

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 Winter

Retiree Council No. 4 Loses President

Longtime RC4 president, Hobie Rhinehart, passed away at Olean General Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, after a long illness. Hobie was a teacher and a tireless champion of organized labor and progressive government. He was also a devoted father and husband. Many, many union members were fortunate to have known him.

Last May, Hobie was presented with NYSUT's Lifetime Achievement Award. At that time, NYSUT SW Regional Staff Director David Eggert made the following remarks:

"Tonight we offer a special award to a man who has devoted his LIFE to teaching, unionism, and community.

If anyone can be described as a "father" among NYSUT unionists in this region, Hobie Rhinehart is that man. Even for those of us who have already spent a career involved with NYSUT, Hobie set the standard of devotion and participation. For more years than any of the rest of us can count, Hobie has been at every meeting he could possibly attend. When it comes to the expression, "being there for you," Hobie is the model. Hobie has been there for us.

Hobie's contributions include:

- * 28 years teaching social studies at Cattaraugus Central School; retired in 1993
- * 18 years president of Cattaraugus Teachers Association
- * 22 years President Cattaraugus-Allegany CLC
- * Retiree Council 4 President
- * 40+ years of attendance at NYSUT RA
- * Workers Memorial Olean
- * Labor-Religion Coalition
- * Health Care Access Coalition
- * Living Wage Campaign
- * Democratic Party
- * Town of Albion
- * County Museum
- * Youth Bureau
- * CCSE Federal Credit Union
- * Cattaraugus-Allegany Workforce Investment Board
- * Audrey, 4 kids, grandchildren, great grandchildren

Hobie has been honored many times over the years. He remained quiet, unassuming, and humble, but dedicated and determined to BE THERE for his community and his brothers and sisters in labor. There's a chant from Wisconsin that goes, "Tell me what democracy looks like – This is what democracy looks like." Tonight, I ask you to tell me what a unionist looks like -THIS IS WHAT A UNIONIST LOOKS LIKE.!

NYSUT RC#4 OFFICERS

Acting President - Lee Gridley
Secretary - Chris Page
Treasurer - Warner Page
Director - Richard Steinfeldt
Director - Mary Raymond
Director - Chris Page
Director - Warner Page
Delegates -
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



Thank you for all you did for us!
You will be missed!

What Do YOU Know About Fracking?

According to a recent article in the New York Times: “The American landscape is dotted with hundreds of thousands of new wells and drilling rigs, as the country scrambles to tap into this century’s gold rush — for natural gas. The gas has always been there, of course, trapped deep underground in countless tiny bubbles, like frozen spills of seltzer water between thin layers of shale rock. But drilling companies have only in recent years developed techniques to unlock the enormous reserves, thought to be enough to supply the country with gas for heating buildings, generating electricity and powering vehicles for up to a hundred years.”

Pennsylvania and the southern half of New York contain the majority of these shale formations. While the energy industry sees dollar signs, environmentalists see a fuel that burns cleaner than coal or oil. Others see a fuel that we can have without sending billions of dollars to the middle east.

There are, however, tremendous risks involved in the process of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) used to release this gas. Problems include treatment and disposal of billions of gallons of toxic wastewater, contamination of water wells by escaping gas and drilling chemicals, damage to roads by increased heavy truck traffic carrying water to and from drilling sites and air pollution by fumes containing benzene and toluene. Opponents point out that drillers are exempt from compliance with the federal clean water act.

While there is a temporary moratorium on drilling in New York, with this much money at stake you can be sure that fracking will be coming soon to Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. Every homeowner in the area will want to know how the state intends to mitigate the downside of this drilling. To that end, the Chautauqua division of Retiree Council No. 4 will host a presentation on fracking by a representative of the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation at the NYSUT regional office in Jamestown on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 11:30 AM. This presentation will be accompanied by a catered lunch and a tour of the NYSUT facility. We expect to charge \$10/person for this event, which will cover the cost of the lunch.

Because of the expected interest in this topic, we are inviting all RC4 members from the 3-county area to attend. While it is too early to take reservations as of this writing, watch the RC4 website (www.nysutrc4.org) for additional details and a registration form. If you would like to be notified by email when registration opens up, send your name and email address to our webmaster, Dick Steinfeldt, at richst@steinfeldt.com.

Retirees are a resource: Advocacy and mobilization matters

NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi put out the call for retiree volunteers to help defeat Issue 2 in Ohio and more than a dozen NYSUT retirees responded. AFT President Randi Weingarten congratulated, thanked and praised the volunteers who helped defeat Issue 2, which repealed Senate Bill 5 on Election Day. Senate Bill 5 would have barred public sector strikes, curtailed public-employee bargaining rights and scrapped binding arbitration.

“The vote, which marks the first time that the collective bargaining rights of public employees have been upheld on a statewide ballot, sends a clear signal that Ohioans will not sit idly by while politicians scapegoat hardworking public employees for an economic crisis they did not create. “The repeal of Senate Bill 5 was a

victory for every teacher who helps a struggling child, every firefighter who races into a burning building, every snowplow operator who ensures safe travel for others, and every community that relies on these vital public services. Ohioans said loud and clear that they would not turn their backs on the people who watch theirs. The historic citizens’ veto was a victory for all Ohioans and for all Americans who care about democracy and fair play,” said Weingarten.

