How’d you spend your snow day?

Retired life’s a beach

By Bill Dourdis, PostScript editor

As a retiree, lifestyle changes have progressed to a more comfortable level these days. Schedules aren’t as rigid as when I was in the classroom daily.

For example, my wife and I drove to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to celebrate Thanksgiving with her brothers. An annual “Pilgrimage.” (Get it?)

Back at the ranch in Dutchess County, New York in the 845 area code, they got almost a foot of snow. Snow day on Monday and two-hour delay on Tuesday. Meanwhile, we walked the beach at the local state park. Our sky was blue, actually blue-er-er with no whiteness in sight. The beach’s equivalent to lawn weeds was some kind of barky stubble. These grasses were rustic and unmowed. My John Deere tractor was nowhere in sight. No need for any terrain maintenance. Didn’t bother me a bit! I’m retired and lovin’ it! Your thoughts?

I picked the shells myself.

Enjoy your holidays and holy days.

To WCRT members,
Enjoy the holidays and holy days with your family and friends.
From the PostScript staff

CAPE starts programs at JJHS, RCKHS  p. 5
RC 13 Conference packed with packets, politics, pillars p.8-9
New retirees = 26; experience = 611 years  p. 10
From The President

Dear WCRT Members,

We got back from Florida on Nov.1st, and it seems it's been cold ever since. Yogi Berra said,"It seems to get late earlier now." I hate these cold dark afternoons, but that will change after Dec. 21st. At least the inside of my house is cleaner than ever.

No matter what your faith, I hope that you will treat everyone you meet with respect and kindness this holiday season. That is my holiday wish for each of you.

I'm also hoping for a happy and healthy new year for us all.

Sincerely,
Susan Roger

Protect your WCRT, NYSUT membership

Members with email addresses registered on the website teachers.org will receive publications and notices by email. Please keep email information up to date on that site. Our files are not linked to that site, so please notify the WCRT office of any changes in address, phone, or email, etc. Prohibitive U.S. Mail costs may soon force us to cancel postal mailings, so please consider going green to save money.

The Commentator and PostScript may be viewed at www.wcteachers.org once a member registers.

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 WCRT and mail to WCRT.
Renewal notices go out in the fall. Dues for 2019-2020 are:
$ 20.00 Yearly;
$200.00 Individual Lifetime;
$325.00 Couples Lifetime.
Pay Lifetime and alleviate the yearly task of renewing.

If you have comments or questions about this or any other WCRT publication, please send them to susanrogerjr@yahoo.com or call (845) 227-5065.

WCRT Officers and Board of Directors
July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021
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Retiree Council 13 Liaison....Cliff Foley

WCRT Mission Statement: To bring WCSD retirees together for mutual assistance and socialization, and to promote the best interests of retired educators.

Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers Newslette
280 New Hackensack Rd.
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
(845) 227-5065

Editor: Bill Dourdis williamdourdis@gmail.com
(845) 266-0430

The WCRT PostScript is a 2017 NYSUT United Communications Competition Winner with two awards: 1st Place, Best Feature Writing, I can see for miles and miles... by Barbara Searle; Award of Distinction, General Excellence, The WCRT PostScript to Bill Dourdis, editor.

SAVE THESE DATES
(future details coming soon)

Nov. 12 WCRT exec board mtg. 10:00-12:00,
Dec. 10 Print December 2019 PostScript
Jan. 7, 2020 WCRT exec board mtg. 10:00-12:00,
Feb. 10 Print February 2020 PostScript
Apr. 28 WCRT exec board mtg. 10:00-12:00,
Apr. 30-May1 NYSUT Rep. Assembly, Albany
May 14 WCRT Spring Luncheon, Christos Restaurant, 11am
POWER: WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT

CLIFF
FOLEY
Political Action
Chairperson

What motivates many of the actions and reactions of people who lead whether on the local school board level or on the national scene is clear. It is quite simply, power.

To achieve power, you need to get elected. A close acquaintance who happened to be a Republican leader stated that without that first step of garnering the majority of votes you are nowhere. What developed early in our history was a two-party system. George Washington had a warning about political parties, “However [political parties] may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.”

