

SRTC - SEA

Retiree Connections

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

September/October 2025 Volume 18 Issue 12

SRTC-SEA Fall Luncheon

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

12:00-3:00 PM

Aqua Terra Grille

**420N. Middletown Road Pearl River, NY
10965**

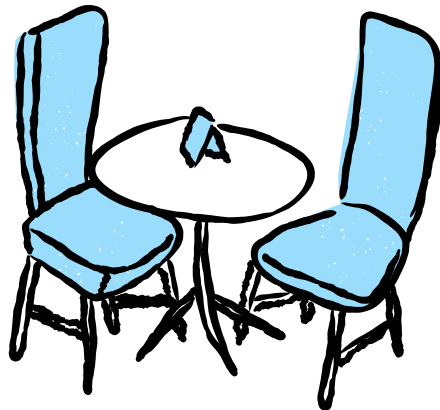


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Executive Committee

President: Phil Lima

Vice President: Tom McTaggart

Secretary: Elaine Salierno

Treasurer: Judy Veltidi

Vote-Cope Chair: Nancy Pratt

Membership 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



President's Corner by Phil Lima

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

Hi everyone,

For many, especially recent retirees, the middle to late August, as summer wanes and stores advertise back-to-school specials, an ache begins to build in one's stomach signaling that summer is coming to an end and the start of school is on the horizon. Luckily for most of us it is a signal to clean out another closet or plan our next adventure.

This year our chapter will see some changes, especially in the way we will communicate to our members about upcoming events. Mailing and duplication costs have increased significantly. In response to those increases and our desire to keep costs down, we have decided to email, via our alert system, specific information about our Fall Luncheon invitations, dues increase, donations and our newest initiative, [File Of Life](#) project. We will also include this information in our Newsletter and posted on our website. Our VOTE COPE campaign will continue to be sent out from Nancy Pratt by mail in the Fall.

We plan to continue to support our school and community. Our mission is to ensure that our donations and support is fairly distributed to the Elementary, Middle and High Schools; that will benefit all the students in Suffern Central. Our \$1,000 teacher grant with The REACH Foundation will be earmarked for either the Elementary or Middle School staff. We are continuing to encourage and support the Christ Episcopal Soup Kitchen and the Community Food Pantry (Sloatsburg Food Pantry). Your support and generosity has had a significant impact on the lives of many members of the Suffern community who depend on these charitable organizations to help mitigate food insecurity in their lives.

This year our chapter has seen an increase in requests from clubs and organizations, especially the high school, for financial assistance in special situations. In addition to the fundraising the students are required to do to defray the cost for application fees, travel and lodging when their club, organization, or team is competing in state and national competitions. To help manage these requests we have created a Finance Committee to review these requests and make recommendations to the Executive Committee on which requests we can support financially. We are also encouraging our members to think about privately supporting any request for financial assistance that we are made aware of. We will send out alerts as the requests are made. Donations can be sent to the school's treasurer indicating where you want your donation allocated. **Reminder!** Not all donations are tax deductible. Those teams that have club organizations ie. Mat Club, Crew etc. can provide a letter for tax purposes. More to follow.



President's Corner by Phil Lima

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

Our VOTE COPE Campaign was a success this year. Your individual contribution allowed us to receive a refund for \$2,669.20. Yet, this was accomplished with approximately 143 members contributing either through personal checks or a pension deduction. This is roughly **40%** of our membership.

The Executive Committee, after thoughtful deliberation, voted to increase our dues to \$15.00 a year. This is the first increase since the formation of our Retiree Chapter twenty-one years ago. Additionally, the Executive Committee established an Advisory Committee that will be comprised of three retirees from 2015 to the present. This committee of newly retired teachers will help us stay current with issues facing the current staff and the needs of recently retired members. We are happy to have Bill Delaney join our committee. We still have two more positions yet to be filled. If interested, please contact me at amigos48@aol.com.

