

SRTC - SEA

Retiree Connections

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

March/April 2025 Volume 18 Issue 9



Spring Luncheon!

May 6, 2025

Location: TBD

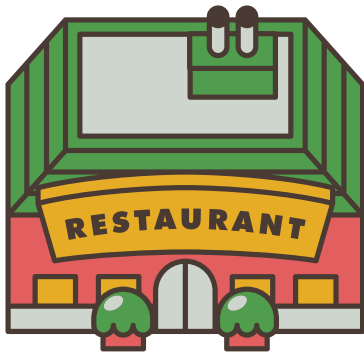


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Executive Committee

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

President's Corner:

Hi everyone!

Since our last issue, so much has transpired. We have been bombarded with news and events that have rocked many to their core. Some would argue that these events and changes of the last month or so will bring necessary changes to how our government should operate. Others vehemently disagree with the way in which this administration is bringing about change. They believe the slash and burn approach will have serious consequences that will take generations to repair.

Unfortunately, the divide that exists between supporters and dissenters is only widening with little hope of compromise or finding any common ground. Where does this all end?

Yet, as we approach spring, a new beginning, the optimist in me remains hopeful that good people on both sides will look to mend relationships and strive to make this country a place that includes and benefits all people. Finding what we have in common instead of focusing on our differences will help us get there.

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.”

Desmond Tutu

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[Executive Committee](#)

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

We will continue GIVING our support to
the Christ Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen in Suffern
and the Sloatsburg Food Pantry.

Our donations for 2024 totaled \$5,815.00, and since 2013 we have contributed
\$50,497.00!

Donations will be collected at our Spring and Fall Luncheons, or can be mailed at your
convenience to addresses below.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity! It is greatly appreciated!



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

2024 VOTE-COPE Results

With member support through VOTE-COPE,
NYSUT continues to fight
for our rights,
our benefits,
and for the professional respect we deserve.

On behalf of your SRTC-SEA leadership,
sincere thanks to all who supported
the 2024 VOTE-COPE campaign.

The following results reflect an increase in
member participation and the total amount collected:

CONTRIBUTORS: 181
CONTRIBUTIONS: \$13,346

Our local has continued to show support in making NYSUT's voice heard.

Springtime (yes, it is around the bend) is often linked to
new beginnings, new directions, or a renewal of commitments
worthy of our time, our talents or our treasures.

Take a moment to consider your commitment to VOTE-COPE and
begin, renew, continue or increase your support
when our campaign kicks off October 1, 2025.

