

SYOSSET RECORD

RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER, (REC)

SYOSSET TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

NYSUT #19-090R

Affiliated with AFT—NEA—AFL-CIO

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Presidents' Message

As of this writing, summer is over and we hope that you all had an enjoyable, relaxing and healthy one. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new retirees to REC/STA as they begin a new chapter in their lives which will hopefully include time to attend our meetings and gatherings. It's great that we once again are able to meet in person, see friends we haven't seen for a while and share happenings in each other's lives.

New York State Budget and End of Legislative Session

Education was the winner in this year's NYS Budget. There was an increase in funding, 3.8% over last year's budget for public schools K-12 as well as increased funding to SUNY, CUNY, and SUNY Community Colleges. As a result of NYSUT's lobbying efforts and VOTE/COPE, other wins in this legislative session included the following:

- Lifting the retirees' earning cap through June 2023
- Changing employee vesting requirements from ten years of service to five years for Tiers 5 and 6.
- Protecting IRMAA and Medicare Part B
- Suspending APPR for another year
- Financial assistance for Community schools
- Extension of leave time for COVID vaccination
- Protection of retirees' health benefits

Medicare Challenge Again

The Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP) is once again upon us starting October 15 and continuing until December 7. During this time you can change your Medicare coverage if you choose to, and there certainly will be a lot of ads on a variety of media trying to convince you to do just that. (Most ads are for Medicare Advantage Plans which are being offered by private insurance companies.) Once again we urge you to: **"Please. Do. Nothing! Do not**

leave original Medicare because you will lose NY-SHIP!"

Elections Day

By the time you receive this newsletter, Election Day, November 8, 2022 will be around the corner. This political season has been unique to say the least. After the courts threw out the redistricted maps of New York State that had been passed by the legislature, a special master was appointed by the courts to redraw the maps. These maps which show the separate congressional, state senate and assembly districts have moved some of us into totally different election districts.

The act of voting is easy but being informed takes a little work. So please make sure you know who the candidates are and the issues that will affect our lives. You will be receiving a NYSUT Voter Guide in the mail which will provide information about the union's endorsed candidates. Please remember that you can vote by Absentee Ballot, early voting (Oct. 29-Nov. 6) and in person Nov. 8, 2022. If you need more information please contact the Board of Elections in your county.

In addition you can get involved in the Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort by contacting Zach Baum, NYSUT Long Island Regional Political Organizer at zach.baum@nysut.org.

Finally, cast your ballot and make your voice heard. And get your neighbors, friends and relatives to do the same. Voting is our right, our duty and our responsibility!



Hope to see you at our
General Meeting on
October 20, 2022

In solidarity,
Fritz and Matty



Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the partnership between NYSUT and the American Cancer Society. Our members have raised \$16.2 million to support innovative research, ensure greater access to quality care, and provide critical patient support. The American Cancer Society sponsored walk will be held on Sunday, October 16 at Jones Beach State Park.

If you're planning to walk, please be sure to register with our Syosset Retirees. If you wish to mail your contributions, make checks payable to the American Cancer Society and be sure to write REC/Syosset TA on the memo line so Syosset Retirees receive credit. Mail to NYSUT Regional Office, 1000 Woodbury Road, Suite 214, Woodbury, NY 11797. Attention: Debi Puccio.

2022-2023 Meeting Dates

Planning Board	General Meetings
Thurs., Sept.22, 2022	Thurs., Oct. 20, 2022
Thurs., Nov. 17, 2022	Wed., Dec. 7 Luncheon
Thurs., Feb. 16, 2023	Thurs., Mar. 16, 2023
Thurs., April 20, 2023	Thurs., May 18, 2023
Thurs., June 22, 2023	Wed., June 7 Luncheon

Welcome to Our Colleagues

Congratulations and welcome to our new REC/STA retirees. We look forward to meeting with you at our gatherings, usually labeled "meetings", and luncheons where we greet friends, old and new, exchange what's been happening in our lives and learn about what is happening in our world both politically and socially. While membership is free your first year, you must return the membership form to be included in our Directory.

- Jill Bentivegna— BH
- Linda Carella—V
- Heui-Wen Cheng— HBT
- Mary Jo Clines—HBT
- Kathleen Conklin—SG
- Marcy Eager—SHS
- Gabrielle Gervasi—SHS
- Kathleen Goldin—SHS
- Linda Grunert—SW
- Joan Imundo—SG
- Jon La Tourette—SHS
- Joanne Leonardi—SHS
- Andrew Manzo—SHS
- Paul McNamara—HBT
- Jason Muller—SHS
- Nadine Novak—SW
- Phyllis Pendrick—V
- Susan Petrosillo—SG
- Michelle Potvin—V
- Anita Scheffer—SW

Is it important to be an REC/STA member in good standing?

This past spring we received several phone calls from retirees speaking with us about a letter they received informing them that their car/dental/home insurance through NYSUT Member Benefits had expired and would not be renewed because they were "inactive retirees". These retirees, for a variety of reasons, let their membership to our chapter lapse for several years and as inactive retirees, who were not members of a retiree chapter, they were no longer eligible for these NYSUT Member Benefits. We informed them that by rejoining REC/STA, they once again would have access to these discounts.

