

Spotlight 21

SERVING RETIREES FROM

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



Vol. 15 No. 3

An Award Winning Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

May-June, 2015

Visit our webpage: <http://ny.aft.org/rc21> for the expanded color version of the Spotlight.

A Message From

President Louisa Eiermann



What I Learned in Buffalo

It was May 1st, International Workers' Day. In Italy, the workers held a funeral to signify the death of the Labor Movement. In Buffalo, I stood, at noon, in Niagara Square, along with more than a thousand union members from across the state, and listened to many declare that, in solidarity, unions would be strong in our fight to be recognized as a force to be reckoned with. From our President Karen Magee to Mario Cilento, NYS AFL-CIO President, to other union and community leaders, the message was the same: we are at WAR and we will not back down. "Wrong and gone!" the crowd chanted at one point, speaking of the governor. When President Magee asked, "Is Labor in the house?" there was a roar of, "Yes!"

While in Buffalo, there were three days of meetings, beginning with the local presidents meetings on the 29th and then the RA itself from May 1st to the 2nd. This was my first time attending these meetings and there was so much to learn and try to absorb. I and your new co-president, Michael Eiermann, your NYSUT delegate, Marilyn Dygus-Aitken, Joan Perrini, your former president who is currently the Suffolk NYSUT Retiree Consultant, and Simonne Harkavy who worked at checking delegate credentials for NYSUT, attended the many meetings and the Convention itself where Marilyn and I were able to be voting members on Constitutional amendments and resolutions.

So, in brief, I learned that.....

.....NYSUT is healthy financially with its reserves currently at \$30 million, up from \$27 million

....CEO income is skyrocketing, up 1000%(yes 3 zeros) while , for the first time in a generation, 90% of us saw our income go down

....from 1949-1979 two-thirds of growth income went to most Americans; from 1979 until now, none has gone there

....two-thirds of Americans cannot sustain their in-

come in retirement

....the United States is richer than it has ever been

....we must vote "no" on whether or not to call a Constitutional Convention in 2017

....the AFL-CIO is posing the question to candidates, "What are you going to do to increase our wages?"

....we need to ask candidates, "What are you going to do to *expand* Social Security?" because all need to know that it is a myth that Social Security is insolvent

....there is an upcoming, potentially devastating, anti-labor court case before the US Supreme Court – Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association – which could determine that collecting an agency fee is unconstitutional

....Charles Giglio, from Gloversville, is the 2015 Teacher of the Year, he teaches Latin

....Campbell Brown (Partnership for Educational Justice) says that teacher tenure is dismantling education

....teachers are under a gag order not to discuss anywhere the tests being given

....NYSUT is fighting to make certain education works for every student no matter where they live

....there are 600,000 NYSUT members and that retirees make up one-third of that number

....Vote-Cope has collected \$9,021,490.44 this year, \$1.8 million coming from retirees and this is only the second time Vote-Cope has cracked \$3 million

....Hempstead could face dissolution under the newly passed laws

....some legislators asked Commissioner Tilles to explain what they had just passed (the laws that went with the budget)

....Thomas DiNapoli, the Comptroller of NYS, is still looking out for us

....the RA passed resolutions, to name a few, encouraging higher education faculty not to adopt Pearson textbooks, to democratize ballot access in NY elections, to overturn the Citizens United decision, to support legislation for pension credit for Veterans (*continued on page 2*)

(What I Learned from page 1) There was more, of course, and over the course of our future meetings we can better inform you of what has happened and what might happen. There is a Cadillac Tax that will go into effect in 2018 that we need to be aware of but it is complicated and needs to be explained at a meeting as does the difference between original medicare and medicare advantage plans. I simply think of Advantage plans as DISadvantage plans. Be careful before you sign on to anything.

Look in this newsletter for positions that need to be filled in our RC: a Vice President, 2 NYSUT delegates and two NYSUT alternate delegates. Diana has included job descriptions for these positions. Remember, the UNION is you.

I hope to see many of you at our June luncheon where we will honor Eleanor Eckman of Bayshore as the winner of our Community Service award. The form for this Luncheon is also in this newsletter.

Finally, "The foundation of every state is the education of its youth," said Diogenes, born either in 404 or 412 BC. We *still* believe it.

A special election will be held at the November 10, 2015 General Meeting for Vice President , two Delegates to State Affiliate and two Alternates

The duties of these positions are:

First Vice President and Second Vice President:

1. assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in her/his absence (Second VP assumes responsibility of First Vice President).
2. Perform such other duties as the President may designate.
3. Chair such standing committee(s) as the President may designate.

Delegates to State Affiliate

1. Represent RC21 at meetings and conventions held by the state organization as appropriate.
2. Make timely reports to the Executive Board and the General Membership of RC 21 regarding activities and policies of the respective organizations.
3. Attend meetings of the Executive Board.
4. Maintain communications with the alternates to ensure continuity of representation in the event that the delegate(s) cannot perform the responsibilities of office.

Duly elected officers and delegates shall serve a three year term.

