



Retired Public Employees Association

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To the Editor:

I was saddened to read the recent article indicating that 1,100 retirees of the former St. Clare's Hospital in Schenectady will lose their pensions within the next decade because of insufficient funds. The article comes after of a prior article indicating a similar fate for Teamster pensioners.

These pensioners are real people, with real families and real obligations. They have worked their entire life and put in the requirements to earn, and hence, most certainly expect, the ability to have a safe and comfortable retirement.

The trend is not good. In recent years, some of the largest and most profitable companies in the United States have reneged on their commitment to continue health insurance for retirees. The most recent example locally was General Electric. Now, we have entire pension funds going down.

The Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) advocates for the benefits of public sector retirees, but since no one else appears willing to speak for these individuals, we will. We are proud to make the case that retirees are vital to the economic well-being of New York.

As a society, we need to ask the question "Is this the right way to treat people who gave entire careers to the employer?" Where are those who are calling for better treatment for the middle class? These real people deserve the right to spend their retirement years with dignity. Something they EARNED.

John J. McPadden
President
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