WCRT celebrates 25 years

“You’ve come a long way, baby!”

It started in 1968 – Phillip Morris launched the very first cigarette brand marketed specifically to women. The slogan instantly caught on with the “Women’s Lib” mindset of the times.

In 1993, 25 years later, 13 women and two men started a Wappingers retired teachers’ union movement that lives on to this day with 11 women and five men on the board now. We’ve come a long way from being babies!

This PostScript’s theme reminds us of where we have come from, what we have now, and some of what we can expect from the future.

Throughout this issue are some reminders of our past: starting with 103 members (page 8)—now up to over 600 (p.13); one of Bill Green’s The Morning Line (p.6); Alice Baker’s WCRT History (p.5); four facing pages of the first four issues of the PostScript (pp.8-11); and a geographical comparison to 15 years ago (p.12).
Dear WCRT members,

My message this month is VOTE, VOTE, VOTE. As never before, we must motivate our families, friends, and neighbors to get out and VOTE. This mid-term election might be one of the most important elections of the century! I will not tell you who to vote for, but numbers count.

I want to let all of you know that there will be some openings on our WCRT executive board. The election is for a two-year term. I’m sure outgoing members will be willing to train you in a job. Please give some thought to serving this worthwhile organization because it is well known and respected throughout the state.

We all had a great time at our fall luncheon. Even the rain couldn't dampen our spirits. However, our numbers were lower than previous years. So I am challenging you to call two retirees to ask them if they are going to the spring luncheon. If they need rides, we can help. The more the merrier!

Have a great fall, and don't forget to VOTE!

Susan Roger

PostScript

WCRT publication dates for academic year 2018-2019:

PostScript mailing dates:
- Oct. 10
- Apr. 11
- Dec. 10
- June 11
- Feb. 11
- Aug. 14

If you have not paid your dues by now, your name will be removed from our files and you will not be eligible for NYSUT benefits until dues are paid. Make checks payable to WCT and mail to WCRT.

Renewal notices were sent out. Dues for 2018-2019 are:
- $20.00 Yearly
- $200.00 Individual Lifetime
- $325.00 Couples Lifetime

Pay lifetime and alleviate the yearly task of renewing.

If you have any questions, please call John Roger Jr. at (845) 227-5065 or e-mail him at johnrogerjr@yahoo.com.
NOVEMBER 6: GET OUT AND VOTE!

CLIFF FOLEY
Political Action Chairperson

Hopefully November 6 is already imprinted in your mind as a very important day. You may not think your vote can have an impact, but look back to November 2017 when people in Dutchess County voted for their county legislators. District 14 saw a race in which winner Francena Amparo won by one vote defeating Lisa Paoloni. The results where 1,222 to 1,221. REMEMBER, YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT.

As we move toward Election Day, we need to look at the candidates and determine which ones to support. It is not always easy to cut through the campaign rhetoric and big money advertising. A Poughkeepsie Journal headline on November 5, 2017, said it all, “Obscene Amounts of Money Taint Elections.” One quote in that article by Rob Miraldi states, “We are no longer conducting elections but rather holding auctions.” The fact that the Citizens United’s decision a few years ago allowed large amounts of money to be pumped into campaigns with little or no limits has created the circumstances we are in now.

As voters you need to pay very close attention to what the candidates stand for. If they are running for re-election, take a close look at their voting record on issues that are vital to you as a retiree. Try not to be influenced by negative name calling which is already evident in some campaigns.

In both state and federal races, the quality of your life will be affected by whoever wins. For example will Congress deal with the fact that Medicare again is running out of money and will need cutbacks. These might be accomplished by raising the retirement age or cutting future benefits. There are those who would argue that they wouldn’t dare cut money from current retirees but think about the young people who would be affected by these lost benefits. How much do you think they will fight for you if your pension or health benefits come under fire? Is it possible to know in advance the outcome of every action being taken by the federal government but we need to be tuned in. How will tariffs and a trade war influence inflation and the availability of consumer goods? There are the issues involving women’s rights and the impact of whomever sits on the Supreme Court. You need to find answers before you go to your polling place.

