

# Retiree Connection

## President's Corner by Phil Lima

At the close of the 2020-21 school year NYSUT established a task force to identify areas of concern facing student, teachers, and school communities.

I invite you to look at some of those key areas of great concern not only schools in New York State are facing, but our society nationwide in this post pandemic era. Please explore, **Future Forward**, <http://futureforward.ny/introduction> to have a better understanding of the plight students (our own grandchildren, family and friends) will need to address and overcome as they and their communities begin to restore themselves with some degree of normalcy.

Quote: "I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better."

Maya Angelou

# SRTC-SEA

April 15, 2022  
Volume 15 Number 3

## SRTC-SEA Luncheon



May 3, 2022

We hope to see everyone there.

Tuesday, May 3rd @ 12:00 noon

*DaNina's Restaurant  
Suffern, NY*

*Spring Luncheon/Business  
Meeting/Election of Officers*

### Executive Committee

President: Phil Lima

Vice President: Tom McTaggart

Secretary: Elaine Salierno

Treasurer: Judy Veltidi

Community Relations PAC: Joyce Nencetti & Sue Roberts

Vote-Cope Chair: Nancy Pratt

Membership Committee Chair: Anne Clark

Board of Ed Liaison: TBD

Webmaster: Rich Deibler [SRTC-SEA Website](#)

Newsletter Editors:

Eleanor Cerny & Andrea Edwards

Newsletter email: [srtc.connection@gmail.com](mailto:srtc.connection@gmail.com)

Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present

## Action Committee Updates

### Vote-Cope 2022 PAC by Nancy Pratt

#### *What can you do?*

*Our 2022 Vote-Cope Campaign will run October 1, 2022 to December 17, 2022. Stay tuned for more information.*

#### Vote Cope Accomplishments:

- More funding for public education and health care programs
- Restoration of education budget cuts proposed by the governor
- Retiree health insurance benefits protection
- Enhancements for Tier 3 & 4, such as elimination of 3% contribution after 10 years.
- Work for Medicare "reform" and protection from Social Security "quick fix" plans.



### Community Relations PAC by Joyce Nencetti & Sue Roberts

Special thanks to our members who have contributed to the Christ Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen and the Sloatsburg Food Pantry. SRTC will continue our support - that is very much needed and appreciated.

## *Special Donation*

*SRTC -SEA \$400 Donation to  
Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate\_Ukraine  
Refugees  
[Village of Suffern](#)*

## Health Updates

### Centers of Excellence for Cancer Program

The Centers of Excellence for Cancer Program provides paid-in-full coverage for cancer-related expenses received through a nationwide network known as Cancer Resource Services (CRS). If you choose to participate in the Centers of Excellence for Cancer Program, you receive enhanced benefits.

For more information please read [NYS Empire Plan Centers of Excellence Program](#)

### Organ Donation/Transplant

Sign up to save lives. Take a minute to help those in need. Sign up as an organ, eye, and tissue donor. Every registration counts. Find out what you can do, go to [Organ Donor.gov](#) or [DonateLife](#)

## A Long Time Ago . . .

*A special thank you to Doreen Dedrick for sharing this history.*

The pass through the mountains was a perfect location for settlement early in New York's history, so when, in 1763, namesake John Suffern emigrated from northern Ireland, he bought land near the entrance to the Ramapo Pass and built a large house that became a tavern and inn. His business success enabled him to buy a large number of acres that he called New Antrim - now called Suffern. His descendants actively supported education, and helped pave the way for the beginnings of public education in New Antrim.



Faculty, 1903

**One hundred and sixty-eight years ago, we began in a one room schoolhouse.**

Thomas W. Suffern, the son of William Suffern and grandson of John Suffern, opened a boarding school for boys and girls which ran for decades. But in 1854, a one-room *public school* was established. Over time the population grew, and by 1900 the Suffern Union Free School District No. 3 opened a school on Wayne Avenue at a cost of \$34,000. **The date marking the founding of Suffern High School is 1905, when the Wayne Avenue building graduated its first class of five students.**

**We grew again and again, first on Wayne Avenue and then Washington Avenue.**

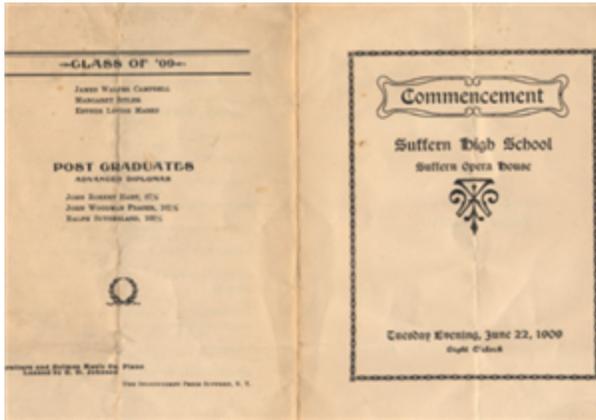
As the Wayne Avenue School became crowded, the Board of Education planned for an independent high school building. In 1912, construction began on Washington Avenue and this "state-of-the-art" school opened its doors to students in the fall of 1913. The "**High School in the Town**" (as its school song referred to it) served until the Ramapo Central School District No. 1 was formed in 1940.