Ironically the following quote sums up where political parties want to be, “Our party, like any other political party, strives for political supremacy for itself.” This came from Vladimir Lenin in talking about the Communist Party. Each election sees the Republicans and Democrats driving for that supremacy of power. They want to control both the House and Senate and get their person elected President. They hope to appoint Supreme Court justices who make decisions in line with party goals.

Our founding fathers, who created the United States Constitution, tried to create a document that would avoid the country being taken over by unprincipled men who after taking control would eliminate the “very engines” of that democracy.

Ideally there is a balance of power between the three branches of government. This is currently being tested as the legislative branch moves toward impeachment of an executive leader they feel has overstepped his boundaries and placed the security of the country at risk. On the other side is the insistence that nothing improper was done and it does not merit this action.

Once an impeachment vote is held in the House of Representatives where the Democrats have the power, it goes to a trial in the Senate where Republicans have the power. The outcome of this process is not known at this time but an educated guess would be that the power in the House will impeach and the power in the Senate will acquit.

Ultimately each member of the House and the Senate will need to access how his or her action affects their own power. They will need to go back to their home district and live with their vote. If their constituents agree with their decision, they may retain power and get re-elected. If they made the wrong choice, they may be out of office. Whether they deny it or not, the pressure of power is on them. The consequence of making the “wrong” decision can be ostracism by your own party. This can result in challenges during primary contests, lack of endorsements and the cutting of financial backing.

For over 200 years our democracy has survived. There have been nasty elections and plenty of rough spots in the past. The alarmists have a point of view that our basic form of government is in danger due to the current president of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue while others see this as a normal bump in the road our nation has travelled since we created our form of government at the 1787 Constitutional Convention.

For the American voter, there is no doubt 2020 will be a challenging time. There will be a need to weigh the facts if you can figure them out. The electorate will face the challenge of cutting through the bombardment of ads and social media trying to influence their decision making. The public has about a year to prepare for this play for power.

To quote from another challenge involving power, in a galaxy far, far away, “May the force be with you!” in 2020.
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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WCRT by the numbers:
WCRT membership as of November 12, 2019:
610 WCRT members
128 yearly members
391 Lifetime members
54 Complimentary Lifetime members
18 Complimentary members
54 retirees don’t belong to WCRT & not entitiled to NYSUT benefits
19 about to be deleted from our files for not paying dues this year.
*118 members receiving publications & notices by U.S. mail down from
*232 members postal subscribers
486 members email subscribers.
4. 2017 retirees wisely chose to pay Lifetime

*Notice the reduction in printed newsletters. We encourage members to “go green” and help us save on mailing costs. We all benefit from their cooperation.

Register on the website wcteachers.org

If you know a retiree who is not a member, please encourage them to reconsider joining WCRT/NYSUT for their benefit and ours.

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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.

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Attention WCRT members who receive the Post Script by postal mail.
Please use the invitation enclosed in your newsletter for all up-coming luncheons.
The WCRT is going green and saving postage costs.

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Enjoy some of what NYC has to offer.
Sign up to receive the monthly Plum Benefits Guide.

Send an e-mail to jtkorz@optonline.net to be added to our list. Ellen Korz

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NOV. - DEC., 2019

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

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As a service to any interested WCRT member, our union’s financial report is always available upon request.

Address your questions or concerns to tderito@verizon.net and we’ll make arrangements to satisfy your numerical curiosity.

We provide communicative services to our former colleagues, philanthropic support through student academic scholarships, and donations to community libraries and Meals on Wheels.

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www.wcteachers.org

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by Mary Coiteux
WCRT Committee Chairperson
Gifts and Contributions

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WCRT LOGO
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.

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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.

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JANE STOCKSLAGER
WCRT Constitution, By-Laws

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

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www.WCTeachers.org or sundancewf@aol.com

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www.wcteachers.org

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TOM DERITO
WCRT Treasurer

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Financial Report available

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www.WCTeachers.org or tderito@verizon.net
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

ELLEN KORZ
WCRT Rep. to WCT RA

RA Meeting
October 29, 2019
Just a few items to report on:
● There is only about $100,000 left on the mortgage of our building on New Hackensack Road.
● If you have not received your new Empire card by November 1, call the customer service number on your old card.