In New York State there are those who still look greedily at the money in our New York State Teacher Retirement System and would like to get their hands on it to spend on things other than our guaranteed pensions. They hope that the Janus decision, which is meant to weaken the unions, will give them a better chance to be successful. We need to know the stands of Assembly members and Senators when we vote.

No matter which state you live in, be tuned in to that state legislature and governor. Ask whether these candidates are pushing for a United States Constitutional Convention. Yes, there are quite a few and the thoughts of today’s politicians opening up all aspects of the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and all amendments which have been added, should be scary to you. With the big money that is influencing our elections and their desire to make changes, we could see the first Constitutional Convention since 1789 when our founding fathers wrote the original document.

In order for democracy to work, the electorate has to get involved and be informed. MAKE VOTING ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6 A TOP PRIORITY.

send your comments to c Foley@optonline.net
Here’s how to register your email with the website:

1. Go to www.wcteachers.org
2. On the right-hand side, go to the “Member Login” module
3. Click on the “Click Here to sign-up” link. (It is yellow)
4. Enter all of your information on the form. This is the information that we will use to maintain our records and to send email and/or text notifications. Make sure that you choose a username and password that you will remember.
5. Click submit
6. Review all of your information
7. Click Submit again
8. Wait 24-48 hours for us to verify your membership. You will receive an email advising you that you are good to go. At this point, you can come back to the website and login.

Hope this helps. Thanks, Nancy

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CONSTITUTION ON WCT WEB SITE:

The WCRT Constitution/By-Laws is now available on the WCT web site under the Retirees section.

This is the Constitution that was voted on at the May 2015 Spring Luncheon.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the address below.

www.WCTeachers.org or sundancewf@aol.com

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www.wcteachers.org

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In Memoriam

Madeline T. Knops

Poughkeepsie - Madeline Theresa Knops, 91, of Poughkeepsie entered eternal life on Sunday, Sept. 30. She left this life surrounded by her loving family at her side in her home.

Mrs. Knops was born in Passaic, NJ to parents Arthur and Madeline Starin. As a child, Madeline resided in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Passaic and Clifton, NJ. On Sept. 4, 1948, she married Kenneth Knops at St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Clifton at a Mass officiated by her uncle, Father Peter Starin. The couple celebrated 67 joyous years of marriage, sharing numerous interests and establishing and nurturing a home environment where family members grew and were surrounded by unconditional love, outstanding role models, and a loving and supportive environment. Her beloved husband, Ken-

neth, preceded her into eternal life in 2015.

Mrs. Knops was a longtime resident of Poughkeepsie, moving here with her husband in 1949 from Clifton, NJ. She initially worked as Poughkeepsie City Court Ste- nographer for a few years before leaving the position to raise a family. Since circumstances did not permit her to attend college at age 18, Mrs. Knops embarked upon an impressive educational journey to obtain a college degree at age 40 as a mother of four children with her enrollment at Dutchess Community College in 1967. She subsequently graduated from DCC and obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education from the SUNY New Paltz in 1972, where she also completed a program of graduate study in 1974.

Mrs. Knops began an 18-year educational career as a teacher at Morse School in Poughkeepsie in 1973. She then spent the next 17 years employed by Wappingers Central School District, where she taught in a variety of elementary settings until her retirement in June of 1990. Among her students, colleagues, and family members, Mrs. Knops is fondly remembered as a guiding light, mentor, role model, and inspiration to those fortunate to have crossed paths with her in this life. All would concur that to have known her was to have loved her.

