

SRTC - SEA

Retiree Connections

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

Welcome Class of 2024

Sept/Oct 2024 Volume 18 Issue 6

We wish each of you all the
best in your retirement years.
May each day
bring you peace, good health
and happiness.



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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](#)
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 all,

Well it's that time of year when we leave the dog days of summer and mosey on into the brisk, dark mornings of autumn. As we prepare for the first day of classes, finishing up on our lesson plans, wondering if our students are feeling as anxious as we are. YIKES! There it is, my recurring dream (or nightmare) for the last eleven years of my retirement.

Yet it is the reality of thousands of students and teachers as they prepare to return to school facing similar anxieties. Many of those teachers and students are our own children and grandchildren. They may be our nieces and nephews or even the children and grandchildren of our friends. Besides the regular anxiety of what the new school year may bring, there's this phenomenon, not so new but unfortunately a recurring one. These events, tragedies, lay dormant in our minds until news breaks that someone has committed the unthinkable, another school shooting. No sooner than the first day of school, news broke that a mass shooting occurred in a high school in Georgia. A young boy (14) for whatever reason, took the lives of four people and injured many more. As we get past the thoughts and prayers in our response, the scene turns to outrage and demand for change. Next, the call for new and stringent gun laws followed by arguments of support for peoples' Second Amendment rights and a call for more security and arming teachers in the classroom. Then we wait... wait for the next time. A continuous cycle that leaves affected families, friends and concerned individuals to fight for change.

Is this the best we can do for those who we care about? Love? For our school community? Are our students and teachers becoming desensitized as we had become after years of being herded under desks and standing in the hallways covering our faces preparing for the worst possible outcome?

Every student, parent and educator should have and demand a safe school environment and community. We can no longer allow this epidemic to continue. We need to approach this crisis as we would any epidemic by using every available resource to keep our kids safe. We need to provide help and support for those who perpetuate these atrocities. It's time to speak up, get angry and be proactive not reactive.

Take a moment and visit nysut.org/safeschools and marchforourlives.org. Maybe we need to flood our respective elected officials' offices calling upon them to pass common sense gun violence legislation. This isn't a Democratic or Republican thing. It's a common sense thing.

Thank you,

Phil Lima

"Individual actions may seem insignificant but together the small steps of many people can have an astonishing impact".

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

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN DONATIONS

SPRING 2024 Subtotal: \$2,030.00
FALL 2024 Subtotal: \$3,335.00
GRAND TOTAL as of OCTOBER 2024: \$5,365.00

The above summarizes how generous and thoughtful our members are to the needs of our local community!

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

Your statewide union has a political fund-raising arm called VOTE-COPE. VOTE-COPE is NYSUT's non-partisan action fund that coordinates the voluntary contributions of members and supports NYSUT-endorsed candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public-education and pro-labor.

No NYSUT dues dollars are used to support candidates or campaign committees.

Thank you to all who contribute.



**2025 Campaign
October 1, 2024 to December 15, 2024.**

**Information has been mailed to you.
For more information go to NYSUT VOTE-COPE**



Christ Episcopal Church

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

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

The Rev. Dale L. Cranston
Rector

October 3, 2024

To our dear friends at the Retired Teachers Association:

Once again, I am in the admirable position of having to thank you so much for your continuous and loving support for Christ Episcopal Church's Feeding Program.

We are aware of the need of the food-insecure population in and around Suffern. It IS increasing. At the same time, we have seen a decline in some aspects of the resources from the State of New York, making it even harder to maintain the level of support we give to those desperately poor families on our doorstep.

Thanks to you and a few others, we are maintaining this very old and utterly essential outreach program in our area from this church's location. You always have been most generous and it is so deeply appreciated.

