Do You Have A Retirement Story to Tell?

One of the objectives of the SUNY Retirees Newsletter is to share activities of SUNY retirees. We know many of you are doing great things in retirement. Your story can inspire others. Please share your story or tell us about a colleague’s retirement story by contacting the SUNY Retirees Service Corps at retirees@suny.edu.

Campus Retiree Program Profile
The Retirees Association of Schenectady County Community College

by Peggy King, (President) and Stan Strauss, (Vice President)

Peggy: The year before I was considering retirement, the SUNY Retirees Service Corps hosted a conference in Albany called Re-imagining SUNY Retirement which I decided to attend. The focus of the conference was on encouraging SUNY institutions to consider forming organizations for retirees. While many of the four-year institutions had already done so, very few community colleges had retiree groups.

Stan: Fortunately, Suffolk Community College had done a great deal of work in creating a retiree organization and their representative at the conference, Peter Herron, provided detailed information about the steps they took, the problems they encountered, and their successes. While four-year institution retiree organizations tend to focus primarily on retired faculty, Suffolk was very inclusive and included faculty, staff, administration, and support staff.

Peggy: I returned to campus excited about the possibilities for Schenectady County Community College. I talked with a number of colleagues including Stan Strauss, our current vice president, President Emeritus Gabe Basil, and President Quin- ton Bullock. We formed a steering committee of current and future retirees and started to plan. With the help of Suffolk, we adapted their set of by-laws and talked about the focus of our group. We decided to keep it social and we also decided to keep dues low as a way to be more inclusive. Once we had our by-laws in place, we received the endorsement of our Board of Trustees and we voted for elected officers. The Retirees Association of Schenectady County Community College (RASCCC) was now official.

Stan: In our first two years we had a number of small, monthly meetings with speakers who focused on topics such as physical fitness, financial planning, and health insurance as well as local leaders discussing the role of Metroplex in downtown Schenectady development, the growth of Proctor’s Theatre, and the like. These meetings were attended by 10 – 25 individuals. We also decided to hold one luncheon each semester to take advantage of our wonderful culinary/hotel restaurant management programs. Those were typically attended by about 30 individuals representing all groups at the College. The luncheons are social and we

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always have a speaker who can give updates on the new happenings at SCCC.

**Peggy:** Grayce Burian, founder and long-time director of SCCC’s highly successful theatre program, spoke at our October 16th luncheon about her new memoir *(From Jerry to Jarka: A Breezy Memoir of a Long, Peripatetic Marriage)* and did a book signing afterwards.

**Stan:** Last year we arranged our first trip with a Yankee Trails West Point tour (see photo on page 3). Twenty retirees participated and had a wonderful time. We recently did another Yankee Trails trip, this time to Vermont.

**Peggy:** The RASCCC encourages retirees to participate in College events. We provided tours of the new student housing and music wing addition. In addition, several of us have served as “greeters” for the first few days of classes each semester.

**Stan:** While the Retirees Association of Schenectady County Community College has been well received, keeping up momentum is a continuing challenge. Some retirees want to be involved while others move on to other things. Our goals continue to be to further grow the association and find ways to contribute to the College.

**Peggy:** We look forward to an exciting year and appreciate the ongoing support of President Bullock, the Board of Trustees, and current faculty and staff.