Mrs. Knops lived an exemplary life and leaves behind a legacy of love of family. Left to cherish the lasting imprint she left on their hearts are her four children: Peggy Skaggs and husband Lee of Columbia, MD; Kenneth Knops, Jr. of Myrtle Beach, SC; Betsy Knops of Lagrangeville, and Carol Simonetty and husband Jerry of Poughkeepsie; six grandchildren: Lisa (Sean) Harbaugh, Matthew (Meghan) Skaggs, Jennifer (Jonny) Bylsma, Victoria Knops, Peter Simonetty, and Joseph Simonetty; seven great-grandchildren; sister Sally Starin and her spouse, June Ploch; and nephews Thomas, James, and Joseph Colucci. Mrs. Knops was predeceased by her parents Arthur and Madeline Starin, sisters Mary Gloria Starin and Mary Katherine Starin Colucci, and brother Peter Starin.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thurs., Oct. 4, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 231 Church Street, Poughkeepsie. Arrangements are under the direction of the Wm. G. Miller & Son Funeral Home, 371 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. To send online condolences, please visit our website at www.wmglmil-

lerfuneral home.com

Published in the Poughkeepsie Jour-


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WCRT’s watchdog about “insider information” affecting WCSD retirees

If you attended our Fall Luncheon, you heard Pasquale talk about the opening of the school, the Janus decision, social media, and mail order pharmacies.

The opening of school went smoothly for most.

The Janus decision was expected, but what was good to know was that if a faculty member chooses not to join the union, they will not get legal representation if needed, and upon retirement, they will not be offered the benefits of the Welfare Trust.

Social media continues to be a problem with teachers. All teachers have been asked not to post inappropriate events or comments because the District can see these postings and take action. Use common sense.

If you do not want to use Express Scripts, there are now pharmacies and Price Chopper pharmacies that you can go to. If you did not get a list at the luncheon, you can access it on the WCT website.

Theresa Stowell (Health and Safety) has worked out a procedure to report building health and safety issues. She has been working cooperatively with Ron Broas, Head of Buildings and Grounds. Hopefully some old issues will be addressed.

As always, there is still a problem getting people to volunteer for Public Relations, EDC, or Community Day. Never a surprise. I did let them know we would volunteer when necessary. Hope I spoke the truth.

Great to be back and see these energetic professionals, so hopeful for the new school year.

Just a point of information to anyone who has signed up for Plum Benefits. One of our retirees used them to buy a car. You can log in and put in your information. Put in what you are looking for. They will send you the dealerships that can help you with the purchase. It is called TrueCar. This person got the car she wanted with $5000 off just for using TrueCar.

Efforts to become a recognized chapter of the WCT necessitated amendments to the WCT constitution to provide for such status. Those amendments were proposed by the WCT Constitution Review Board and were approved by the WCT Board of Directors and, finally, by the WCT Representative Assembly on Nov. 23, 1993.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Baker,
Past President

P.S. The Constitution Review Board, made up of Patricia Rommer and Doug Sherman, suggested amendments to the WCT constitution for chapter status.
An Historic Look Back at the Wappingers Central School District Via “The Morning Line”

By Bill Green

The 60’s and 70’s in the Wappingers Central School District was a period of “STABILITY!” There was one long term SUPERINTENDENT (E. Joseph Kegan) and many long term Elementary principals (TAKACS, KAUFMAN, McGOVERN, MORRISON, CAMPANELLA, etc.). RCK was BROOKS and MEIER...John Jay was HIRT and BIASOTTI...Van Wyck was VANDERPOOL...Very few administrative changes took place!

But in the mid-80’s all HELL broke loose. Suddenly you needed a scorecard to keep track of the ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFORMATION! And when there was an opening for a new superintendent (to replace Ted Sturgis) and a new John Jay principal to replace John Sullivan...THE MORNING LINE was born!

THE MORNING LINE offered its opinion on candidates and their odds of getting appointed! In JOHN Jay, if your name was JOHN, you became a clear-cut favorite to become a school administrator. Just ask JOHN Merlino, JOHN Sullivan, JOHN Horgan, JOHN Marmillo, JOHN (Jack) Biasotti, even short term JOHN Hunter. Most “Johns” were given 2-1 odds to get an administrative position.

On the other hand, WOMEN candidates in the 80’s were usually LONG shots! Do you remember NELLIE LOVE, NAOMI DIAMOND, DOLORES CHECHEK, DEBBIE SMITH, LIBBIE LEDERSTEIN, GRETCHEN CARPENTER, SONNY MULLEN...to name a few! In their own way...each was VICTORIOUS! When Nellie Love put her hat in the ring for a second opportunity at SUPERINTENDENT, THE MORNING LINE gave Nellie 4-1 odds to win because “love is better the second time around!” Dolores Chechek was an annual WRITE-IN vote at odds of 100-1!