The Executive Committee has invested in a program which we feel will directly impact our members. The program, [File of Life](#), provides its users a way to gather important medical information, emergency contact in the event of an emergency, and a list of your medical doctors that you can keep with you and a larger packet that can be placed on your refrigerator in the event an ambulance or medivac crew needs to transport you to a hospital if an emergency occurs from home. These packets will be free to all of our members who are up to date with their membership dues (\$15). To receive your File of Life packets, just send a self-addressed stamped business envelope (\$.78 cent stamp), along with your dues and response to our Fall Luncheon (and any donation you wish to make to the Soup Kitchen or Food Pantry) to Judy Veltidi. Once received, Judy will mail your packet to you in the business envelope you supplied. For those attending the Fall Luncheon, one will be provided to you.

Important Reminders!

- ❖ Fall Luncheon (9/30/2025) response, dues (**\$15**), donations to the Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry.
- ❖ Self addressed stamped business envelope (\$.78) for the File of Life material.
- ❖ Updated member information if necessary - sent to Anne Clark.
- ❖ 207 members out of 369 remitted their dues (**44% decrease**)
- ❖ Maintaining eligibility in any NYSUT programs requires payment of chapter dues.
- ❖ Look for the start of our VOTE COPE campaign in the Fall.



President's Corner by Phil Lima

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

We continue to remain active and relevant in the Suffern Community through your continued generosity and support.

- ❖ SHS Panorama Yearbooks (4)
- ❖ Christ Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen and the Community Food Pantry.
- ❖ REACH Foundation \$1,000 Teacher Grants.
- ❖ Teacher Appreciation candy baskets.
- ❖ Cards of Condolences sent to deceased members' families.
- ❖ SHS Spring Musical
- ❖ Yearbook Ads
- ❖ SRTC-SEA \$1,000 Family Scholarship (must be current with your dues)
- ❖ Spring and Fall Luncheons
- ❖ Members ALERTS, Newsletter, SRTC-SEA Website

Please send your luncheon information, dues, donations, and a self-addressed stamped business envelope (\$.78) for File of Life to:

Judy Veltidi
35 Van Orden Ave.
Suffern, NY 10901

See you at our Fall Luncheon to honor our 2025 retirees.



Riddle/ Brain Teaser:

Trivia:

Name the next three letters in this combination: OTTFFSS.

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.

SRTC-SEA FALL LUNCHEON

Come celebrate
and
help welcome our 2025 retirees!



Tuesday, September 30, 2025 12:00-
3:00 PM

Aqua Terra Grille

420N. Middletown Road Pearl River, NY
10965

\$55 per person (includes tax & gratuity)

PAYABLE IN CASH AT THE LUNCHEON

Luncheon includes:

appetizer, pasta, salad, choice of entree,
dessert, coffee/tea/soda

CASH bar

Guests welcome!

Please RSVP by Friday, September 19th to Judy Veltidi

Fill in and mail the form below (35 VanOrden Ave., Suffern, NY 10901) or
email (motherfrog@hotmail.com) or text (845-642-7659)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Check here if new address: _____

_____ Yes, I will be attending the luncheon _____ No, I will not be attending

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (can also be brought to the luncheon):

_____ \$15.00 Dues for the 2025-2026 year (Checks payable to SRT C-S EA)

_____ Separate check payable to Community Food Pantry (formally Sloatsburg Food Pantry)

_____ Separate check payable to Christ Episcopal Church (memo: Soup Kitchen)

_____ Check here if you would like an individual thank you letter for your donation.

Initiatives

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

The Executive Committee has invested in a program which we feel will directly impact our members. The program, [File of Life](#), provides its users a way to gather important medical information, emergency contact in the event of an emergency, and a list of your medical doctors that you can keep with you and a larger packet that can be placed on your refrigerator in the event an ambulance or medi vac crew needs to transport you to a hospital if an emergency occurs from home.

