



Notes From The Chapter Chair

December 2020

I hope that you are all staying safe and healthy during this continued Coronavirus. Hang in there as a vaccine will, hopefully, be out soon. After reading that Ticketmaster will be requiring anyone wishing to purchase a concert ticket to provide a receipt that they have had the vaccine, I am going to ask that everyone hold on to their receipt. I don't know that you will need it for anything, but it's better to hang on to it and put it in a safe place.

Normally, at our December meeting we would be taking up a collection to donate to food pantries for the holidays. Since we aren't meeting and in speaking to our usual pantry recipients and finding they are in desperate need of donations, your Steering Committee has decided to donate a small amount \$50.00 to each of these pantries. If this is something you feel you also would like to do, I am providing the names and addresses of each of the food pantries we donate to (one in each County we cover). Please send your check directly to whichever pantry you wish but also write (RPEA) in the memo part of your check.

- **Onondaga County:** St. Lucy's Food Pantry, 425 Gifford St., Syracuse, NY 13204
- **Cayuga County:** Calvary Baptist Church Food Pantry, 90 Franklin St., Auburn, NY 13021
- **Oswego County:** First United Methodist Church Food Pantry, 1408 State Route 176, Fulton, NY 13069
- **Upper Cortland County:** Preble Congregational Church Food Pantry, 953 Preble Rd., Preble, NY 13141
- **Seneca County:** Harmony Food Pantry @ First Presbyterian Church, 42 E. Main St., Waterloo, NY 13165

I'm also going to add one more. The Chapter won't be making a donation at this time, but I personally will.

In My Father's Kitchen: 501 Hawley Ave., Syracuse, NY 13203

This is a faith-based organization offering non-denominational and non-discriminatory assistance to homeless people through direct street outreach. They assist chronically homeless individuals who live on the streets of Syracuse and have a disability that prevents them from adequately caring for themselves. The disabilities of these individuals include substance abuse, mental illness, chronic illness and/or physical disabilities that make them vulnerable to crime, disease, hunger and hopelessness. Many are Veterans. They deliver food to each one every day, also providing such basics as soap, bottled water, socks, gloves, etc. A physician accompanies them at least once a week and a veterinarian when necessary. They also started a day work crew last year that was so successful, they expanded to three days, with different people each day.

Emergency Numbers for Groceries and Food: We all know that with the holidays, this virus will probably get worse before a vaccine is available. If you would rather not go out or are unable to, and need groceries, food or other items, emergency numbers for this purpose are: Onondaga County (315-218-1987); Oswego County (315-598-3980); Cayuga County (315-255-1703); Cortland County (607-753-5036) or Seneca County (315-539-5647).

Coronavirus Testing: If you need to know where you can get a test for Coronavirus, call your County Health Department or your Family Physician. Each testing site has different qualifications and many need a reservation so make sure you know which will accommodate you. If you cannot get information from either of those, call the New York State Coronavirus Hotline: 1-888-364-065.

Please stay safe until we can get together again. Wear a mask, social distance and wash your hands. Don't forget to renew your RPEA membership. Please email me (dbennett18@twcny.rr.com) or call me at 315-437-7464 if you have a question or just want to talk. Please note that I don't routinely answer my phone unless I know who is calling. So, if I don't answer, leave a message. If I am home and hear who it is, I will pick up.

Dawn Bennett
Chapter Chair

Retired Public Employees Association, Inc.
165 Jordan Road
Troy, NY 12180

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