The late 80’s and 90’s saw WAR (WAPPINGERS ADMINISTRATIVE ROTATION) with Hirt going to RCK from JJ and MEIER going to JJ from RCK by way of WFJHS and Biasotti going from WFJHS to JJ to Van Wyck. Department heads became principals (Horgan, Carpenter, Marmillo) while Assistant Principals became Department Heads (MERLINO, KENNY). The ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT went from MACRINI, to SLOAT, to ROTTKAMP...to JEN SIMMONS! Who says TITLE 9 doesn’t work?

In the 80’s, there was also THE S-SYNDROME. You needed a last name beginning with the letter “S” to move up! SULLIVAN, STALLMAN, SCHREIBER, SHEEHAN (on the Board), and SHERMAN (on the microphone) all SHARED SECRETIVE SHENANIGANS! On the elementary scene it was also musical administrators with PRINCIPALS switching schools faster than OJ switched “alibis!”

Has the situation gotten better? Well, identify the last time RCK or JOHN JAY had the same administrative team TWO YEARS IN A ROW?? STABILITY IS LONG GONE!

Remember when a “copier” was a piece of carbon paper between two sheets of white paper...the only “windows” you used were to let in fresh air...ADD referred to 1 plus 1...AND THE WEB belonged to spiders!

ENJOY THE SUMMER!

Bill Green
Response to a recent column

Dear Editor,

As a union member who happens to be a Republican, I would like to share my thoughts and respond to the challenge put forth in the most recent publication of our Postscript under the heading "Devine Intervention."

My initial concern is that the commentary was primarily focused on a litany of "ad hominem" scurrilous remarks about the character of our President with little substance on the issues. In addition, reading between the lines, the author clearly implied that you cannot support education unless you are a member of the Democratic Party. This approach does not surprise nor alarm me as it is a consistent theme in our union meetings and publications.

First, in the interest of bipartisanship, let us state that Dutchess County and the WCSD District has been dominated by Republicans throughout the existence of our union. The vast majority of Republican taxpayers have supported our wages, benefits, and working conditions since the union and district's inception.

Our union membership is composed of members of all political parties. The ben-
efits we enjoy or will enjoy in retirement would not exist without the support of these taxpayers. Thus, to target Republicans as our adversary ignores these crucial facts and offends a large part of our community.

Second, the WCT/WCRT will be stronger if we used our human and financial resources to enrich our teacher development. Protesting the new Secretary of Education, charter schools, constitutional conventions, Roe v. Wade and new Supreme Court Justices are important issues to all Americans, but we need to keep our "eye on the prize" -- provide an environment for excellence in teaching for our local members.

We collect tens of thousands of dollars each month for dues, thousands of dollars for VOTE-COPE, and pay millions if not billions to fund managers to administer our pension funds. We need to direct more of those resources to teacher development in our local. Here are some suggestions:

1. Create a website of lesson plans for every grade level, for every subject, and for each and every day. This would encour-
age all members especially new members to join the union in order to gain access to these resources.
2. Form a cooperative buying program so when our members want to spend their own money on supplies they can get a huge discount. Yes, I said "huge."
3. Offer a free tutoring program for all our students. It can be a separate private volunteer organization. It is time to give back to the community in a meaningful way.

If we join in true solidaritY and engage in creative ideas about the future of teaching, we can look past the issues which brought about the Janus decision. Let that decision be a catalyst for constructive change and future growth for our union.

In conclusion, the battles of the past for our union are long gone. Our challenge is to look ahead because as teachers our profession is all about the future...our children.

Respectfully,
Tommy DeRito

Letters to the Editor

Don’t know if it is PostScript-able

To The Editor:

It is almost a foregone conclusion that in the not-too-distant future somewhere in Westchester County or Washington DC there will be a spanking new, state of the art DONALD J. TRUMP HIGH SCHOOL. This school will cater to students with physical ailments (bone spurs) and mental disabilities (egomaniac)! The school will have valet parking, maid service, and catered "gourmet food"!

