

SRTC - SEA

Retiree Connections

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

January/February 2025 Volume 18 Issue 8

Save the Date!

Spring Luncheon

May 6, 2025

Location: TBD

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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](#)
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President's Corner by Phil Lima

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

To receive a special message from president Lima - click on the envelope.



Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year to all. May 2025 bring you peace, good health and many new adventures! On the national and state front, NYSUT and the NEA have announced the passage of legislation, signed into law by President Biden, the Social Security Fairness Law that repealed the regulations under the Windfall Elimination Provision(WEP) and the Government Pension Offset(GPO) laws. This new law will make whole 2.8 million people who were adversely affected by the old law. Some 30,000 public employees in New York State will benefit from this legislation. Congratulations to any of our members who have been affected by these discriminatory laws, this has been a long time injustice that was made right. This is another great reason to support NYSUT and the NEA. They both continue to work on our behalf and scored a major victory for retired educators and public employees. (For the full story go to : www.nea.org).

I want to give a shout out and a big THANK You to all those who participated in this year's VOTE-COPE Campaign. Thank you for your notes and kind words, it was so nice to hear from you. Although, it appears that we didn't meet last year's contribution level, your generosity is deeply appreciated. Hopefully, next year's contribution and participation will return to the level we once experienced. The rebate we receive from the SEA helps us fund the many projects and programs the SRTC-SEA has supported in the past and will continue to support in the future.

President's Corner Phil

“ Make every hour count in the moments you spend: Tomorrow's a stranger, today is a friend.”

Everett Wentworth Hill

COMMUNITY ACTION



Community Relations

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

Thank you to all for your generosity!

Our Chapter makes an annual donation of \$500.00 to each of the following:

Feeding Ministry at Christ Episcopal Church
Sloatsburg Food Pantry

Our members have donated a total of \$5,815 to the Christ Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen in 2024!

Our continued support for the Christ Church Soup Kitchen is appreciated! Thank you.

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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

Sloatsburg Food Pantry

Make checks payable to “Sloatsburg Food Pantry” (memo: Donation) and mail to:

Tom McTaggart
14 Waldron Terrace
Sloatsburg, NY 10974

VOTE COPE 2025 PAC by Nancy Pratt

January 15, 2025

And a New Year has begun.

Hoping y'all recall many things to be thankful for in 2024 and much to look forward to in 2025 with a sense of hopefulness.

A very sincere thanks to Phil Lima for taking over our 2024 VOTE-COPE campaign in my absence. His leadership, competence and kindness are a blessing to us all.

The unofficial results of our 2024 efforts:

142 Member Contributions
\$10,060 collected

Our official NYSUT results will be available sometime late February and usually show an increase in our numbers. Remember, through VOTE-COPE we have a strengthened voice to support grass-roots lobbying and political action on behalf of education, health care and labor issues.

Consider your voluntary contribution for our next campaign which begins October 1, 2025. We each can make a difference In protecting our current benefits by supporting those who actively fight for us



Community Relations



*The Rev. Dale L. Cranston
Rector*

Christ Episcopal Church

65 Washington Avenue
Suffern, New York 10901
845-357-1615
Christchurchsuffern.org

A totally inclusive parish in the
Diocese of New York where
all are welcome.

To our dear Retired Suffern Teachers

December 12, 2024

I am in the honorable and thankful position of having to write all of you on behalf of Christ Episcopal Church's 45 year old Feeding Ministry in the heart of Suffern.

Over the years, your generosity has been spectacular and without which, I wonder if our Feeding Ministry would have been able to continue. We now distribute tens of thousands of meals each year and the need for food continues to rise.

Once again, this year, you have far exceeded your annual generosity and with the rise in food prices and the cutbacks from the State, this generosity has been crucial for our ongoing ministry for those with food deprivation.

We can never thank you adequately. But be assured our prayers, thoughts and prayers are with all of you. God bless you.

The Rev. Dale L. Cranston, Rector

Dale.Cranston@protonmail.com

Reminders, Events & Notes About Your Union



NYSUT Membership



NYSUT is a labor union representing nearly 700,000 professionals who work in, or are retired from, New York's schools, colleges and healthcare facilities.

- Are you a NYSUT member in good standing?
- Did you receive a NYSUT membership card for 2025?
- Did you pay your \$10.00 SR TC-SEA dues for 2024-2025?

Go to [NYSUT Member Benefits](#) to review benefits for members in good standing.