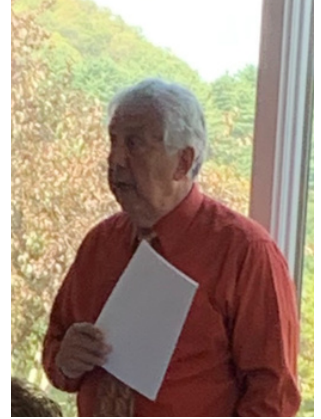
May God bless all of you. With great appreciation,

Dale.Cranston@protonmail.com

Fall Event

On September 10th, we celebrated SRTC-SEA 20th anniversary @ Lynch's on the Green in Thiells, NY.

We caught up with friends while welcoming new Retirees.
Thank you to all!

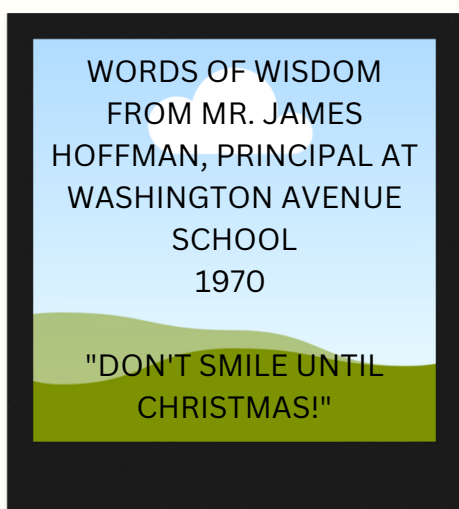
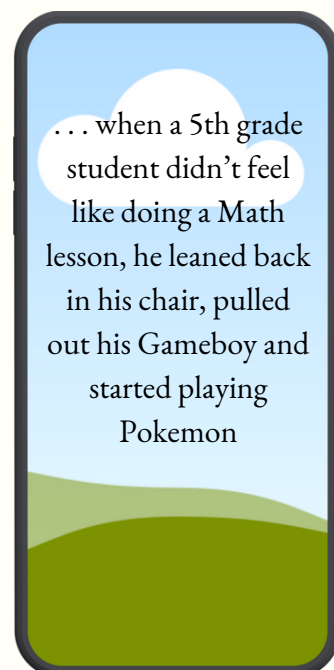
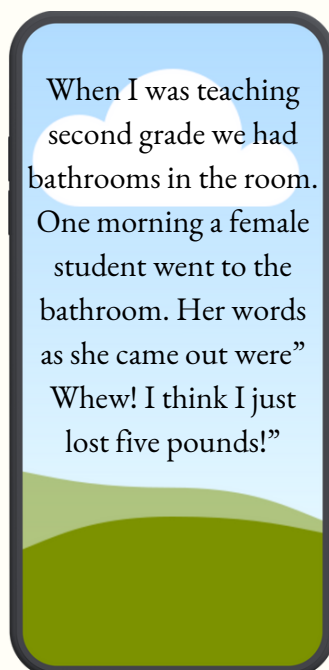
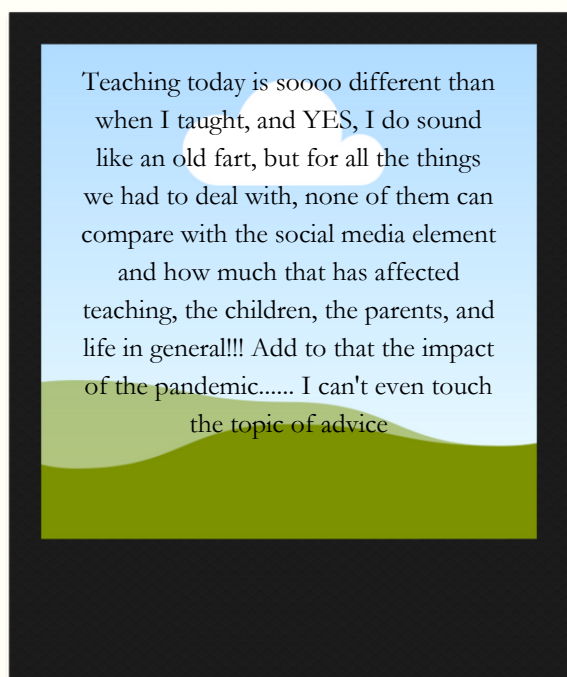
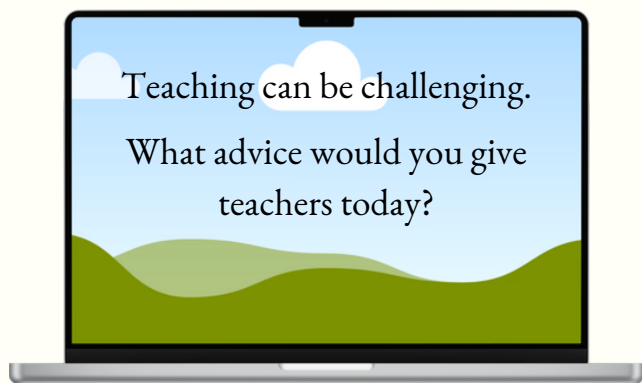


