

# SYOSSET RECORD

RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER, (REC)

SYOSSET TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

NYSUT #19-090R

Affiliated with AFT—NEA—AFL-CIO

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## Presidents' Message

Once again, we hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones, and all those who are part of your world, safe and healthy. The last 18 months have kept us apart but in late September, your Planning Board was finally able to get together in-person to address the tasks needed to continue the successful functioning of our retirees' chapter of STA.

We would like to congratulate our newly retired colleagues and wish them the best. Barring unforeseen developments on the COVID front, we hope to hold a General Meeting in the NYSUT Nassau Regional Office in November and a luncheon in December and thus be able to greet you in person.

### Communication is Key

We know many of our members look forward to receiving our newsletters. (Remember they go to active members, so be sure to keep your membership current.) This year we are happy to announce another way to keep in touch with each other. We now have a REC website as part of the STA website. In this way you can access our newsletter, get updates and announcements and let us know if there are any changes in your address so that all your data is always current. You will find directions for accessing the website on page 2.

### Support & Participation Keep Us Going

Something this pandemic has highlighted is that the number of helping hands we have always counted on for meetings and getting the newsletter out have been slowly dwindling to very few. Several members have moved away from the Long Island area, have been doing the job for a long time, or sadly have passed away or are ill. We produced our last two newsletters with the help of just three people and one was not a member! Our membership may be large but we need more active participation from a greater number of our members. It really does not

require much of your time. Beside the helping hands, we also seek volunteers for committee chairs of Program and Special Events, Vote Cope, and School and Community. Your participation is greatly appreciated. If you can help, please contact Fritz at [rhauser9@aol.com](mailto:rhauser9@aol.com) or Matty at [mattywolfson@gmail.com](mailto:mattywolfson@gmail.com).

### Good News

One item of interest new to you may be the fact that the Social Security Administration has stated that its cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be 5.9% for 2022. This is the largest increase in Social Security benefits for seniors since 1982. .

### Reminder

Election Day, November 2, 2021, might not have gotten the same publicity that Election Day received in 2020 but please remember that your vote always counts. This year we are voting on local candidates: County Executives, Town Supervisors, City Councils and Mayors (Glen Cove and Long Beach), County Legislators, Town Clerks and Judges. Voting is our right, and our responsibility.



Please stay safe and take care.



Fritz and Matty

### 2021-2022 Tentative Meeting Dates

Planning Board	General Meetings
Tues., Oct. 19, 2021	Tues., Nov. 16, 2021
	Wed., Dec. 8, 2021 – Luncheon
Tues., Feb. 15, 2022	Tues., Mar. 15, 2022
Tues., Apr. 26, 2022	Tues., May 17, 2022
	June 2022 - Luncheon (exact date TBA)
Tues., June 21, 2022	

# How to Access Our Information Online

Using your browser (Google Chrome, FireFox, Safari, etc.)

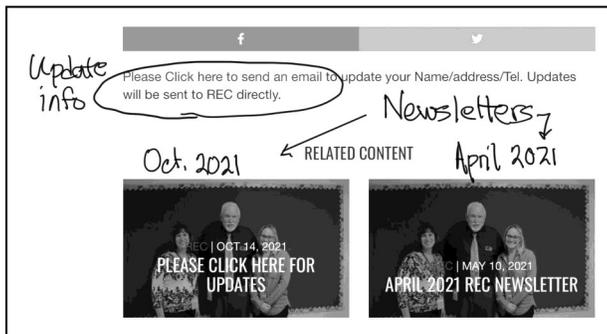
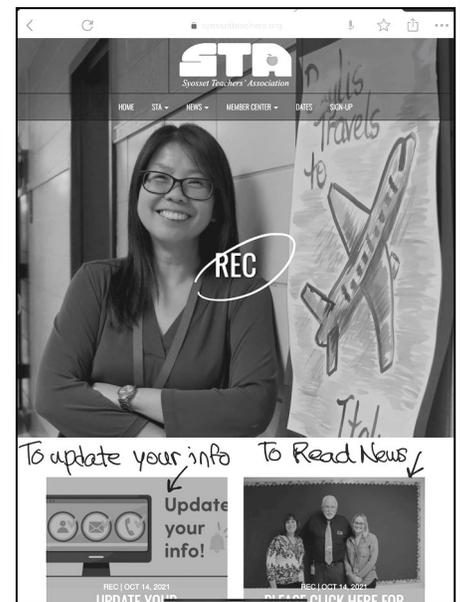
Go to [Syossetteachers.org](http://Syossetteachers.org)

