

# Spotlight 21

## SERVING RETIREES FROM

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



Vol. 18 No. 2

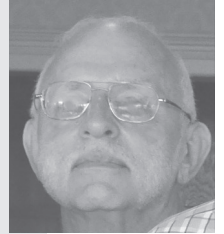
An Award Winning Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

April-May 2018

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

## A Message From

### Co-President Mike Eiermann



*Today, in our country, we are witnessing an unprecedented attack on our institutions. Our national leaders disparage educators and public education while they promote the interests of private and charter schools. Many states, in efforts to reduce taxes, have undercut funding for public education to the point where districts have shortened their school week or, in extreme cases, closed their schools in favor of home teaching. Consider what happened in Alaska when oil revenue dropped, the recent strike in West Virginia, and the current work stoppages in Kentucky and Oklahoma. Take to heart the message below and commit yourself to being an advocate for an institution to which you devoted your life.*

*The vision and invitation of Phi Delta Kappa is "To be the experts in cultivating great educators for tomorrow while continuing to ensure high quality education for today. Join us in this important work." The three pillars of Phi Delta Kappa's mission are Research, Leadership, and Service.*

**LEADERSHIP: THE HEART OF PHI DELTA KAPPA  
REGIONS B/C CONFERENCE, 3 MARCH 2007  
JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY, DENVER, COLORADO**

**Drs. Stephen W. Zsiray, Jr. and Joel Berg**

Greetings!

The word *ipsedixitism* can be found in an unabridged dictionary of the English language. It comes from the Latin *ipse dixit* which means "he himself said so." *Ipsedixitism*, aside from being a fun word, has a serious meaning. It alludes to dogmatic assertions, untested by reason, but issued by vested authority. An example of this would be the parent's "Because I say so." Other examples would be governmental directives based not on scientific study but only on the will of the ones in power.

Phi Delta Kappa has from its inception adopted Research as one of the three pillars of its mission. It is based on scientific study and logical reasoning, and is part of the understandings which initiates are expected to attain.

The third pillar is Service – using one's skills to better the student, the school, the community, the nation, and all of humanity! **Fighting ignorance, bigotry, greed, corruption, hatred, bullying, and lying wherever they are found.** Modern educators must be the knights of today!

### But what of the second pillar, Leadership?

It is true that the quality of leadership depends on the characteristics of the leader. He or she must be visionary but

with sound goals. The leader must have the highest personal integrity to command the loyalty and respect of the organization. He or she must be ready to give good advice to superiors, follow directions that are appropriate, and communicate well with those above and below in the hierarchy.

And the effective leader does not spend time polishing the crown, but talks with people, inviting their ideas and seeing how they may fit into the overall plan. The leader has a fine sense of humor, never jibing at weaknesses or appearances but noting situations that lead to good belly laughs. An example: Store announcement:

"Would the person who lost a fat roll of hundred dollar bills, wrapped in a rubber band, please report to the Lost & Found Department. We found your rubber band."

The leader does research so that the best facts (maybe with probabilities of error) are available. This is called "doing one's homework." He or she then shares appropriate information with the team, keeping confidences when required, and never allowing gossip to permeate action.

Last, the leader guides others toward the objectives and the goals of the organization, giving help and support when necessary but without nagging or doing the other's work if it can be avoided.

The leader is fair and open to every member; honest and animated with purpose!

*(continued on page 2)*

How does this apply to Kappans in particular? We have a mission that incorporates Research, Leadership, and Service but we infuse Collegiality with these. **This means coming to meetings, participating on committees, accepting offices (elected and appointed), performing the duties of each of these offices well, and training replacements!** Thus was formed the original fraternity, Phi Delta Kappa in 1906. Its goals, mission, and principles remain the same. Its torch calls for mighty hands to hold it, and strong arms to hold it high, like Liberty Enlightening the World (*la liberté éclairant le monde*). Its Code of Conduct

separates the educational technician from the education professional.

Leadership must be the conduit bringing Research to Service. And the effective leader must always be open to new approaches. As a late friend and professor of astronomy said, "The only constant in the universe is change."

