

KRTF
founded 1986

Not-Back-To-School Luncheon

Celebrating 32 years of Kingston Retired Teachers' Federation Memories
Anne Tucker & Donald Sweeney, co-founders

September, 2020



K R T F

KRTF Chair
Linda Monfette
186 Alda Dr.
St. Remy, NY 12401
845-338-9455

Dear New Retiree,

Welcome you to the Kingston Retired Teachers' Federation. Anna Tucker and Don Sweeney founded our organization in 1986. They realized that after they retired they didn't feel connected to the Federation that fought for them all the years they taught. Since its inception the KRTF has connected members with many issues that affected them and opportunities to connect to each other in a more social way. Enclosed is a booklet about the KRTF assembled on the organization's 25th anniversary and updated this year. Take time to read it and learn about the group you have joined.

I wish you a long and healthy retirement. If you have concerns, my contact information is above.

Linda Monfette

KRTF Chair

Happy 25th, KRTF!

A Silver Anniversary issue

September 2011

Humble beginnings...

In August of 1986, Anne Tucker, Don Sweeney and a group of retired friends were sitting around after sharing a meal. Recently retired, having no place to go, they lingered over their coffee.

Anne said to Don Sweeney that it was too bad that there wasn't a union for retired teachers. Don agreed. Anne continued to sip her coffee and said, "Why not?" And the rest is history. At Anne's urging, Don became a co-founder and the Kingston Retired Teachers' Federation was born.

THANK YOU ANNE and DON!

A LETTER OF INTENT

August 4th, 1986

Dear Retirees,

Should we as retired educators organize as a chapter of the K.T.F.? Many of us believe that such a move would be beneficial in many ways,

Currently we are investigating dental coverage from Blue Cross through a retired teacher chapter of the Federation. This coverage, we anticipate, will be the same coverage that has been available to teachers. The cost of the coverage will be approximately \$100 per year for an individual.

Membership in the SFT and NYSUT will carry with it their benefits, programs, and assistance.

As an organized group, our lobbying effort locally, and on the state level will be more effective.

Also we can work closely with the K.T.F. members for our mutual benefit.

Your annual dues will include the regular fees to AFT (\$17.55) and NYSUT (\$10.00) as well as local affiliation (\$2.45).

Sincerely,

Anne Tucker & Don Sweeney

Kingston Retired Teachers' Federation Constitution

ARTICLE I NAME

This organization shall be known as the Kingston Retired Teachers' Federation (KRTF).

ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES

This organization is formed for the following purposes:

- A. To bring retired educators of the Kingston Consolidated Schools together for mutual assistance, cooperation, and socialization
- B. To obtain all the rights to which they are entitled
- C. To offer liaison services to our members who have relocated
- D. To keep informed about educational policies

ARTICLE III AFFILIATIONS

This organization shall maintain dues paying responsibilities of retired member status in the American Federation of Teachers, New York State United Teachers, and the Kingston Teachers' Federation.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the KRTF shall be open to any member of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System who retired from the Kingston Consolidated District. Membership shall be evaluated annually and denied to one who has paid his dues by October of the current year. June retirees of the district shall be contacted prior to the KRTF September regularly scheduled meeting with an invitation to visit the meeting and join if they desire.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

Notification of all meetings shall be by mail at least 21 days prior to the meeting. The first meeting of the year shall be in September on the first Tuesday following Labor Day, (Not Back-to-School Day). Subsequent meetings shall follow as deemed appropriate and on an informal schedule.

ARTICLE VI DUES

Dues shall be paid to AFT, NYSUT, and KTF, through the treasurer of the Kingston Teachers' Federation, by the chairman of the KRTF, from the total check paid to KRTF, which will also include dues for the KRTF. Membership in the KRTF may only exist in the aforementioned organizations.

Kingston Retired Teachers' Federation

First meeting. September, 1986. JWB Auditorium.

Founding Criteria:

1. No future meetings on school property.
2. Allow time for interaction (socializing) with former colleagues.
3. Encourage attendance with low cost food offerings.

Response:

1. All buildings required a fee
2. All renters required group to have insurance,
3. Restaurants appear to be the answer.
4. A cash bar for 30 minute free time with a menu that had substantial fare for a maximum price of \$10.