**Step 1**—Click on the down arrow by the word **NEWS** (If you're on a cell phone, you may need to click on the 3 bars in the upper right corner to see "News")



**Step 2**—From the drop down menu, select: **Retired Educators Chapter (REC)**

**Step 3**—This will bring you to the REC page. Scroll down and you will see tiles for recent newsletters and for updating your information.



**Step 4**—Click on "Update your information" (or on one of the newsletter tiles). Then under the symbols for Facebook and Twitter, click on the link "Click here to send an email." An email form to Matty Wolfson pops up. Enter your updated info in the message area & click "send." Or to read newsletters click on "click here to open newsletter."

## It's Membership Renewal Time !

Maintaining your membership in the Retired Educators Chapter (REC) of the Syosset Teachers Association is critical—especially if you already use any of the many NYSUT Member Benefits and discounts or want to be able to avail yourself of them in the future. While membership is free for the first year for new retirees and for members over 80 years of age, **it's very important that everyone return a completed membership form this year so that our information will be accurate in the new Directory to be mailed to members in the spring.** In addition, please be sure to check off the small square next to "Use approved" after the "E-mail address" line on the membership form. This will give us permission to contact you by email. Your email address will only be used for REC/STA Chapter business. Please be sure to complete the membership renewal form included in this newsletter and return it with your check to Pat Galaskas using the enclosed envelope.

## Reminders

- **Chitter Chatter – That’s What Matters** – We are increasingly aware of those of our members who have moved out of state and for whom this newsletter is a primary way to keep in touch with former colleagues. Your friends love to hear about your trips, volunteer activities, family milestones (new grandchildren, weddings, etc.) or maybe tell us how you managed to weather the pandemic. You can send a note in the envelope when you renew your membership, send an email to [patga236@gmail.com](mailto:patga236@gmail.com) or call 631-650-2920 – whatever is easiest for you. Do, please keep in touch.
- **Care Committee** - The mission of this committee is to provide support to our members. If you need help with transportation, assistance with a family member, shopping . . . the members of the committee are available to help. If you can volunteer to help provide such support or find yourself in need of assistance, please contact Mary Ann Marriott at 516-921-1707.
- **Contact Our Co-Corresponding Secretaries** – If you know of an STA retiree who is ill or hospitalized or if you learn of the death of a member or a death in a member’s family, you can reach Sue Devine at 516-935-0496 or send an email to [sdevine@optimum.net](mailto:sdevine@optimum.net) or Joanne Gulotta at 516-921-7587 email [jgu1000@aol.com](mailto:jgu1000@aol.com). We want to make sure that we share the proper information with other members of REC/STA. Your help is greatly appreciated.
- **Stay connected on important issues.** Go to NYSUT Member Action Center <https://mac.nysut.org/> for updates. To call your representative, the phone numbers are: NY Senate 518-455-2800; NY Assembly 518-455-4100.
- **Never give personal information to someone who has contacted you unsolicited**, whether by phone, email, and social media or in person.
- **Book Club** – If interested in joining our book club, call Terry Masi at 516-921-1362.

