

SRTC - SEA

Retiree Connections

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

May/June 2025 Volume 18 Issue 10



SUMMER

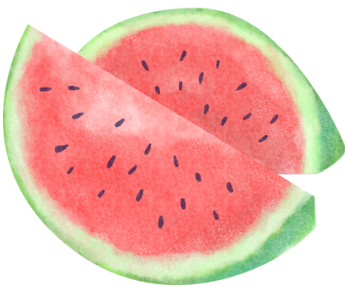


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Executive Committee

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

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President's Corner by Phil Lima

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

Hi everyone,

I would like to give a big shout-out to our Luncheon Chairpersons, Janice Morgese and Donna Guglielmo for an outstanding job selecting the venue and organizing this year's May Luncheon. Additionally, to our Luncheon Committee members: Anne Clark, Judy Veltidi, Joyce Nancetti, and Elaine Salierno for managing the check-in and collection station as our members arrived.

A big thank you to our crack 50/50 sellers, Diane Ballesty and Mary Lou Baird. I promise to get new tickets for the Fall Luncheon 😊. Our Teacher Appreciation Recognition Day was a huge success. The candy baskets were well received by staff members in all our schools. Thanks to our Social Committee, Sue Roberts, Joyce Nancetti and Anne Clark for all their work in organizing this special event.

Congratulations to this year's SRTC-SEA Family Scholarship recipient, Alexa J. Kulhawy, granddaughter of Kay Bruce. We wish her continued success as she moves into the next chapter of her life.

As mentioned by both Joyce Nancetti and Tom McTaggart in their reports on both the Christ Episcopal Soup Kitchen and The Sloatsburg Food Pantry, your financial commitment over the years has been heartwarming. We are encouraged by their work and your generosity and will continue to offer our support to their efforts to help combat food insecurity for those living in our school community.

We have seen an increase in the amount of requests for financial assistance from many clubs, teams and organizations within the school district, especially from the high school. We have established a Finance Committee to review and prioritize those requests that will then make recommendations to the Executive Committee. We are also discussing a variety of options to help as many groups as possible. One such option might be to send out alerts when a specific request is made to see if individual members might want to make a personal contribution to a club, team or organization's request for aid. More to follow...

This fall we will be making a change to how we distribute information about the Fall Luncheon flyer, President's annual letter to our membership, dues and donation information. We are looking at cost-cutting measures for printing and mailing expenses. This year the information we normally mail out in August /September will be done via email. We will experiment with this format to see if it has any negative impact on responses to our luncheon responses as well as dues and donation participation. Please update Anne Clark (anneclark@aol.com) with any changes to your email addresses. We will continue to send hard copies to those who do not have email addresses. As we approach our August launch, we will send out alerts reminding our members to check their emails and (spam folders) for our information.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't mention and thank all our members of the Executive Committee and those serving on various committees who work tirelessly to ensure the smooth operation of our chapter. You are truly the best!

Sincerely,
Phil

COMMUNITY ACTION



Community Relations

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

Thank you to all for your continued generosity!

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

Feeding Ministry at Christ Episcopal Church
The Community Food Pantry (previously the Sloatsburg Food Pantry)

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

Our 2025 Spring donations to the Christ Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen: \$1,820.00
Special thanks to all for your continued support to this Feeding Ministry.

Through your generosity at the Spring Luncheon we collected \$875 in donations to:
The Community Food Pantry.
Since 2020, we have donated \$15,301 to the Pantry.



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

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

COMMUNITY ACTION



A message from the Community Food Pantry:

We are thrilled to announce that the Sloatsburg Food Pantry is now the Community Food Pantry—a name that better reflects the neighbors we proudly serve! While our name has changed, our mission remains the same: to provide nutritious food with dignity and care to individuals and families within the Suffern Central School District and Tuxedo.

As a choice pantry, our clients have the opportunity to select food that best meets their dietary needs and preferences, including: fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, beans, milk, eggs, cheese, bread, pasta, oatmeal & cereal

We've also expanded our hours! We are now open every Tuesday from 2:00-5:30 pm and every Wednesday from 1:00-6:30 pm. Twice a month, clients can shop and select from a wide variety of options ensuring everyone has access to balanced, nourishing food in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Not only are we providing food for families to take home, but we also understand the importance of snacks during the school day to help children stay energized and focused. Each month, we provide approximately 966 individually wrapped snacks to each of the elementary schools—RP Connor, Cherry Lane, Montebello, Sloatsburg, and Tuxedo. These snacks are critical in ensuring that every child has access to a snack at school, helping them stay engaged and maintain their focus throughout the day. Depending on the need, we aim to place an order for snacks 1-2 times a month.

Your support has made an incredible impact, and we are deeply grateful for your continued generosity. Your kindness and dedication to our mission mean the world to us. The care you show in helping our neighbors is truly inspiring.