● Two workshops are being planned. One is through NYSUT, Coalition Addressing Poverty Efforts Statewide. The other is at the Kingston Office of NYSUT, Share My Lesson Training.
● Pasquale had an idea, Movie Night, that will start Friday, November 22. The first movie will be Young Frankenstein (Mel Brooks). It will start at 6:30 at the WCT office. If you plan to attend, call the office to let them know. There will be a popcorn machine and a snow cone machine and possibly other refreshments.
● Another new idea is the New Teacher Mixer. All new teachers and their mentors were invited to the office for a get together. Any other teachers are welcome.

● The HeartShip Fund has about $7800. They have helped 6 families since January.
● Apparently John Lumia is doing well as the president of the BOE. The meetings are shorter and more enjoyable. No surprise to those who know and love him.

Please don’t forget The HeartShip Fund. It’s so important that we support our community.

Ellen Korz

One-Time Donation Card
Return this form to the WCT Office

I, the undersigned, donate a one-time sum of $ ____________ to the WCT HeartShip Fund,
280 New Hackensack Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.
I understand that this designated amount is a charitable donation.

WCT HeartShip Fund will not disadvantage anyone for any reason of the amount of their contribution or decision not to contribute. Contributing to WCT HeartShip Fund is purely voluntary. The WCT HeartShip will provide all monies toward members within the WCSD community, including all district employees. (As per application process)

Union Affiliation:
WCT WAA CSEA WRPN STEPS Central/Admin
(Please circle) WFW WCRT Cafeteria WTAA Confidentials WFEA

Name __________________________________________ Building ___________________________
Email __________________________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________________
Phone # ______________________ Date __________________________
Signature __________________________________________________________________________

Questions: CONTACT: Ann Liebergot@secondary.AL@wcteachers.org

CAPE starts programs at JJHS and RCKHS

CAPE believes substance use disorder is preventable, treatable, and recovery is possible.
CAPE cannot sustain itself without help from the community it serves. Hopefully, in this season of giving, you will visit their website, www.capedc.org, and donate or volunteer.

Ellen Korz

SOUTHERN DUTCHESS COMMUNITY COALITION
Our Youth. Our Community. Our Solutions.

“‘The Power of Prevention” is the motto of CAPE, Council on Addiction Prevention & Education of Dutchess County.

The vision of the organization is a prevention provider for substance use disorder and addiction in the Mid-Hudson Region. They implement evidenced-based educational programs, policies, and services in our community.

Their aim is a healthy community.

The plan is to educate families about the risk factors contributing to these disorders and emphasize prevention of this complex brain disease.

Both John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham high schools have Student Assistance Counselors. I work with a committee that has partnered with the WCSD Art Department to run workshops with various artists to show students other avenues to use their time and express their emotions. It is also a time they can ask about CAPE and what we do and possibly make new friends.

We have plans to expand this program to include photography, music, and possibly dance--when we have a permanent space.
Anne C. McAllister

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY—Anne Catherine (Darrow) McAllister, 91, of Poughkeepsie, passed away on Sat. Nov. 16 2019 at home surrounded by her family. Born Sept. 20, 1928, Anne was the daughter of William P. Darrow and Mary C. Moran Darrow, of Poughkeepsie.

Anne married Frederick R. McAllister, at St Mary’s church in Poughkeepsie on Nov. 21, 1953. He predeceased her on Nov. 19, 2010.

Anne received her diploma from St Mary’s school in 1942, her high school diploma from Poughkeepsie High School in 1946, and her Bachelor of Science with a major in Elementary Education degree from the SUNY New Paltz in 1950. She substituted in both Wappingers and Spackenkill School Districts when her children were young then taught full time as a tenured 4th grade and sometimes 3rd grade teacher in the Wappingers at Fishkill Plains Elementary, until her retirement in Jan. 1990.