Addendum to All:

1. Membership in KRTF- news of local issues and opportunity to meet with other retirees.
2. Membership in KTF- reminder for local, political assistance.
3. Membership in NYSUT- state issues addressed.
4. Membership in AFT- national support, various insurance policies available.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Chairman:

Record Keeping, Membership, Financial, Notification

Co-Chairman:

Political Action, Organizational Problems

Social Director:

Meeting and Recreational Activities- LUNCHEONS:

September- Not-Back-to-School

December- Holiday

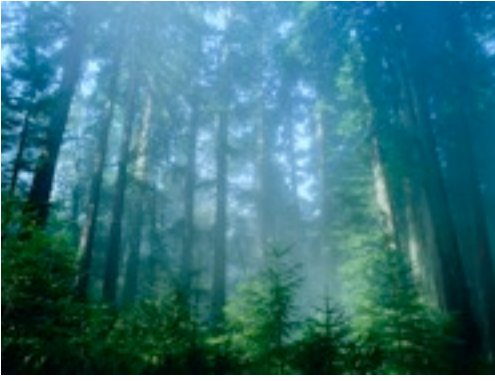
February- Valentine's Day

April- Spring

June- Annual

Community Relations Chairman:

Special Projects, Volunteer Work, Grievance, Condolences, Official Notices of Educators, and Phone Bank Contacts



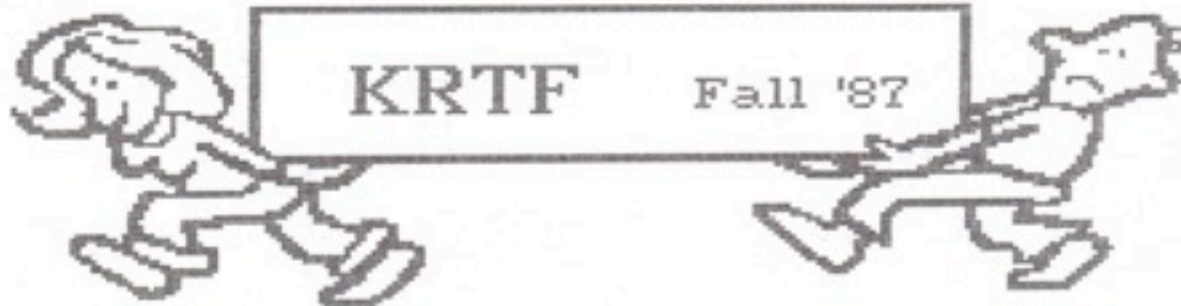
Class of 1986

The following are the 62 original KRTF-NYSUT members:

Shirley Adin	Mary Embree	Elizabeth R. Leonard	Ella Sanders
Josephine C. Balevic	Bernard E. Farrell	Molly Lindsey	Ellen Schweinler
Al Banyo	Lorraine Ferraro	Mary G. Lown	Edgar Stevens
Rosemary Barnes	Sally Gallagher	Marguerita M. Mahoney	Donald J. Sweeney,
George Benedict	Raymond Gilkey	Virginia F. Martin	Minerva S. Tancredi
Galdys Bloom	Mary Haines	Grace Naccarato	Carolyn H. Taylor,
Mary K. Boyd	Arthur J. Hartigan	Carolyn Nagy	Judith Tevlowitz
Katherine Brinier	J. Anthony Hummel	Althea S. Odell	Alice Tobin
Maude M. Bunting	Stephen G. Hyatt	Viola W. Opdahl	James E. Tobin
Bruce Burger	Olga C. Jeffrey	Lawrence T. Plog	Dorothy Treadway
Constance P. Capozzi	Francis J. Kinney	Marilyn B. Powers	Anne Tucker
Ronald W. Cole	Irene S. Kline	Delores Rabbottini	Robert L. Tucker
Jane DeWitt	Doris E. Knoll	Robert C. Richter	Alice B. Van Brink
Anne Duffy	V. Jane LaMotte	Michael J. Rienzo	Leonard Zimet

These 6 members were KRTF (Non-NYSUT) original members as well: Shirley Allen, Iona Ashby, Helen A. Donovan, Mildred Mertine, Edna F. Rignall, and Robert Weiss.

Of these original members, 21 are still dues paying members. We hope to see many of them at the May 4th Anniversary Luncheon.



SEND NO MONEY !!!