## Welcome to Our Colleagues

A big “Congratulations” to our new REC/STA retirees and welcome to the world of retirement! We celebrate the beginning of the new chapter in your life with you even though we are unable to greet you in person at the present time. As first year retirees, your membership contribution is waived for 2021- 2022 but **please fill out the Membership Form so that we will know how to contact you in the future.**

Glenn Baumann - SHS    Bonnie Leitstein—HBT  
Mark Biblow—SHS      Vincenzina McKenna-SHS  
Ann Cassin—SHS        Neil Muccio—SHS  
Deborah Contino—SHS    Susan Occhiuto—SHS  
Marcelle DeMarco—RL    Linda Stollow—SW

## Scholarships

The Retired Educators Chapter of the Syosset Teachers Association Award scholarships of \$1,000 each were presented in June. The recipients were **Stephanie Emanuel** and **Esther Han**. These students were selected for the award on the basis of their interest in pursuing career in education, their academic achievements, as well as their many other community activities.

## Wanted

No, there have been no crimes committed. Still we want to find some of our colleagues whose mail is consistently returned to us by the post office. Do you know where any of the following may be found?

Marian Brannan                      Honey Kronenberg  
Rita Frushtck                         Lois Miller  
Randi Kadin                             Barbara Palmer

If you have a current address for any of these individuals, please be in touch with Matty Wolfson at [mattywolfson@gmail.com](mailto:mattywolfson@gmail.com). If it’s easier, feel free to call 516-384-2744.

## School and Community

### Board of Education Meeting Highlights

#### July 6, 2021 – Monthly and Organization Meeting

- Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Mr. Edward Escobar, presented a draft of the District-Wide School Safety Plan to the Board.
- Dr. Thomas Rogers, Superintendent of Schools gave a brief update on the status of the RFP for Universal Pre-K Grant and welcomed students to summer school.
- Trustees Tracy Frankel and Thomas Rotolo were elected as President and Vice President of the Board of Education respectively. At a special Board Meeting on July 14, 2021, Mr. Jason Chin was appointed as Coordinator of Elementary Education K-5, Ms. Jessica Fu was appointed as Middle School Assistant Principal at South Woods, and Mr. Paul Naraine was appointed as Assistant Principal for HBT.

#### August 16, 2021

- Dr. Thomas Rogers sent a report to the Board to formalize the Boards' discussion on the formation of the Diversity and Inclusivity Task Force at the June meeting. Members of the Task force would serve one-year terms and would be selected to represent community organizations and PTA units, with the balance of available seats

allocated by lottery. Five subcommittees will be formed, each be limited to 20 participants.

- Audience to the Public included the following concerns: several residents expressed their support for the reopening plan including masking; two residents expressed that masking is an individual choice; a question about the food service was asked; support for Rowing Club to obtain varsity status was expressed.

#### September 13, 2021

- A report on the application of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Part A, Funds and federal and state Coronavirus Relief Funds was presented .
- Dr. Thomas Rogers, Superintendent of Schools, presented an update on the schools' reopening and transportation issues. Students at the high school level will be in school every day and have a full athletic season. At the middle school level, students will have a 9-period day with popular electives, class changes, and locker access. At the elementary level, activities were added back safely and two additional social workers will be part of the elementary program.
- The District has received a state grant for Universal Pre-K and three schools will be added as partners.
- The Board of Education agreed to send a letter to Tom Suozzi and other legislators regarding the repeal of the federal cap placed on the tax deductions for the state and local taxes (SALT) in 2017.
- Audience to the public: a resident asked about possible transfer of the Stillwell Fields property. Ms. Frankel stated that the sale would depend on whether the county was still interested in making the transfer. Dr. Rogers said the District would notify the community if such a transfer would be considered.

### 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 and Special Events**— volunteer needed

**School/Community** - volunteer needed

**Social Wellness/Hospitality** - Katherine Kovins,  
Barbara LaValle

**Vote-Cope** - volunteer needed

### Our Sympathy

We mourn the passing of our colleagues **Richard Feller**, Industrial Arts teacher at Syosset High School, and **Virginia Marshall**, long-time librarian at Berry Hill. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