The Story Board - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

The Story Board is looking for your input! Please share your story.

In the pages of learning, their story unfurled,
Guiding young minds, across the world.
As they reach retirement's door, a chapter ends,
Yet their legacy, like a beacon, transcends.

... Excerpt from Teacher's Journey



Questions for next issue:

What is your proudest teaching moment?

What is your most memorable teaching moment?

We would love to share your story.

Please send responses to srtc.connection@gmail.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 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; but only 164 have paid dues. Please do not let your unpaid SRTC-SEA \$10.00 dues cause you to lose out on your NYSUT benefits.



One of the latest free NYSUT member benefits: CALM app

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.

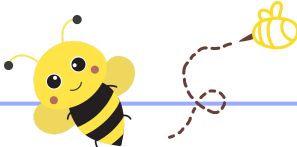


President Phil’s Trivia Question

Riddle/ brain teaser:

Turn me on my side and I am everything.
Cut me in half and I am nothing.
What am I?

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

We remember

September 26, 2024
August 31, 2024
May 26, 2024
May 21, 2024

Jackie Schofield Triguero
Peter Wendrychowicz
Carmela Teresa Russo
Paul Baltazar Serra

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.

LIFE INSURANCE: *Crucial for protecting your loved ones*

Life insurance is a topic many people find confusing, complicated, and uncomfortable to think about. It is undoubtedly one of the most vital types of insurance products you can purchase, though. Whether you're looking into your first policy or to upgrade existing coverage, it's important to determine how much life insurance you need and which type is right for you.



One key fact about life insurance you may not be aware of is premiums are likely to be less expensive if you purchase it earlier in life. For those of you who currently have policies, what you purchased 10 years ago, five years ago, or even last year may not be enough to replace your income and all you provide for your family. And if you are part of the 30% of Americans who don't have any life insurance at all,* you could be putting your family at great financial risk.

There are a variety of options to consider when it comes to life insurance, including:

- 1. Term Life** – this product pays a benefit in the event of the death of the insured during a specific timeframe but offers no cash value.
- 2. Level Term Life** – this insurance is similar to term life but is normally for a set period of time such as 10, 15, or 20 years; it also offers no cash value.
- 3. Universal Life** – this option offers a way to protect your family while building tax-deferred cash value; policyholders can usually access a portion of the balance without impacting the guaranteed death benefit.

* Source: USA Today - <https://www.usatoday.com/money/blueprint/life-insurance/life-insurance-statistics>

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses a number of competitive life insurance programs (those listed to the left and others) available to NYSUT members and their spouse/certified domestic partner. Many of these plans offer reduced rates not available to the general public along with additional convenience and savings opportunities through payroll or pension deduction.

**Learn more about Member Benefits-
endorsed life insurance programs
by scanning the QR code, visiting
memberbenefits.nysut.org, or
calling 800-626-8101.**



**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
nysut
Working to Benefit You
September/October 2024