Enclosed you will find your membership card for 1987-88. If your card is not enclosed, please fill out the enrollment form. The form should be returned to:

KRTF
c/o Tucker
Box 13 RD#7
Kingston, NY 12401

Your dues is already paid in full for the year. We simply need the proper information recorded on this form to complete our records.

OCTOBER BUS TRIP

Are you interested in a day bus trip? We have selected 3 excursions that seemed to cover a variety of popular sites.

1. New York City—a bus would pick us up at the Ramada Inn at 8am and deliver us to the South Street Seaport. At 12:30pm that bus would take us to the theatre district for lunch and a matinee. The return trip home would be at 6pm. The cost is about \$30 not including meals or play ticket. This allows the flexibility of choosing your own play and restaurant.



2. Flemington Outlets--

shopping--approximately \$22.

3. Mystic Seaport and Village--about \$43.

Please call 331-8210 before September 30 with your selection. If at least 30 people express interest in one of these we will run that choice. Leave your name, phone number and choice. We will get back to you with the exact cost and at that time we will know when the money for registration will be due.

This will be our first venture and we will be open to suggestions for future dates and places.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership had reached a total of 70 at this time.

Please encourage any of your retired friends to contact us about joining our organization. Any teacher who retired from the Kingston City School system is eligible to join and any member is welcome to bring a guest to our social functions.

As membership increases, our social activities can become more varied and occur more often. Also our lobbying efforts will have a greater impact in Albany.

BRUNCH

Our "Back-to-School" brunch was well attended. Of the 44 reservations, 11 members of the class of '87 attended as our guests. We caught a few of the snowbirds before they flew south for the winter. Many new faces were among the regulars, and we anticipate more such gatherings with pleasure.



HEALTH COVERAGE

If you are participating in the Dental Program, have you received your new (plastic) card from the Albany office of Blue Cross-Blue Shield? Also, each of you should have a new Major-Medical (plastic) card and a Prescription (plastic) card since July from the Albany office. We have reported all of the shortages that you notified us about and we are still checking on the problem. However, since then many dental cards were received. Please contact us again if any or all of the three cards have not reached you. Any claims as of July 1, must be sent to Albany, using their forms. Claims prior to July 1, must go to the New York City office, using their forms.



Luncheon is Served

Our thanks go out to Ginger Martin, who has organized each and every luncheon, and her occasional luncheon helpers, KRTF members have dined at all of the finest eating establishments in the Hudson Valley. Starting in 1986, the following 5 luncheons were standard fare:

- Not-Back-to-School, *September*
- Holiday, *December*
- Valentine's Day, *February*
- Spring, *April*
- Annual Meeting / Scholarship Awards, *June*

One of the first luncheons was at The Hoffman House. Some "seniors" didn't like having to climb the stairs. We soon outgrew the restaurant.

We had several luncheons at The Holiday Inn in the Gazebo where we were "moonied" by a young man who was there for a ski weekend.

Lunches have gone from \$8.00 or \$10.00 to the current costs.

The 1987 Not- Back-to-School Luncheon was attended by 44 KRTF members- including 11 new retirees.

The 1988 September Luncheon took place at the Locust Tree. The menu included: Mimosas, Bloody Mary's, Punch, seasonal fruit, bagels, bread, Monte Cristo, Quiche, or Creamed Chicken Crepes, a sweet, and coffee/tea. All for \$10.00.

Over the years we have raised a fork at: The Hoffman House, Holiday Inn, Locust Tree, Deisings, Wiltwyck (1989- 45 guests @ \$12.50 each) and many years thereafter, Williams' Lake, The Brickyard, The Anchorage (Happy St. Patrick's Day), The Hasbrouck House, Valeur Mansion in Rhinebeck (formerly Astor-Prince Oblensky Mansion- 100 participants), Hillside Manor, Reservoir Inn, Mt. Mohonk, The Red Vest, The Bowery Dugout, Gisiano' Restaurant, La Mirage, Roadhouse Grill, Mariner's Harbor, Stone Hedge, Twin Lakes, Red's (after each Saratoga Raceway Trip), Riccardi's, Skytop, Ship Lantern Inn, and Cappuciono's Restaurant.



