Phil will use the date and time the entry was received in his email.

Morning Coffee with <u>Wordle</u> Guess the WORDLE in 6 tries. Each guess must be a valid 5 letter word.	Check out <u>Goodreads</u> to keep track of your reading, find new books, and interesting reviews!	New York Times Spelling Bee Daily puzzle free Unlimited access requires subscription
		
<u>Mathler</u>	<u>Crosswordle</u>	<u>Waffle</u>

How to print this Newsletter

Some members inquired about printing the newsletter. Since the newsletter is created as a video (due to the embedded multimedia), it cannot be printed as a pdf after publication; therefore a pdf (without multimedia) will be available on the [SRTC- SEA webpage](#). If you have questions or suggestions, please email the newsletter team: srtc.connection@gmail.com

The Executive Committee wishes everyone a safe and healthy holiday season and 2024.

Being ready for the holidays can mean a lot of different things:

- Gifts for your loved ones
- Appliances for your home
- Confirming travel plans
- Entertainment for the kids
- Food delivery in case of inclement weather
- Savings set aside for unexpected expenses

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs and services that could help make you as prepared as possible for whatever the holiday season may throw at you.

No matter what your plans may be this holiday season, NYSUT Member Benefits is a great place to start. With a number of shopping, travel and discount programs, you are certain to find something of interest that could benefit you or your loved ones.

Speaking of savings, the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to offer all NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) exclusive access to savings of up to 50% at 850,000 locations – including more than 21,200 New York State deals. If you have not already done so, head over to mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com to create your account with your NYSUT ID number, preferred email address, and password.

You'll then be eligible to save on restaurant dine-in or take-out, flowers and gift baskets, Bose products, clothing and shoes, oil changes and vehicle maintenance, sporting events, hotels and flights, car rentals, theme parks, movie tickets, and much more. Members are encouraged to download the MB Discounts & Deals mobile app for the best user experience with this program.

Member Benefits also endorses life insurance programs, auto & home insurance, dental & vision plans, legal & financial services, and other programs to help protect yourself and those you care about most.

Participating in Member Benefits-endorsed programs also offers the added protection of having a trusted advocate on their side. Member Benefits staff take great pride in stepping in to support members with any questions, concerns, or issues that may arise.

Explore all that your union membership has to offer!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, 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.

Nov./Dec. 2023