

# THE R. C. #4 GRAPEVINE

NYSUT Retiree Council 4 (RC4)--Retiree Election District 51

1 West Oak Hill Road Jamestown, New York 14701

2011 - 2012 Ed. 1

If you have not taken the time to visit the award winning RC#4 website you should do so as soon as you finish reading this newsletter. Current information about programs available to us as retirees, articles of current interest, and archives of past information is there. You won't miss a deadline if you check the site often.

[www.nysutrc4.org](http://www.nysutrc4.org)

## RC#4 Volunteers Need Your Support

Once again, RC#4 will be participating in the Bon Ton Community coupon sale to raise funds for their volunteer projects. This year, the Bon Ton Community Days will be a two day event starting Friday, November 11 at 9AM and Saturday, November 12 at 6AM. By donating \$5 for a coupon, you receive \$200 and more in exclusive coupon booklet offers plus \$10 off a purchase of \$10 or more! Also, beginning November 6 customers can select their purchases in advance and have them rung with Community Day sale prices and shopping pass discount applied. All coupons can be used in any Bon Ton store. Retiree volunteers will be selling coupons November 4 from 4:00-6:00 and during the two day Community Days event at the Lakewood Mall "homes center" entrance. Retirees can help support our volunteers by purchasing Community Days coupons by contacting one of the following: Warner Page 716 372-5623, Mary Raymond 585 968-1877, or Retiree Consultant - Louise Ortman [lortman@nysutmail.org](mailto:lortman@nysutmail.org)

## NYSUT RC#4 OFFICERS

President - Hobie Rhinehart  
Vice President - Lee Gridley  
Secretary - Chris Page  
Treasurer - Warner Page  
Director - Richard Steinfeldt  
Director - Mary Raymond  
Director - Chris Page  
Director - Warner Page  
Delegates - Hobie Rhinehart  
Lee Gridley  
Mary Raymond

### DIVISION OFFICERS:

*C.A.R.D.*

President - Linda King

*Chautauqua*

President - Doris LaSpada

*Webmaster* - Richard Steinfeldt

*Newsletter* - Mary Raymond

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*Retiree Consultant* - Louise Ortman

## Important Dates:

- Oct. 3, 2011 Executive Meeting - Meyer's Steakhouse
- Oct. 16, 2011 Strides Walk - Jamestown
- Oct. 26/27, 2011 ED State Meeting - Albany
- Nov. 7, 2011 Executive Meeting- Perkins, Olean, 10am
- Nov. 8, 2011 Election Day
- Nov. 4, 10, 11 BonTon Fund Raiser - Chautauqua Mall
- Nov. 24, 2011 Thanksgiving
- Dec. 5, 2011 Executive Meeting

## **Teachers are not the problem, and our new blog helps prove it!**

It began in February when our webmaster, Dick Steinfeldt, began hearing rumblings of some very anti-teacher actions in Wisconsin. He sent an email to the 150 or so WNY retired teachers whose addresses we had on file alerting them to what was happening in Wisconsin.

As events began to unfold in Wisconsin, teachers and other public employees came under attack in other states such as New Jersey, Ohio, Florida and Indiana. Dick sent almost daily updates keeping members informed of developments and providing the facts that could be used when writing a letter to the editor or arguing with that “know nothing” neighbor who believes that teachers are under-worked, over-paid whiners.

He searched major news sites all over the internet and found the hard facts that showed that, when you compared employees of equal educational level, public employees in Wisconsin earned LESS than their private-sector counterparts, even when benefits were included. He also found research, published by the Wall Street Journal, which showed that, when including the hours teachers spend outside the classroom planning lessons and grading papers, teachers work just as many hours as someone working a 40-hour week 52 weeks a year (with a 2-week vacation). In other messages he provided evidence that the dust-up about public employee pensions was really a “tempest in a teapot,” particularly when talking about NY teacher pensions.

What bothered Dick about these messages was that they were “one-way.” He wanted to provide a way that teachers could participate in the discussion. Teachers were also passing his emails along to friends, so he wanted a way to provide an “archive” of all the messages. The solution to this was to create a blog.

To access our blog, go to the RC4 website ([www.nysutrc4.org](http://www.nysutrc4.org)) and click on “The Blog” in the menu bar. You can go directly to the blog by using the following web address: [rsteinfeldt.blogspot.com](http://rsteinfeldt.blogspot.com). (If you would like to add your email to our growing list—and receive a link to the RC4 newsletter weeks before you get it in the mail—send your email address to Dick at [richst@steinfeldt.com](mailto:richst@steinfeldt.com).)

Visit the blog soon to pick up the information you need to fight back against the unfair attacks on public employees. There are also interesting discussions about other areas of interest to retired teachers. You are encouraged to leave comments and be part of the discussion!

## **Retiree Volunteers Needed**

**Once again we are organizing a volunteer group to aid in the areas in eastern New York ravaged by hurricane Irene’s flood damage. There remains much work to be done and our efforts could make a big difference in helping those affected by the disaster.**

**Our group is scheduled to begin volunteering next month and it would be wonderful if you could join us.**

**If you have the time and interest in helping our friends in the New York and Pennsylvania area, please contact Warner Page at [wcpage@roadrunner.com](mailto:wcpage@roadrunner.com) or phone 716 372 5613.**

Richard Steinfeldt was appointed to the Retiree Advisory Committee (RAC). This group of retirees meets several times a year with Kathleen Donahue and helps develop policy for the retirees. It has been many years since this area has had a representative on this committee. Activities are reported at the ED meetings.

The big legislative push this fall is to make sure all those eligible to vote are registered. If you are not registered you can do so by checking the RC #4 website ([www.nysutrc4.org](http://www.nysutrc4.org)), the NYSUT website ([www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org)) for forms.

It is time to encourage our congressional representatives to vote for the American Jobs Act. This act will aid our working brothers and sisters as it will help create additional jobs in early childhood, elementary and secondary education as well as retain existing employees, rehire former employees or hire new employees to reduce cuts in essential education services. It is also targeted for community colleges, payroll cuts for middle class families, extended unemployment insurance. How will this be done? Through comprehensive tax reform including eliminating tax breaks for oil and gas companies, closing the interest loophole for investment fund managers, eliminating benefits for those who use corporate jets, and having the high income (top 1%) pay their fair share.



**Don't hike alone**

**let us help you with the**

**CHALLENGES WE ALL FACE**

**Call NYSUT Social Services  
at 800-342-9810 ext. 6206**

**Free • Confidential • Responsive**

**WANTED: PARTICIPATION FEE July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012  
The fee for 2011-12 is NOW DUE!**

To join the Cattaraugus - Allegany Division (C.A.R.D.), please send your form and \$10.00 check payable to C.A.R.D. # 4 to: Dennis McCauley, P. O. Box 215, West Valley, NY 14171.

To join the Chautauqua Division, please send your form and \$10.00 check payable to Chautauqua Division to: Pat Webb, P.O. Box 152, Forestville, NY 14062.

If you would like to contribute to just the Retiree Council, please send your form and \$5.00 check payable to Retiree Council #4 to: Warner Page 116 Monroe Terrace Olean, NY 14760.

Thanks so much for your support!

If you aren't sure if you have contributed, please contact your appropriate division and they will be glad to assist you.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E - MAIL  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL YOU RETIRED FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF RETIREMENT: \_\_\_\_\_