Candidates shall submit a letter of intent to the

RC 21 Elections Committee
Mary Schlaikjer
78 Bay Avenue
Huntington, NY 11743



Member Briefing

**Become Part of the
Solution
Make your voice
heard**

Action items:

- ◆ Act at the MAC: Urge legislators to sign onto NYSUT's 9-point plan to Reclaim the Joy of Teaching and Learning. Go to: mac.nysut.org/faxlegislators
- ◆ Act at the MAC: Send letters supporting NYSUT's health care agenda. Go to: mac.nysut.org
- ◆ Go to nysut.org/ra for wall-to-wall coverage of the Representative Assembly in Buffalo.
- ◆ Fuel the fight with a donation to the Call Out Cuomo fund. Go to: mac.nysut.org/donate
- ◆ Submit comments to the State Education Department on the pending APPR regulations. Go to: eval2015@nysed.gov

NYSUT Communication Awards 2014 -15

The talented and dedicated members who produce the newsletters and websites of RC 21 locals have once again earned an outstanding number of awards for their work. All of the winners will be honored at our June 23rd luncheon at Meadowedge Restaurant in West Sayville. Join us and add your support by sending in the reservation form appearing on this page.

Bay Shore Retired Teachers' Association "The 4th R"

General Excellence - First Place
Best Article about a Social Justice Issue - Award of Distinction
Best Creative Writing - Award of Distinction

Retirees of Brentwood Schools "ROBS Newsletter"

General Excellence - Award of Distinction
Best Article about Local or Chapter Issues - Award of Distinction
Best Creative Writing - First Place
Best Overall Graphic Design - First Place
Best Photo or Illustration - Award of Distinction
Most User Friendly Website - First Place

Central Islip Retired Teachers "CIRT Ation"

Best Article about Local or Chapter Issues - Award of Distinction
Best Creative Writing - Award of Distinction
Best Photo or Illustration = Award of Distinction

Islip Retired Teachers Association "Islip Connections"

General Excellence - Award of Distinction
Best Creative Writing - Award of Distinction
Best Overall Graphic Design - Award of Distinction
Best Photo or Illustration = Award of Distinction
Best Column/Blog - First Place

NYSUT Retiree Council 21 Annual June Awards Luncheon *Honoring Community Service Winner Eleanor Eckman*

Also: Presentation of Journalism & Website Awards

Guest Speaker: Paul Pecorale, NYSUT VP

Tuesday, June 23, 2015
Meadowedge Restaurant
West Sayville Country Club

\$35.00 pp
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Reservation Form & Check (payable to RC 21) are to be forwarded to:
The Eiermanns
39 Linda Street
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776
(631) 473 - 4055

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____

District retired from _____

Guest Name: _____

Entrée Choice: London Broil _____ Chicken _____
Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Executive Board Meetings 2015 - 2016

August 4th (If necessary)	August 4th (If necessary)
September 1st	September 1st
October 6th	October 6th
November TBA	November TBA
December 1st	December 1st

General Membership Meetings 2015 - 2016 West Islip Public Library Higbie Lane, West Islip

September 29th	January & February no meetings
October 27th Our Welcome Brunch	March 8th
November 10th	April 12th
December 8th (Holiday Brunch)	May 10th
	June 21st (Awards Luncheon)

Spotlight 21

A Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

Louisa Eiermann, President
Mike Eiermann, Co-President
Marilyn Aitken, 1st VP
Simonne Harkavy, 2nd VP
Richard Walters, Treasurer Benefits Fund
Fred Schaefer, Treasurer General Fund
Julia Arena, Secretary
Linda Brookshire, co-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 President

**NYSUT Retiree Council 21
THEATER PARTY
Come See "BILLY ELLIOT"**

At The Patchogue Theater
Thursday, August 6, 2015

Lunch before the show at
PERABELL (next to the theater)

11:30 lunch and 2:00 show
Fee paying members \$90
Non-members \$95

Please send form and check no later than July
8, 2015

Theater Party sign up form Clip and return with check
made out to: NYSUT Retiree Council 21

Send Check to: Marie Kanzler
204 Piney Street
Islip Terrace, NY 11752
(631) 581 - 5981

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____

District retired from _____

Guest Name: _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ for _____ people

**Annual June Awards Luncheon
June 23rd 12 noon to 3 pm
Meadowedge Restaurant
West Sayville Country Club**

**RC 21 Presents
Essex Steam Train & Riverboat Trip**

Thursday, October 15, 2015

Includes: Essex Connecticut "Perfect Small American
Town"

Griswald Inn Lunch on the banks of Connecticut River
Essex Steam Train & Boat Ride 2 1/2 hour narrated ex-
cursion

Transportation includes bus and Port Jefferson Ferry

(non-refundable) Participation fee made out to RC 21
\$5 RC 21 Members
\$10 Non-members

Trip Fee: \$110 (Check payable to Fantastic Tours)

Deadline: August 30th Completed form and checks
should be forwarded to:

Jean Economos
25 Durham Lane
Bayport, NY 11705
(631) 472 - 3811

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Chapter _____

Guest Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

_____ I will board bus at NYSUT Office @ 7:30 am

_____ I will meet bus at Port Jefferson Ferry @8 am

Menu Selection: Pork _____ Beef _____ Cod _____ Vegetarian _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ for _____ people