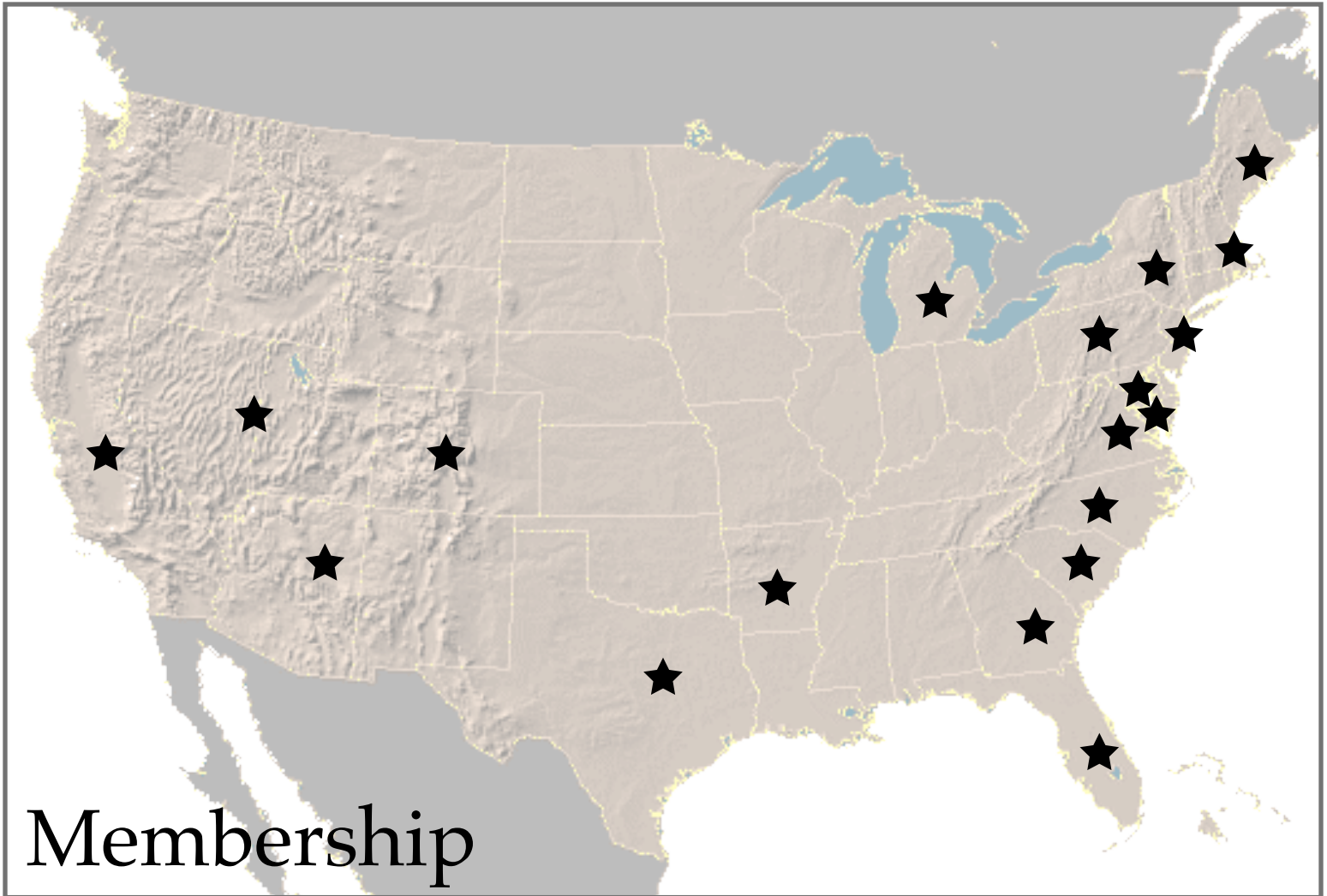
Oh, the places we've gone

Our 25 years in the making has taken us to the public

KRTF members have enjoyed two cruises on THE TEAL in October of 1994 and again in June of 2005. A sleep away trip to Washington, DC was curtailed in September of 1999 due to hurricane Floyd. The visit to Mt. Vernon and Baltimore Harbor also had to be aborted. The group did get to see a White House Tour, tour of Congress, Smithsonian Museums, Holocaust Museum, Various Memorials, Ford's Theatre, Peterson House, and the Arlington Cemetery.