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Judy Veltidi

35 Van Orden Ave.

Suffern, NY 10901

What FILE OF LIFE means ♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡♡ Benefits to first responders • Faster help for citizens in emergencies. • Instantly know medical history of patient. • Corrective treatment can begin at once. Benefits to hospital emergency staff • On arrival, data is immediately available to medical staff. • No wasted time getting information from confused patient. Benefits to each individual • Peace of mind knowing they will have prompt and quality care. • Easy access to potentially life-saving information. • Assurance that proper persons will be notified quickly.  Member National Sheriff's Association  Member National Council on Aging	FILE OF LIFE® A personal medical home file prepared for emergency first responders Instructions for using the FILE OF LIFE® • Fill out the medical card and be sure the information is accurate and legible. If necessary, have someone assist you. • Use pencil where you fill in the medications and where you date the card to allow future updates. • When completed, place the file on the outside face of your refrigerator. • Keep all medical data up to date. • Whenever there is a change in medications or dosage be sure to change it on your card and redate the card. • Take the file with you when you visit your doctor.
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Introducing our 2025 Retirees

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

Welcome 2025 Retirees!

"As you leave the rhythm of school and teaching, we are excited for you to embrace retirement's exciting possibilities. May this new chapter be filled with joy, love, good health, exploration, and many opportunities to fulfill long-held dreams."

Jay Auerfeld
Barbara Brain
Greg Casarella
Alison Clare
Jennifer Corbett
Christine D'Antonio-Krebs
Lisa Dollapac-Cosgrove
Tara Goozee
Wendelyn Hock
Melissa Jefferson
Kimberly Kavanagh
Beverly Levine
Teresa Mariano-Cama
Debra Miller
Dawn Postolowski
Kathy Reid
Heidi Renud
Mary Roemer

Executive Director

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District News

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

Information about the district can be found on the district's website.

<https://www.sufferncentral.org/>

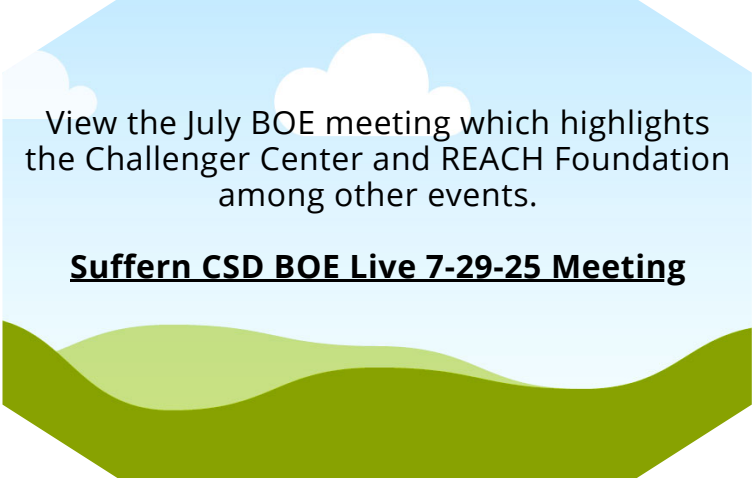
Board of Education meetings are available on YouTube live, or can be seen after the fact.

[View Suffern CSD BOE meetings on YouTube](#)

or

[Read SCSD BOE Recap](#)

The district, individual schools and different programs/athletic teams and clubs can be found on Instagram.



View the July BOE meeting which highlights the Challenger Center and REACH Foundation among other events.

[Suffern CSD BOE Live 7-29-25 Meeting](#)

Stay Current

Ensure your contact details are up-to-date

We would just like to remind retirees that **it is very important** that you let the district know when you move. They need to know your address for insurance/Medicare reasons.

Anyone who changes their contact information, please notify the Membership Committee Chair:
Anne Clark
anneclark10987@gmail.com.



Please keep your contact information current with SCSD.

If you have any questions, please contact

Ann Neville

(anneville@sufferncentral.org) in Accounting at 845-357-7783 ext 11226

We Remember....

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

We remember...

March 24, 2025: Arlene Sade, Cherry Lane Elementary School (SRTC was notified May 27, 2025)

June 11, 2025: Doralea (Dee) Pepper, Montebello Elementary School

July 27, 2025: Joy Kissane, music teacher at the JHS and several elementary schools

August 28, 2025: Anne Marie Downs, Viola Elementary School

September 9, 2025: Barbara Malone, a long-time teacher in our elementary schools

2025: Lee (Hughes) Lassik, who taught at Viola & Sloatsburg Elementary Schools (SRTC was notified July 10, 2025)



Community Action

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St. John Episcopal Church

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St. John Episcopal Church

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We send condolence notes or thinking of you notes if we know someone has something going on or has lost a loved one.