A first assignment in English class will be to list 10 adjectives that begin with the letter "D" to describe the "DONALD."

For example: DELUSIONAL, DECEPTIVE, DECEITFUL, DISHONEST, DISCOMBUBULATED, DELIRIOUS, DESPICABLE, DISGRACEFUL, DISJOINTED, and just plain DUMB! Sorry - DEPLORABLE was already used!

The world today and politics in particular are far from being funny... but LIFE and LAUGHS MUST GO ON!

Bill Green
East Fishill

Jeff MacNelly’s Shoe by Gary Brookins and Susie MacNelly

We teachers have a unique opportunity to see what is happening outside in the world and inside in the classroom. As retired teachers, we have looked through the window from both directions, have experienced many changes, and appreciate the need to stand united to keep education strong.

WCTRT

There are many kinds of stone used for building, all of which work together to create a strong solid structure. The stones set in a circle symbolize that education is indeed the window of opportunity for all and that The WCRT and the WCT stand united in keeping the window open.

WCRT

We teachers have a unique opportunity to see what is happening outside in the world and inside in the classroom. As retired teachers, we have looked through the window from both directions, have experienced many changes, and appreciate the need to stand united to keep education strong.
Editor’s Notes: This is the very first issue front page of the PostScript. Notice the first name of the WCRT was WRTA. Peter Brent has turned his teaching job into a business empire. My predecessors Alice Heusinger and Marcia Chang were responsible for putting out monthly issues. Sprockets at the end of the platent rollers fed the perforated paper of the dot-matrix printers. Alice handled the printed copy and Marcia found the grainy graphics.
Editor’s Notes: By this second issue of the *PostScript* on these facing pages, notice that WRTA had become the WCRT in just the first month! Refer to the front-page letter. These people weren’t messin’ around! Teachers are such social creatures, but they also mean business. Sheila Salenger was a force to be reckoned with even back then!
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Positive Message

Our membership is growing, and soon we hope to become an affiliate of the W.C.T.

The April Luncheon promises to be a particularly enjoyable occasion. Sheila Salenger, our elected teacher member of the Board of Directors, New York State Teachers' Retirement System, will be our guest speaker, and I'm sure we'll prove once again to be outstanding—feel free to ask her questions.

In observance of "Secretary Week", we have invited Linda Leito, W.C.T. Secretary, to be our luncheon guest. Ron Warman is also planning to attend our luncheon.

I look forward to seeing you all on April 20.

Cordially,
Dot Persh

BUSINESS INFORMATION

The fiscal year of the WCRT has been set to coordinate and coincide with the fiscal years of WCT, AFT, and NYSUT, running from November 1 until October 31. Current paid-up membership will be valid until November 1, 1993.

CALLING SHERLOCK HOLMES!


MEMBERSHIP

Our membership has increased to 126 retirees. You can all help continue the growth of our organization by spreading the word to your friends and acquaintances. New members, and anyone considering joining WCRT, are welcome to attend the Spring Luncheon.

To join WCRT send a $3.00 check to Alice Baker our membership chairman.
Mail to: WCRT
1129 Route 376
Wappingers Falls, N.Y. 12590

LEGISLATION REPORT

SUBMITTED TO N.Y.S.U.T.

Proposed resolution for NYSUT: (Support of WCT requested by WCRT). C
WHEREAS increasing numbers of teachers are choosing to accept retirement incentives offered on both the state and local levels; and
WHEREAS the reporting and verification of salaries and retirement incentives by local school districts is likely to extend over a period of several months; and
WHEREAS the estimated, rather than actual, retirement allowances are forthcoming for longer periods of time, thus depriving retirees of their full retirement benefits, and WHEREAS no interest on annuities available for retroactive payment is currently paid to retirees, be it
RESOLVED that the New York State United Teachers seek and support legislation requiring the payment of interest on retroactive retirement payments resulting from the difference between estimated and actual final average salaries of retirees and be it further
RESOLVED that payment of the aforementioned interest be made at the same time that retroactive payments of retirement allowances are

Approved by WCRT Executive Board 1/19/93
Approved by WCRT Representative Assembly 1/19/93.

