

Madison-Oneida-Oswego

RC 8
Retiree



October 2015

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Aesop's The Four Oxen and the Lion By Kenneth Drake, President

The fable reads as follows:

A lion used to prowl about a field in which Four Oxen used to dwell. Many a time he tried to attack them; but whenever he came near they turned their tails to warn one another, so that whichever way he approached them he was met by the horns of one of them. At last, however, they fell a-quarrelling [sic] among themselves, and each went off to pasture alone in the separate corner of the field. Then the Lion attacked them one by one and soon made an end of all four.

United we stand, divided we fall.

NYSUT Is OUR Union

Retirees constitute a steadfast constituency of NYSUT despite the relatively small percentage of retired teachers statewide who remain members in good standing after leaving the classroom. In our region the number of retirees who pay dues to their local chapter, or the \$5 participation fee, has increased slightly over the past five years. Wanona Carey, our council treasurer, reports that fees collected in the fiscal years 2005, 2010 and 2015 were \$7,110, \$7,685 and \$9,430 respectively. According to Wanona's calculations, 1,886 out of an approximate 5,970 retirees joined RC 8 in 2014-15. She states, "We have been pleased with the increase in numbers despite the loss of our most elderly members and encourage everyone to remain in good standing."

The RC 8 Steering Committee makes a concerted effort each year to increase the number of retirees who support the council financially. This effort is a difficult challenge because not all union members are unionists who support the union unconditionally. This was typical when we were teaching. When one considers the wide range of personalities and political affiliations of individual union members, it is a wonder that such a disparate group of individuals could reach consensus on anything.

There is one undisputable fact we can all agree on, however. Back in the day we worked together for the good of the whole to achieve acceptable working conditions, a living wage, health insurance benefits and long-term security. We set aside our personal preferences in order to achieve collective goals.

If you are one of the 1,886 retirees who support Retiree Council 8 financially, I thank you. For those of you who, for one reason or another, don't support your council financially, I ask you to reconsider your decision to stay unaffiliated. All of us, standing back to back like the Four Oxen in the Aesop fable, can better fight the good fight to protect the benefits we enjoy as NYSUT retirees, to preserve public education, and to promote the general welfare of all Americans.

Reminder: Only members in good standing can take advantage of programs offered through NYSUT Member Benefits.



Protect public education, access to
healthcare, labor rights and fairness for
working families.
Give to Vote-Cope.

Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination but also by unfair economic structures that creates huge inequalities. *Quote by Pope Francis*

Retiree Council 8 Steering Committee: Adirondack—Y. Emery, H. LaFave; 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—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—Peg Corbett; Past President, Paul Baker

Howard La Fave Receives 2015 Mike Corn Award



Howard La Fave and Jan Corn

Howard La Fave was awarded the 2015 Mike Corn Leadership Award at the Retiree Council 8 spring luncheon held on May 7, 2015. Howard is a retiree of the Adirondack Central School District who resides in Boonville with his wife Jan.

The Adirondack Area Educational Retirees nominated Howard because of his caring attitude, deep dedication, strong passion and super work ethic as a union activist and community volunteer. Howard has served several terms as the Vice-President of RC 8 Steering Committee, has been on the Committee of 100 for eleven years, and has been a Sergeant of Arms at numerous Representative Assemblies. Howard has worked the Adirondack TA Wonderland of Lights Festival and the Woodsmen's Field Days for many years. He is a NYS Hunter Safety Instructor and is the Democratic Party chair for the

Town of Ava.

The 2015 Mike Corn Leadership Award is given each year to a RC 8 member in good standing who is a union and community activist. Applications for the award can be found on the RC 8 website at retireecouncil8.org

Business Leaders Address Greed

Peter Georgescu, chair emeritus of Young & Rubicam, is lobbying business leaders to address the problem of income equality before it is too late for them to act. In an editorial in *The New York Times* of August 9, 2015, Georgescu reported that he and other prominent business executives are beginning to ask the question "Are we willing to control the excessive greed that is so prevalent in our culture today?" Georgescu warned, "If inequality is not addressed, the income gap will most likely be resolved in one of two ways: by social unrest or through oppressive taxes..."

