

# SPOTLIGHT on RC 45

Volume 4, Issue 2

NYSUT Retiree Council 45 Newsletter

June 2015

## NYSUT Retiree Council 45

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#### Representative Assembly Delegates

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VICKI DARROW  
BILL NINNESS

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VICKI DARROW

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### FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

At the NYSUT Presidents Conference and RA (Representative Assembly) on April 30th - May 2nd I had the chance to hear many inspiring speakers.

**At The Presidents Conference** the opening speaker was NYSUT President Karen Magee. Magee confidently stated that NYSUT is being more aggressive on critical issues. She discussed the fresh look at and the new ways the NYSUT officers are handling the anti-public education agenda presented by those in Albany and around the state. The Union is fighting against the for-profit ventures that are trying to tear apart public education. The NYSUT Board of Directors, local leaders and membership are becoming more engaged under Magee. The Union is fending off attacks on public education by well-funded special interest groups and those in Albany that have agendas other than quality public schools. She described how The Union is using the court system and the court of public opinion, when appropriate, to overturn attacks. Further, **NYSUT is continuing to build coalitions with like-minded groups (like retirees) that can and will show mutual support in times of need.** Magee stated that the "Opt Out" of standardized testing movement is quickly gaining momentum. In some districts as many as fifty percent of the children did not take the recent standardized tests.

**At the RA** the theme of Magee's speech, was "what a difference a year makes". To a round of applause she stated that State Education Commissioner John King is now the former New York Commissioner of Education and that our no confidence vote

at the 2014 RA helped to remove him as Commissioner of Education. The officers of NYSUT have advanced grassroots organizing and mounted a challenge to the teacher gag order in regard to testing. They have mobilized union members in an attempt to secure for New York's teachers what they need to provide their students with a quality education. President Magee stated that Governor Cuomo "may well be the best union organizer ever and his anti-public education agenda has our members mobilized and engaged like never before".

In addition to Magee, RA Delegates also heard from Executive Vice President Andy Pallotta, Vice Presidents Catalina Fortino and Paul Pecorale and Secretary-Treasurer Martin Messner.

In his speech, Pallotta said that this is the best of times and the worst of times. We have built coalitions and have activated members all over the state. Vote Cope received record breaking contributions of over nine million dollars in 2014. Pallotta also assured the delegates that the union will fight against the Governor's continued attempts to promote his own agenda for education, his wealthy contributors' agenda for education and his continued attempt to increase the number of charter schools.

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**From your President (cont'.)**

The officers discussed adoption of the new state budget and how it will affect public education. Here is a list of changes now in effect:

- The probationary period for new teachers will be extended from 3 to 4 years.
- Probationary teachers must now receive 3 Effective or Highly Effective ratings to receive tenure.
- Beginning with new teacher appointments on or after July 1, 2015 probationary teachers will not receive tenure if they receive an Ineffective rating in their 4th year of teaching.
- A local board of education may offer a probationary teacher a 5th year of employment if it so desires.
- School boards will be able to terminate probationary teachers without regard to their APPR rating.
- All teachers and teaching assistants will be required to re-register with SED every 5 years.
- Professional certificate holders those hired after 7/1/15 will need to re-register every 5 years and complete 100 hours of continuing education approved by SED.
- Schools will receive an increase of \$1.3 billion in school aid from the 2015-2016 budget.
- Local school district aid increases are tied to the new APPR plan that must be agreed to locally and approved by SED no later than November 15, 2015.
- Districts that do not have their plan approved will receive no increase in state aid in the 2015-16 school year and thereafter until a new plan is in place.

