

**RC 8  
Retiree**



March/April 2012

**RC 8  
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**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR**

**STATEWIDE  
SCHOOL  
BUDGET  
VOTES  
MAY 15, 2012**

**Threats to our Retirement Security Persist  
By Ken Drake, President**

Make no mistake about it—some elected officials have targeted the structure of our retirement system as part of an effort to privatize pension programs for all public employees. These officials want to add a defined contribution Tier VI to the NYSTRS, a move that would impact us and other public workers adversely. “The proposal will essentially undermine the foundation of the defined benefit pension and ultimately bust the public retirement system for teachers, school employees, nurses, firefighters and other first responders for good.”  
*(NYSUT Leader Briefing, 02/18/12)*

A reduction in monies flowing into the system would reduce investment earnings and in the long run impact the security of current and future retirees. Our retirement system is the gold standard in the world of retirement plans and it must be preserved as is. We must remain vigilant and resist any initiative by state officials to defund it, modify it or raid it. We worked long and hard to achieve financial security in retirement, and we mustn’t allow politicians to take that away from us. Call your state legislators, and tell them NO TIER 6.

**Health Care Reform Helps Deliver Preventive Care  
to 86 Million Americans**

Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced in February that the Affordable Care Act provided approximately 54 million Americans with at least one new free preventive service in 2011 through their private health insurance plans.

She also announced that an estimated 32.5 million people with Medicare received at least one free preventive

benefit in 2011, including the new Annual Wellness Visit, since the health reform law was enacted. Together, this means an estimated 86 million Americans were helped by health reform’s prevention coverage improvements. The HHS report on expanded preventive benefits in Medicare and other ways that the Affordable Care Act strengthens Medicare is available at

[www.cms.gov/newsroom](http://www.cms.gov/newsroom)  
ARA 02/18/12

**Deficit Hawk Hypocrites**

Who caused deficits? Some of the same people in Congress who bemoan all the red ink in the federal budget actually created the problem. At a Senate Budget Committee hearing last month, Sen. Bernie Sanders called out the hypocrites who showered the wealthy with tax breaks, who let pharmaceutical companies rip off taxpayers, and who launched wars without calling on the country to pay the price.

**ELECTION  
NOTICE**

Retiree Council 8 election of officers will take place at the spring luncheon on May 3, 2012, at Delta Lake Inn, 8524 Fish Hatchery Road, Rome, at 11:30 a.m. You do not have to attend the luncheon to vote. Ballots will be available at the door starting at 11:30 a.m.

**Retiree Council 8 Steering Committee:** Adirondack—H. LaFave; Canastota— B. Woodarek; Clinton—G. Adams, J. Gee; Holland Patent—D. Schue, J. Grossman; New Hartford— D. Markson; Oneida—S. Sorrentino, K. Brown; Oneida BOCES—J. Furgal, C. Zammiello; Oriskany—S. McQueen, D. Inserra; Oswego—K. Mantaro; Remsen—N. Revere; Rome— P. Fitzpatrick, W. Carey; Utica—P. Baker, A. Gorman; VVS—K. Drake, A. Wright; Waterville— M. Berardino; Whitesboro— H. Chomin, F. Wood; Immediate past president—Peg Corbett

## Meet the Retiree Council 8 Officer Candidates

**Kenneth Drake—VVS—President:** Ken is seeking a second term as president of the Retiree Council 8 Steering Committee. Ken is a dedicated advocate for workers' rights and public education. Ken was president and a negotiator for the Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Teachers Association and represented the retirees of the VVSRTA before becoming president. Ken chairs the Oneida City Democratic Committee and coordinates Project Restock as a member of the Concerned Citizens of the Greater Oneida Area to support the four food pantries in the city. Ken lives in Oneida with his wife Virginia and enjoys reading, golfing, spending time with his grandchildren and sipping a fine single-malt.

**Howard La Fave—Adirondack—Vice President/Delegate:** I would like to continue as Retiree Council 8 (RC 8) vice-president and delegate for another term. I have attended the Representative Assembly (RA) for several years and served as Sergeant-at-Arms in 2011. In addition to the RA delegate, I have been a representative to the Committee of 100 in Albany for RC 8. While an active teacher, I was the RA alternate and Committee of 100 representative for the Adirondack Teachers' Association. I represent retirees on the Adirondack Teachers' Executive Committee and the RC 8 steering committee. I attend meetings of the Coalition in Albany and Education District 51 meetings. I feel my knowledge of legislative practices and issues and political relationships formed over the years and my experience working with the RC 8 members will allow me to effectively represent RC 8.

