

RC 8  
Retiree



September/October  
2022

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Join the Voting Game—Don't be a Spectator  
By Jan Corn, President

A dear friend of mine wears a button pin that says: "Democracy Isn't a Spectator Sport." Nothing could be more true. We are so fortunate to live in a country where we have the right to vote and elect our government decision-makers. We need to honor that right. We can't afford to be spectators in elections when so many important issues are at risk. We must get out to vote and make the best election choices for ourselves, public education, and our families. We all must educate ourselves on the issues and where each candidate stands on those issues.

In this light, the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) recently published a 2021 Congressional Voting Record which scored each U.S. Senator and Representative on critical retirement issues. Forty-two members of the U.S. Senate and 218 members of the House of Representatives earned perfect 100% scores. Fifty Senators earned scores of 20% or below. One hundred sixty-seven House members earned a score of 0%. Our New York representatives, Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, had perfect 100% scores as did every Democrat from NYS in the House of Representatives. This voting record is a valuable tool for us as we consider who to vote for in the next election. Go to the ARA website, <https://retiredamericans.org/> for the voting record and each state's delegation.

Also, on August 10, 2022, NYSUT issued a round of endorsements in state and federal campaigns. Go to <https://www.nysut.org/news/2022/august/primary> for this information. The full slate of state legislative endorsements and congressional endorsement recommendations are on this site. These candidates receive support from NYSUT members such as phone banking, door knocking, and literature endorsements. The union makes financial contributions from voluntary donations through the VOTE-COPE non-partisan political action committee as well.

We need to be vigilant in finding candidates that support our union principles of pension security, health benefit equity, fair wages, and Social Security and Medicare for all retired workers. Once we find these candidates, we need to help them get elected. We can make contributions to their campaigns, write postcards, make phone calls or send texts. Check with their campaign offices. We can also just "spread the word" to our families, neighbors, and friends.

Please don't be a spectator in the upcoming election. Our futures depend on our involvement!

As always, many thanks for your continued support. Hope to see you at the fall brunch in October. Stay safe and happy.

In solidarity  
Jan

Vote On November 8, 2022

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Register to vote  
Find your polling place  
Look up your ballot  
and more at  
**Vote411.org**

Source: <https://www.lvw.org/>, Sept. 2022

**Retiree Council 8 Steering Committee:** Adirondack—Y. Emery, H. La Fave; Canastota,—B. Woodarek; Clinton—C. Wheat; Holland Patent—C. Johnson; New Hartford—D. Markson; Oneida—K. Cartwright-Cox, J. Fiacco; Oneida BOCES—J. Furgal; Oriskany—S. McQueen, Barbara Sanford-Ferrick; Remsen—J. Corn; Rome—W. Carey; Sauquoit—Y. Cortright; Stockbridge—L. Dunn; Utica—N. Bender; VVS—K. Drake, S. Hauprich; Whitesboro—H. Chomin, F. Wood. Past presidents—Ken Drake, Peg Corbett; RAC—C. Gehrig

## Your Participation Fees at Work

It was a very good year for RC 8 to lend a helping hand to several community organizations. These are the donations that were made in your name:

NYSUT Disaster Relief—\$675	NYSUT Disaster Relief for Ukraine—\$500
Making Strides—\$150	Madison County Children’s Camp—\$225
Food Bank of CNY Holiday Meals—\$200	I CAN—\$225
Sleep in Heavenly Peace Luncheon Collection—\$1600	Operation Sunshine—\$225
Food Bank of CNY Summer Feeding Program—\$500	

## Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Earlier this year RC 8 learned that a local organization needed help, and as you can see from the above donation list, your participation fee was once again put to good use.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a national organization with chapters all over the country including one right here in Oneida County and is led by Steve Sperbeck. They are an all-volunteer group who build bunk beds for kids sleeping on the floor, and their motto is *No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!*

Since their inception they have delivered 330 handmade beds. “Builds” take place at Meyda Tiffany in Yorkville, and everyone can get involved by helping make the beds, delivering the beds or making a financial donation for materials. In fact, some community groups have contributed sheets and blankets while a group of quilters has donated beautiful handmade quilts.

For more information, to volunteer or to donate, visit their website at [shpbeds.org/chapter/ny-utica](http://shpbeds.org/chapter/ny-utica)

## Earnings Legislation

The law has changed as to how much we can earn in retirement working in a public school for this school year. Most schools still need teachers, so you might consider teaching again to help out during this critical time.