Students photographed prior to 1903

**The 40's brought us another new building.** With federal assistance from the W.P.A. the new Central School District began construction of a building at the corner of Hemion and Montebello Roads, and in 1942, students from grades six through twelve moved into the building. The population boom in the late 1950s required an addition to the building in 1961 to provide for the new classes entering in ever larger numbers.

**The Board of Education projected another jump** in the school population for the decade of the 1970s, motivating the purchase of land in 1963 from the Meyers family estate that abutted both Mile and Viola Roads - commonly known as "Jam Hill". Plans for a new high school on the site were executed in 1969. By September 1971 grades nine through twelve moved into a modern building equipped with a planetarium, large gymnasium and auditorium, and a swimming pool. Grades seven and eight remained in the old building, renamed Suffern Junior High School.



**1901 Commencement Program**



**1900 Baseball Team**



**Basketball Team 1928-29**



**Wayne Avenue School**

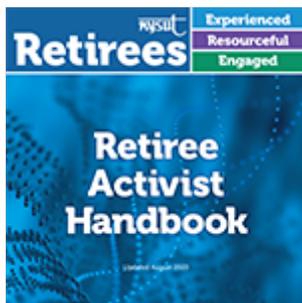


**Washington Avenue School**

## Retiree Connections - A Bridge from the Past to the Present

### NYSUT Updates

#### Retiree Activist Handbook



Everything you need to know about being a NYSUT retiree

### NYSTRS Updates

Read NYSTRS [Newsletter for the Retired Members](#) from the NYS Teachers Retirement System.



### NYSUT Orange & Rockland County Retiree Council 14

If you did not receive The RepORter, please contact Fred Angiello [Fpa1947@yahoo.com](mailto:Fpa1947@yahoo.com)

## Reminders, Events & Notes

### Reminders

#### Support SRTC ... Did you mail in your \$10?

Our year runs September to August. Money is used for various causes to keep our retiree chapter name "visible" in the community. Membership form is located at the end of this newsletter. Only a little over 50% of our members have paid dues . . . please consider contributing.

### Upcoming Events

**Connor's Book Club** . . . *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan Contact Harriet Yustein [hryust@aol.com](mailto:hryust@aol.com) for more information. (See *Ways to Connect* for a recap of March's book selection)

**2022 Fall Getaway** - There's still time to make a reservation for a retiree adventure! The *Retiree Activities Committee* has planned a mid-week getaway at **Woodloch Resort September 12-14, 2022**. Join us for laughs, fun and games! Couples welcome. [Click here](#) for more information and to reserve your room. Contact Margaret DeStaso at [mdestaso@verizon.net](mailto:mdestaso@verizon.net) or Harriet Yustein at [Hryust@aol.com](mailto:Hryust@aol.com) for further information.

**\*\* Please email us with any upcoming events to you want to share with retirees**

### Notes

**Did you know?** . . . You can update changes in your email or mailing address on our website? Check it out so you are always receiving updated information from us. [SRTC-SEA Website](#)

## Put Some Spring in your Step

- [Join the May luncheon](#)
- [Six Ways to Put a SPRING in Your Step](#)

## Opportunities

### Opportunities for Kindness

#### Ongoing Donations . . .

**A donation to a SRTC sponsored pantry is greatly appreciated.**

- **Christ Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen** - Checks can be mailed to Joyce Nencetti, 371 Heights Road, Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481. (Checks payable to Christ Episcopal Church, please put "Soup Kitchen" in memo area of check). If you would like to [volunteer at Christ Episcopal Church](#), please contact the Rector, Rev. Cranston (Dale.Cranston@Protonmail.com).
- **Sloatsburg Food Pantry** - Checks can be mailed to Tom McTaggart, 14 Waldron Terrace, Sloatsburg, NY 10974. (Checks payable to Sloatsburg Food Pantry, please put "Donation" in memo area of check)

#### Also consider:

- [Volunteer New York](#)
- [Rockland County Clothing & Toy Drive](#)
- [Knits or Crochet Baby Blankets and Hats](#)
- [People to People](#) - Nanuet NY
- [Rockland County Food Pantries](#)
- [NYSUT Disaster Fund](#)

*or other groups in your area*

#### Use your hobby to help others

- [List of Knitting and Crocheting Charities](#)

## Brain Stimulators

Exercise your brain through puzzles, reading and more.

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." -Mahatma Gandhi*



### President Phil's Trivia Question



#### Trivia contest-

Two people are standing back to back. They each walk away from each other for three feet. Then they both turn left and walk another four feet, and then stop. Now, how many feet apart are they standing?

The first person who sends in the correct answer will win a prize.

Submissions should be sent to Phil Lima at [amigos48@aol.com](mailto:amigos48@aol.com).

Phil will use the date and time the entry was received in his email.

