

## Important Dates

### **WIRTA**

Next Meeting  
WIRTA

West Islip Public  
Library  
October 2017  
10:00am

### **RC21**

Welcome Brunch,  
October 24  
11:30am  
Villa Lombardi's  
Holbrook, NY

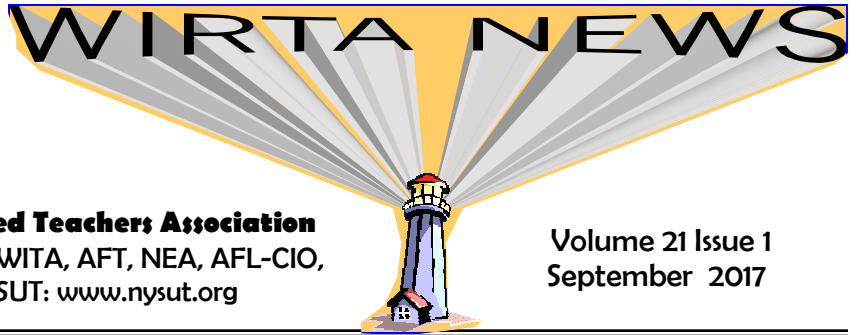
Check the RC21  
website at  
<http://rc21.ny.aft.org/>

### **NYSUT**

Annual Retiree  
Conference  
November 2, 2017  
Watermill  
Smithtown

### **In This Issue**

*Notices and Reminders*



**West Islip Retired Teachers Association**  
Affiliated with WITA, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO,  
and NYSUT: [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org)

Volume 21 Issue 1  
September 2017

## **HELP NEEDED!**

### **WIRTA IS IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF NEWSLETTER STAFF**

We have approximately 350 West Islip retirees on our membership list. Thank you to the 245 of you who have already returned your membership dues and forms so quickly. We appreciate your cooperation !

**Second reminders will go in the mail next week ONLY TO THOSE 100 or so who have not responded as of the date of mailing.**

**Our members have also contributed generously to the scholarship fund and to VOTE/COPE. Yet we cannot seem to find a few people willing to help with the newsletter.** We do have a group of people who will help with the mailing process and three very dedicated women who are responsible for our e-mail list. We need people to write articles and someone to edit those in the traditional sense of that word and someone to do the computer layout.

Except for the mailing to about 85 of our members, all the rest can be done at home and through e-mail. In addition, there is a stipend that is budgeted for the newsletter.

The WIRTA NEWS is a major portion of what we do to keep our members informed. It is the glue that holds this organization together. Without the WIRTA News the organization will not be as strong as it is today. If you can help, contact Janet Loehr at 631-650-7320 or e-mail to [WIRTA83@hotmail.com](mailto:WIRTA83@hotmail.com) ASAP!

### **Disaster Relief Fund**

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose and Maria have devastated swaths of Texas, Florida, the US Virgin Island and Puerto Rico. Many NYSUT and fellow WIRTA members reside in those areas either full time or as snow-birds. Please make a donation to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund to help our fellow colleagues. Monies will be utilized to help NYSUT or AFT members who have experienced significant loss due to the storm. You may contribute on-line at [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org) or mail a check to Disaster Relief Fund, NYSUT, 400 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY 12110.

The online link [www.nysut.org/harvey](http://www.nysut.org/harvey) is still active but so is a second link, **[www.nysut.org/irma](http://www.nysut.org/irma)**, which incorporates much info about the Union's efforts to help those in need. On the highlighted site, there are links that direct you to MAKE a DONATION and one to APPLY FOR RELIEF. Please share this information as those who are coping with the aftermath of the storms may not have access to e-mails. If you were impacted by the storms, please keep us informed and ask for help if necessary. We will gladly try to provide information or contact numbers whenever we can. Connect with WIRTA at [www.wirta83@hotmail.com](mailto:www.wirta83@hotmail.com).

## Contact your Federal Senators

Once again there is a Repeal and Replace Obamacare bill proposed in the Senate. As with other attempts, this is a piece of legislation the sole purpose of which is to fulfill a campaign promise. It does not offer Americans a better health care option. Rather the ultimate affect is to decimate the Affordable Care Act and provisions that provide coverage with no limit of pre-existing conditions, no lifetime cap on benefits and expanded Medicaid subsidies for people who otherwise could not afford health insurance. The Graham-Cassidy bill was unveiled less than two weeks prior to a planned vote on the measure scheduled for Wednesday, September 27th. The budget reconciliation which would allow the bill to pass on a simple majority vote is due to expire on September 30th. After that time, the Senate rules would require the bill to obtain 60 votes for approval. Also, like previous attempts to repeal the ACA, this timeframe leaves no time for review by the Congressional budget office much less time for public debate.

### Call Your Senator Today to Stop Cassidy-Graham Health Care Repeal Bill!

With the U.S. Senate set to vote on the Cassidy-Graham bill the week of September 25<sup>th</sup>, the time to call your Senators is now. Dial [866-828-4162](tel:866-828-4162) and say:

1. Vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy bill. It decimates Medicaid. The result would be as many as 20 million fewer people having insurance. Many of those would be older Americans.
2. The country has moved on from repeal. They want and expect Republicans and Democrats to work together to stabilize the health insurance marketplaces, protect children's health, and take steps to help people afford the coverage they need.

These bipartisan efforts are where Congress should be placing its focus, not on last-ditch attempts to resurrect ACA repeal measures the Senate has already rejected .

