

SYOSSET RECORD

RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER, (REC)

SYOSSET TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

NYSUT #19-090R

Affiliated with AFT—NEA—AFL-CIO

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Presidents' Message

We hope your New Year 2022 has begun well in spite of the continued new normal, the addition of variants of COVID, and threatening north-easters in this area. At this point we are all hopeful for spring's arrival and the freedom to move around more easily.

A big thank you is extended to Katherine Kovins and Barbara LaValle for our wonderful luncheon this past December at Harbor Mist. We were so pleased to see many of our friends and colleagues in person instead of on Facetime or Zoom. To quote Maya Angelou, "It was a time of such splendor—charming people, good food, [and] laughter. . . ." We are already looking forward to our luncheon in June.

Medicare Challenge

Around the time our last newsletter was mailed, we started receiving emails and phone calls from our members with questions about Medicare. It seemed that there were concerns as to whether they should be checking on the information they were seeing on television or replying to letters they were receiving about the wonderfulness of some Medicare plans being offered. These ads are for Medicare Advantage Plans being offered by private insurance companies. The answer we gave was the same to all: **"Please. Do. Nothing! Do not leave original Medicare because you will lose NYSHIP!"** You will just have to cover your ears or change the station during the Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP) that lasted from Oct 15 to Dec 7 every year even if it is Joe Namath or JJ Walker from "Good Times" speaking to you!

A More Promising NYS Executive Budget

Governor Kathy Hochul's Executive Budget for 2022-2023 presents some important commitments toward meeting the needs of our school community. The \$12.75 billion in aid provided through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act 2021, has placed NYS on a more solid financial standing than previous years. The governor's spending plan is very promising on several initiatives but with others, such as higher education, the increases proposed in this budget is not enough to fix more than a decade of neglect and underfunding. We just have to see how the final enacted budget develops as it winds along on its legislative road. The following are some of the positive aspects of the budget:

- Includes a total of \$31.28 billion in school aid – each district will receive a minimum year-to-year increase of 3% in Foundation Aid.
- Provides \$10 million in grant funding for school districts to be used for student mental health support.
- Continues to provide \$250 million in community school funding
- Funding for Teacher-Mentor Intern and Teachers of Tomorrow Programs
- Provides \$14.26 million for Teacher Centers and \$368,000 for teachers preparing for National Board Certification.
- Funding for libraries.
- Additional financial aid to 4201, 4410, Special Act and 853 schools
- Increase in funding for *(cont'd on page 2)*

Presidents' Message

(cont'd from page 1)

SUNY State Operated Campuses, SUNY Community College Base Aid, and SUNY hospitals.

- AND no changes to Medicare Reimbursement

NYSUT's Future Forward Taskforce

At the close of the school year 2020-2021, the NYSUT Board of Directors established a taskforce of educators from around the state to envision a path forward from the steady challenges of the past two years for our students, educators, families and schools. In his written testimony to the Legislature Andy Pallotta, president of NYSUT, stated that the taskforce identified five pillars "that must be in place to ensure our schools become the centers of their communities and help our students develop and grow". These pillars are as follows:

- Supporting public schools as center of our communities;
- Supporting students' social-emotional needs;
- Fighting for racial justice;
- De-emphasizing high-stakes testing; and
- Adopting best practices for Instruction and access to technology.

Please stay well.
We hope to see you
at our meeting.
on March 15

Fritz and Matty



REC-STA Executive Board

Presidents - Fritz Weinrich, Matty Wolfson

1st Vice Pres. - Carol Voelger

2nd Vice Pres. - Sandra R. Rogers

Rec. Secretary - Jody Bassuk

Corr. Secretary - Sue Devine, Joanne Gulotta

Treasurer - Debra Puccio

Readers' Club - Terry Masi

Care Committee— Mary Ann Marriott

Health Insurance -Barbara La Valle,

Legislation - Pat Galaskas

Membership - Pat Galaskas

Newsletter Editor - Marcia Gould

Programs & Special Events—

volunteer needed

School/Community - volunteer needed

Social Wellness/Hospitality -

Katherine Kovins, Barbara LaValle

Vote-Cope - volunteer needed

Membership Directory



We'll soon be finalizing copy for our updated Member Directory. We want to be sure to account for any changes in address, phone number or email. New retirees and members over 80 who don't need to send a check still need to submit a membership form as soon as possible to insure we include accurate contact information for them. Mail your response as soon as possible to:

Pat Galaskas,
1 Jefferson Ferry Drive, Apt. 2120,
South Setauket, NY 11720.