Narrowing the Gap

August 26, 2015, marked the 95th anniversary since American women won the right to vote. After all this time, not only are voting rights still being attacked in this country, but women still make only 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. And for women of color, the promise is further out of reach. Black, Latina and Native American women make even less.

But there are places where that pay gap narrows: in our union workplaces. Women who are covered by a union contract earn more across all races and all job categories—an average of \$212 a week more!

A union contract makes an even bigger difference for women of color, according to the report. While there's a 31 percent union advantage for all women—that is, women covered by a union contract earn 31 percent more than their nonunion peers—there is a 34 percent union advantage for African-American women and a 42 percent advantage for Latinas.

This difference matters. As longtime labor union

leader Arlene Holt Baker has said, "These are collective issues of social and economic justice for all. When we include everybody, we're going to be a much more powerful movement."

When we intentionally organize as a multiracial labor movement, we strike directly at pernicious and enduring discrimination that keeps women of color from earning the same as men and white women.

The union advantage for women isn't a happy accident. Just like women's right to vote, it is a hard-won victory—one we're still fighting to maintain and build on today.

If we're serious about closing the pay gap and rewriting the rules in favor of hardworking Americans—especially our sisters who have been most marginalized—then we need to get serious about supporting unions and helping more women become union members.

Source: *AFT online*, 8/26/15

What will \$212 buy?

- Enough groceries to feed a family of four for a week. The national average cost of groceries for a family of four is \$202.
- Child care for a week in 32 states. The national average cost for a week of child care is \$188.
- That \$212 a week adds up to \$11,042 a year; an education from a four year public college.

Source: *AFT online* 8/26/15

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

A crucial presidential election will take place in 2016. The NYS Constitutional Convention that we the people get to vote on could be held in 2017. To participate in New York state or federal elections, you'll need to register to vote with the New York Board of Elections. You can also register to vote through the New York Department of Motor Vehicles at dmv.ny.gov.

Fall Luncheon, Thursday, October 8

TWIN PONDS
169 Main Street, New York Mills
Cost—\$19
Tax and Tip included

MENU

Roasted Rosemary Chicken
Homemade Meatballs
Baked Ziti
Braubant Potatoes
Vegetables
House Salad and Bread
Coffee and Tea

AGENDA

11:00 Registration
11:30 Welcome by Kenneth Drake, President
Retiree Council 8
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Speaker: Ursula Rozum
Topic: Single Payer Insurance
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, NYSUT Regional Office, Retiree Council 8, 7 Ellinwood Court, New Hartford, NY 13413, by Thursday, October 1.

Name _____
District Retired From _____
Address _____
E-mail _____ Phone _____

2015-2016 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: _____
Address _____
Retiree School District: _____
E-mail address: _____ Phone _____

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

Identity theft protection available for NYSUT members



TRUE IDENTITY PROTECTION™

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce that its newest endorsed program – ID Watchdog – is now available to all NYSUT members & their families looking for protection against the growing threat of identity and credit theft.

What Do I Get When I Sign Up for ID Watchdog?

- Credit & Cyber Monitoring
- Credit Reports & Scores
- Monthly Credit Score Tracker
- High Risk Monitoring
- Individual, Individual/Spouse or Family Coverage Available

According to Javelin Strategy & Research, an estimated 13.1 million Americans fall victim to identity theft each year. These individuals are hit with approximately \$7,000 in fraudulent charges per person and spend about 330 hours each trying to recover from the effects of identity theft.

ID Watchdog (founded in 2005 as a theft protection service) uses proprietary monitoring technology that alerts members as soon as new or updated information associated with their identity is detected -- allowing them to catch fraudulent activity immediately.

To learn more about ID Watchdog, call toll-free 866-513-0823
or visit memberbenefits.nysut.org.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Sep/Oct. '15