Over the past 25 years, active members of the KRTF have found their way to: Cooperstown, Cruise the Hudson, Rockefeller's Estate- Kykuit, MacHaydn Theatre, Circle Line around Manhattan, SPAC to see the NYC Ballet, West Point to see the Boston Pops, Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, Major League Ball Games, Radio City Music Hall, Broadway, Saratoga Raceway, Boston, Washington, DC, Paper Mill Playhouse, and Good Speed Opera House. We are sure there are other trips that were planned during the early years as well. Each and every trip was a chance to renew old friendships and explore new places. Let's see where the next 25 years take us.





Membership

From zero to 454 in 25 years

Back in 1986 there were only a handful of retired teachers unions in New York State. Thanks to Anne and Don's dedication to the idea of Kingston City School collegiality, we have flourished. Back in 1986 the yearly membership dues was \$30. A year later it went up to \$40 and remained there until 1990 when KRTF saw a dues reduction to \$28. Today we enjoy a \$20 yearly membership with all of its benefits.

By 1994 there were 120 members with approximately 50 in attendance at each function. By 1995, our 151 members, 133 members were from NY, but we also had members in New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, Nebraska, Arizona, and a group of 12 in Florida.

The distribution of our members as of 2010 is as follows:

New York- 323
 Florida- 23
 North Carolina- 6
 South Carolina- 5

Arizona- 4

There are 1 or 2 retiree members in the following states:

Arkansas
 California
 Colorado
 Washington D.C.
 Georgia
 Maine
 Massachusetts
 Maryland
 Michigan
 New Jersey
 Nevada
 Pennsylvania

PAC

(Political Action)

Retirement benefits need to be protected and KRTF has been called on to rally the troops on a number of occasions.

- Phone bank volunteers have made calls to our members asking them for their support in Board Elections, Budget Votes, Constitutional Convention Issues, Medicare Part B Issues, and COLA Benefits.
- KRTF members have marched at the Capital in Albany to secure COLA Benefits.
- KRTF members have joined the ranks of the KTF to march at Board Meetings on behalf of Negotiation Teams during contract negotiations.
- In 1997, Al Banyo got a seat on the committee to investigate the possibility of the TRUST, and years later we earned a seat on the TRUST Board of Directors, now held by Lindsay Orr.
- In 1997, Medicare Part B benefits were discontinued by a Board of Education Vote as a cost cutting measure for the district. At that time an active teacher had a husband who was getting Medicare and KTF was reimbursing Part B to the active member. Since our benefits are intended to be the same benefits that active KTF members receive, we expected the same benefits for our retirees. Our co-founders Anne and Don got Ann Harrison(NYSUT Regional Staff Director) to drive them around throughout the district to collect KRFT members' signatures on a petition to reinstate the reimbursement of Medicare Part B.
- In 1998 the Board approved the reinstatement of Medicare Part B reimbursement. THANK YOU ANNE AND DON!
- In January of 1990 85 members donated \$220 to VOTE/COPE. Since 2007, our membership donates an average of \$9000 to the VOTE/COPE PAC each year.

VOTE/COPE and the KRTF

NYSUT's Peter McMahon reports the following VOTE/COPE information. We thank him for the information.

Prior to 2002, all KRTF donations to VOTE/COPE were folded into the active KTF contributions.

Year	Total Retiree Contributions	Retiree Award Level
2010	YTD \$2,667.50 (as of 7/10)	TBD
2009	\$9,613.00	\$16.71
2008	\$9045.00	\$16.95
2007	\$8,267.00	\$16.24
2006	\$7410.00	\$14.82
2005	\$6,039.00	\$12.88
2004	\$3,731.00	\$11.44
2003	\$5,284.00	\$12.01
2002	\$4,057.00	\$11.36

As you can see, there has been steady improvement as a result of greater participation and more retirees.

Over the past 25 years, VOTE/COPE contributions have achieved the following:

- Getting a FULL YEAR retirement credit for 10 month employees (SRP'S)
- The COLA
- Removal of the 3% payment after ten years
- Additional credit toward retirement for Tiers I and II
- Stopping Gov. Cuomo's mid-year cuts to state aid
- Overriding Gov. Pataki's \$1 million+ veto of education funds

Volunteerism

Over the years, the call has gone out to the KRTF and we have responded.

