



CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

Notes from the Chapter Chair

Many of you missed our September meeting with **Sheriff Toby Shelley**. He explained a few general things like bail reform and opened up for questions. He had a lot of questions about crime in general, cars being stolen and/or broken into, the Jamesville jail, etc. I think everyone got to know him a little better and liked what he had to say.

We have had a very low turn out at our last few luncheons but we decided that we do need to have our **Holiday Party**. This is a meeting dedicated to and celebrating our members. There will be no speaker. Low turn outs hurt us as a Chapter because we are getting way below the minimum number registering but still have to pay for a minimum. We have worked with Bella Domani to come up with a less expensive menu which will also be subsidized by the Chapter and an anonymous donor. We need to have a minimum of at least 50 people at our functions and if we don't get it in December, we may have to rethink how many luncheons we can do.

So, **Monday, December 4, 2023 is our Holiday Party**, not only to celebrate the holidays but also to take a chance on winning a 50/50 drawing, win a door prize in a random drawing or win one of many gift baskets being raffled (with items like coffee, chocolate, gift cards, etc.) for yourself or to gift to someone else. Join us!!!

Volunteers are needed to **sell raffle tickets** for our Holiday Party on December 4th. You would start at about 10:30 am and be finished by 11:30 am and then able to rejoin your friends at a table. At least 3 are needed.

We generally have 'Donation Jars' at each luncheon and in December we will be collecting for local food pantries. We generally donate to one in each county we represent.

Please note the deadline to get your reservation in – Friday, November 24, 2023. We cannot accept any late reservations. It's not fair to other members who get theirs in on time nor is it fair to Bella Domani who has already purchased food for the luncheon. If you have sent your reservation in and find you cannot attend and call me before the deadline date, your money can be refunded (but don't make a habit of this).

We have lost several members of our Steering Committee as they have found they don't have enough time to do everything. We want to thank **Mary & Pete Klementowski, Pete Ruszczak, Jessica Zambrano** for the time they have dedicated to the Steering Committee but hope they continue to attend our luncheons.

We also just lost a long time member of our Steering Committee – **Rose D'Agostino** did Registration at our events for many years and will be greatly missed.

Speaking of our **Chapter Steering Committee**, we do need a few new members or we won't be able to continue. We are looking for someone to assist with Registration at meetings, a Secretary and perhaps an Assistant Secretary, a Membership person and perhaps a few others. We need people willing to help at luncheons with whatever needs to be done, people with lots of ideas, and people willing to staff a table at a senior event such as Senator Mannion's Senior Fairs and his Veterans Resource Fairs, County Senior Fairs, etc. for 1-2 hours. We have only 4 luncheon meetings a year and usually only 4 Steering Committee meetings. You are given the dates for the year for both at the beginning of each year. Let me know if interested at either 315 437-7464 or dbennett18@twcny.rr.com. As a Steering Committee member, you are expected to attend Steering Committee meetings as well as luncheon meetings if at all possible or call if an emergency comes up. None of this takes a lot of your time because we can do some by email or phone. Plus when there are many

of us to divide things up, the less work for everyone. Our next Steering Committee meeting will be on Monday, November 6, 2023.

Members ask why we don't offer discounted things like hotels, car rentals, concert tickets, theme park tickets, shopping, etc. WE DO! Go to our website www.rpea.org and go to the **Members Area** (top of page), sign into this area either using your member number or any combination of numbers and then go to 'Working Advantage'. You have to choose a user name and password to go further. You can also find all of our benefits on this page – dental, visual, homeowners, hearing, etc. Check it out!!!

Our **COLA bill** will be coming up before the State Legislature next year. There are already Bill sponsors in both Houses. When it gets moving, we will need to contact all our State representatives. We all need to do our part to get it passed into law.

We also need lots of new members to help support our legislative agenda. Everyone must have at least one person they know, either retired or getting ready to retire, to pass membership information on to.

Our Chapter has participated in several events this year to help spread the word about RPEA. You are always welcome to volunteer to help staff any of these tables. So far we have participated in three Veterans Resource Fairs held by Senator Mannion (North Syracuse, Oswego and Camillus); a Wellness Fair held by Cortland County Office of Aging; two Senior Fairs sponsored by Senator Mannion (Onondaga & Oswego Counties). We had also signed up for two others – a Senior Fair in Cayuga County and a Senior Fair in Fulton (Oswego County) both sponsored by their County Office of Aging but were unable to attend because of illness.

Dawn Bennett, Chapter Chair



2024 Central New York Chapter Luncheon Dates (Tentative)

Monday, April 1

Monday, July 8 (Picnic)

Monday, September 9

Monday, December 2 (Holiday Party)

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

Holiday Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

BELLA DOMANI RESTAURANT

5988 E. TAFT ROAD
NORTH SYRACUSE, NY 13212

11:00am: Registration
11:30am: Business Meeting
12:00pm: Door Prizes, 50/50 Drawing
12:15pm: Buffet Lunch
1:15pm: Gift Baskets

Music
Door Prizes
Gift Baskets
50/50 Raffle
Unclaimed Funds

Menu: Roasted Chicken, Penne Pasta with Vodka Sauce, Meatballs, Garlic Parmesan Potatoes, Garden Salad, Dinner Rolls, Dessert, Coffee, Tea, and Soda. Cocktails self pay at Bar

Cost:
\$12 per person: Members, Spouse, Domestic Partner
\$20 per person: Non-RPEA Member
Cost subsidized by RPEA and Anonymous Donor

Directions to Bella Domani:

From Downtown – Take I81 North to Exit 28 Taft Rd. Turn right at light. ½ mile on right hand side.
From Thruway – Get off at Exit 36. Take I81 North to Exit 28 Taft Rd. Turn right at light. ½ mile on right.
From North – Take I81 South to Exit 28 Taft Rd. Turn left at light. ½ mile on right hand side.

PAYMENT AND RESERVATION DEADLINE: Friday, November 24, 2023
Reservations Are Mandatory!

Questions: Contact Dawn Bennett: 315-437-7464

REGISTRATION FORM: Central NY Chapter Holiday Party December 4, 2023

Please List All Attendees By Name:

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS _____

_____ RPEA Member/Spouse/Domestic Partner: \$12.00 each

_____ Non-RPEA Member: \$20.00 each

Make Checks Payable To: RPEA-CNY

Mail Checks To: RPEA Central NY Chapter, PO Box 3475, Syracuse, NY 13220-3475

Retired Public Employees Association, Inc.
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News and Notes