

Dedicated to the Preservation and Enhancement of the Retiree Benefits of New York State Community College Retirees



NYSUT RC39 officers working on RC39 issues.

Joan Prymas, Judith Holmes, George Wybenga, Corita Kong, and Pete Herron

RC39 Officers attend the NYSUT Retiree Contiguous ED51-53 (At-Large) Meeting on Oct 6-7, 2014

Corita Cong, RC39 Secretary

Peter Herron, Joan Prymas, George Wybenga, Judith Holmes, and I attended the NYSUT Retiree Contiguous ED51-53 (At-Large) Meeting on Oct 6-7, 2014, in Albany. All the central officers of NYSUT: Karen Magee, President; Andrew Pallotta, Executive VP; Catalina Fortino, VP, Paul Pecorale, VP; and Martin Messner, Secretary-Treasurer, dropped in at various times to introduce themselves to us and to offer support. Paul Pecorale, in charge of Retiree Affairs.

There were 2 plenary sessions and more than 10 various group meetings to discuss issues such as Social Security and Medicare, NYSUT's services and benefits for members, a proposed change of retiree delegates to NYSUT and AFT Conventions, a consideration of assessing membership dues from retirees, effectiveness of Retiree Councils' communication with members, and retiree participation in and support for their councils, etc. Four resolutions were adopted for NYSUT to enact and they will be published in NYSUT journals for your perusal.

Among the invited guests to the meeting were Thomas DiNapoli, NYS Comptroller and Andrea Stewart-Cousins, NYS Senator and Senate Minority Leader. As always, Comptroller DiNapoli assured us of the soundness of the NY Pension Fund, the third largest in the nation and that he would never allow NY to have anything other than a defined pension plan. Senator Stewart-Cousins stated that as a strong advocate of public education she will always push hard for its proper funding. All the speakers at the meeting urged us to be active in the coming November elections.

The five of us from RC 39 also met to discuss our council's specific concerns and decided on the following:

1. Submitting our newsletter to compete for the NYSUT Communications Awards.
2. Contributing \$200 to Long Island Cares.
3. Actively recruiting members to run as Board Members (elections are this coming year).
4. Encouraging members to establish local chapters and to attend regional meetings.
5. Urging members to share their activities and ideas in our newsletter.

2014 NYSUT RETIREE CONTIGUOUS E.D. MEETING FINAL REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS, October 6-7, 2014,

Resolution 1

Support constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United Decision by U.S. Supreme Court

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court declared in Citizens United that corporations are persons and that corporations cannot be limited in political giving, by a 5-4 vote; and Whereas, the minority members of the Supreme Court strongly objected; and

Whereas, Supreme Court Justice Stevens, in January 2010, wrote:

"Corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires. Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their 'personhood' often serves as a useful legal fiction. But they are not themselves members of "We the People" by whom and for whom our Constitution was established;" therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT and its state and national affiliates support a constitutional amendment to clarify that "free speech" as envisioned by the framers of the U.S. Constitution, was limited to individuals and groups of individuals, not incorporated entities.

Resolution 2

Support Constitutional Amendment to overturn Hobby Lobby Decision by U.S. Supreme Court

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court, by a 5-4 decision, upheld Hobby Lobby's First Amendment religious liberty position; and

Whereas, this decision denies to many employees, especially women, the right to make the fundamental decisions on health and reproductive health matters; and

Whereas, the court affirmed the employer's right to make decisions on health and reproductive health matters under the religious liberty clause of the First Amendment protecting the employer's right; and

Whereas, the decision additionally narrows the decision made by both houses of Congress on the Affordable Health Care Act; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT and its state and national affiliates support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Hobby Lobby decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Resolution 3

Support and Defend Defined Benefit Pensions at both State and Federal levels for all Public Employees

Whereas, many employers in the private as well in the public sectors are moving to a defined contribution pension plan; and

Whereas, defined contribution plans could subject workers to the unpredictability of the stock markets; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT and its state and national affiliates will continue to defend defined benefit pensions at both state and federal levels for all public employees as well as those in the private sector.

