

Spotlight 21

SERVING RETIREES FROM

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



Vol. 13 No. 1

An Award Winning Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

September, 2013

June Awards Luncheon Held at Irish Coffee Pub

- Marie Kanzler awarded the NYSUT Community Service Award
- NYSUT Journalism Award Winners Honored
- Floyd Cameron NYSUT Retiree Services Manager, featured Speaker

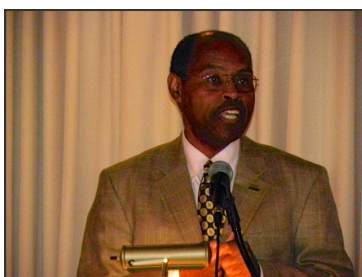


Family members: Jim, Nancy, Karen and husband Paul share in honoring Marie Kanzler.

From presentation by Linda Brookshire

Marie Kanzler began teaching fulltime when the youngest of her 6 children was entering kindergarten. During the course of her career she served on numerous committees, including: the School Improvement Team, and Excellence in Learning. She organized and taught an in-service course for para-professionals and workshops on Mastery Learning. Marie played the piano for school plays and the Primary chorus. Marie was also building representative for East Islip union activities.

Meanwhile, on the home front, she was helping out with Little League and soccer mom duties as well as helping some of the 56 chil-



Our guest speaker for the luncheon was Floyd Cameron, NYSUT Retiree Services Manager. The first order of business on his agenda was to congratulate RC 21 for its outstanding participation in NYSUT activities. Ac-

knowledging the leadership of Joan Perini and Tim Wood, he said that the politicians in New York State could count on the input of retirees on their own issues as well as support

dren on her block earn merit badges for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Daughter Nancy related to me a time when their entire living room was engulfed with Girl Scout Cookies because Marie was Cookie Chairperson! Marie has always been involved in religious activities as well, first at St. Mary's in East Islip and

then at St. Peter the Apostle parish since its formation. She served as religious education coordinator and played piano for the children's masses for ten years. Marie was also youth director for the junior high group.

Let's fast forward to retirement years. Marie became president of the East Islip Retiree chapter, a position she held for 13 years, writing monthly newsletters, compiling a retiree directory, starting a Sharings booklet and reactivating a calling chain to keep retirees informed. She affiliated the East Islip Retiree chapter with Retiree Council 21.

Once a part of RC21, Marie was a founding member of the Benefits

Committee. This is the committee that sponsors the trips, the Welcome Brunch for new Retirees, theater parties and luncheons. At present, Marie is chairperson of the Benevolent Committee. This committee coordinates the Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach in October every year, orders and sells Fair Trade products at various meetings and RC21 events throughout the year, and supports and attends activities for ALS.

In addition to RC21 activities Marie has served as an evaluator for the Town of Islip student Achievement Award and has participated in a Women's Health Initiative Extension Study to help advance scientific knowledge about post-menopausal women. Marie also hosts bi-weekly prayer groups through St. Peter's parish as well as providing transportation for those in need and food for shut-ins.

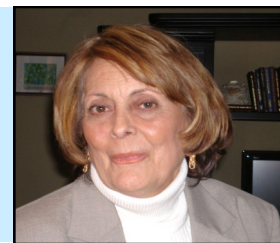
Marie Kanzler, wife of Paul for almost 57 years, mother of six, grandmother of 15, Godmother of 9 and breast cancer survivor, congratulations on receiving this year's Community Service Award.

for all union issues. Even when some supporters lose their initiative, "RC 21 leaders could always be counted on to be front and center with their voices."

Mr. Cameron reminded us that the politicians are after our resources. They can accomplish this by raising benefit payments based on pension income and by cutting benefits themselves. Our pensions are now safe and guaranteed by Article 5 Section 7 of the New York State Constitution which states that our pensions cannot be "diminished" by legislation. Only at a Constitutional Convention can this be changed. Therefore, he warned us to *(continued on page 2)*

A Message From President

Joan Perrini



WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN MISSING?

