

# Spotlight 21

## SERVING RETIREES FROM

Bay Shore	Brentwood	East Islip	West Islip
Bayport-Blue Point	Central Islip	Islip	Sayville
	Connetquot		



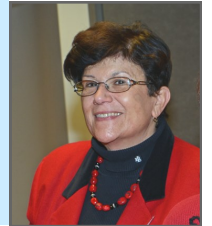
Vol. 15 No. 1

An Award Winning Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

January-February, 2015

## ***A Message From***

## ***President Louisa Eiermann***



## **On the Road to Serving as President of RC 21**

Eleanor Roosevelt once wrote, “You must do the thing you think you cannot do.” As I embark on the road of being the President of RC 21, her words resonate with me when I ask myself, how is it possible to do this job that has been done so well, by my predecessor, Joan Perrini? Eleanor also wrote, “As for accomplishments I just did what I had to do as things came along.” I suppose that will have to be my mantra as I begin and learn what it will take to properly represent you, the deserving members of RC 21.

Let me tell you a few things about myself. I received my music degree from Queens College and spent my entire my career from 1971 to 2007 at the Bayport-Blue Point school district. Michael, my husband, and I, met there at the first meeting for new teachers. My first position was at the middle school level and then to the high school level. I taught the choruses at those levels, as well as classroom music when I was at the middle school. My MA is from Hofstra and my administrative certificate from CW Post which led to my being the chairperson of Music, K-12, for the later part of my career. Active in county-wide music organizations for a good portion of my in-service time, I am currently an adjudicator for NYSSMA and a founding member of the LIAA Scholar-Artist Program. Most importantly, I was active in the union from almost my first months at B-BP, beginning as a member of some committees, becoming a negotiator and ending as the chief negotiator of the BBPTA. I was fortunate to work with an incredibly dedicated staff at B-BP. When I retired and received the invitation to the RC 21 new member brunch, B-BP was not an active chapter of RC 21. My husband, Michael, and I, along with three other new retirees, began the process for bringing B-BP into active status with RC 21. The rest is history, as Michael and I became members of the executive board and learned that retirees are certainly a force to be reckoned with.

Those of you who attended the holiday breakfast learned from Joan, we must be ever vigilant as we face

those who threaten pensions, both public and private, social security, Medicare, health care and public education for all, as well as the contractual rights of educators now in service and even those who will be in future service. Many of you were active in your own unions and know how hard we worked for the contracts that gave us what we so rightly deserved. Perhaps because we remember the times before we had those rights, we hold them dear and want all to enjoy them as we did and want to help fight against those who want to erode those contracts. Please never think that what affects in-service members will not affect us. A sense of complacency can be our downfall.

I have received pledges of support from Joan, the current executive board and many colleagues across our RC. It is that support which encouraged me to run at all. I hope that the trust they have placed in me will be well deserved as we begin this journey together. One more quote from Eleanor Roosevelt, “Do one thing every day that scares you.” Every day is today. However, doing nothing at all is scarier as there are forces out there ready to strike against us. I received an e-mail this morning from the DNC with quotes (Forgive me: I do like to quote people.) made by some of the “Freshman Class” in Congress. From Thom Tillis, the new Republican US Senator from North Carolina, “What I see from folks who are opposing our agenda is whining coming from losers.” I hope that made you not only scared, but also mad!

Finally, we all need to be ever grateful to Joan Perrini for her exemplary leadership and dedication to RC 21. She has set a standard for every RC president and me, in particular that will be a guide for our future. Her passion for what she believes in was evident at every meeting and I know she will be ever-present in her new role as Suffolk’s NYSUT Retiree Consultant. Thank you, Joan, for Everything!

## ***New for 2015 Letters to the Editor Spot***

We want to hear from you. With so many issues facing our new Congress, your opinion on what you feel should be the priority for our representatives is important. You can contact the editor at:

Spot21editor@optonline.net

or write to:

Diana Baranec

119 Sherry Street

East Islip, NY 11730

If you have any suggestions as to how we can make Spotlight 21 more useful to you, let us know by sending your constructive criticisms to the above email or address. We look forward to hearing from you.

Some of the topics suggested by

**DEMOCRATS WIN 2014**

\* A PROJECT BY DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

Growing our economy

Standing up for our veterans

Fighting for equal pay

Protecting Medicare & Social Security

Passing immigration reform

Ending Citizens United

*"The best thing you can do is the right thing; the next best thing you can do is the wrong thing; the worst thing you can do is nothing." -Theodore Roosevelt*



### **NYSUT NOTES**

**Joan Perrini, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant**

**Suffolk County RC 20 - 23**

**631-273-8822 X 312; e-mail: [jperrini@nysutmail.org](mailto:jperrini@nysutmail.org)**

## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

Some of you may have heard that I was recently appointed as NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant in Suffolk County. This will be a new direction for me after serving for 9 years as President of Retiree Council 21. In this new role, I will be visiting all the Councils in Suffolk County to keep them informed of what is happening in our state that affects education in general and retirees in particular.

Today NYSUT has more than 600,000 members and retirees represent 200,000 of that total so you can see that we have a strong voice. We need to remember that our continued support can make a huge difference when we act in support of, or in disagreement with, a certain issue. All of the benefits we earned during our years of service are constantly being attacked by those who want to change them, in particular to privatize them. We need to be vigilant and we need to act when necessary.