Resolution 4

Earned Benefits

Whereas, earned benefits, namely Social Security and Medicare, are under attack by some political leaders, the media and others and maligned as "entitlements;" and

Whereas, some members of Congress support the unjust idea of a "chained" CPI which would, if implemented, reduce the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA); and

Whereas, neither Social Security nor Medicare add to the deficit; and

Whereas, that to use the word "entitlements" is to imply that Social Security and Medicare are gifts bestowed on seniors and other recipients, which they are not. They have been and continue to be earned benefits; and

Whereas, Social Security and Medicare have an enormous positive economic and social impact on beneficiaries as well

NYSUT Retiree Council 39 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Checking Account	\$14,833.66
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	14,833.66
NET ASSETS	\$14,833.66

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

REVENUE ACCOUNTS	ADOPTED BUDGET	ACTUAL TO-DATE	BUDGET REMAINING
Voluntary Participation Fees	\$2,000.00	\$2,363.00	\$ 363.00
Ads for Newsletters	920.00	920.00	0.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,920.00	\$3,283.00	\$ 363.00
EXPENSE ACCOUNT			
Supplies	\$ 25.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 25.00
Postage	100.00	37.50	62.50
Telephone	25.00	0.00	25.00
Travel for Officers	520.00	253.08	266.92
Conference Expenses	250.00	121.04	128.96
Delegate Expenses (NYSUT RA)	1,800.00	1,412.46	387.54
Disaster Fund/Charitable Donation	200.00	200.00	0.00
Dues for LIRDC	0.00	40.00	(40.00)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,920.00	\$2,064.08	\$ 855.92
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,218.92	\$ 1,218.92

NYSUT RC 39 Revenue and Expenses Budget 2014-2015 Fiscal Year

Revenue Accounts	Adopted Budget
Voluntary Participation Fees	\$ 2000.00
Newsletter and Website Advertisement Revenue	\$ 920.00
Total Revenue	\$ 2920.00

Expense Accounts	
Supplies	\$ 10.00
Postage	\$ 50.00
Telephone	\$ 10.00
Dues	\$ 50.00
Charitable Contributions	\$ 500.00
Travel for Officers/ Conference Expenses	\$ 500.00
Delegate Expenses (RA and AFT Conferences)	\$ 1800.00
Total Expenses	\$ 2920.00

Projected increases (decreases) in Net Assets \$ (0.00)

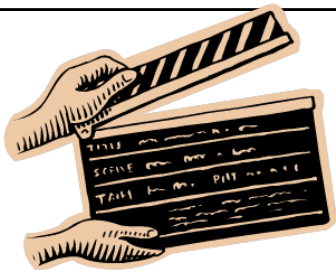
This budget was adopted by a board resolution.

Corita Kong 8-21-14
Corita Kong, RC 39 Secretary

as on the American economy; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT and its national affiliates will work to promote the use of the term "earned benefits" rather than the term "entitlements;" and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT and its national affiliates continue to defend, work to enhance and continue to oppose all cuts and efforts to privatize Social Security and Medicare.



MOVIES NOW AND THEN

By Ann Fey

THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY



James Thurber's original short story *THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY* published in the *New Yorker* in 1939, created an iconic character, an average guy with an ordinary life and an extraordinary ache for some kind of greatness. Our sweetly sad journey with Walter takes us around town, as he drives with his nagging wife on errands, and delves into daydreams of magnificent imaginary accomplishments, great deeds that digress from the ordinariness around him. As a commander of a hydroplane, a great and admired surgeon, or an aggressive crime trial witness, Walter's dream roles are silly stereotypes, but so satisfying. They are classic idealizations in their day. The story was first made into a film in 1946, starring Danny Kaye. The bossy wife character was changed to a mother, and augmented by beautiful blonde Virginia Mayo, adding romantic possibilities. The daydreaming Walter, a magazine proofreader, with typical Danny Kaye antics, daydreams as a Mississippi gambler, gets involved with the high fashion world and an evil psychiatrist (Boris Karloff), and in a scheme to steal the Dutch Crown Jewels. Walter's real life gets an action plot, and the secret life dreams go wild. The song "Beautiful Dreamer" leaks onto the soundtrack. Danny Kaye fans could probably take it. Author James Thurber offered the film's producer Sam Goldwyn \$10,000 not to make it. No luck.

