

RC 8  
Retiree



September/October  
2023

RC 8  
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Become a Member  
By Jan Corn, President

Happy fall y'all! It's hard to believe that summer has come and gone already. RC 8 is back in full swing with our Steering Committee meetings each month.

It's time again that we ask for those of you who don't belong to a chapter to send us your \$5 voluntary Participation Fee. If you belong to a chapter, you don't need to send it to us because it is contributed via your chapter dues.

As a Retiree Council, we receive no financial assistance and cannot collect dues, so this voluntary fee is necessary for us to function.

The Participation Fee helps fund the Council's important work. We use it to attend NYSUT and NYSARA conferences and meetings. We lobby on issues affecting public education and retirees, educate retirees, and donate to community causes such as the ones listed on page 2 of this newsletter. We are very diligent in choosing donation organizations that help those in need: children, families, schools, union brothers and sisters, as well as victims of crises and disasters. Please help us fund our activities and donations by becoming a participating fee-paying member of RC 8. You can use the form on page 3.

Many thanks!!

In solidarity  
Jan

Congratulations, Claudette Johnson



Claudette Johnson and Jan Corn

Claudette Johnson, Holland Patent retiree, is the recipient of the annual Mike Corn Award, which is given each year to a member who demonstrates involvement in union and political activities and community service.

Claudette has been an active member of both the Holland Patent Teachers Association and the Holland Patent Retired Teachers Association. As an active teacher, she served as the treasurer, building representative and on the negotiating committee. Since her retirement, she has been active in HPRTA serving as treasurer and RC 8 Representative. She is very efficient with treasury and finances, completes a yearly audit, provides an updated directory of members, has an ongoing new member recruitment procedure for new retiree membership, runs an excellent and very successful VOTE-COPE campaign, keeps records and manages HPRTA activity with the HPRTA James A. Warden Scholarship, collects various donations and submits them to the appropriate places, and keeps our members informed about RC 8 activities. When needed she is always willing to assist on other committees.

She remains involved and knowledgeable within her community through her part-time position at the Town of Trenton Municipal Building. She has been involved in the development of the Irish Cultural Center, organization of the Irish Festival, is on the MVILR Board and heads the Curriculum Committee, has participated for years in the Heart Run and Walk, and volunteers for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. She has served for numerous years as treasurer for two golf leagues. The HPRTA recognizes and recommends Claudette as a worthy recipient for this prestigious award.

*Nominated by the HPRTA Executive Committee*

**Retiree Council 8 Steering Committee:** Adirondack—Y. Emery, H. La Fave; Canastota,—B. Woodarek; Clinton—K. Foote, K. Moran; Holland Patent—C. Johnson, C. Zaleski; Oneida—K. Cartwright-Cox, J. Fiacco; Oneida BOCES—J. Furgal; Oriskany—S. McQueen, B. Sanford-Ferrick; Phoenix—C. Blackburn, Remsen—J. Corn; Rome—M. Byrne, 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

The RC 8 Steering Committee takes seriously how funds are spent from the treasury. In 2023 the \$5 participation fee submitted by your local union chapter or individual members was partially spent on the following community causes:

Food Bank of Central New York—\$600	NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund—\$500
Labor Religion Coalition—\$100	Rome Alliance for Education—\$725
Gift card—\$50	Sleep in Heavenly Peace—\$200
World Central Kitchen—\$1410	Madison City Children’s Camp—\$200
Brady Faith Center—\$200	ICan—\$200
Operation Sunshine—\$200	Making Strides—\$100
CNY Labor Council—\$100 in honor of Carole Gehrig	
CNY Labor Council—\$100 in memory of Nancy Fradenburg	

## Setting up a MyNYSTRS Account

By setting up a NYSTRS (New York State Teachers Retirement System) account, you can update your name and address, change your beneficiaries, and submit prior service claims all from the comfort of your home. Before you start, make sure you have your seven-digit NYSTRS employee identification number (not your school district ID), your date of birth, a personal email account, and a cell phone number. Then go to:

[secure.nystrs.org/mynystrs/register](https://secure.nystrs.org/mynystrs/register)

## Supporting VOTE-COPE is How We Get Things Done

In the 2023-2024 school year, VOTE-COPE will be back at it as the voice of New York’s educators in the halls of power. Priorities this year are:

- Fixing APPR permanently so teachers can teach and students can learn.
- Reforming receivership, which unfairly punishes schools based on flawed test scores.
- Properly funding SUNY and CUNY colleges.
- Fighting at the bargaining table for good jobs, health care, and better work-place conditions.
- Fixing Tier 6

You can contribute to VOTE-COPE through payroll deduction by contacting NYSUT at 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110 or calling 518-213-6000. You can also send a check or return your contribution card to VOTE-COPE, Box 295, Canajoharie, NY 13317.