* On February 9, 1993 the resolution was presented at the Mid Hudson Retiree Council. It was approved by that group for cosponsorship at the RA.
Editor's Notes: The President’s Message highlights how organization and cooperation make things happen. It reminds us of our new country and how our forefathers worked diligently behind the scenes to get things done. Our early days had the same issues that we face today. Our concerns today haven’t changed over the years. I hope you enjoyed this little trip down Memory Lane. Now go back to the first seven pages.
WCRT demographics interesting
15 years later: Where’d ev’rybody go?

By Bill Dourdis
PostScript Editor

Buying a bottle of Snapple iced tea lets me unscrew the cap and read the factoid underneath.

Recent factoids include:
#909 In Texas, it’s illegal to graffiti someone's cow.
#1008 In the state of Arizona, it's illegal for donkeys to sleep in bathtubs.
#215 Tennessee banned the use of a lasso to catch fish.
#1013 It is illegal to sing off-key in North Carolina.
#797 It's illegal to run out of gas in Youngstown, Ohio.

I became PostScript co-editor in November 2004. I wrote a similar article to this back in March, 2005.

As an English teacher, I always taught students to write essays with a particular audience in mind. As WCRT PostScript editor for 15 years, I continue to strive to target my fellow 600+ WCSD retirees.

Barbara Stuck, WCRT Corresponding Secretary / Membership, and Shari Ciorciari, WCT Administrative Assistant, were instrumental in providing me with zip codes of retirees on record so I could do my research in August, 2018.

Perusing, pondering, and pinpointing led me to observations my colleagues should find interesting.

I conclude with this WCRT list to rival Snapple:
Then 410, now 459 in New York State;
Then 20, now 27 in the rest of the northeast;
Then 69, now 101 in the southeast including 45 then and now 53 in Florida; and
Then 20, now 25 west of the Mississippi.

That’s what you get when you “hit the bottle.”

Editor’s Note: Only the water is blue--not the states.
WCRT thanked by Breast Cancer Foundation

July 11, 2018

The Wappers Congress of Retired Teachers
ATTN Ms. Mary Coiteux
280 New Hackensack Rd
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Dear Ms. Coiteux:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation, please accept our thanks for your generous donation.

As you know, Miles of Hope funds support services for people affected by breast cancer within the nine counties of the Hudson Valley. Your donation will enable us to continue and expand the important programs and services we offer to this under-served population.

Again, thanks for your contribution in memory of Rhoda Post to help us continue this important work.

Sincerely,

Joel Canter
Board Chairman

Cathy Varunek
Co-Founder

Patti Forood
Executive Director

Dana Effron
Co-Founder

CONTRIBUTION RECEIPT

Donor: The Wappers Congress of Retired Teachers
ATTN Ms. Mary Coiteux
Amount of Contribution: $100.00

Tax Information: In accordance with IRS regulations, we inform you that no goods or services were given in consideration of your contribution.

Thank you – Please retain this receipt for your records

Post Office Box 405 • LaGrangeville, New York 12540 • 845.264.2005

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Kenneth S. Lynn

FISHKILL — Kenneth S. Lynn, a local area resident for over 50 years, died on Monday, September 17, 2018 at home in Fishkill. He was 83.

Son of the late Ellsworth and Patricia (Campbell) Lynn, he was born in Plainfield, NJ on January 12, 1935. On August 23, 1958, he married Mary Onore in New Jersey and they later relocated to the Hudson Valley.

Kenneth worked as a Physical Education Teacher for Roy C. Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls where he was also a successful football and tennis coach. He retired as Athletic Director in 1992. He was also the Fishkill Recreation Director for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Mary O. Lynn, at home; his daughter, Amy Henry of Port St. Lucie, FL; his daughter, Tina Hill of Palm Bay, FL; his son, Stanley Lynn of Lantana, FL; his grandchildren, Joseph Henry & his wife Jolie of Lawrenceville, GA, Kimberly Kolleda & her husband Alan of Atlanta, GA, Karli Hill of Palm Bay, FL, and Kolby Hill of Palm Bay, FL; his sister, Joan McGlaughlin of Richmond, VA; his sister, Gail Hensel of West Lafayette, IN; his brother, Gordon Lynn of Orlando, FL; and many nieces, nephews, and other loving relatives & friends.