Were you there when our members visited the Great Wall of China, rode the new Magnum Train from Shanghai Airport into town – a 22 mile trip in 7 minutes at 250 MPH; or when our group visited the beautiful Amalfi Coast and the spectacular resorts of Sicily; or when we saw Jefferson’s home at Monticello, and the beautiful Christmas displays at Longwood Gardens? These trips were offered through the Retiree Council 21 Committees and while they were exciting and interesting, there is more to what RC 21 is all about.

I know you will probably say that meetings are dull and tiresome, and that you don’t have the time to attend. What you miss, however, is the opportunity to hear about the latest issues that affect your future. Our programs have included speakers on Medicare, Elder Law, effects of legislation on our pensions and health insurance, and learning what your elected representatives are doing to preserve and protect the benefits you fought so hard to get.

Our meetings are interesting and offer you the opportunity to meet with other retirees and stay connected and involved. There is power in numbers and we need to work together to make certain that our elected union leaders know we are paying attention, lest they forget about us. It pays us to remember that we elect these delegates to NYSUT, and we elect our state and national leaders, and we expect them to support our common purpose and work on our behalf. If we keep our Retiree Council strong in numbers, it will keep our state and national unions strong. Then our elected officials will have to pay more attention to our requests and needs.

It’s easy to complain and complaining may make you feel better for the moment. But voting for our informed interests will get us the results that we need. When our elected leaders see us meeting together in increasing numbers, they will have to acknowledge that those numbers will make a difference on Election Day.

A good example of the power we have was the recent protest in June when thousands of NYSUT members and parents assembled in Albany to protest the over-testing of children and demanding the return to time for creative education which our students and teachers deserve. We hope the representatives and legislators were paying attention. This reminded me of the time in 2000 when thousands of teachers protested in Albany to secure a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in our pensions. It may be that we will have to do the same to preserve the COLA in Social Security.

Our hope is that you will consider joining us so that you can enjoy the advantages of being an active member of RC21. A list of our meeting dates and events can be found in this newsletter on page four.

We will welcome new retirees at our October 22 brunch at West Lake Inn in Patchogue. Please join us. You will not regret it.

(from page 1 Awards Luncheon) be aware of our political leaders calling for a convention. The arguments the politicians will give for the advantages of opening the Constitution to “fix” our broken State government can lead us right into their trap of “divide and conquer.” This would lead to the weakening of our union’s ability to defend the progress we have made in years of fighting for the rights of teachers and all workers. He reminded us that NYSUT represents Nurses, healthcare workers and university teachers as well as public school teachers and lifeguards. We must all stand together to fight the daily attacks on unionism. When the pols are talking about pensions and cuts to Medicaid they are talking about us. Mr. Cameron reminded us that two-thirds of Medicaid money goes to the elderly and disabled in long-term care and nursing homes. Federal level cuts include changing the Cost of Living Allowance to a Chained CPI which lowers the allotment according to consumer price indices.

Vote Cope is the one way we can financially support legislators, in any party, who consistently vote with us on issues brought before the Legislature.

He spoke on Vouchers, the Downstate Hospital situation, Massive Online Learning Classrooms (MOLCS), and the plight of university professors who, within the last two years, have seen the number of tenure track teachers drop to 31%.

He finished by saying that we are on the minds of the officials of the State because we raise money through Vote Cope and mostly because we have 600,000 voters in New York State. We must use our power by contributing to Vote Cope and especially by voting in local and State elections for candidates who share our goals.

NYSUT Communication Journalism award winners were recognized by RC 21 with plaques and flowers.

IRTA Newsletter, Editor: Carolyn Caamano
ROBS Newsletter, Editor: Carmela Criscione
The 4th R, Editor: Marion Skirbe
CIRTation, Editor: Brian Roethgen
Spotlight 21, Editor: Diana Baranec

Vote on RC 21 Constitutional Revisions

General Membership Meeting - November 19th

*Constitutional Revisions approved by the Executive Board on June, 2013**

These changes will be presented at the September 17th General Meeting at West Islip Public Library.