From time to time, I plan to keep you informed on just what is going on in the state so you can be ready to do what will be asked of you. I look forward to meeting all of you this coming year at council meetings and I'll be available in the NYSUT Suffolk Office for any retiree questions. I hope you'll call me if you need help. My number is:

631-273-8822 Extension 312.

*"In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."*

Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Benefits Committee Pending Trip for 2015

October 15, 2015	Essex Steam Train & Boat Ride
June 1, 2015	Snug Harbor on Staten island
Looking into	Cloisters St. John the Divine 9/11 Museum



### *Make your dental & vision care a priority!*

Well, another year has passed us by and the New Year is upon us! As you take stock of the various resolutions you've made for this year, now is the time to make your dental & vision care a top priority.

#### Dental Care



The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Dental Plan features the MetLife PDP Plus Network.

**The Plan offers easy to understand dental coverage that allows you to:**

- Protect you and your family by providing competitively-priced dental coverage for most preventive and routine services that help promote long-term oral health.
- Choose the dentist of your choice at the time of treatment. You do not have to select a primary dentist and there is no ID card to show or referrals needed for specialty care.
- Save on out-of-pocket expenses by receiving services from thousands of participating dentist locations nationwide that agree to charge fees typically 15% to 45% lower than the average charges in your area.

With the MetLife Dental Plan featuring the PDP Plus Network, you'll receive a wide range of benefits that provide choice, savings and convenience to help make your dental health a priority.

#### Vision Care

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Vision Plan provided by Davis Vision ensures that you are able to obtain proper eye care.



**The plan offers a variety of benefits, including:**

- One complete eye exam (including glaucoma testing, and when professionally indicated, dilation).
- One pair of eyeglasses (lenses & frames) or contact lenses per benefit period – paid in full according to plan specifications from participating providers.

Once you've enrolled in the plan and you're confirmed, simply call an in-network provider, identify yourself with your name or NYSUT ID number (available on your NYSUT membership card), make an appointment, and use all of the plan benefits at that visit (exam & glasses cannot be split into two appointments).

The provider's office will contact Davis Vision and verify your eligibility for benefits. There are no claim forms or ID cards needed to use the plan.

### February is Member Appreciation Month!

Don't forget that NYSUT Member Benefits is teaming up with its endorsed program providers for a special month-long event in **February 2015**.

Member Appreciation Month will feature a special prize drawing each day of the month in February, including a Bose Wave Radio, iPad Mini, several



Amazon Kindles, and a variety of gift cards. The winners of the daily prize drawings will be announced exclusively on the Member Benefits website throughout the month of February.

You **MUST** be a member of the voluntary Member Benefits MAP Alert email service to be eligible for these drawings!

For more details about these endorsed programs or Member Appreciation Month, visit the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or call 800-626-8101.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Jan./Feb. '15

#### Spotlight 21

A Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

**Louisa Eiermann, President**  
**Marilyn Aitken, 1st VP**  
**Simonne Harkavy, 2nd VP**  
**Richard Walters, Treasurer Benefits Fund**  
**Fred Schaefer, Treasurer General Fund**  
**Julia Arena, Secretary**  
**Sharon Eckhaus, Assistant Secretary**

**Diana Baranec Editor**  
**spot21editor@optonline.net**

**Contact/ us at:**  
**(631) 587 - 1151**

And visit us at:

**ny.aft.org/rc21**

**Mike Eiermann - Webmaster**

Forward changes in addresses/names to NYSUT and/or your local



## RC 21 Meeting Dates 2015

**General Membership**  
West Islip Public Library  
Higbie Lane/Montauk Hwy.  
10:15 - 12 noon

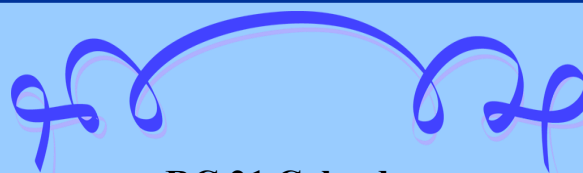
No Meeting January	April 28, 2015
No meeting February	May 19, 2015
March 24, 2015	June 23, 2015 Awards Luncheon

### Executive Board Meetings

NYSUT Office  
150 Motor Pkwy, Hauppauge (Citibank Building)  
10:15 - 12 noon

No Meeting in January	April 7, 2015
No Meeting -February	May 5, 2015
March 10, 2015***	June 2, 2015

\*\*\*Please Note: Date has been changed.



## RC 21 Calendar 2015

### Upcoming Events

May 13- 19, 2015  
Smoky Mountains & Bluegrass  
Contact :  
Joan Perrini  
WITA/RC21  
141 John Street - Suite 400  
Babylon, NY 11702  
(Not endorsed by NYSUT)

October 15, 2015  
Essex Steam Train & Boat Ride  
(People from planned 2014 trip get first choice)

June 1, 2015  
Snug Harbor on Staten island

### Committee is Researching

Cloisters  
St. John the Divine  
9/11 Museum

Get details & registration forms online at  
our website:

<http://rc21.ny.aft.org>

and at General Membership Meetings  
Reservations accepted on a first-come basis.