

Madison-Oneida-Oswego

RC 8 Retiree



March/April 2015

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A Call to Action By Ken Drake, President

Governor Cuomo's arrogance is only surpassed by his ignorance. And if there is one thing I can't tolerate as an educator, it's ignorance. The governor needs to be taught a lesson. He needs to learn that he can't disparage all teachers with erroneous information and get away with it. I call upon every retiree to stand by our brothers and sisters who have been castigated by the governor's rhetoric. Contact your state representatives and ask them to use the influence of their respective offices to put a stop to our megalomaniacal governor's quest to destroy the public education system we so proudly help build.

All Hands on Deck!

Education is being attacked. Even though we are retired we still have a stake in this. We have grandchildren, nieces, nephews or friends' children who will be impacted by the Governor's faulty Ed Reform bill. In reality he is trying to dismantle public education.

The Governor fails to see the connection of his unfair budgeting to schools and the lack of essential programs, equipment, and staff in poorer districts. He continues to speak in code to confuse the general public. We know his goal is to dismantle public education and break the teachers' union. Students are his collateral damage.

As retirees we can let parents and community members know that the state test given to the students does nothing to help that student or inform the teacher on how to improve instruction for that class because the results aren't received until the student has moved on to the next grade. These tests do not define the student or the teacher. Both are much more than one test score.

All of us are under attack, and we need to respond with all our hearts and souls. Locally our retirees have met three times to make signs for rallies. We ask that you get involved ASAP. You can do so by:

1. Keeping informed; be sure to read what the Governor's Ed Reform wants to do
2. Writing, calling, and e-mailing (do all three) your NYS Assemblyperson and NYS Senator
3. Attending local rallies and forums
4. Calling your local President and asking what your local is involved in and how you can help
5. Writing letters to the editor of your local paper

You may never have been involved before, but now is the time to step up and speak out! All hands on deck are urgently needed!

The students in each of our districts need for us to be involved! Cuomo's agenda is just the beginning of setting the stage for a Constitutional Convention. There is already a movement to reduce our pensions. **Remember: more Charter schools = fewer public school teachers = fewer dollars in the pension fund = trouble for us. Without your public school, you will not have your health care.**

We need your involvement now! We must stop this flawed plan and unfair funding!

Submitted By: Carole Gehrig, Whitesboro Retired Teachers Association

Save the
Date

NYSUT Regional Conference for RC 7 and RC 8
Wednesday, May 13
Doubletree Inn, East Syracuse

Retiree Council 8 Steering Committee: Adirondack—Y. Emery, H. La Fave; Canastota—B. Woodarek; Clinton—M. Duink, C. Wheat; Holland Patent—D. Schue, J. Grossman; New Hartford—D. Markson; Oneida—K. Cartwright-Cox, J. Fiacco; Oneida BOCES—J. Furgal, C. Zammiello; Oriskany—S. McQueen, D. Inserra; Oswego—K. Mantaro; Remsen—J. Corn; Rome—P. Fitzpatrick, W. Carey; Stockbridge—L. Dunn, J. Hedglon; Utica—P. Baker; VVS—K. Drake, A. Wright; Waterville—M. Berardino, N. LaBrecque; Whitesboro—H. Chomin, F. Wood; Immediate Past President—P. Corbett; Past President—Paul Baker

Dear Friends

Something terrible is happening. As you go through life, you see terrible things. Most of the time there is nothing you can do about it. This time it's different.

Governor Andrew Cuomo is doing a terrible thing. He is trying to dismantle public education. We can do something about it.

He calls his terrible idea a "reform agenda." He wants to:

1. Turn public education over to corporations. Publicly funded charter schools would do away with public oversight of education. Corporations would add funding to charter schools. Shameful situations like charter and public schools sharing buildings, but not budgets, would be more commonplace. Charter sides of buildings, helped by private corporations, would have upgraded facilities while public schools rot in disrepair. Charter schools, originally intended to road test new ideas, would be poised to replace the entire public education system. This will have the added bonus, for Cuomo, of doing away with teacher unions and due process for teachers.

2. Disrespect teachers. Cuomo is trying to blame teachers, through the misuse of standardized tests and their interpretation, for students who do not score highly on said tests. The bonus here for the Governor is that he can make it seem as though we need "reform" because our students are not doing well. Not true. Read Diane Ravitch's book, *Reign of Error*, visit her web site at dianeravitch.com, or go to dianeravitch.net for her blog to find a multitude of facts and current issues.

3. Distract citizens from the directive handed down by the 2007 state Supreme Court to fully fund schools. If the court ruling were followed, the state would spend more in poor districts, thus creating an equal education for each child in the state, regardless of zip code. The advantage for the Governor in ignoring this is that if he makes no mention of it, he can pretend unequal funding doesn't exist and has nothing to do with educational performance of children.