Sections 211 and 212 of the Retirement and Social Security Law govern NYS public employment by service retirees under age 65. Working under Section 211 requires your employer to obtain a waiver. The current Section 212 earnings limit, determined by the state Legislature, is \$35,000 per calendar year.

The earnings limit was temporarily suspended by New York State executive order during the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in no earnings limit for pay earned:

- From March 27, 2020, through December 31, 2020.
- From January 1, 2021, through June 24, 2021. (*The governor rescinded the executive order effective June 25, 2021; therefore, pay earned from June 25, 2021, through September 26, 2021, counts toward the annual \$35,000 earnings limit.*)
- From September 27, 2021, through August 28, 2022.

Newly enacted legislation, Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022, extends the retirement earnings cap suspension through June 30, 2023. The new law only applies to retirees who return to work at a public school district or BOCES. Employment at a charter school, community college, SUNY, or any other public employment is not covered by this law. If interested please call Amber Dennis at 607 335-1255.

**TECH ISN’T JUST FOR TEENS.** More than 50% of older adults carry a computer right in their pockets and use it multiple times a day. Here are a few apps for both the iPhone and Android smartphones, which can be downloaded through the App Store or Google Play. All are free.

**Medisafe** helps you manage your prescriptions and provides reminders.

**GoodRx** compares prescription drug prices at different pharmacies, finds coupons, notifies you when refills are due, and alerts you when prices drop.

**LastPass** stores all your passwords securely in one place so you can look them up when needed.

*Source: seniorliving.org, July 20, 2022*

All  
Are  
Welcome  
Here

Retiree Council 8 meets on the second Tuesday of every month from September to June at 10 a.m. at the NYSUT Regional Office, Ellinwood Court, New Hartford (across from UPS and near the Marquee Cinema).

All are welcome to attend so please join us on any or all of the following dates: September 13; October 11; November 8; December 13; January 10, 2023; February 14; March 14; April 11; May 9; and June 13.

Fall Brunch, Thursday, October 20, 2022

<p>Valentino's Banquet Hall 3899 Oneida Street New Hartford, NY 13413</p> <p>Cost: \$22/person Tax and Tip included Complimentary lunch for all 2022 Retirees!</p> <p>BRUNCH MENU</p> <p>Pasta Marinara, Chicken Riggies, Greens Maria Omelets, Bacon, Sausage, Roasted Potatoes French Toast, Belgian Waffles, Miniature Bagels Maple Syrup, Cherry topping, Whipped Cream Orange Juice, Cranberry Juice, Coffee, Tea Dessert</p>	<p>AGENDA</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Registration</p> <p>11:30 Introductions by Jan Corn RC 8 President</p> <p>12:00 Lunch</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Speaker: Melissa Roys Topic: Community Schools</p> <p>1:30 Closing</p>
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RESERVATION FORM

Please send this form and your check, made payable to Retiree Council 8, to the following address:  
**RC 8 Brunch, NYSUT, c/o RC 8, 7 Ellinwood Court, New Hartford, NY 13413.** Your check must be received by Friday, October 13, 2022. We're sorry but late reservations can no longer be accepted.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

2022-2023 Participation Fee

**IMPORTANT:** Retirees from Adirondack, Canastota, Central Square, Clinton, Holland Patent, Oneida, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Retiree School District: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, ENCLOSE 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.**



**Hungry?  
Need a car rental?  
Looking for a good deal on a hotel or flight?**

**The NYSUT Member Benefits Discounts & Deals program helps you make every dollar count. Save up to 50% on:**

- Restaurant dine-in or take-out
- Groceries and food delivery
- Meal subscription services
- Clothing and shoes
- Oil changes
- Hotels and flights
- Car rentals

**MEMBER  
BENEFITS**  
**nysut**  
Working to Benefit You

**MB Discounts & Deals** offers more than 21,000 deals throughout New York State along with hundreds of thousands nationwide. You can even refer your favorite local business (restaurant, coffee shop, workout facility, etc.) to join the network and provide NYSUT members with a special discount. Don't miss out... register your account today!

Member Benefits is proud to endorse MB Discounts & Deals along with dozens of other programs and services that may be able to benefit you and your family members. Take some time to explore our website to find out how we can help you make every dollar count!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,  
visiting *[memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org)*  
or calling 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Sept/Oct 2022