Kenneth was predeceased by his parents as well as his brother, Gary Lynn, and sister, Betty Dalton.

Calling hours will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 22 at the McHoul Funeral Home of Fishkill, Inc., 1089 Main Street, Fishkill.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123; www.cancer.org

For directions and online tributes, you can visit Kenneth’s Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com

Source: McHoul Funeral Home.
Saranne Rap

A transparent view of issues
by Saranne Ratner

A Quarter of a Century...

The WCRT is celebrating its 25th year of service and importance. A quarter of a century sounds like such a long time, but 25 years has gone by in a flash!

Twenty-five years ago I wasn’t really thinking about retirement. It was 10 years away… what seemed like a lifetime.

I was still enjoying teaching, until the testing craze began. At that time, we were giving the writing test and the science test in 5th grade. That was bad enough. I considered myself a teacher—not a test preparer. So when the opportunity came along, I switched to 4th grade—no test!

Of course, then the writing test was moved to 4th grade, as well as a Math test and the Science test. So retirement began to look really good. In 2003, there was a statewide offer to retire early and I grabbed that offer and became a HAPPY member of the WCRT.

The WCRT provides so many benefits and services to us all for which I am especially grateful. Thank you to our WCRT and congratulations. May you continue to serve for many more years!

Golf tourney another success for Meals on Wheels

FORE!!!

The recent New Hamburg Yacht Club's annual golf tournament at Beekman Golf Club was a great success!

For the tenth year in a row, the Wappingers Falls Meals-On-Wheels Program was presented with a check for $10,000 that will allow them to continue their great work.

The committee that makes all this happen includes many Wappingers retirees: Barbara Boers, Joe Corrigan, Jack Devine, Rosemarie Gardner, Charlie Powers, and Skip Rottkamp.

This intrepid assortment under the leadership of Chairman Rottkamp has raised over $100,000 for Meals-On-Wheels and is largely responsible for keeping those “Wheels” spinning over the years.

Meals-On-Wheels depends on an army of volunteers. If that would be of interest to you, please read the simple instructions on how to get involved (there are no committees and no meetings!).

Call Chris if you would like to get involved in this wonderful program. It involves one morning a week. There are 60 full-time volunteers and 25 substitutes. You would be (with a partner) delivering a hot meal and a cold supper to nine or ten individuals. I promise you it will put more bounce in your step!

Last year, a bride and groom couple, shown above, arrived on the scene accompanied by their hair stylist, Carol Gillert. They arrived at the start of the tournament and enjoyed themselves to the end!

Meals-on-Wheels
Contact Person: Chris Contelmo
297-1284
*****

Golf tourney another success for Meals on Wheels

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Union-endorsed benefits
designed for NYSUT members

Whether it's our endorsed homeowners or auto insurance plans, life or disability insurance, financial or legal service plans, or any of our travel, entertainment or shopping offerings, NYSUT members have the **Power of the Union** behind them when participating in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

There's no need to go it alone when Member Benefits has your back! Member Benefits acts as your advocate for any program you participate in, and we'll do our best to quickly resolve any issues or concerns you may have.

**The following is just a sampling of the dozens of endorsed programs & services available to NYSUT members and their loved ones:**

- Auto, Home & Life Insurance
- Vision & Dental Plans
- Legal & Financial Services
- Hotel & Vacation Discounts
- Member Shopping Program
- Car & Truck Rental Discounts
- Competitive Savings Rates
- Retail Store Discounts
- Sports & Concert Tickets
- Theme Park Discounts
- Car Buying Service
- Heating Oil & Propane Savings

We encourage you to take the time to explore the Member Benefits website and find out all we have to offer NYSUT members.

**The Power of the Union**

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call 800-626-8101.

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