BABY BLUES

Credit: Newsday



Medicare Reimbursement Reminder

In order to receive reimbursement for Medicare Part B premiums you paid in 2021, you must submit the following:

- A copy of your 2021 FORM SSA-1099 from Social Security (not from ERS or TRS) – This is required for all retirees.
 - The completed and signed attestation form mailed to you from the district in December
- Those paying Medicare/IRMAA premiums directly to Medicare by check or credit card must submit the following in lieu of Form SSA-1099: copies of monthly bills from the Dept of Human Services, titled, NOTICE OF MEDICARE PREMIUM DUE and proof of payment for each month (e.g. copies of bank or credit card statements, and/or cancelled checks).

Send these to:

Syosset Central School District

ATT: Benefit Dept

P.O. Box 9029

Syosset, NY 11791:

The deadline for return of these forms is March 1, 2022.

Our Sympathy

We mourn the passing of our colleagues

Meryl Berlin, Spanish teacher at Syosset High School,

Lois Colleluori, library aid at Baylis,

Marty Engel, teacher of Physical Education,

Carol Glaser, who taught English at the high school,

Arleen Kaufman, Kindergarten teacher at Walt Whitman,

Michelle Liva, teacher of music at the elementary schools

John Pappas, health teacher at the high school, and

Florence Polatnick, who taught at the secondary schools.

We also extend our condolences to **Jody Bassuk** on the passing of her father, Leonard, and to **Sheila Doischen** on the loss of her husband, Bill. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.



School and Community—Board of Education Meeting Highlights

December 13, 2020

- An update on Middle School activities, was presented by the HBT Middle School Student Council Representative, including the return of sports, extracurricular clubs, charity, and food drives.
- Director of Athletics, Drew Cronin, introduced the Championship Fall Activity Coaches who each gave recognition to the recipients of athletic awards for the Fall 2021 season.
- Dr. Ruffo reported on the Citizens Advisory Committee's Nov. 17 meeting. Topics discussed included the internal auditor report in which 53 areas were evaluated in the

Risk Assessment.

- In Audience to the Public a resident asked about which protocols the district is still enforcing. Dr. Rogers explained that the district continues to follow the protocols recommended by the CDC guidelines and the Nassau County Health Department.
- The Board voted to approve the designation of Brian Grieco, Board Trustee, to serve on the Nassau BOCES Budget Advisory Committee.

January 10, 2022

- An informative presentation was made by Assistant Principal Christopher Ruffini on the Developmental School (*cont'd on p.4*)

December 2021 Luncheon

As you can see, we had a wonderful time at our holiday luncheon — good friends, congeniality and great food. Do plan to join us for our next luncheon in June!



Adele, Jody & Joann



Liz & Fritz



Lisa & Tania



Matty & Katherine



Jean & Paula



Joanna & Pat



Tom & Carol



Paul & Lori



School and Community *(cont'd from page 3)*

Counseling Program. It is a comprehensive plan for academic, career and personal development. Integral to the success of the program is a team approach that requires the cooperation and involvement of students, parents and staff. Mr. Ruffini also reviewed Naviance, a comprehensive K-12 college and career readiness tool and Scattergram, a tool used for college admissions.

- Dr. Rogers gave a pandemic update in a slide presentation including the new NYS rules for quarantine/isolation.
- On behalf of the Board of Education, both Mr. Rotolo and Ms Frankel, Board trustees, thanked Dr. Rogers and Dr. Curry as well as the ground crew, staff, and volunteers for their efforts during the distribution of the at-home Covid tests.