**We Remember . . .**

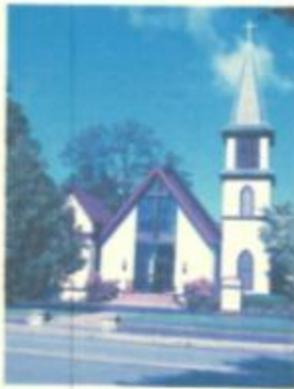
*March 25, 2022 Eileen Goldblatt  
March 3, 2022 Alyn Sovak*



***The Executive Committee wishes everyone a safe and healthy Spring!***

**Stay Connected . . .**

If you would like to share your story with fellow retirees, please email Rich Deibler at [rich@richnlinda.com](mailto:rich@richnlinda.com) to have it included on the “Connections” section of our website!



## *Christ Episcopal Church*

65 Washington Avenue  
Suffern, New York 10901  
845-357-1615  
[Christchurchsuffern.org](http://Christchurchsuffern.org)

A totally inclusive parish in the  
Diocese of New York where  
all are welcome.

*The Rev. Dale L. Cranston*  
*Rector*

March 9, 2022

Joyce Nencetti  
Suffern Retired Teachers

Hi Joyce,

Once again I am in the most favorable position of writing to you to pass along to the Retired Teachers of Suffern a letter of profound gratitude for the exceptional giving that they have done and in so doing have honored us. As of March 2022, we have received a total of \$1500 from the SRTC-SEA. I understand that \$500. was your yearly gift from the entire membership, and \$1000. was from individual members of your organization.

We are deeply grateful, even more than ever. We have seen a marked decrease in food supplies from the State of New York and even from some of our other charities, making it ever more difficult to keep our Pantry and Lunch Program going as the need ever increases. Your most generous gift helps us to move forward.

Again, we thank you all so very much. Blessings to all of you,

[Dale.Cranston@protonmail.com](mailto:Dale.Cranston@protonmail.com)

**Suffern Retired Teachers Chapter - Suffern Education Association  
SRTC-SEA Membership Form**

**An invitation for you to join / renew your SRTC-SEA 2021-2022 membership. Membership runs September to August.**

Membership fee: \$10.00

Make check payable to: **SRTC-SEA**

Mail check to: **Judy Veltidi, 35 Van Orden Avenue, Suffern, New York 10901**

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(used for alerts only)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(print full address)

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of retirement: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: **\$10.00**

**Thank you in advance for your financial support.**

Money is used for various causes to keep our retiree chapter name "visible" in the community

*Retirees - A Bridge From the Past to the Present*

The Suffern Retired Teachers' Chapter  
of the Suffern Education Association  
Invites You to Attend our Annual Spring  
Luncheon as We Honor Our  
Class of 2002 Retirees

Tuesday, May 3, 2022  
daNina Italian Restaurant  
1 Lafayette Avenue  
Suffern, New York 10901  
12 noon to 3 p.m.

"A bridge from the past to the present"



Lovely outdoor dining and delicious food!  
\$45 pp includes appetizer, choice of entree,  
dessert, soda/coffee (Cash bar)

Please contact Judy Veltidi at [motherfrog@hotmail.com](mailto:motherfrog@hotmail.com) to make your reservation to attend the luncheon. If you plan to attend, please email Judy before April 23rd. Your \$45 IN CASH will be collected at the door.

We are honoring the 20 year retiree Class of 2002, and they will be our guests at the luncheon. Let's get together for an afternoon of fun and laughter with our fellow retirees!

***If you would like to donate to the Soup Kitchen or Food Pantry:***

\_\_\_\_\_ Separate check made out to ***Sloatsburg Food Pantry***

\_\_\_\_\_ Separate check made out to ***Christ Episcopal Church (memo: Soup Kitchen)***

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you would like an individual thank you letter for your donation.

Donations for the Soup Kitchen or Food Pantry can be mailed to:

Judy Veltidi, 35 Van Orden Ave., Suffern, NY 10901

Explore all your union membership has to offer!

# When you're planning for the future, what's at the top of your list?

- A comfortable nest egg for retirement
- Providing for your family
- Purchasing a new home
- Home improvements
- Purchasing a new vehicle
- Travel and entertainment



**NYSUT Member Benefits** offers dozens of endorsed programs to help turn those dreams into reality.

When it comes to saving you money, protecting your family and helping you plan for the future, NYSUT Member Benefits has a variety of programs and services to help with your goals. Whether you are just starting out on your journey, well into your career or enjoying a well-deserved retirement, there is a Member Benefits-endorsed plan that may be of assistance featuring value-added extras unavailable to the public.

Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org). There, you will find numerous tools and resources available to you as a NYSUT member – including a **Financial Learning Center** with articles designed to help educate you on financial decisions and topics. Member Benefits also endorses important **legal and financial services** along with an **online savings program** featuring some of today's most competitive interest rates.

Next up would be looking in the "Shopping, Travel & Personal" section of our site for **MB Discounts & Deals**. This program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to provide NYSUT members with exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on restaurant dine-in or take out, groceries and food delivery, clothing and shoes, hotels and flights, vehicle maintenance, and much more.



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