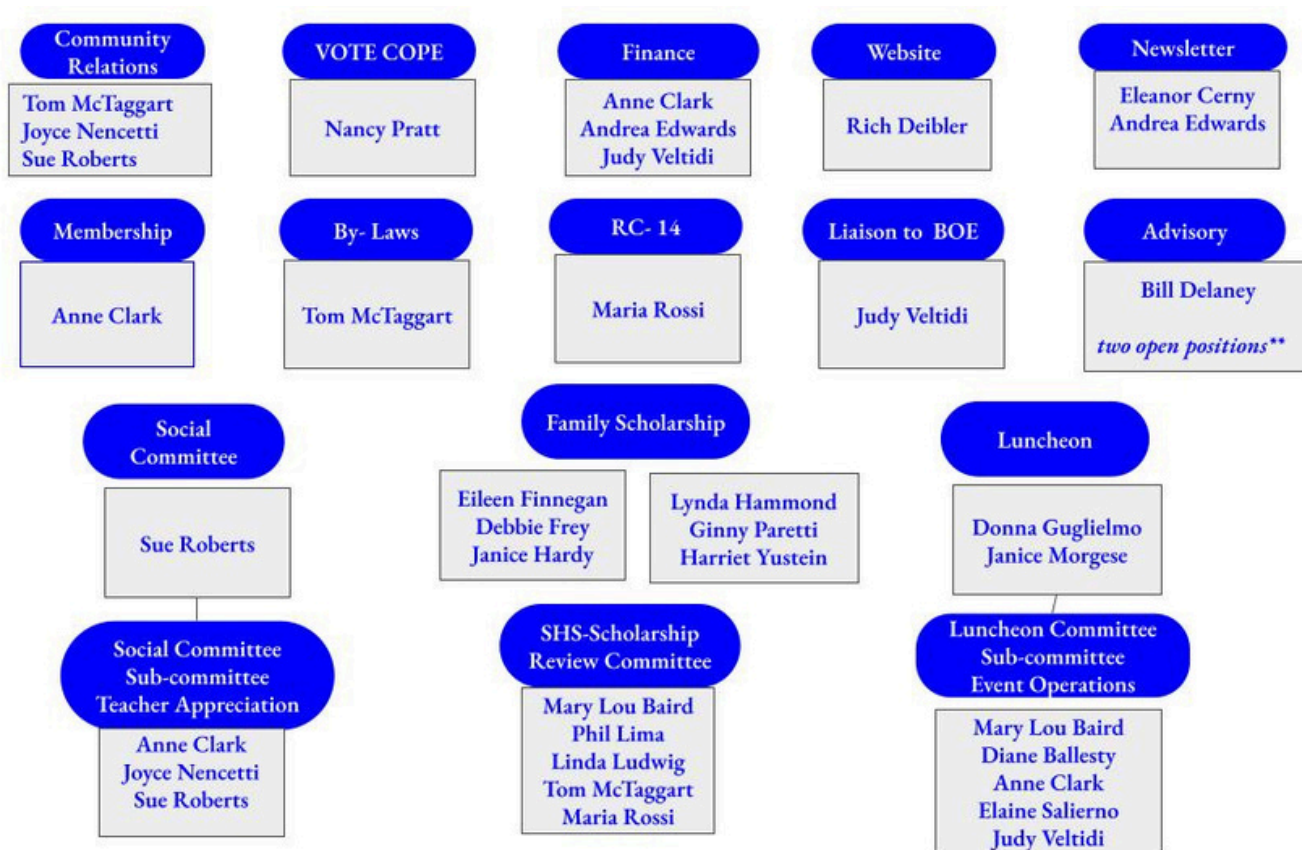


SRTC-SEA Committees

Purpose/ Mission-SRTC-SEA

- Promote the best interests and welfare of all the retired teachers at the Suffern Central School District.
- Promote the mutual assistance and cooperation with other organizations with which it is associated.
 - Promote the aims and objectives of the SEA and its state and national affiliates.
 - Maintain ties of professional unity between in-service and retired members.
 - Provide support for students and families in the Suffern Central Community.

Meet the SRTC-SEA Committees and their members



****Message to our members:**

Recently the SRTC-SEA Executive Committee created an Advisory Committee which will be instrumental in assisting in developing new programs and suggesting activities and events that will benefit our members. We are currently looking for two more people who have retired in the past ten years to volunteer to be on this committee.

If you are interested and would like additional information, please contact Phil Lima (914-263-7073).

This is the first of an ongoing series about the SRTC-SEA committees, stay tuned to find out what they do. Some day you may want to join the team that continually creates a bridge from past to present.

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 SRTC-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 SRTC-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, sign up 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.



Reminders, Events & Notes About Your Union

Notice from NYSUT United January/February 2025 Magazine

[Resources for YOU - Retirees (page 20)]

Big changes coming for retiree newsletters

NYSUT retire councils newsletters have **officially** gone digital. Starting this fall, unless **you** opt-in to receive a paper copy, your RC newsletter will no longer be mailed to our home. The change is estimated to save over \$100,000 in printing and mailing costs.

“If you still want a paper newsletter mailed to your home, you need to let us know,” said Ron Gross, NYSUT second vice president, whose office coordinates retiree issues. “RC newsletters are already available at nysut.org/rcnews. However, beginning September of 2025, NYSUT will only send print RC newsletters to retirees who still want a hard copy. It is important for all retirees to inform us if they prefer to have the printed copy and/or be notified via email that their latest RC newsletter is available online. It is our goal to use this savings to help retiree councils find alternate ways to connect with our members and increase engagement.”

NYSUT encourages all retirees to visit the RC newsletter delivery option portal at nysut.org/rcnewsuptin to select the delivery method you prefer. You'll need your 'newsletter code', the seven-digit number printed on your newsletter address panel, OR your NYSUT member ID, to enter the portal and make your selection, Gross explained.

Retirees can also email, call, or mail NYSUT Retiree Services if they want a printed copy or to be notified when new newsletters are posted on the site, Send your full name, mailing address, email address, phone number, and local from which you retired and indicate your preferences:

- email retiree.services@nysut.org
- call 518-801-9199
- mail NYSUT retiree services, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110

Another option is using the QR code *available in the January/February 2025 issue on page 20.*

Additional information to help with the above article

SRTC-SEA (Rockland County) is part of Regional Chapter (RC) 14, 15, 16.