**You can also contact your state senators by using the AFT website at [www.aft.org](http://www.aft.org).**

**Find a "Take Action—Stop Graham-Cassidy" yellow box at the top right hand corner Click on the option "Write a Letter." Fill in your address and click the "Start Writing" box. (If you have previously used the AFT site to contact congressional members, a note indicating that your address is on file will appear.) The names of your senators will be provided. Fill in the personal information requested and click to send the prepared letter.**

### West Islip Retired Teachers Association

AFT 3109, NYSUT21-055

**Co-Presidents:** Simonne Harkavy  
Janet Loehr

**Vice-President:** Edward Giuffre

**Co-Secretaries:** Angela LaGiglia  
Mary Schlaikjer

**Staff:** Daniel Garcia  
Edward Giuffre  
Kathleen Lyons

**Editor:**

**Assistant:**

**West Islip District Office**

**Phone: 631-893-3200**

Please send articles for print in Microsoft Word form and news for Kathy's Korner to: [WIRTA83@hotmail.com](mailto:WIRTA83@hotmail.com)

**WITA**

**Westbrook School, Room 200**

**Phone:** (631) 587-8040

**Mailing Address:**

WIRTA c/o West Islip TA

PO Box 428, Babylon, NY 11702

## Medicare Rebate Checks

The 3rd quarter Medicare Rebate Checks arrived in the mail this week. If you are Medicare Primary and enrolled in the NYSHIP Empire Plan you should receive credit for the Medicare Part B premiums (base amount and applicable surcharges) which are deducted from your monthly Social Security check. If you pay the Empire premiums through pension deduction, the district mails you a quarterly check. If you pay the district directly, then the rebate amounts are credited against your monthly premiums.

## Don't Forget VOTE/COPE

As noted previously, many of our members have also forwarded checks and/or pension deduction forms to Dan Garcia for the 2017 NYSUT VOTE/COPE drive. If you have not already done so, please do not forget this most important contribution. Pension deduction is an easy way to participate. If you need an additional form, contact [wita83@hotmail.com](mailto:wita83@hotmail.com).

If you did get the Medicare check or credit this quarter, remember to **thank those who have contributed to VOTE/COPE**. VOTE/COPE monies, both at the state level and locally by WIRTA, were used to fight Gov. Cuomo's proposal to freeze the rebate amounts for all at the 2016 base level of \$104.60. If you have been enrolled in Medicare prior to January 2017 and do not pay any surcharges, the 2017 rebate amounts to \$109 per month for a total of \$1038. New members are paying a minimum of \$134 per month or an additional \$570 a year.

Those that are subject to the surcharges, most recent retirees and those who must take a yearly distribution from IRAs and 403b accounts are, are assessed greater Medicare Part B premiums, and thus receive greater rebates.

Currently NYSUT's Political Action focus is on the Constitutional Convention proposition which will be on the ballots on November 7th. VOTE/COPE funds are being utilized for strong opposition to convening a state constitutional convention. The potential exists for draconian changes in the NY State constitution if a convention is approved. Could you sustain a 35-40% cut in your pension? Between 2005 and 2011 Rhode Island, which also had a constitutional pension guarantee in place, realized a shortfall in the funding of public pension system. A series of 3 cuts to existing pensions, and a move to a defined contribution (401k) plan for new hires, resulted in retiree pensions being cut drastically. We cannot afford to gamble with the future. VOTE NO on the proposition on November 7th. (It will be on the reverse side of the ballot in NY. It will be the first of three propositions on this year's ballot.)

**Send VOTE/COPE contributions to Dan Garcia. Do not depend on others to do it. VOTE/COPE is the insurance that protects your earned benefits.**

**VOTE/COPE**

**c/o Dan Garcia**

**1660 South Ivy Trail, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-9051**

### *Condolences to...*

**To the family of RITA KRAUSE who passed away in September. Rita taught for many years at Secatague/Bellew. The Krause family resided in West Islip and Rita's three daughters, Barbara, Carol and Jeanne all attended the West Islip Public schools. Barbara also served on the West Islip School Board in the 1990s. Condolences can be sent to the family through Barbara .**

**Barbara and Thomas McAteer**

**54 Cedar Point Drive, West Islip, NY 11795**

***Note: Donations to WIRTA's Memorial Scholarship Fund are always an appropriate way to remember the memory of a colleague or to honor a friend for a special occasion.***

### **NYSUT Regional Conference for Retiree Councils 17-23**

**November 2, 2017**

**Watermill in Smithtown**

**Cost: \$34 per person includes lunch and continental breakfast.**

**Speakers: Comptroller Tom DiNapoli  
NYSUT VP Paul Pecorale  
AND**

**WIRTA's own Mitsue Salador will conduct a workshop on the Japanese Internment during World War II**

### **Long Island Chapter of New York State Alliance for Retired Americans**

**Friday, October 18, 2017  
10:30am**

**Media Center —lower level**

**150 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge  
Speakers: Former Congressman  
Tim Bishop**

**And Stanley Bergman, President  
LI Chapter of NYSARA**

**All are welcome!**

## Have you had your financial check-up lately?

### **NYSUT Member Benefits launches the new Financial Planning Center!**

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the launch of our NEW online Financial Planning Center. This enhanced site will assist NYSUT members and their families with making a variety of important financial decisions.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Financial Planning Center provides helpful tools and resources to assist members with a number of crucial decisions regarding financial wellness and retirement planning.



**This new site includes more than 100 modules on different financial topics along with a financial fitness check-up to see where members stand with their financial knowledge.**

Whether it's planning for retirement, saving for college for your children or considering purchasing a home, the choices we need to make on a regular basis are never easy. If you're already enjoying retirement, you may be dealing with long-term care needs, managing your investments and estate planning.

NYSUT members can get assistance with these questions and more with our NEW Financial Planning Center.

To access the Financial Planning Center (and more than 100 planning modules), visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) and click on **“Financial Planning Center.”**

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [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.