During the NYSUT RA an amendment to the NYSUT Constitution was passed by the delegates that will increase active teachers' state union dues over the next three years 2015-2018. The lowest paid members those earning less than \$8,499 will pay \$3.00 a year more in 2017-18 and the highest paid members those who earn over \$34,000 will see their dues increase by \$20.00 during the same three year period. Remember retirees do not pay dues. A second amendment was passed to retain the number of NYSUT officers at four. A past amendment reduced the numbered officers to four in 2017. **A resolution that directly affect retirees was also approved.** That is, NYSUT will seek through legislation to increase the age at which Paragraph 2 death benefits that survivors receive from members of Tiers 2-6 begin to be reduced. Other resolutions adopted by the delegates include NYSUT joining the campaign to allow for voting rights reform that would permit early voting, voting by mail and same day registration to vote. NYSUT will seek a prohibition on conversion therapy, encourage higher ed. faculty not to adopt Pearson textbooks, support "The I Refuse Movement" to oppose high stakes testing. Resolutions were passed to limit the number of Charter Schools that can be placed in small school districts, to increase school safety and to increase diversity in New York's schools. During deliberation by the body on Saturday afternoon a delegate called for a quorum. A quorum was not attained therefore remaining resolutions were referred to the NYSUT Board of Directors.

The RC 45 Officers and members of our Board of Directors hope you will attend our Spring Membership Meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup> at the Northeast Classic Car Museum in Norwich, NY. Please find the registration form on page 3. *Sincerely, -Bill.*

Please consider becoming a contributor to RC 45 so we can continue our effort to represent you and your concerns. A \$10.00 (or more) voluntary contribution to NYSUT Retiree Council 45 will help us with these endeavors. The officers of RC 45 appreciate your support. Yours in Unity,  
*Bill Ninness, Retiree Council 45 President.*



Please complete the form below and send your voluntary contribution for 2012 to: Maxine Cleveland, RC 45 Treasurer, 5 Brentwood Drive, Homer NY 13077 OR hand this form in when you attend the RC 45 Spring Luncheon Meeting on Thursday, June 25.

Please make checks payable to: **NYSUT Retiree Council 45**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

District From Which You Retired: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(Your e-mail address will only be used to communicate information from RC 45)



# The next RC 45 Membership Meeting will be held at the NORTHEAST CLASSIC CAR MUSEUM JUNE 25, 2015

www.classiccarmuseum.org  
24 Rexford St, Norwich, NY 13815-1146  
(607) 334-2886

## Meeting Agenda:

9:30 – 10:00 Registration  
10:00 – 11:00 Membership Meeting  
11:00 – 12:00 Explore museum on your own to become familiar with exhibits  
12:00 – 12:45 Lunch  
12:45 – 1:00 NCCM staff member will discuss the history of the museum  
1:00 – 2:00 Small group guided tours of the museum  
2:00 – close continue to explore museum on your own



## Lunch Menu:

Mixed wraps: (roast beef, ham or turkey), Chips and a Beverage. Dessert: Dish of homemade ice cream w/assorted toppings.

## FAQ's about the museum:

**When is the museum open?** 7 days per week from 9am-5pm

**May I take pictures?** Yes! Be sure to bring your camera, as we do allow photography and videography for non-commercial purposes

**How long does a tour/visit take?** The museum currently exhibits over 160 vehicles, WWI & WWII airplane engines, and vintage clothing. We have videos and storyboards to enjoy. With so much to see, please plan to spend at least an hour and a half to two hours enjoying the Museum. Some folks spend all day!

**Are you handicap-accessible?** The Museum is totally handicap-accessible. Because the exhibit area encompasses over 80,000 square feet of space, a full tour can be tiring for those with limited mobility or stamina. We therefore have 5 motorized scooters and a wheelchair available to our customers at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis

**May I sit in the cars look under the hood?** The Museum has two cars that you can sit in.

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow NY-79 E to NY-206 E/E Main St in Whitney Point. Continue straight onto NY-206 E/E Main St. Turn left onto NY-12 N/NY-41 N (in Green NY) . Turn right onto Rexford St--24 Rexford Street, Norwich, NY 13815-1146

**CUT** \_\_\_\_\_ **CUT** \_\_\_\_\_ **CUT** \_\_\_\_\_ **CUT** \_\_\_\_\_  
Complete and return the form below by JUNE 19, with your check (\$20 per person) made payable to 'NYSUT Retiree Council 45' – checks only please - and mail to Max Cleveland, 5 Brentwood Drive, Homer, NY 13077.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

District From Which You Retired \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check for \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed no cash payments please

Questions - Contact Bill Ninness at [wninness@gmail.com](mailto:wninness@gmail.com).