- Our political action work on phone banks for NYSUT has helped to pass much needed budget votes and put education minded members on to the Board of Education.
- For many years each spring we delivered daffodils for the American Cancer Society.
- For many years, the American Heart Association shipment of anemones, have been brought to the schools by our members.
- TUTORING was provided by KRTF members in Zena, Meagher, Graves, George Washington, and Anna Devine Schools.
- We have provided tutors to the Ulster Literacy Group over the years.
- Our members have played and worked for the B.U.T.C.H. golf fundraiser tournament.
- Volunteers have worked at the Snyder House with the education program run by Dave Keehn.

And of course, there has always been a dedicated group of volunteers who plan all of the events for our membership, and who devotedly meet each month to fold and mail the TORCH which we all have come to rely on for KTF and NHAI information.

KRTF members may be out of the classroom, but they are still providing education to future generations. Thanks to the generosity of our members and the hard work of Ana and Ron Rodgers, the KRTF has given 27 scholarships to our members children and grandchildren totaling \$13,500.

Rust winner in 2007
High School Grads:
Charles Greenberg
Brandon Littleton
Matthew Schumway
Alice Riley-Ryan
Emily Rust
Rebecca Ann Hutchinson

*
Danielle Tevlowitz
Keri Leigh Kelly
Matthew LaValle
Briley Foster
Kristin Marie Henry
Lauren Badalato
Patrick McCormick
Ken Brown

Continuing College Students:
Carly Gross
Ryan Corcoran
Rebecca Ann Hutchinson
Matthew Narolewski
Reid Martin
Rebecca Ann Hutchinson
Steven Marotta
James Horner
Rebecca Ann Hutchinson
Brittney O'Donoghue
Kimberly Brancato
Meghan Reynolds
Jane Raffaldi

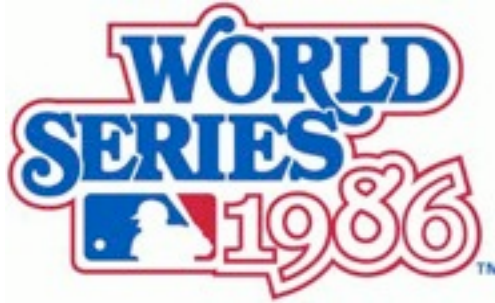
* Rebecca Ann Hutchinson is the granddaughter of Anna Tucker, for whom the Scholarship program is named. A special yearly scholarship was given to Rebecca for each of her undergrad years in honor



Back in the day

If you retired in 1986, you had a front PORCH seat for the following:

- The Soviet Union launches the Mir Space Station
- Wimbledon Winners: Navratilova and Becker
- US Senate allows televised debated on a trial basis
- US Supreme Court bars racial bias in trial jury selection
- BEST PICTURE: Out of Africa
- Hands Across America- A Happening
- Most Popular MOVIES: Aliens, An American Tail, The Color of Money, The Color Purple, Ferris Bueller's Day Off
- Argentina Defeats Germany in the FIFA World Cup
- PULITZER Prize for Literature: Lonesome Dove
- Muller and Bednorz discover super conductivity
- Prince Andrew marries Sarah Ferguson
- 1st Genetically Engineered Vaccine for Hepatitis B approved by the FDA
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame 1st Inductees: Chuck Berry, James Brown, Ray Charles, Fats Domino, Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, The Everly Brothers, and Elvis Presley
- SONGS: That's What Friends Are For, How Will I Know?, The Greatest Love of All, Kyrie, Sarah, These Dreams, Kiss
- Most Popular TV SHOWS: Cosby, Family Ties, Cheers, Murder She Wrote, Golden Girls, 60 Minutes, Night Court, Growing Pains, Who's the Boss?
- Average Household Income \$24,897
- Controversial Artist Georgia O'Keeffe dies
- The Iran Contra Affair Uncovered



- We Are the World- Grammy Award Winner
- Ferdinand Wins the Kentucky Derby
- US Responds to Libyan Terrorists
- Mets Beat the Boston Red Sox 4-3
- Khaki Casuals Rival Blue Jeans
- Dolly Parton opens Dollywood
- Oprah Winfrey Show goes National
- Voyager 2 Probe Passes Uranus
- Tony Winners- I'm Not Rappaport and The Mystery of Edwin Drood
- NBA Championship Boston over Houston 4-2
- 1986- The designated Year of International Peace
- Nuclear Disaster at Chernobyl



Here are some of the highlights of the contract that was in place when our first KRTF retirees left their classrooms.