Article V: Participation Fees

B. The participation fees shall be subject to approval by the *membership present at a General Membership meeting as designated by the Executive Board.*

Article VI: Officers

B. Duties of the President - The President shall add: ***9. Establish an annual budget.***

F. In case of failure to fulfill the responsibilities as outlined in ***B,C,D,E,*** (above), the Officers' position ***may be*** declared vacant by **majority** vote of the Executive board.

G. Duties of the Secretary shall: 1. perform ***those duties of the office and other such*** duties that may be required by the Executive Board.

H. Duties of the Treasurer - The Treasurer shall: 1. ***perform the duties of the office and other such duties*** that may be required by the Executive Board.

K. Terms of Office - Duly elected officers shall serve a ***three (3) year term,***

Article VII: Delegates to State Affiliate

C. Delegates shall be elected at the same time and place as officers of RC 21 except by separate ballot, and shall serve a ***three (3) year term*** to commence on the first of June following the election meeting.

*Changes are denoted by Bold Italic lettering. Changes were submitted by the Constitutional Committee: Marilyn Gutierrez, Chairperson, and member Peter Leis. The change in terms of office to 3 years was requested by NYSUT to make our elections coincide with their terms of office.

Bits and Pieces

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SEPTEMBER 17TH

A representative from the NYSUT will outline the NYSUT Legal Services Plan. Learn more about this NYSUT benefit and how you can receive legal help at competitive prices.

This program has a 30-day free look period for new enrollees. If you're not completely satisfied after reviewing your Legal Service Plan Certificate of Legal Services Coverage, simply return the certificate along with your Legal Plan ID card within 30 days. The annual fee will be refunded. There's absolutely no risk. If any of the Legal Plan's services are used within the 30 day period, the opportunity for a refund will be waived.

Welcome New Retirees Brunch

October 22, 2013

Full Buffet

Mimosas & Bloody Marys

Soda, Dessert, Coffee

Information, Prizes

Gifts, Raffles

Flyers at the Sept. RC21 Meeting



NYSUT Retirees in Florida

RC 43 Annual Conference

Sept 24 – Spring Hill Suites, Orlando

Keep informed on NY & Florida issues.

Guest speakers:

Richard Iannuzzi, NYSUT President

Kathleen Donohue, NYSUT VP in charge of retirees

Joan Perrini,

Director of ED 52 Retirees

Call Deb Peterson @ (914) 261 - 0474

Spotlight 21

A Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21
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Forward changes in addresses/names to NYSUT and/or your local

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RC 21 Meeting Tentative Dates 2013 – 2014

General Membership

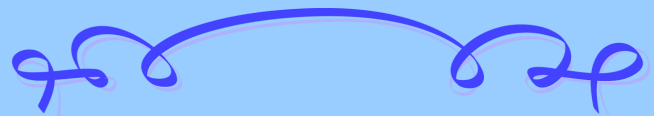
West Islip Public Library
Higbie Lane/Montauk Hwy.
10:15 - 12 noon

September 17, 2013	March 18, 2014
October 22, 2013 Brunch	April 22, 2014
November 19, 2013	May 20, 2014
December 17, 2013 Brunch WIPL	June 17, 2014 Awards Luncheon
January and February No Meetings	

Executive Board Meetings

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

August 20, 2013	February 4, 2014
September 3, 2013	March 4, 2014
October 1, 2013	April 1, 2014
November 5, 2013	May 6, 2014
December 3, 2013	June 3, 2014
January - No Meeting	



RC 21 Calendar 2013 - 2014

Executive Board Meeting
NYSUT Office 10:15 a.m.
September 3rd

General Membership Meeting
West Islip Library 10:15 a.m.

September 17th
Representative of NYSUT
Legal Services will speak

Upcoming Events

October 22, 2013
Welcome Brunch
West Lake Country Club

Overnight trip to NYC
December, 2013
Details to follow

Flyers will be available
At General Meetings

Get details & registration forms on line at our website:

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

Reservations accepted on a first-come basis.

