



RC39 Board of Directors meet during the NYSUT Contiguous ED 51-53 (At large) Meeting, October 2-3, 2017. From left to right, Member-at-large James Brennan, President Peter Herron, Treasurer Joan Prymas, Vice President Judith Holmes, and Secretary Corita Kong.

Report on the NYSUT Retiree Contiguous ED 51-53 (At Large) Meeting, October 2-3, 2017

Corita Kong, RC 39 Secretary

Peter Herron, Judith Holmes, Joan Prymas, James Brennan, and I attended the meeting held at the NYSUT Headquarters, Latham, New York. While there we had a RC39 board meeting to discuss specific RC39 concerns. The NYSUT meeting was opened with welcoming remarks by Florence McCue, NYSUT at-Large ED 51-53 Director. The main topic of the various discussions was the NY State Constitutional Convention.

As many of you know, on Nov 7 of this year, NY voters were asked: "Shall there be a convention to consider amendments to the New York State Constitution?" This proposal along with two suggested amendments to the constitution were on the back of the ballot. To have your vote recorded, you had to turn over the ballot and mark the appropriate boxes.

Some people think that a state convention would give ordinary citizens the opportunity to initiate reforms on corruption, education, la-

bor, conservation, pension, etc. The likely reality is that most delegates to the convention would have been elected/appointed state and local officials and political party leaders, and the cost of the convention would be huge. The convention could have ended up reducing the state's commitment to and funding for education, public transportation, health care, pension, etc., and thus harming all New Yorkers' quality of life.

Steven Kramer, Esq. of Feldman, Monaco and Kramer, PC, gave a presentation on the five basic documents of estate planning: Health Care Proxy, Living Will, Power of Attorney, Last Will and Testament, and Trusts. He welcomes NYSUT retirees to call (800-832-5182) his firm to ask questions.

Paul Webster, an advocate of social justice and fund raiser, mentioned the website: Fbbookbank.org which offers free and inexpensive

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An Opportunity to Correct the Skewed Representation on the Current Board of Directors

Pete Herron, RC39 President

In the spring of 2006 a teleconference was held for the purpose of establishing a NYSUT community college retiree council. The locations of centers participating in this teleconference were in New York City, East Syracuse, Jamestown, and Latham. During this teleconference there was lots of enthusiasm shown for forming a community college retiree council. The immediate task was to write by-laws and to get people to run for office. Only a small core of people volunteered to work on the by-laws. Getting people to volunteer to serve as officers became a challenge. When it came time to have people actually participate in establishing and participating in the functioning of the retiree council the enthusiasm evaporated. We thought this was because RC39 was new. The slate of officers consisted of two from Long Island, one from New York City, and three from eastern New York State. We hoped that this imbalance would correct itself over time, but it did not. The current board of directors has four from Suffolk County Community College, one from Herkimer Community College, and one from Rockland Community College. Of the six positions, three have held the same office since the very beginning; they are President Herron, Treasurer Prymas, and Secretary Kong. Every election we have sent out appeals for members from other regions of the state to step up and serve. We have tried and failed to have NYSUT locals identifying potential board of directors' candidates.

Over the years we have invited members to participate in board of directors deliberations, all done by email. Only a very few have accepted the invitation. We had hoped that having members participate, they would find that the time and effort required is not that demanding and they would learn firsthand how NYSUT works for its members. That invitation still stands.

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Mix Generosity with Caution

New Yorkers donate over \$10 billion to charitable organizations each year, with older New Yorkers being especially generous.

Most charities are honest in their methods of soliciting contributions. However, there are organizations that misuse fundraising methods, with the lion's share of donations going to the fundraiser rather than the programs. Other so-called charities are outright scams that play on the sympathies of well-meaning people who only want to help a good cause.

Here are some ways to make sure your charitable donations are going where you intend them to.

- Make sure you know the charity and understand its aims and programs. Scammers will frequently capitalize on the reputation of a well-known charity by changing the name slightly.
- Confirm that the charity is registered with the Attorney Gen-

eral's Office, as required by law.

- Find out what the charity will do with your money: how much of each donation supports programs, administrative costs and fundraising.
- Avoid charities that will not answer your questions or provide written information about its programs and finances.

Making the Donation

- Resist pressure to give on the spot. If you choose to listen to their appeal, ask how much of your donation will be used for charitable programs, and how much the telemarketer is being paid. Beware of claims that "all proceeds will go to charity."
- Avoid unsolicited emails. These are frequently scams and your response may make you vulnerable to identity theft and fraud.
- Use caution when donating via text and social media. Although

legitimate charities are increasingly using social media and texting for donations, you should always check to be sure that your contributions are going to established, reputable charities.

- Watch Out for Fake Invoices. Scammers often send out "overdue" statements. Confirm that you've actually made a pledge to the organization. This could be a scam.
- Never Give Cash. It's best to give your contribution by check made payable directly to the charity, or by credit card.
- **Most importantly! Never give your Social Security number or other personal information in response to a charitable solicitation.** Never give out credit card information over the phone to an organization you are not familiar with.