**Wanona Carey—Rome—Treasurer:** Serving as the treasurer of Retiree Council 8 (RC 8) for two years has been a great honor. It has given me the opportunity to keep in touch with all of the chapters and to get to know many fun and interesting NYSUT retirees. In addition, I'm proud to be a retiree representative to the Rome Teachers Association (RTA), a delegate to the CNY AFL-CIO Labor Council for the RTA, a church lector, and am excited to have been recently appointed to NYSUT's Social Studies committee for three years. Our Council continues its activism on behalf of those issues that affect us as teacher retirees. I would appreciate your support for another two-year term as treasurer of RC 8.

**Barbara Woodarek—Canastota—Secretary:** Barbara Woodarek has been a Retiree Council 8 (RC 8) steering committee member representing CREW (Canastota Educators at Watch) since 2009 and RC 8 secretary since 2010. She is currently substituting as CREW liaison to the Canastota Teachers' Association. Barbara has been a member of the Board of Managers for New Yorker Condominiums in Canastota and secretary/treasurer since 1995. She recently joined the Board of Directors for the Canastota Community Chest. Barbara attends various classes at OASIS in Syracuse whose mission is to enrich the lives of mature adults. OASIS creates opportunities for adults to participate in programs in the arts, humanities, health, technology and volunteer service. She is also a "friend" of the Canastota Library.

**Florence Wood—Whitesboro—Delegate:** Florence has been a part of the Whitesboro Retired Teachers Association (WRTA) since 1996. She has been the chairperson of the WRTA since its inception. The WRTA Vote/Cope campaign has been very successful under her leadership. She participates in the monthly Whitesboro Teachers Association meeting representing the retirees and CNY Alliance for Retired Americans in Syracuse. She has been a member of the Retiree Council 8 Steering Committee since 1996 and was secretary for 13 1/2 years. As delegate, Florence has attended the Education District 51 area meetings, NYSUT's Committee of 100 meetings in Albany, and served as Sergeant-at-Arms and Teller at five Representative Assembly meetings.

**Cheryl Zammiello—Oneida BOCES—Alternate Delegate:** Before my retirement in 2010, I was a school guidance counselor for over thirty years. I worked five years in the Camden School District at the middle school level, then continued at Oneida BOCES, working the rest of my career with juniors and seniors in high school. The past few years, besides the teacher retirement group, I have become involved with The Green Party, Environmental Roundup Group, Literacy Volunteers, and the Utica Volunteer Reading Program.

**[mac.nysut.org](http://mac.nysut.org)**

This is a great resource for finding out the qualifications for voting, deadlines you need to follow, how and where to register, along with information on changing your name, address and party enrollment.

## Spring Luncheon, Thursday, May 3, 2012

**DELTA LAKE INN**  
**8524 Fish Hatchery Road**  
**Rome, NY**

**COST: \$17**

**MENU**

Garden salad and dinner rolls  
 Baked Ziti  
 Chicken Francaise  
 Eggplant Parmesan—vegetarian  
 Oven Roasted Potatoes and vegetables  
 Dessert, coffee, tea

Cash bar is available

### AGENDA

11:00 a.m.	Registration
11:30	Introductions—Kenneth Drake Retiree Council 8 President Election of Officers and Constitution amendment vote
12:00	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Speaker: Richard Crisman Boonville Elementary Teacher
Topic:	The Dark Side of Chocolate
1:30	Closing

**DIRECTIONS TO DELTA LAKE INN:** Black River Boulevard north to Fish Hatchery Road

- Handicapped parking near the front door
- 15 steps up to the dining room
- Lift chair available for those who have difficulty walking up stairs
- Bathrooms available near the dining room

### RESERVATION FORM

Please send this form and your check for \$17, made payable to Retiree Council 8, to the following address:  
**Florence Wood, PO Box 127, Whitesboro, NY 13492-9127.** Your check must be received by Monday, April 23, 2012.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

District Retired From \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### 2011-2012 Participation Fee

**IMPORTANT!** Retirees from Adirondack, Canastota, Central Square, Clinton, Holland Patent, Oneida, Oneida/Herkimer/Madison BOCES, New Hartford, Oriskany, Pulaski, Sauquoit, Utica, VVS, Waterville, Westmoreland, and Whitesboro **do not have to send \$5**, since the Participation Fee is contributed via retiree dues by your local. **ATTENTION ALL OTHER RETIREES NOT BELONGING TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED LOCALS; please fill out the form below.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.**