<https://www.nysut.org/members/retirees/retiree-services-consultants>

Regional Chapter 14 (NYSUT Orange and Rockland Retire Council) does not have a website; Regional Chapters 15 & 16 (retirees from NYSUT locals in Westchester and Putnam Counties) have a website.

<https://www.nysut.org/members/retirees/retiree-council-websites>

Therefore, it is advisable to subscribe to the digital newsletter

YOUR membership

must be up-to-date to access

NYSUT member retiree newsletters & benefits.

SRTC_SEA Chapter dues are \$10 each year.

Contact Anne Clark <anneclark10987@gmail.com>, with membership questions/concerns

Scholarship

There is still time - don't forget....

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.

CALL for VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Suffern Library is looking for a few volunteers to assist us on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:45pm from Feb. 24 through March 31. We are currently offering an English Language Conversation Hour and need people to sit and converse with the participants. There are 7-10 adult participants each week with various native languages. Our leader, Nancy Wendt, presents a topic for conversation each week and the volunteer would talk with the participants and assist with the pronunciation. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Nancy Wendt or Miguelina Molina at (845) 357-1237.

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.



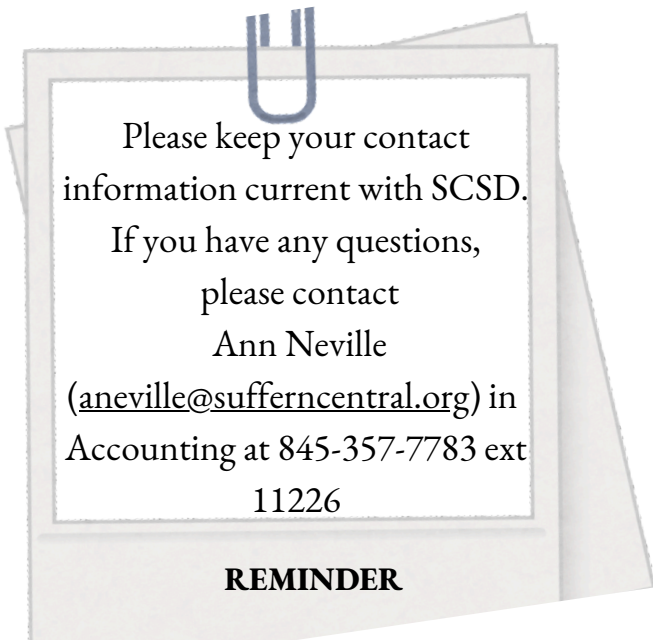
Any one who changes their contact information, please notify
Membership Committee Chair: Anne Clark
anneclark10987@gmail.com.

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.
[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.



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

REMINDER

President Phil's Trivia Question

Riddle/ brain teaser:

Trivia:

Which country has the Okapi as its national animal?

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.



We remember...

February 16, 2025: Ruthie Wilson, Montebello and Viola Schools teacher

February 11, 2025: Ann Haggett, Viola School nurse

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.



EXPERT LEGAL & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE



NYSUT members have access to programs and services from NYSUT Member Benefits that can help them save money, protect their family, and assist with planning for the future.

With our **Legal Service Plan**, you will receive crucial estate planning documents (Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Power of Attorney); free attorney consultations; and guaranteed maximum fees for personal legal matters. Plan participants receive guaranteed hourly rates along with discounted prices for referral attorneys.

Our Financial Counseling Program offers access to

certified financial planners that provide fee-based financial counseling services. Participants can get help with retirement planning, 403(b) & 457(b) plan advice, debt management, savings, budgeting, and more.

Check out **Synchrony Bank** for some of today's most competitive interest rates on certificates of deposit, money market, and savings accounts. An optional automated savings program (which makes transfers from your checking account at another bank to your money market or savings account at Synchrony Bank) is an easy way to build your balances in higher-earning accounts.

Our online Financial Learning Center - powered by Kiplinger's Personal Finance - offers numerous articles designed to assist NYSUT members with achieving their personal financial goals and better understand the nuances of insurance, savings, investing, and more. This free resource is updated on a monthly basis.

Do you have student loan or general debt concerns? Our **Cambridge Credit Counseling program is available at no cost** to assist NYSUT members with better understanding general debt consolidation and student loan repayment options. Members can take part in a free consultation with a certified Cambridge counselor or sign up for a no-cost student loan debt webinar provided by Cambridge.

Take back your financial independence and protect your family for whatever the future may bring.

Learn more by scanning the QR code, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.