The latest version of *THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY*, released in 2013, resonates with elemental similarities to earlier filmic work of its director and star, Ben Stiller, of *ZOOLANDER* and *MEET THE FOCKERS* fame. Walter, the main character, is his own avatar in a videogame-like series of fantasies. His heroics rage against no particular enemy, and his daydreams center on distraction from current specific troubles, with particularly current challenges: his situation with his mother (Shirley MacLaine) is trying, his unnoticed crush on a pretty girl at work (Kristen Wiig) is saddening, his coworkers at *Life Magazine* bully him, and the new managers rife with little black beards and gelled pompadours have threatened his job. Humor is not missing in some of the broad satirical characterizations.

Less achieving than a nerd, Walter is a dork. He is the "negative asset manager" and one important asset, which he is responsible for, a special negative, is strangely missing. This negative will produce the photograph selected by the great photographer Sean O'Connell (Sean Penn) to be on the cover of the last print version of *Life Magazine*, which was folding down into an on-line corner of the publication world. There is some irony in the notion that a negative, a product of the non-digital film-bound early camera, is an unknown entity to portions of the Stiller social media fan crowd. The final print edition of *Life* cannot be produced without this old pre-digital element.

Walter is unskilled in social media but great at skateboarding. His secret life moves into adventures where he seems to play in some kind of a computer war game – flying and falling and crashing and swimming, part Patton, part Spiderman. "Ground control to Major Tom..." sets a mood. Thurber's journey was just around his hometown, but this Walter, to reclaim his effectiveness in his job, searches the world for the adventurous photographer Sean, with forays into Greenland, finally finding him in Iceland, on a glacier. Sean's revelation about where he put the negative, and a stroke of luck, allow Walter, to find it. The cover can be printed!

And what will be on the final cover of *Life*? In Thurber's short story, in the final episode of his secret life, Walter seems to realize an ultimate truth about life. With Danny Kaye in the role, Walter gets the girl and winds up with a nice editorial job. In Stiller's film, Walter gets the girl, a readymade family, saves everybody's job and on the cover, well, --no spoilers, but oh, how far from Thurber. Clearly, the old classic has been adapted to convey today's popular values.

RC39 Could Use New Leadership

The three year terms of all the RC39 officers and member-at-large positions expire this spring. Now is the time to start thinking about running for an open position or encouraging a friend to run. If you have any questions or want more information please contact Pete Herron, rc39pete@optonline.net or (631) 744-5534.

Retiree Council 39 Board of Directors

President, First NYSUT and AFT Delegate, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster: Peter Herron

Vice President, NYSUT and AFT Delegate: Ann Smullen

Secretary, NYSUT and AFT Delegate: Corita Kong

Treasurer, NYSUT and AFT Alternate Delegate: Joan Prymas

Director-at-large: Frances Hilliard

Director-at-large: George Wybenga

RC39 Newsletter is looking for comments, suggestions and articles from its members.

Send your comments, suggestions or article to Peter Herron at rc39pete@optonline.net or mail to 98 Rocky Point Landing Road, Rocky Point, NY 11778. Your article will be published when space is available. RC39, NYSUT, and AFT news will be given priority.



Address Change

Do not let a new address keep you from receiving NYSUT RC39 newsletters. There are three ways to update your address. Contact NYSUT Member Records at 1-800-342-9810 ext. 6224. Send written changes to: NYSUT Member Records, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY12110 or e-mail changes to memberrec@nysutmail.org. If you are a snowbird, give Member Records a few weeks notice to change its address records each way.

Have you paid your voluntary RC39 contribution for 2015?

If you have not sent in your voluntary NYSUT RC39 annual contribution, now is as good a time as ever. Just send your check along with the form below to the RC39 treasurer. It is your contributions that enable RC39 officers and delegates to represent you at NYSUT conferences and meetings.

Retiree Council 39 Voluntary 2015 Participation Fee form

Name _____ e-mail _____
 Address _____ Phone (____) _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
 College retired from _____ Year of Retirement _____

Please check amount of your voluntary participation fee: \$25 _____ Other \$ _____

Send your check, made out to NYSUT RC39, along with this completed form to:

Ms. Joan Prymas, RC39 Treasurer, 141 Montgomery Street, Ilion, NY 13357