

Spotlight 21

SERVING RETIREES FROM

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



Vol. 17 No. 3

An Award Winning Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

June-July, 2017

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



A Message From

Co-President Louisa Eiermann



Re-Cap of Spring 2017

We have so much we want you to see in this final issue of the 2016-2017 year that I thought it best to just share some of the highlights of meetings that Michael and I have attended. Marie Kanzler, your 3rd NYSUT delegate, also attended the RA.

The Representative Assembly

The most important event of this year's RA was the election by the more than 2,000 delegates in attendance, of a new slate of officers: President: Andy Pallotta; Executive VP: Jolene T. DiBrango; First VP: J. Philippe Abraham; Second VP: Paul Pecorale; Secretary-Treasurer: Martin Messner. Please see the May 2017 NYSUT United for their biographies and the results of the other elections. That issue also has in detail the resolutions that were discussed and passed by the Assembly, as well as those discussed but rejected. The discussions that take place in smaller groups where resolutions are prioritized and those that take place on the RA floor with all delegates in attendance are evidence of how a democracy works: anyone can have their say in front of the body and then the body of delegates votes to approve or reject. To me this process is the highlight of the RA. The passion and, often, frustration evident in the speakers, helps to solidify or even change one's own point of view on matters.

Again, read the NYSUT United as it contains so much more than I can write here.

May 24

At the RA the newly elected NYSUT Officers made a promise that they would listen as they had heard people ask for change. So, for their first visit to areas around the state, they chose LI, the Hauppauge Office, to meet with NYSUT staff and then to meet with local presidents. The officers listened as the presidents present expressed their concerns, sometimes with brutal honesty. The officers spoke of gains that NYSUT had made this year in Albany, but also of

their fears for the future, the worst being NYS becoming a Right to Work State by June 2018!

The Election of Christine Pellegrino

Thanks to PAC people on LI and across the state, Christine won the 9th District Assembly seat in an area where a democratic candidate had not won in 20 years! Andy Pallotta, as well as countless volunteers, walked neighborhoods with her. Thank you to all who helped. She came to the LIPC meeting on May 24th where she was introduced by Andy who had again come to LI to meet with LI presidents.

LIRDC – June 1, 2017

Items mentioned already were discussed as well as changes being made to NYSUT staff. In an attempt to save money, no one who leaves is being replaced. Responsibilities are being shifted to make certain jobs are covered. Of concern to us as retirees is the future of our Retiree Consultants. At one point last winter their positions were to be eliminated but eventually were saved. However, these consultants have taken a 30% cut in pay! More as this unfolds. Other matters: a postcard campaign for the Con Con (currently underway), locals that do not contribute to Vote-Cope, the Clare Rose Fund for workers impacted by the strike, a fund for the Bellport teens killed in gang fights(more on these).

The RC 21 Awards Luncheon June 13, 2017, Timber Point Country Club

The names of award winners along with a bio of Joseph Lachat are in this issue. Thank you to Steve Kramer for a very informative presentation on what NYSUT Legal can do for us and to June Smith for a run down on PA. If you came, you went home with literature on the Con Con, a button and a bumper sticker. PLEASE use.

Everyone have a safe and fun summer. See you in the Fall!!

RETIREE COUNCIL 21

Welcomes New Retirees to Our Annual Brunch

Tuesday, October 24th, 2017
11:30 am – 3:00 pm
Villa Lombardi's
877 Main Street
Holbrook, New York 11741
(631) 471-6609

Guest Speaker
TBA

Cost: \$43.00 for Current Members
Complimentary for New Retirees 2017

- Fabulous Buffet Brunch including Mimosas
- Distribution of folders containing important information regarding retiree benefits and RC 21 programs
- Door Prize & Raffles
- Fair Trade items available for purchase
- Benefits Display

Please join us in welcoming our New Retirees!

To ensure seating with your Chapter, please return your reservation form and check (payable to NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 21) ASAP.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____ Email Address _____
Retiree Chapter _____

RSVP by October 10th, 2017

Mail To (CHECK ONE):

<u>New Retiree 2017:</u> (Complimentary – Our Guest) Marilyn Gutierrez 593 Muncey Road West Islip, New York 11795 (631) 587 – 4128	<u>Current Member:</u> (\$43.00 Check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 21) Simonne Harkavy 104 Raleigh Lane West Islip, New York 11795 (631) 661 – 4446
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Meeting Schedule 2017-2018

Executive Board

General Meetings

August 8	January 9(?) February 6(?)	September 12	March 20
September 5	March 13	October 24	April 17
October 10	April 10	(Welcome Back Brunch)	May 15
November 7	May 8	November 14	June 19
December 12	June 5	December 5	(Awards Luncheon)
		(Winter Breakfast)	



NYSUT Community Service Award

On behalf of RC 21 and the Bay Shore Retirees, Tom Tom Bernagozzi presented Joe Lachat with this year's Community Service Award. Joe retired from the Bay Shore Schools 17 years ago. When Joe was teaching fourth grade one of his students taught him to play chess. The student wanted Joe to start a chess club. This was in the days when teachers were not paid for extra after school activities. Today he is still teaching chess to children as part of the public library program for which he is paid. However, he formed an adult chess club at the library for which he volunteers. There are about 40 members who come from all over Long Island to participate. They run chess tournaments twice a year which are well-attended. His unselfish work for his students and colleagues while in-service was a prelude to his avid volunteerism in retirement.