Upon retirement, Anne worked together with Fred as proprietors of The Country Tavern Restaurant, Salt Point for a number of years. She loved to read and keep up on world affairs always. The family would like to thank Hudson Valley Hospice and Dr. Anwar.

Anne is survived by her children; Raymond McAllister and his wife Rasma, Nancy McAllister-Bastian and her husband Stephen, Maureen Helmrich and her husband Harry, Dennis McAllister and his wife Robin, and Anne Carruthers and her husband Scott; her sister Jane (McFarland), of Youngsville, PA; eight grand-children Brendan, Ryan, Jason, Sean, Emily, Harry, Greig and Isla, and three-great grand-children; Ryley, Lucas, Jack, as well as many nieces and nephews.

In Memoriam

Anne was predeceased by two brothers John and William, a sister Mary (Ciolko), and an infant daughter Susan, July 1960.

Calling hours were Fri. Nov. 22, 2019, 5-7pm at Joseph J. Darrow Sr. Funeral Home, 39 So. Hamilton St, Poughkeepsie, NY. 845-452-1840. Burial was Sat. Nov. 23, 2019, 10am at St. Peter’s Cemetery, Poughkeepsie, NY.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Hudson Valley Hospice. 374 Violet Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. To send online condolences, please visit www.darrowfuneralhome.org.

Coach Barbara B. Webster

WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY—Coach Barbara B. Webster, 87, passed away at home on Sat., Nov. 16, 2019. She was the daughter of Patricia Benton and was born on April 23, 1932 in Tarrytown, NY. She graduated from Harrison High School and received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Sargent College and Boston University as well as her Masters Degree from Ithaca College.

For 34 years, Barbara taught Physical Education and coached many sports teams in the Wappingers Central School District at Roy C. Ketcham and John Jay High Schools. She was a Founder of Girls Interscholastic Sports in Dutchess County. Barbara had a love for all of her students. She was a member of the Thomas Macrini Sports Hall of Fame and an avid Mets and UConn Women’s Basketball Teams and was also a member of the Fishkill Baptist Church, Bible Study and Mom’s Groups. Barbara was an enthusiastic Dog Show participant showing English Cocker Spaniels and owned several Shihtzu’s.

Barbara had many friends and wonderful students. She was one of the happiest and friendliest people you would meet and had an infectious smile. She leaves behind her friend of 60 years Barbara Donaldson and many caring close friends.

Calling hours were Fri., Nov. 22, 2019 from 2:00-4:00pm and 6:00-8:00pm at the William G. Miller & Son Funeral Home, Inc. 371 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Funeral Services were Sat., Nov. 23, 2019 at 10:00am at Fishkill Baptist Church, Route 82, Fishkill, NY 12524. Burial followed at Fishkill Rural Cemetery.

Donations can be made to either Hospice Home, 40 Walter Hoving Rd. P.O. Box 194, Garrison, NY 105240194 or Samaritan’s Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607-3000. To send an online condolence, please visit or website at www.wmgmillerfuneralhome.com

Leonard Marcus

MILLBROOK — Leonard Marcus, age 76, died suddenly on Aug. 20, 2019 at his residence, The Fountains at Millbrook. He was born in Brooklyn, NY and was very proud of his Brooklyn roots. He was predeceased by his dear brother, Fred, and his parents, Martha and Joseph.

He graduated from Kansas State University with a BS in Zoology and earned an MS in Instructional Technology from SUNY New Paltz. This led him to teaching science in the Wappingers School District for 8 years. He then turned his attention to audio-visual sciences which developed into his love of technology. He was the AV coordinator in Wappingers for another 8 years. In 1982, he became Library and Computer Director for the Poughkeepsie City School District. He retired in July, 1998.

To keep himself challenged, he continued his work as Director of Computer Services for the Webutuck Schools on a part-time basis for another 10 years.

