

Spotlight 21

SERVING RETIREES FROM

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



Vol. 17 No. 4

An Award Winning Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

September, 2017

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

What Are You Willing To Give Up?

By Michael Andrew, TC 11 RAC Representative

The Constitution of New York State provides for the protection of those rights that have been determined, by history and over time, to belong to the citizens of the Empire State. On November 7, 2017 we are required to vote on a referendum that will ask the question: “Do we need a Constitutional Convention or not?” (**NOTE: It will be the first question on the reverse side of the ballot.**)

This question is placed on the November ballot every twenty years in accordance with the Constitution itself (article 19). In the event that extraordinary problems might develop not addressed in the Constitution this requirement would allow for a convention to address such serious issues. **Conversely, this requirement also allows for the citizens of New York to vote “No!” as an indication that a convention is not needed.**

Such a convention, at first glance, could offer the opportunity to update the language, modernizing phrases of the Constitution’s article. However, like any contract, once the door is open every word, phrase, sentence, paragraph, and article of the Constitution is open to scrutiny, alteration and/or amendment. This scenario would dangerously allow special interest groups access to changing fundamental rights guaranteed to the citizens of New York. Democracy is based on the intellectual debate of ideas and the resulting compromise of both sides of that debate. In the confines of a convention, such a democratic process would, by compromise, put many of our rights in jeopardy. Any compromise would necessitate that an atmosphere of *quid pro quo exist*, something that you hold dear must be given up in order to keep what is important. What are you willing to give up?

Many of our protected rights are under attack, which of these are you willing to give up? Are you willing to alter the right of a child to a free public education? Are you willing to allow the legislature to reduce a retired public employee’s pension? Are you willing to reduce the benefits provided by worker’s compensation laws? Are you willing to allow a worker’s right to organize, a union’s right to charge an agency fee, and the entire process of collective bargaining to be curtailed or taken away? Are you willing to put the lives of those less fortunate at risk by altering the safety net provided by social service laws? Are you willing to eliminate the Blaine Amendment that prohibits the expenditure of public funds for use in religious schools? Are you willing to change the necessity of legislative input into the state budget? Are you willing to open up the Adirondack Park to commercial development? Are you willing to allow the state forests and parklands to be harvested for their natural resources?

REMEMBER: *The state legislature has the power to propose changes/amendments without holding an expensive convention. These changes must be put before the voters for approval. This process has been used to amend the NYS Constitution 200 times since 1894.*

VOTE ‘NO!’ on November 7, 2017.

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):

<p><u>New Retiree 2017:</u> (Complimentary – Our Guest) Marilyn Gutierrez 593 Muncey Road West Islip, New York 11795 (631) 587 – 4128</p>	<p><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</p>
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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)	

**The annual Jones Beach Breast Cancer Cure Walk is on
October 15, 2017**



Get your walking shoes on.

Can't Walk, contribute individually, through your local or through RC 21.
Please make sure to mention your local or RC 21 in the memo of check.

NYSUT Regional Conference

for Retiree Councils 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, & 23

The  Retiree

Keynote Speaker

NYS Comptroller, **Thomas DiNapoli**

WORKSHOPS ON:

Elder Care, Health Care & Senior Issues

Important Information on:

**Constitutional Convention Ballot
Vote on November 7, 2017**



Thursday
November 2, 2017
8:30 am - 2:30 pm
WATERMILL INN
711 Smithtown Bypass
Smithtown, NY 11787
(631) 724-3242

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

Diana Baranec Editor
spot21editor@optonline.net

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

Welcome Back Brunch
October 24, 2017
Villa Lombardi's
11:30 am to 3:00 pm

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 \$ _____