Governor Andrew Cuomo is trying to fool people. He thinks he is doing well by camouflaging his agenda as a "reform" agenda. He thinks no one will notice—or just those pesky teacher people who didn't support him in his last election.

Friends, we ask YOU, how is he doing? Will he make this terrible thing happen?

Those who work in education and those who have retired from working in education are an idealistic bunch. We think that every child deserves a chance at a free, fully funded education. We know there is poverty out there, but we fight tooth and nail to do our best to counter it. We connect with kids. We give them hope. We care. We buy supplies, food, and many do more than that.

How can we stop this terrible thing? We can...

- Speak out against Cuomo
- Inform people
- Write letters and e-mails
- Make signs
- Attend rallies

This time, we CAN stop something terrible.

Submitted by Cheryl Zammiello, Oneida BOCES Retired Teachers Association

**NOW MORE
THAN EVER...**

SUPPORT VOTE-COPE

Protect public education, access to healthcare, labor rights and fairness for working families. Checks may be sent to VOTE-COPE, PO Box 5190, Albany, NY 12205-0190 or donate online at nysut.org. Click on *My NYSUT* (upper left corner) and log in with your membership number and password. If you send a check, please include your address, NYSUT membership number, (your social security number will also work) and name of your local chapter.

The **Oswego County Teachers Association** will be hosting a luncheon at 11 a.m. for retired NYSUT Educators and SRPs of Oswego County on April 27, 2015, at Vona's, West Utica and 10th Streets, Oswego. Peg Corbett, Past RC 8 President and Oneida County Office for the Aging Board Member, will speak at 12:45 p.m. on the topic of Medicare and You. Please send your check for \$22, made payable to Oswego County Teachers Association, to the following address: Pat Kush, 687 West 4th Street, Fulton, NY 13069. Your check must be received by Wednesday, April 22, 2015.

Spring Luncheon, Thursday, May 7, 2015

**Roselawn Banquet Facility
446 Main Street
New York Mills**

COST: \$19/each Members and Guests

MENU

Baked Virginia Ham
Roast Beef Au Jus
Baked Chicken
Sausage & Peppers or Meatballs in Sauce
Pasta with Alfredo Sauce
Seasoned Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables
Deluxe Chef Salad
Rolls and butter
Coffer or Tea

AGENDA

11:00 a.m.	Registration
11:30	Introductions—Kenneth Drake, Retiree Council 8 President
12:00	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Speaker: Diana Lindsay NYSUT Benefits Coordinator
	Topic: NYSUT Member Benefits
1:30	Closing

RESERVATION FORM

Please send this form and your check for \$19, made payable to Retiree Council 8, to the following address:
Marie Duink, 5 Sycamore Drive West, New Hartford, NY 13413. Your check must be received by
Thursday, April 30, 2015.

Name _____

District Retired From _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

**Mike
Corn
Award**

Time is running out. Completed applications for the annual award honoring Mike Corn are due April 1, 2015. The application can be obtained on the web at www.retireecouncil8.org in the "About Us" section or by calling NYSUT at 315-768-0131 or writing them at 7 Ellinwood Court, New Hartford, NY 13413.

2014-2015 Participation Fee

IMPORTANT: Retirees from Adirondack, Canastota, Central Square, Clinton, Holland Patent, Oneida, Oneida/Herkimer/Madison BOCES, New Hartford, Oriskany, Pulaski, Remsen, Sauquoit Valley, Stockbridge Valley, Utica, VVS, Waterville, Westmoreland, and Whitesboro **do not have to send \$5**, since the Participation Fee is contributed via retiree dues by your chapter. Rome Retirees may add the participation fee to their RTA local dues.

ATTENTION ALL OTHER RETIREES NOT BELONGING TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED LOCALS, please fill out the form below.

Name: _____

Street Address _____ **City/State/Zip** _____

Phone: _____ **Retiree School District:** _____

E-mail address: _____

PLEASE, COMPLETE THIS FORM AND A \$5 CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO "RETIREE COUNCIL 8" AND MAIL TO: Wanona E. Carey, RC8 Treasurer, 8623 Turin Road, Rome, NY 13440-7523.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to launch its newly created online Financial Planning Center to assist NYSUT members & their families with making a variety of important financial decisions.



Whether you have questions about retirement planning, saving for college or considering purchasing a home, the Financial Planning Center offers valuable tools & resources to assist you. Take the time to check out everything this new section of our website has to offer and remember to bookmark it as we will continue to offer new items on a regular basis.

**This unique resource provides
NYSUT members with free access to the following:**

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial calculators• An interactive planning module• Customized Kiplinger's retirement newsletter | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kiplinger's Annual Retirement Guide• 403(b) Field Guide• Preventive Law Guides• And more to come |
|---|---|

To access the NYSUT Member Benefits Financial Planning Center, visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org and click on "Financial Planning Center."