He is survived by his former wife, Virginia, and many beloved cousins, including Judi and Walter, Cindy and Tom, Laurie and Allan, Holly and David, as well as their children. He also leaves behind his dearest friends, Bob and Henrietta, as well as his Unitarian Fellowship family.
In Memoriam
Joanne Daly McGilton

Florida where she belonged to the computer and gun clubs. She enjoyed traveling and bike riding, and she loved dogs.

On July 6, 1985 at St. Mary’s Church in Fishkill, Joanne married Eugene Patrick McGilton who died on June 13, 1995. She is survived by her sisters, Barbara Van Tassell and her husband Fred, and Doris Waddington; her nieces and nephews, Bryce Litwin, MD and Christine Brady, Bryan and Annie Waddington, Kirstin Litwin, Lauren Waddington, Rev. Malachi Van Tassell T.O.R., Edward J. Van Tassell, and Glendon and Amy Van Tassell; and her great nieces and nephews, Peyton, Jacob and Irellyn Litwin, Catherine, Dylan, Savannah, Gavin and Adam Van Tassell, Margold Grace and Farallon James Waddington, and Liam Brady.

Calling hours were Fri. 7-9pm at McHoul Funeral Home Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Sat. at 10am at St. Columba Church, 835 Route 82, Hopewell Junction by Joanne’s nephew, Rev. Malachi Van Tassell. Interment followed in St. Denis Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Columba Church for Masses in Joanne’s name. Please visit Joanne’s Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.

Virginia Waterman

VIERA, FL—Virginia “Ginny” W. Waterman, 88, a resident of Viera, FL since 1999 and previously of Barefoot Bay, FL and Poughkeepsie, NY, died peacefully on Nov. 20, 2019 surrounded by her loving family.

Born on Sept. 21, 1931 in Leyden, NY, Ginny was the daughter of Grover and Florence (Ford) Wheeler. On April 5, 1952 in Massena, NY, Ginny married the love of her life, Otis Ten Eyck Waterman, who predeceased her on Oct. 12, 2014.

Ginny was an elementary school teacher for the Wappingers Central School District for 20 years. She was a founding member of GRWC Viera Woman’s Club, and a member of the Seaside Pheasemakers Quilting Guild, Red Hatters of Viera, FL and the Viera East Book Club. Ginny was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a charter member of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, and the NYSUT.

She enjoyed golfing, quilting, playing bridge, traveling, arts and crafts, reading and researching her family ancestry.

Survivors include her children, Krista Morris and her husband Stephen of Wappingers Falls, NY; Frederic Waterman and his wife SeWon of Melbourne, FL; Eric Waterman and his wife Gerlyn of Viera, FL, and Roger Tory Waterman of Fairfield, CT; her grandchildren, Sean and his wife Alissa, Christopher, Noah, Kevin and his wife Laura, Jessica and her husband Ziedan, Tristan, Cameron, Elijah, Zachary and Shaye; and her great grandchildren Ossian, Alex, and Van. In addition to her husband, Ginny was predeceased by her parents, Florence and Grover Wheeler; her brother, Hubert Wheeler; and her sister, Beatrice Vicks.

Calling hours were held on Nov. 29 from 11am to 1pm at the McHoul Funeral Home, Inc., 895 Route 82, Hopewell Junction. A funeral service followed with a graveside service at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to: GRWC Viera Woman’s Club, PO Box 560693, Rockledge, FL 32956-0693. Please visit Ginny’s Book of Memories at www.mchoulfuneralhome.com.
KINGSTON, NY—NYSUT’s Regional Conference for Retiree Council 13 on October 3 at Wiltwyck Golf Club offered a warm and dry haven compared to the rainswept and windswept greenery outside. The smell of freshly brewed coffee directed attendees to the registration table and the continental breakfast beyond.

Keynote Speaker Paul Pecorale NYSUT 2nd VP speaks to the many current issues that could impact retirees and in-service educators. “I advocate for retirees because of their happy faces.”

Who we are:
Our vision is based on six pillars:
■ Education: strong unions to support teachers;
■ Health care: affordable quality;
■ Pensions: security benefits;
■ Fair, living wages: through collective bargaining;
■ Social justice: equality and opportunity; and
■ Workplace health and safety.