It has been a REC/STA policy to remove the names of members who have forgotten or chosen to

not remain paid members from our membership list after three years. These names are sent to NYSUT which then notes the retirees as NYSUT members with no affiliation to a retiree chapter . . . so it is definitely to your advantage to renew your membership with REC/STA. Our membership form is enclosed in this issue.

Please note: membership is free for the first year and for members who are 80 or older, but everyone **must return** a membership form so that our information will be accurate. In addition please be sure to check off the small square next to "use approved" so that we have your permission to contact you by email.

School and Community

The recipients of this year's two \$500 scholarships from the Retired Educators Chapter of the Syosset Teachers Association Award (that's us) were Samantha Proskurniak and Danielle Saunter. 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.

We wish them both good luck in their future endeavors.

Board of Education Meeting Highlights

July 6, 2022 – Organizational Meeting

- Trustees Thomas Rotolo and Lisa Coscia were elected Board of Education president and vice-president respectively for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Other appointments were voted upon by the Trustees.

August 15, 2022 – Monthly Meeting

- The cast of The Summer Stock Musical "Hats! A Musical That Celebrates What's Underneath" performed two songs for the Board of Education and audience.
- Superintendent Dr. Thomas Rogers gave the facilities updates: roof replacements, removal of fuel tanks, replacement of boilers, construction of a walkway and repavement of a parking lot.
- Dr. Rogers presented the CDC recommendations regarding COVID protocols. The State Education Department advised that the guidance is being written to align with the CDC recommendations.

Hold the Date—Winter Luncheon December 7

Our luncheons feature charming people, good food and an opportunity for us to catch up with "old" friends and become better acquainted with those who may not have taught at our school or department. So let's get together at Jolly Fisherman on Dec. 7, 2022 at noon!

More details to follow.



Our Sympathy

We mourn the passing of our colleagues **Arlene Cooke**, music teacher at Split Rock and Willits, **Dorothy Foley**, teacher at Robbins Lane, **Helen Lifton**, and **Marjorie Hanawalt**, school nurse. We also send condolences to **Mimi Cooperman** on the loss of her husband, Bernard.



NYSUT Retiree Long Island Regional Legislative Conference

Join NYSUT retiree members on **Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at Radisson Hotel, 110 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, Hauppauge**, for an informative, enlightening day as we meet and talk with NYSUT-endorsed candidates on Long Island. It's a great opportunity to hear about their positions on issues important to you, and how as retirees you can make your voice heard through your vote. The cost is \$36 and includes a continental breakfast and a three course lunch. REC/STA will subsidize the cost of the conference for the retirees who attend. And there will be raffles.

All retiree members will be receiving more information directly. Conference registration will be done online. You may get started registering at <https://cvent.me/X1mqQr> Questions: Claire Zatorski, Retire Services Consultant (516) 496-2035.

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

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 - Jody Bassuk



GENERAL MEETING
October 20, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Welcome Breakfast
Come Help Us Celebrate Our New Retirees

NYSUT OFFICE -
1000 WOODBURY ROAD, SUITE 214
WOODBURY, NY 11797



FYI—The New York State Teacher Retirement System (NYSTRS)

The members of the NYSTRS Board are the caretakers of our pension system. They direct the defined benefit plan, set policy and oversee the system's operation, from which we public school teachers and administrators, outside of NYC, receive our retirement and ancillary benefits. Payments to eligible members and beneficiaries are guaranteed by law and cannot be diminished or impaired under the current NYS constitution. Our NYSTRS is funded at 113% - one of the best in the country. It has \$132.3 billion in assets with a return of 29%. The system paid \$8 billion to our retiree members last year.

The current Board of ten members is composed of three teacher members who are elected from the membership, **one NYSTRS retiree who, if there is more than one candidate, is elected by a mail vote of all the retiree members**, two school administrators appointed by the Commissioner of Education, two present or former school board members, and one present or former bank executive elected by the Board of Regents, plus the State Comptroller or a designee.

This year there is more than one candidate to represent the retirees and therefore an election must be held. The candidates are David Keefe, our representative since 2004 and president of the TRS Board since 2016, and Sally Courtright, endorsed by Divest NY. You will be receiving a ballot from the NYSTRS between Oct. 1-15, 2022. **Please do not throw it away.** Fill in the ballot with your choice and mail it. It must be post-marked no later than Oct.31, 2022.

Support VOTE-COPE

Voice of Teachers for Education (VOTE) & Committee on Political Education (COPE)

VOTE-COPE is NYSUT's political fund-raising arm. It is the non-partisan, voluntary political action fund that coordinates the voluntary contributions of members and supports NYSUT-endorsed candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public education and pro-labor. **No NYSUT dues dollars are used to support candidates or campaign committees.** NYSUT sends rebates to local unions based on a percentage (up to 40%) of the contributions VOTE-COPE receives from that local union's members. These rebates can be used in local activities such as school board races and for passage of school budgets.

In the past year, this is what we have accomplished thanks to the lobbying of members and NYSUT members' voluntary donations to VOTE-COPE :

New York State Level

Increased funding in school aid and full foundation aid funding

Increased funding for public higher education at CUNY and SUNY as well as the hiring of full -time faculty

Elimination of the burdensome edTPA—Mandatory overtime pay for home health aides

APPR suspended for another year - Fixes to tier 6

Federal Level

Passage of the American Rescue Plan

Passage of the Inflation Reduction Act

Supporting VOTE-COPE is how we get it done.