Source: New York State Attorney General Office.

36.9 cents of Each Dollar

That's the average amount that actually goes to the charity when it raises funds through telemarketing campaigns. Many charities across the state receive even less - and sometimes the charities actually lose money. The Attorney General's Charities website,

www.charitiesnys.com, provides information about the fundraising firms that charities use, and how much of the money raised actually goes to the charity.



RC39 Website

Check out RC39 website <http://rc39.ny.aft.org/> where you can read recent NYSUT RC39 newsletters, AFT and NYSUT news releases, and much more.

NYSUT Retiree Contiguous ED 51-53 (At Large) Meeting

From page 1. books for various age groups.

Paul Pecorale, NYSUT Second VP, informed us that NYSUT has a Retiree Council Organizing Grant Program to assist councils with membership recruitment, council organizing projects, etc. He urged retiree councils to apply for the grants.

Two resolutions submitted by Retiree Council 21 and Councils 37-38 were reviewed, discussed and adopted, before adjournment.

During our Council's meeting, Joan proposed to make our annual \$200 contribution to Long Island Care and another \$200 contribution to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund for the hurricane victims in Florida, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. The proposal will be sent to all RC39 board members for their vote. A few weeks ago, our Council had made a similar

contribution to the victims in Texas. We discussed extensively our urgent need of candidates to replace some of the members of our current Board. Peter, Joan, and I have served in our positions since our Council's inception in 2006. Four of the six board members are retirees from Suffolk Community College. Numerous appeals over the years have resulted in no one volunteering from the western or northern regions of the state willing to serve on the RC39 board. Change is long overdue!

Ideally, our Board members should come from the various regions of NY State and different colleges. Election of RC39 offices will be held in 2018. We appeal to our members to nominate themselves or others they know well to run for office in 2018. Please contact us! Our Council won't survive without your participation and service.

NYSUT RC 39 Revenue and Expenses Budget 2017-2018 Fiscal Year

Revenue Accounts	Adopted Budget
Voluntary Participation Fees	\$ 2200.00
Newsletter and Website Advertisement Revenue	\$ 920.00
Total Revenue	\$ 3120.00
Expense Accounts	
Supplies	\$ 5.00
Postage	\$ 170.00
Dues	\$ 50.00
Charitable Contributions	\$ 1000.00
Travel for Officers/ Conference Expenses	\$ 545.00
Delegate Expenses (RA and AFT Conferences)	\$ 1350.00
Total Expenses	\$ 3120.00
Projected increases (decreases) in Net Assets	\$ (0.00)

This budget was adopted by a board resolution.

NYSUT Retiree Council 39 FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2017

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Checking Account	\$18,959.03
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	18,959.03
NET ASSETS	\$18,959.03

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

REVENUE ACCOUNTS	ADOPTED BUDGET	ACTUAL TO-DATE	BUDGET REMAINING
Voluntary Participation Fees	\$2,000.00	\$2,310.00	\$ 310.00
Ads for Newsletters	920.00	580.00	(340.00)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,920.00	\$2,890.00	\$ (30.00)
EXPENSE ACCOUNT			
Supplies	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 50.00
Postage	170.00	37.90	132.10
Travel for Officers/ Conference Expenses	300.00	379.08	(79.08)
Delegate Expenses (NYSUT RA)	1,350.00	1,158.25	191.75
Charitable Contributions	1,000.00	500.00	500.00
Dues	50.00	0.00	50.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,920.00	\$ 2,075.23	\$ 844.77
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	\$ 0.00	\$ 814.77	\$ 814.77

New York State Constitutional Convention Proposition Defeated

Thanks to so many who got out the word, especially NYSUT members, proposition 1, the constitutional convention proposition, was defeated, 17% Yes, 83% No. This is a great example of NYSUT working for its members.

An Opportunity to Correct the Skewed Representation on the Current Board of Directors

From page 1.

RC39 will have elections for all positions in 2018. Now is the time for members from regions not represented in the current board of directors to consider running for office. RC39 needs representation from all regions of the state if it is to effectively represent all New York State community college retirees.

To learn more about the rules of the election and the duties of the elected positions please refer to the RC39 by-laws, which can be obtained by visiting the RC39 website, <http://rc39.ny.aft.org/>, click NEXT on the bottom of the Home page to obtain the by-laws. We are looking forward to hearing from you, (631) 744-5534, rc39pete@optonline.net.

Retiree Council 39 Board of Directors

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

Vice President, NYSUT and AFT Delegate: Judith Holmes

Secretary, NYSUT and AFT Delegate: Corita Kong

Treasurer, NYSUT and AFT Alternate Delegate: Joan Prymas

Director-at-large: James V. Brennan

Director-at-large: Shaun Gerien

Send your comments, suggestions, and inquiries to NYSUT RC39 Officers, 98 Rocky Point Landing Rd., Rocky Point, NY 11778 or rc39pete@optonline.net.

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, NY 12110, or e-mail changes to member@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 2018?

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 2018 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