Thanks to you, we are able to serve a diverse community, including 14.1% seniors, 55.2% adults, and 30.6% children. Together, we ensure that families in the Suffern Central School District and Tuxedo have access to the food and support they need. With full hearts, we thank the Suffern Retired Teachers Chapter for being such an important part of our community!

We'd love for you to visit and see what we've been up to! The Community Food Pantry is located within All Souls Community Church at 81 Washington Ave, Suffern, NY 10901. Our entrance is on Oliver Street—come by and see the impact you help make possible! Plus, we'll be at the Suffern Street Fair on May 4—please stop by and say hi!

Best,

Marisol Roman

Intake and Outreach Coordinator, Sloatsburg Food Pantry

845.618.5373 www.sloatsburgfoodpantry.org

marisolr@sloatsburgfoodpantry.org



NOTE:

Through your generosity at the Spring Luncheon we collected \$875 in donations to The Community Food Pantry. Since 2020, we have donated \$15,301 to the pantry.

Thank you for your thoughtful generosity!



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.

The Rev. Dale L. Cranston
Rector

May 15, 2025

TO THE RETIRED TEACHERS OF SUFFERN, NEW YORK

Our dear friends,

Once again, I find that I am in the most enviable position of having to write you yet another thank-you letter for your exceptional generosity. You have become a bedrock for us as we face more and more economic withdrawals with the feeling that more will be coming.

This ministry, that helps so very many people, continues to thrive because of your generosity and the generosity of others while state and federal resources shrink. We continue with our daily lunch program, with absolutely no questions asked, and with our Pantry Distribution, which two years ago distributed 156,000 meal equivalents; it still remains high well past the 115,000 mark.

May God continue to bless all of you, always,

Dale.Cranston@protonmail.com

VOTE COPE 2025 PAC

by Nancy Pratt

VOTE-COPE is our voluntary non-partisan political action committee, where active and retired members contribute funds to support initiatives aligned with NYSUT goals. Following are some NYSUT highlights that have been made possible through contributions to VOTE-COPE:

- Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) have been secured for public sector retirees, in an attempt to have our pensions keep pace with inflation.
- Legislation has been secured for early retirement options, providing members with more flexibility.
- There are comprehensive retiree service programs, including workshops, conferences, and support services for our members.
- NYSUT has worked to secure state aid for schools, which helps to keep class size down, and stabilize property taxes.

Why should we contribute to VOTE-COPE:

- * Protect our financial security
- * Protect our health benefits in retirement
- * Strengthen the VOTE-COPE voice that speaks for us

We have earned one of the best pension plans. The NYS Constitution describes our pensions as “... a contractual obligation, the benefits of which may not be diminished nor impaired.” It would take a constitutional convention to alter our pensions. The last call to convene a Constitutional Convention was in 2017. VOTE-COPE funds were used to help defeat this possibility 83% to 17%!!

See you October 1, 2025, for the start of our SRTC-SEA VOTE-COPE drive. Happy summer!

Nancy Pratt



COMMUNITY ACTION



Teacher Appreciation Week.

We delivered goodie baskets to all schools with a thank you for Teacher Appreciation day or week.

There's like 7 pounds of candy in each one!



Our Scholarship Committee
has selected
Alexa Kulhaway
as this year's recipient
of our Family Scholarship.



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, 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.



SPRING LUNCHEON MAY 2025 @ LA TERRAZZA



Some memories from Spring Luncheon 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.



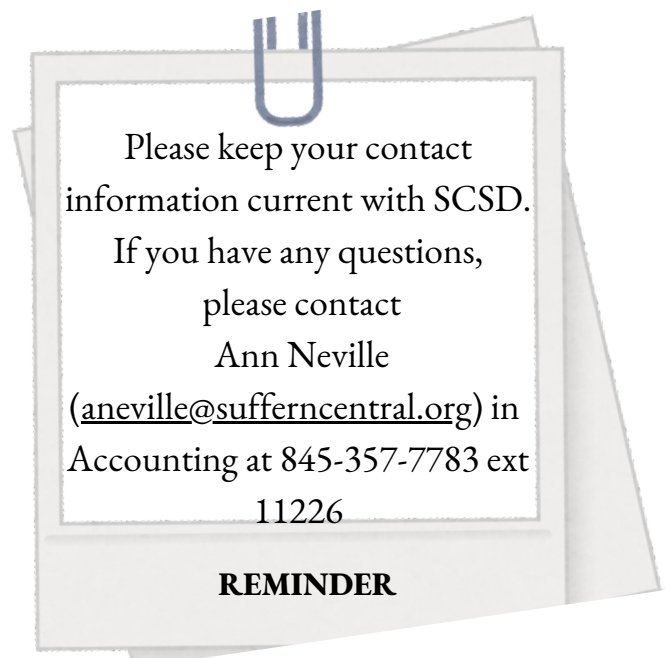
Anyone who changes their contact information, please notify
Membership Committee Chair: Anne Clark
anneclark10987@gmail.com.