NYSUT has 400 employees across the state that represent collective bargaining, court hearings, Communication Workers of America, labor relations officers, and lawyers. Our advocacy is in Albany, (Washington) DC, and local elections in November and in May for school board and budget votes. “Retirees set us up and defined what the state is doing. We have 230,000 retirees in our organization, which is one-third of NYSUT membership.”

Where we are:
New members are taught issues beyond the contract, having a voice in the workplace, service is important, and with dues the same, we continue to keep doing what we do. We organized and soundly defeated the Constitutional Convention.

Programs we provide:
■ Labor Relations Specialists handle claims, and health insurance in retirement.
■ Safety and Health Department:
  Social Services is our unsung gem.
  If members have personal, financial, or emotional problems, call us at 1-800-342-9810 ext. 6206 or email socsvcs@nysut-mail.org.
■ Statewide: The next legislative session is January to June, 2020, then the primaries. We hope to rewrite the APPR (without a commissioner), and workplace violence prevention legislation to protect people in the workplace.
■ The 2020 Census count hopes to count bodies and do 70% of the census online.
■ Finally, refer to the Retiree Handbook and fill out the list of emergency info, look at the Legal Services plan, look at Elder Care Services, and do a will and a Health Care Proxy.

>>NYSUT Director of Constituency Programs and Services Patrick Lyons deals with many known and unknown facts about Medicare: What it is, what it covers, who is eligible, who participates in it, how it is funded, difference between Medicaid and Medicare, sources of its revenue, solvency projections of the Trust Fund, policy prescriptions, ways to increase funding, possible benefit reductions, how to expand the pool of eligibility.

He emphasized the difference between an “entitlement” and an “earned benefit.”

Looking to its future, there is a federal budget proposal regarding Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. As November 2020 approaches, his final words were, “Medicare needs a band aid, not open heart surgery.”
Health and Fitness

After the buffet lunch, NYSUT Software Support Specialist, John Mahar, warned that security scams continue to threaten retirees. He informed and shared ways to avoid the loss of personal information with a PowerPoint entitled How to Stay Safe On-line.

Slides gave examples of why seniors are targeted, the grandparent scam, types of Cyber attacks, phishing emails and how to avoid them, don’t be a victim, if you do fall victim, password tips and tricks, public Wft tips, Social Media do’s and don’ts, and smartphone security tips.

Barbara narrates as Patty demonstrates holding postures.

Health and Fitness

After the buffet lunch, NYSUT retirees Patty Mooney and Barbara Schofield used Shatki Yoga to make retirees smile with a chair yoga session including nutrition and mental health advice.

Postures are based on Chinese medicine, which overlaps with acupuncture and acupressure. Participants—nearly all 100 in the room—isolated different areas of the body. Postures were low impact and not a competition. Breathing promotes circulation and is emphasized as a key element of yoga. Barbara instructs, “A chair is a prop. Sitting on the chair and using the back of the chair for stability allows positions adaptable for what’s good for you. Yoga relieves stress. You have the freedom not to be perfect beings. It helps maintain functionality. Namaste.”

Member Benefits Director Mike Ostrender focuses on the packet handout entitled NYSUT Member Benefits Quick Guide. Programs include insurance coverage, legal & financial services, travel & tours, home energy, dining & shopping discounts, car & truck rentals, and health & safety. Contact memberbenefits.nysut.org or 800-626-8101.

The packet alone was worth the price of admission for all the pamphlets, fliers, brochures, fact sheets, guides, voting information, a handbook, and the PowerPoint presentation notes on Medicare and How to Stay Safe On-Line.

Past Co-Presidents Vicki Schulte and Jan Sibber are recognized for their years of service to RC 13 by current president Patrick McCarthy and 1st Vice President Kathleen Taylor.

Mike Grubiak, NYSUT Political Organizer, spoke briefly about retiree involvement in union and labor values.