- Adult Ed Teachers were paid \$14.00/hr.
- Home Teaching paid \$16.00/hr.
- There was a Special Education Differential of \$600/yr. (given to those with a Special Ed Certificate) and \$250/yr. (given to those who volunteered to teach a special education class with a general ed certificate).
- In-service courses were required at 15 hrs (1 credit) for every three years of teachings. Members waited to be paid for In-service until they had blocks of 6 credits (15 hour sessions).
- Payment for unused sick days was \$12.00 per day.
- Sabbaticals were offered to teachers who had 7 years of continuous teaching service .
- Rest and Recuperation Leave was offered after 15 years of teaching service (1 year without pay).
- Senior Salary Elective Program (SSEP) was offered to potential retirees at the age of 52 (by September 1) with a minimum of 10 years. With an agreement to retire at 55, the teacher would receive a salary increase as follows:

Year 1 salary x 1.15

Year 2 salary x 1.15

Year 3 salary x 1.15

- The School Calendar was 180 days.
- Elementary Class Sizes were as follows:

K- max 28	Librarians- 750 max
1-2- max 29	Vocal- 750 max
3-4- max 29	Art- 750 max
5-6- max 30	Physical Education- 240-250 max

• Salary Schedule A 1985-1985

Step 1 B \$20,400

Step 20 M+60 \$32,570

- Members received an average of 8.2% salary increase with the '85-'86 contract.
- Kingston was #2 behind Onteora on Step 20 B with a maximum salary of \$30,810 and #3 for starting Step 1 B, and Step 15 B.



KRTF Travel Club 2016- 2019

Here are the trips the Travel Club have taken since Sept 2016

Westchester Broadway Dinner Theater to see Saturday Night Fever

9/11 Memorial Museum with lunch in Little Italy

New York Botanical Gardens /Chihuly glass exhibit

Do your own thing in NYC at Christmas time

Frick Museum

Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley (Pawling / Amenia)

Broadway Play to Band's Visit and dinner at Cheesecake Factory

Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley II

Herkimer House and Trip on the Erie Canal

Westchester Theater – On Your Feet

Springfield, Mass. – Dr. Seuss Museum

KRTF VOTE-COPE TO 2019

HERE IS THE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR the last 9 years.

Contributions		
Date	Total	Rate
2011	NA	NA
2012	\$9,466	\$19.64
2013	\$9,859	\$21.02
2014	\$10,686	\$21.24
2015	\$11,273	\$22.10
2016	\$12,770	\$25.76
2017	\$13,830	\$27.44
2018	\$15,140	\$29.68
2019	\$16,246	\$32.43
2020	\$16,781	

Pension deduction is an easy way to contribute to VOTE COPE. Please help VOTE COPE help us to keep our benefits.

KRTF Scholarship Winners 2012-19

Anna Tucker \$500 Scholarship

Daniel Murray	Joseph Riley-Ryan
Nicholas Rockwell	Cyndi Snyder
Alexa Abrams	Joseph Carmody
Cailin Ryan	Margan Shumway
Alison Badalato	Alexandra Barton
Eben Bitonte	Jhanice Buckley
Gabrielle Levy	Alyson Berry
Sarah Chaneles	Connor Coughlin
Maura Gruber	Ryan McKee
Hailey Willetts	Aubrey Bianco
Ana Hubbard	Timothy Linnartz
Daniel Silvernail	Nicholas Waters
Rhea Leonard	Nathaniel Long
Mia Michaelides	Nora Sackett
Cameron Waters	Sarah Goldhammer
Jake Hommel	Nicole Kaff
Porter Keehn	Joshua McCormick
Marykate Taylor	Charles Coryell
Austin Murphy	Benjamin Post
Daniela Sackett	Brenden Smaller
Joseph Tonneau	Cian Cranfield
Adam Hendricks	Jason Kaff
Jillian Landsman	Robert J. Ryan III
Emma Simonsen	Kellen Walters

Don Sweeney \$1000 Scholarship

Timothy Post	Sarah Hack
Brent Hazman	Johnathan Clark
Ava Kaplan	Ryan Beesmer