**No NYSUT dues dollars are used to support candidates or campaign committees.**

## Helpful Phone Numbers

**211**—Connects you to the most comprehensive listing of health and human services resources in Madison, Oneida and Herkimer counties.

**511**—Provides up-to-the-minute information about a variety of transportation-related matters, including traffic conditions, work zones, and construction reports, weather conditions and forecasts and transit services.

**711**—Permits persons with a hearing or speech disability to use the telephone system via a text telephone (TTY) or other device to call persons with or without such disabilities.

**811**—Call this number a few business days before you begin any digging, including common projects like planting trees and shrubs, or installing fences and mailboxes. Allow utility companies to respond to your request before breaking ground.

**911**—Call to report police, fire or medical emergencies.

**988**—Puts you in touch instantly with a counselor who’s trained to help in an emergency such as having thoughts of suicide, substance abuse crisis or emotional distress. Calls are free and confidential.

*Source: Senator Joseph Griffo’s fall mailer*

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 12; October 10; November 7; December 12; January 9, 2024; February 13; March 12; April 9; May 14; and June 11.

Fall Luncheon, Thursday, October 19, 2023

<b>ROSELAWN BANQUET FACILITY</b> 446 Main Street, New York Mills  Cost: \$25/person Tax and Tip included <b>COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH FOR ALL 2023 RETIREES</b>  <b>LUNCH MENU</b> Baked Virginia Ham, Baked Chicken Sausage and Peppers, Pasta Seasoned Potatoes and Vegetables Garden Salad, Rolls and Butter Coffee, Tea and Cake	<b>AGENDA</b>  11:00 a.m. Registration  11:30 Introductions by Jan Corn RC 8 President  12:00 Lunch  1:00 p.m. Entertainment: The Broadway Babes Vocal Trio Former music teachers who have formed a choral group to make music and have some fun in retirement.  1:30 Closing
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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 Tuesday, October 10, 2023. We’re sorry, but late reservations can no longer be accepted.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**WHAT IS MEDIGAP?** Medigaps are health insurance policies that offer standardized benefits to work with Original Medicare (not with Medicare Advantage). They are sold by private insurance companies. If you have a Medigap, it pays part or all of certain remaining costs after Original Medicare pays first. Medigaps may cover outstanding deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments. Medigaps may also cover health care costs that Medicare does not cover at all, like care received when travelling abroad. Remember, Medigaps only work with Original Medicare. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you cannot buy a Medigap. Before you buy a Medigap policy, be sure to do your research. Complete information is available at **medicare.gov**  
*Source: NYSARA Monday Alert Retiree News, 8/7/23*

2023-2024 Participation Fee

**IMPORTANT:** Retirees from Adirondack, Canastota, Central Square, Clinton, Holland Patent, New Hartford, Oneida, 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.

# Back to school can mean a lot of different things:

- *Starting a new career*
- *Planning for the future*
- *Balancing work and home life*
- *Making difficult decisions*
- *Enjoying your final year before retirement*
- *Recalling memories of a proud career*

Regardless of what you might be doing this fall, NYSUT **Member Benefits** offers a variety of endorsed programs and services that could help make you as prepared as possible for whatever the new school year may throw at you.



Whether you are looking to save money, protect your family, or plan for the future, **NYSUT Member Benefits** is a great place to start. With dozens of endorsed insurance, legal, financial, shopping, travel, and discount programs, you are certain to find something of interest that could benefit you or your loved ones.

And speaking of savings, the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to offer all NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) exclusive access to savings of up to 50% at 850,000 locations -- including more than 21,200 New York State deals. If you have not already done so, head over to [mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com](https://mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com) to create your account with your NYSUT ID number, preferred email address, and password.

You'll then be eligible to save on restaurant dine-in or take-out, flowers and gift baskets, Bose electronics, clothing and shoes, oil changes and vehicle maintenance, sporting events, hotels and flights, car rentals, theme parks, movie tickets, and much more. Members are encouraged to download the MB Discounts & Deals mobile app for the best user experience with this program.

Check out all your union membership has to offer!



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. 2023