An important message from NYSUT **UPDATED NYSUT Retiree Guide**

"As a retiree, you will have access to many important retirement related activities, benefits and opportunities that will be provided by your local (if they have a retiree chapter), NYSUT, AFT and NEA. If your local has a retiree chapter, NYSUT requires that you enroll with your chapter to maintain your membership in NYSUT, AFT and NEA. Your local retirement chapter may also require you to pay dues, and it is important that you remain in good standing each year to maintain membership."

Check your NYSUT membership status so that you do not miss out on membership-associated benefits!

We have approximately 376 retirees in our chapter. Please do not let your unpaid SR TC-SEA \$10.00 dues cause you to lose out on your NYSUT benefits.



Refer to the last page of this issue for NYSUT member benefits!

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.



Scholarship

Suffern Retired Teachers Chapter- Suffern Education Association

Family Scholarship 2025

For Children and or Grandchildren of the SRTC

The Suffern Retired Teachers Chapter-SEA will be awarding one \$1,500 family scholarship to a graduating senior who will be attending college in the fall and is the child or grandchild of a member of the SRTC-SEA.

Please include the following:

- A TYPED APPLICATION FORM.

The application can be obtained at srtc-sea.org/ScholarshipAppl.docx

- An official transcript along with your mid-year grades, SAT/ACT scores.
- A letter of recommendation with your application.

The completed application, transcript and recommendation should be e-mailed /mailed directly from the student's high school to:

Mr. Philip T. Lima
Suffern Retired Teachers Chapter- Suffern Education Association
7 Pyngyp Rd.
Stony Point, New York 10980

or

Email to : amigos48@aol.com

The deadline for the application is March 21, 2025.

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.

We would also like to recommend that you plan ahead, ask a trusted relative or friend to do this for you in case you are incapacitated.



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

District News

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.
<https://www.youtube.com/@sufferncsdboardofeducation6294>

Recaps are also available by going on the District's website, zeroing in on Board of Education

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



Medicare News/Reminder

Do you receive Medicare?

Did you receive an email from Christina Bennin <cbennin@sufferncentral.org> on Dec 31, 2024 regarding Medicare reimbursement?

The district will process Medicare Reimbursement for the upcoming year.

Suffern Central School District reimburses the base rate of Medicare Part B on a quarterly basis (mid-March, mid-June, mid-September and mid-December). The 2025 base rate is \$185.00/month.

The excess Medicare Part B, known as IRMAA (Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts), is also reimbursed via a one time payment.

- What is IRMAA?
- The Medicare income-related monthly adjustment amount, or IRMAA, is a surcharge on Medicare premiums for Medicare Part B (medical insurance) and Part D prescription drug plans. It applies only to Medicare beneficiaries who have a modified adjusted gross income above \$103,000 in 2024 for an individual return and \$206,000 in 2024 for a joint return. If your earnings are below this threshold, IRMAA doesn't apply to you.

This Medicare Reimbursement Form must be completed and returned by 2/14/2025.

Failure to return the required paperwork will result in payment being held

REMINDER

Please keep your contact information current with SCSD.
Please refer to your email for the required documents for reimbursement.

If you have any questions, please contact
Ann Neville (anneville@sufferncentral.org) in
Accounting at 845-357-7783 ext 11226
(Christina Bennin will be on a leave of absence)

President Phil's Trivia Question

Riddle/ brain teaser:

Riddle Me This:

Two men are in the desert.
They both have backpacks on.
One of the guys is dead.

The guy who is alive has his backpack open, the guy who is dead has his backpack closed.
What is in the dead man's backpack?

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.



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



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.

Enjoy these benefits

NYSUT Member Benefits strongly believes in the importance of making quality benefits easily accessible to the NYSUT membership. You may be interested in the following options:

FOR FREE!

1. Premium Calm Subscription:

All in-service and retiree members receive unlimited free access to the popular Calm app's full library of sleep, meditation, and relaxation content. Members can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older) to receive their own premium Calm subscription.

2. Peer Support Line:

Whether you're facing a specific stressful situation or would just like to speak with a supportive voice, this confidential helpline is free to all NYSUT members and their families. Call toll-free **844-444-0152** to connect with a peer.

3. AD&D Insurance Benefit/ 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 from AXA Assistance.

4. New Member Life Insurance:

All new 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Member Appreciation Event is back!

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce that Member Appreciation Event will be held this March! This celebration will feature prizes donated by Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers. To be eligible to win, you must be a participant in our MAP Alert email service.

If you're not already a MAP Alert participant, simply scan the QR code, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, or call **800-626-8101** to sign up. You'll then receive weekly updates about endorsed benefits, information about new programs, and be able to take part in special prize drawings such as Member Appreciation Event.

SCAN ME



**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
nysut

Working to Benefit You

January/February 2025