More than a dozen NYSUT retirees volunteered to work for two weeks in Toledo, Cincinnati and Cleveland as part of a larger grass-roots campaign. NYSUT Retirees joined a team of more than 10,000 volunteers to collect 1.3 million signatures to place Issue 2 on the ballot and to assist in the labor-to-labor campaign to get out the vote.

“Congratulations on a job well done and thanks to all of our NYSUT retiree volunteers for answering the call and proving themselves to be such a valuable resource to this campaign, this organization and to the labor movement as a whole,” NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi said. Due to union mobilization efforts throughout the country, retirees played an important role in many advocacy campaigns:

- Defeated anti-immigration laws in Arizona.
- Defeated voter suppression efforts in Maine.
- Upheld women’s reproductive rights in Mississippi.

The Winter 2011 issue of the Retiree Organizer is now available to read on the NYSUT website: www.nysut.org
Please take time to check it out for information that may not appear in the newsletter or on the RC 4 website.

Retiree Lifelong Membership Resolution

The 40th Annual NYSUT Representative Assembly will convene at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center at 7:30 pm Thursday, April 26, 2012. All NYSUT members including retirees are welcome to attend the annual Representative Assembly but only duly elected delegates may debate and vote on proposed resolutions. One of the powers and duties of the RA is to establish general NYSUT policies through resolutions. Council (s) 1, 2 and 3 has retiree delegates who will represent you at the Convention. The Representative Assembly is the ultimate forum within which to influence NYSUT. Resolutions that are submitted must be approved by the executive body of each council. Last year Retiree Council(s) 1, 2 & 3 submitted Resolution #55 titled: **Retiree Lifelong Membership Resolution**. The purpose of this resolution was to address change in a particular retiree policy. Every resolution is handled very seriously and action is recommended for implementation. The Retiree Lifelong Membership Resolution passed and is NYSUT policy for the next four years. Please read the Retiree Lifelong Membership Resolution #55, including what NYSUT is doing to implement the policy throughout the state.

If you are interested in checking out all the 2011 Resolutions go to www.NYSUT.org and at the top in the Search box enter: RA 2011 Implementation Report, then click on "Union News", then click on September 2011 Implementation.

Submitted by Linda Ulrich-Hagner

References for this article: Retiree Leadership Handbook, 2011 Proposed Resolutions and Reaffirmations, NYSUT Implementation Report 2011, NYSUT Constitution and Bylaws (effective 2010-2011)

CALENDAR

February 6, 2012 Executive Meeting
March 5, 2012 Executive Meeting
March 19-20, 2012 Committee of 100
April 2, 2012 Executive Meeting
April 25, 2012 Chautauqua County
Event
April 25-28, 2012 NYSUT Representative
Assembly, Buffalo
May 7, 2012 Executive Meeting
May 23, 2012 Retiree Annual
Conference

SAVE THE DATE

April 25, 2012 Chautauqua County workshop on Fracking at the NYSUT offices in Jamestown.

May 23, 2012 NYSUT Annual Retiree Conference for RC#4

Again this year retirees will gather for information on topics such as financial planning, retirement system and pension updates, political updates and news from NYSUT headquarters. Lunch and snacks will be provided. Place is not yet determined.

Watch the RC#4 website (www.nysutrc4.org) for information as well as upcoming editions of the newsletter.

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: _____

Are you keeping your family's best interests in mind?

The importance of having a will cannot be overstated – this crucial legal document protects your family during their time of grief and ensures that your wishes are honored.

Drafting a will can help provide peace of mind for you today and prevent unnecessary stress for your family in the future. It also allows you to name a legal guardian if you have children under the age of 18. In addition, a will ensures that your estate will be distributed according to your desires.

A power-packed legal punch

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan – provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. – provides access to legal advice and assistance that is crucial when looking to create or update a will.

Each year, the plan provides for one simple will or update at no charge. A simple will provides for the proceeds of one's estate to be distributed to a specifically named beneficiary(ies), with an alternate distribution plan in the event that the primary beneficiary predeceases the writer of the will. With a simple will, proceeds are distributed outright with no conditions attached.

In addition to the simple will, you will receive a durable power of attorney, living will and health care proxy – all important documents to have in place before the need for them arises.

Discounted rates

NYSUT members can purchase the Legal Service Plan at the special cost of \$85 per year or \$55 per year for retirees; an Elder Law Rider and/or Business Protection Rider are available for an additional fee. Members eligible for payroll or pension deduction can take advantage of further savings.

Do you have other legal issues that you need assistance with, such as dealing with a speeding ticket or selling your home? The plan offers NYSUT members legal assistance for a variety of personal legal matters.

You will have access to unlimited, toll-free legal advice from plan attorneys; these attorneys will make phone calls and write third-party correspondence at no charge to resolve personal legal situations on your behalf before they become major problems. In

addition, when you enroll in this plan, you will receive two coupons for free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney.

How to get started

You can enroll in the voluntary plan online by visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or printing a descriptive brochure and enrollment form. Feel free to also contact NYSUT Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** with any questions about the plan.



Please note: if you belong to a local association that provides a group legal service plan through the local or its benefit fund, remember to take advantage of the plan's benefits.

The Legal Service Plan provided through Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. is a NYSUT Member Benefits Trust (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 33.33% of annual participation fees received for this program. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
nysut
Working to Benefit You

Nov./Dec. '11