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.



STAY CURRENT

See below for important information from The RepORter
NYSUT Orange and Rockland County Retiree Council 14

If you do not get The RepORter newsletter, contact retiree.services@nysut.org OR call 518-801-9199

JOIN OLD FRIENDS; BRING FRIENDS; MEET NEW FRIENDS! *RC 14 SPRING & SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON*

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:
MELINDA PERSON,
PRESIDENT NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS

THURSDAY, June 5, 2025 at NOON

LaTerrazza Restaurant
291 Main Street
New City, NY 10956



Cost: \$40.00 incl. Tax & Gratuities; choice of entrees; unlimited tea, coffee, soda; – Cash Bar

RSVP with this coupon and your check before Thursday, May 29, 2025

Please send your check payable to “NYSUT RC14” to:
THOMAS BRIODY PO Box 129 Salisbury Mills, NY 12577

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
Email – (We don't share) _____
District you retired from _____
Number going to luncheon _____ Amount (\$40 per person) _____

IMPORTANT!! EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2025

**THIS NEWSLETTER WILL NO LONGER BE MAILED
TO YOU UNLESS YOU DO ONE OF THE
FOLLOWING.**

(IF YOU ARE COMFORTABLE READING ONLINE & YOUR
EMAIL IS ON FILE, NO ACTION IS REQUIRED & YOU WILL
HAVE ACCESS ONLINE ONLY.)

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE A
PRINTED COPY OF OUR NEWSLETTER THROUGH THE
MAIL, PLEASE DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING.**

- EASIEST - VISIT ONLINE - [NYSUT.ORG/RCNEWSOPTIN](https://nysut.org/rcnewsOPTIN).
USE THE 7-DIGIT ID NUMBER FOUND IN BOX TO LEFT OF YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THIS
NEWSLETTER ADDRESS LABEL AND THE FORM WILL FILL IN YOUR INFO AUTOMATICALLY!**
- OR CONTACT NYSUT BY PHONE AT 518 801 9199 OR
BY EMAIL AT RETIREE.SERVICES@NYSUT.ORG.
SUPPLY FULL NAME, MAILING ADDRESS, PHONE, EMAIL, NAME OF OUR LOCAL "RETIREE COUNCIL 14"**
- OR MAIL TO: NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES; 800 TROY-SCHENECTADY ROAD; LATHAM, NY 12110
SUPPLY FULL NAME, MAILING ADDRESS, PHONE, EMAIL, NAME OF OUR LOCAL "RETIREE COUNCIL 14"**

Please choose the delivery option below that best meets your needs.

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or

ONLINE

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I prefer mail delivery of my
newsletters.

☐
I prefer the digital newsletters
available on this web site.

Enter your newsletter code:



☐ I am using my NYSUT ID instead.

Continue...

PRESIDENT PHIL'S TRIVIA QUESTION

Riddle/ brain teaser:

Trivia:

If you were to combine words meaning
'the day before' and 'to cease work,'
you'd find yourself at what notable world landmark?

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...

April 24th, 2025: Tom Porfidio, a reading teacher in several of our elementary schools

2025: Mo Judson, long-time Math Chairperson of grades 7-12 and HS math teacher



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

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.



LET MEMBER BENEFITS HELP YOU PLAN FOR RETIREMENT

If you recently retired or plan to do so in the near future, it's important to prepare for the transition from in-service work to retirement.

Maintaining NYSUT membership in retirement is crucial, especially if you're currently participating in a NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed program(s) and would like to continue doing so. This can be accomplished in one of two ways:

- 1** Continue membership within your local if retiree membership is offered. Contact your local to find out if any retiree membership requirements are in place. You must comply with these requirements to continue your membership in NYSUT along with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and National Education Association (NEA).
- 2** Continue as an at-large member of NYSUT through the Retiree Council in your region. Contact your local to ensure you will be reported as retired to NYSUT. This will provide you with membership in the Retiree Council in your region along with NYSUT, AFT, and NEA. If you have questions about maintaining NYSUT membership or would like more information about NYSUT retiree programs, you will want to contact the NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant serving your region. You can find this information at nysut.cc/retireeconsultants.

More than a dozen of the endorsed programs offered by Member Benefits can be purchased through either payroll or pension deduction. These convenient payment methods offer reduced premiums or the elimination of service fees in many instances. An active NYSUT membership is required to participate in payroll or pension deduction. If you're currently participating in one (or more) of our endorsed programs, we encourage you to look into switching to pension deduction after you enter retirement.

Learn more about continuing Member Benefits-endorsed programs or the pension deduction process by scanning the QR code, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101