He was a true friend to a veteran who needed his help getting to appointments, sorting medications and offering friendship on a daily basis. Through St. Patrick's Church, works at soup kitchens and delivers food baskets to the needy. He offers transportation and support to elderly people who have no way to get to doctor appointments.

Joe is a longtime volunteer at the Fire Island Lighthouse where he has taken school groups on tower tours, nature walks to the ocean, and given lectures on ship wrecks and the Life Saving Service. He has also been one of the volunteer leaders for the Junior Ranger Program during the summer.

Joe is an avid and talented photographer who donates his photos to many organizations such as lighthouse events including the Barefoot Black Tie fundraiser at summer's end and Santa's arrival in a 1930 plane each Christmas. His talents have also benefited the Bay Shore Retired Teachers' Association where his pictures are raffled off at fund raisers and raffle money going to help someone in the community whether at a food bank, a local charity, or one of our scholarship presentations in June. His photos have also been donated to the Bay Shore School District events, the Bay Shore Chamber of Commerce, Seatuck in Islip, the Bay Shore Historical Society, the Bay Shore/Brightwaters Public Library, Mercy Haven, and the Family & Children's Association.

We all congratulate Joe and thank him for his dedication to his community.

NYSUT Communication Awards Winners

Bay Shore - THE 4th R

First Place - Best Creative Writing -
"It's All in the Family" - Bonnie Hardman Friedman

Award of Distinction - General Excellence - THE 4th R
Editor: Marion Skirbe

Central Islip RTA - CIRTATION

First Place - Best Article about Union Values -
"One Man's Opinion" - Charles Corcoran

Islip RTA - CONNECTIONS

First Place - Best Creative Writing -
"Brooklyn Girl" - Elaine Cohen

First Place - Best Feature -
"Every Month is Alzheimer's Month - Our Family's Story"
- Judy Burton

First Place - General Excellence - CONNECTIONS
Editor: Judy Burton

Retiree Council 21 - SPOTLIGHT 21

First Place - Best Article about Solidarity
"Together We Must Stand" - Louisa Eiermann

Award of Distinction - General Excellence - Spotlight 21
Editor Diana Baranec

Retirees of Brentwood Schools - ROBS NEWSLETTER

First Place - General Excellence - ROBS Newsletter
Editor Carmela Criscione

First Place - Best Layout - ROBS Newsletter
Editor Carmela Criscione

First Place - Best Article about Union Values
"Project Hope - A Time of Giving" - Letty Sustrin

Spotlight 21

A Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

Louisa Eiermann, Co-President
Mike Eiermann, Co-President
Marilyn Gutierrez, 1st VP
Simonne Harkavy, 2nd VP
Fred Schaefer, Treasurer
Julia Arena, Co-Secretary
Linda Brookshire, Co-Secretary

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Contact/ us at:
(631) 473 - 4055

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
is sponsoring a...

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

Wednesday, September 27th, 2017
9:30 am – 4:30 pm

West Islip Public Library
Corner of Higbie Lane & Montauk Highway
West Islip, New York 11795

Continental Breakfast & Lunch provided

Benefits of Course Completion

- 10% reduction on liability & collision insurance premiums (three year duration)
- Up to 4 points removed from driving record, if applicable.

Questions: Contact **Simonne Harkavy**
at 631 661 - 4446

To enroll, complete the tear-off at the bottom of this page and mail it to...

Simonne Harkavy
104 Raleigh Lane
West Islip, New York 11795

Next General Meeting
September 12th
West Islip Public Library
10:15 AM

Include check made out to RETIREE COUNCIL 21: FEE...

- \$40.00 – members of RC 21
- \$45.00 – non-members/guest

RSVP ASAP due to limited enrollment!

YOU MUST BRING YOUR DRIVERS LICENSE TO THE CLASS!

-----**TEAR OFF**-----

NAME _____

RETIREE CHAPTER/DISTRICT _____

CHECK: _____ RC 21 Member (\$40.00 pp) _____ Guest (\$45.00 pp)

Name(s) of Guests: _____

Enclosed is check payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 21 for \$ _____