Executive Committee

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.



MEMBER
BENEFITS

nysut
Working to Benefit You

**GET
FREE
ACCESS**

TO THE PREMIUM CALM APP, PEER SUPPORT LINE & MORE!

NYSUT Member Benefits understands the importance of providing support, resources, and tools to help NYSUT members with all aspects of their lives. In light of that, we have negotiated with our endorsed program providers to offer members several benefits free of charge.

SCAN ME



Learn more about these along with several other free benefits by scanning the QR code, visiting mb-nysut.org/nocostbenefits, or calling 800-626-8101.



Premium Calm Service –

All in-service and retiree members receive

unlimited access to the full Calm library of sleep, meditation, and relaxation content. The popular Calm app includes specialized playlists dealing with stress and focus, mindful movement video and audio, nature scenes and sounds, children's content, and more. Members can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older) to receive their own premium Calm subscription. Note: You will need your NYSUT ID number (which can

be found at nysut.org/memberid) to create your Calm account.

Peer Support

Line – Life can throw lots of curveballs at us, and sometimes we don't readily know where to turn for help. The Peer Support Line is a confidential helpline that is available to all NYSUT members and their loved ones for answers, resources, and support when it's needed most. Chat, email, or call toll-free **844-444-0152** to connect with a peer today.



AD&D Insurance & Travel Assistance Services

All in-service and retiree members are automatically provided with a \$5,000 accidental death & dismemberment insurance benefit, along with free travel assistance services.

New Member Life Insurance

All new NYSUT members are eligible to receive a free term life insurance policy providing coverage for up to \$25,000 for one year, guaranteed renewable at the end of the year.

Message from Retiree Council 14

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

Dear Retiree Council 14 Members:

PLEASE READ the following notice from AFT regarding the administration's plan to use AI and the impact it will have on the quality of Medicare!

There was a glitch with the original send . . . Sorry if this is a duplicate . . .

In Solidarity,

Paul Ellis-Graham, President

Retiree Council 14



On Thursday, September 11, 2025, 5:39 PM, Randi Weingarten wrote:

LYNN,

We know that when it comes to getting patients the care they need, doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals know best. But President Donald Trump and Dr. Mehmet Oz want to let artificial intelligence choose which procedures Medicare will cover for individual patients—with insurance companies being paid based on how much money they save by denying people's coverage.

AI shouldn't be in charge of determining who gets care and who doesn't. We must tell Congress to oppose this erosion of our traditional Medicare.

The Trump administration is attempting to transform Medicare into the very worst of private insurance. Medicare beneficiaries in Arizona, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington where this pilot is targeted will be subject to these private insurance-style policies as soon as January 2026. `

We already know prior authorizations do not improve patient care. In fact, studies show that 90 percent of doctors report prior authorization causes treatment delays, and one-third say these delays have resulted in serious adverse events for their patients. The worst part? These companies have an incentive to deny care to people who need it; the more prior authorization claims that these companies deny, the more they will be paid.

Medicare shouldn't be used as a piggy bank to fund tax cuts for the rich. Older Americans should not be hurt as a result of tax cuts or a budget deficit. It's time to put patients before profits.

Tell lawmakers in Congress to do everything they can to oppose the expansion of prior authorization in traditional Medicare.

I'm all for using AI to help patients get the care they need and for healthcare professionals to have all the tools available to meet their communities' needs, but allowing AI programs to deny people the care that they need is wrong; and it's an insult to retired and disabled Americans who deserve the best care from doctors and nurses. We will not allow this billionaire-led administration to turn our Medicare into a for-profit cash grab that prioritizes profits over patients.

Write to your members of Congress now and tell them to oppose AI-powered healthcare denials.

In unity,

Randi Weingarten

AFT President