“It’s not about Republican, Democrat, Independent, or any other party. It’s about issues at the kitchen table that are non-partisan... We need to fight for values to defend education... Regarding pensions, Con Con was a big win for us because a public pension can’t be changed or diminished... 80% of retirees in this area voted, 60% of the general population voted, and 37% voted in off-year elections... NYSUT will release a Voter Guide once candidates are set.”
New retirees = 26; experience = 611 years

The Wappingers Congress of Retired Teachers Class of 2019 is comprised of 26 teachers retiring from mandatory active duty to voluntary retired duty.

These seasoned educators endured the war zones and battlefields we current retirees remember as hallowed halls or sacred ground. Pardon the military references.

Their 511 years of dedicated service to the school district stands as an impressive number. Longevity and loyalty of that kind is a hallmark of their generation. Our prayer is for the current active staff to uphold the character and virtue that went into all those years in the classroom. Their retirement was not in vain.

What remains?

Question: “Where have all the master teachers gone?”

Answer: To the WCRT!

Leslie Leventhal was WCT President from 1997-2004. “While presiding over my first negotiations, I realized that approximately 60% of the teachers had 10 years or less experience. I also knew of a number of great teachers retiring only because they did not want to forgo the incentive of $20,000 [during Tier I]. The challenge was to keep more master teachers in the classroom.” (That was over 20 years ago.)

What’s changed?

We, as a union organization, now have a plethora of talent who have attached themselves to their predecessors and colleagues of yore. This inoculation of new blood offers fresh air to the elders as these youngsters cleanse themselves with deep sighs of relief.

The WCSD’s loss is the WCRT’s gain.

A list of Wappingers retirees with current titles would reveal that many serve on executive boards of nonprofits, charitable organizations, and help run community service events. Their planning savvy and organizational skills find them working part-time or full time, and then donating it back to a cause or spending it on their grandkids or parents. Their time, talents, and treasure are appreciated by the number of recipients touched by their kindness and generosity.

Welcome aboard, newbies, as we set sail aboard a new old ship called retirement.

New retirees by the 2019 numbers

Legend: # of retirees yrs. of experience

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<th>school</th>
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<th>yrs. of experience</th>
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</table>

Source: WCSD HR Dept.

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

“Live your life and forget your age.”
October 17, 2019

Wappingers Congress of Teachers
Attn: Mary Colteux
280 New Hackensack Road
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Dear Mary,

Thank you for your contribution to Literacy Connections for our 29th Annual Community Spelling Bee.

Literacy Connections provides basic literacy for adults in our community. We are steadfast in our commitment, and we are encouraged by the progress of our students, the dedication of our volunteer tutors, and the support of so many in the community.

This year more people can read in our community than last year. And next year, we will say the same. Because of people like you, more people can read, write, and reach their potential.

When adults learn to read, the entire family benefits. The parents become independent, contributing members of their community. They gain self-esteem and confidence. Their children do better in school, and become more successful adults because they see their parents using reading skills, and being productive. Instead of fear, failure and frustration, the family reaches their potential. We see this first-hand, over and over again.

On behalf of all our students, we thank you for your kindness, for your generosity, and for choosing to be a part of Literacy Connections Community Spelling Bee.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Marian Rodriguez
Executive Director

This letter hereby acknowledges your contribution of $100.00, and assures that you have received no goods, benefit or compensation of any kind in return for your donation.
NEW Endorsed Program

Get ready to Access ... big savings!

NYSUT Member Benefits is pleased to announce the launch of our newest endorsed program -- Member Benefits Discounts & Deals provided by Access Development!

This money-saving benefit is available exclusively to NYSUT members and features the nation’s largest private discount network.

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Register your account on the Access website with your NYSUT ID number using the URL above. You will then be able to enjoy exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on shopping, restaurants, movie tickets & entertainment, travel, oil changes & vehicle maintenance, and much more.

Have a favorite local business?
One of the best features of the MB Discounts & Deals program is the ability to recommend your favorite local business, restaurant, coffee shop, etc. to potentially join the Access Development network.

Register your account on the Access website by March 31, 2020 to be eligible to win prizes -- visit the Member Benefits website for more information!

Learn more by calling 800-626-8101 or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.

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