***"There is no more neutrality in the world. You either have to be part of the solution, or you're going to be part of the problem."*** Eldridge Cleaver

***Retiree Council 21 leadership invite all of you to become active in your Retiree Chapters and Retiree Councils as they work with NYSUT and its in-service locals to champion the indispensability of professional educators and public schools in promoting the values that are the foundation of our democratic institutions.***

### RC 21 Trip to Snug Harbor, Staten Island, New York - June 13, 2018

Take a historic tour of SNUG HARBOR CULTURAL CENTER and distinctive botanical gardens, including the Chinese Scholars Garden and Tuscan Garden.

Cost: \$96.00 plus  
\$5 member and \$10 non-member Registration fee.  
Final Payment due on or before May 1st

Suffolk Pick-up @ 7:30 am from NYSUT Office, 150 Motor Pkwy., Hauppauge, NY, back parking lot  
Nassau Pick-up @ 8:00 am from NYSUT Woodbury Office, front parking lot

**Luncheon:**  
**Bocelli Ristorante- Staten Island**  
Four course dinner includes  
Salad course, Pasta course  
Entrée choice of Chicken, Shrimp, or Veal  
Dessert and coffee or tea

Please tear off bottom of this flyer and send your check for registration fee (\$5 members or \$10 non-members) to secure your place to:

Simonne Harkavy  
104 Raleigh Lane  
West Islip, NY 11795  
Send final payment of \$96 to Simone by May 1st

**CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO RC 21**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
GUEST \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CHECK \_\_\_\_\_

**Spotlight 21**  
A Publication of NYSUT Retiree Council 21

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And visit us at:  
**ny.aft.org/rc21**  
Mike Eiermann - Webmaster

Forward changes in addresses/names to NYSUT and/or your local President

**RETIREE COUNCIL 21  
ANNUAL JUNE AWARDS LUNCHEON**

**Honoring Community Service Winner  
Jean Freeman**

**Presentation of Journalism Awards to our RC & Chapter Newsletter & Website Editors**

**Guest Speaker: TBA**

**Tuesday, June 19, 2018  
Timber Point Country Club  
398 Great River Road  
Great River, New York 11739  
631.581.0022**

**\$45.00 pp  
12:00 noon – 3:30 pm**

**DOOR PRIZE & RAFFLES & 50/50**

**Menu**

**Seasonal Melon with Prosciutto  
Garden Salad with House Dressing  
Entrée: Choice of...**

Marinated London Broil / Grilled Free Range Chicken / Filet of Sole Francaise / Vegetarian  
Accompanied by vegetables & potatoes, rolls & butter

**Dessert:** Hot Apple Crisp A la Mode accompanied by Coffee or Tea  
Soda included; Cash Bar available

**Reservation Form & Check (payable to Retiree Council 21) are to be forwarded to...**  
**Jennifer Olsen**  
**6 Shaker Hollow Road**  
**East Setauket, New York 11733**  
**631.751.4238**

\*\*\*\*\*

**PLEASE PRINT:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Retiree Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Choice: London Broil \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## New Medicare Cards – What You Need to Know

(Taken from Sid Kirchheimer's article appearing in the April AARP Bulletin.)

New safer Medicare cards will start being mailed this month to Medicare beneficiaries which will have a unique randomly generated 11-character Medicare beneficiary identifier (MBI) that looks something like this: IEG4-TE5-MK72. Cards will be randomly shipped over the next 12 months.

Please be aware of the following scammer may call you to claim:

- That Medicare needs to verify your identity before a new card is issued
- That you need to pay for a replacement card or
- That you owe a new fee to pay for updated coverage.

**Don't believe it. Your new Medicare card will automatically be mailed sometime in the next 12 months. There's no charge or action required and benefits don't change.**

When you get your new card be sure to destroy the old Medicare card – shred it or cut it up.

Be sure to safeguard your new card. Some good tips:

- Share the number only with trusted health care providers or when contacting Medicare.
- Carry a photocopy of your card with characters blacked out to prevent any problems in case your wallet is lost.
- Don't leave the number in emails or on your computer in digital files
- Check every statement from Medicare for bogus service and billings.

**General Meetings  
April 17 and May 15  
10:30 West Islip Library**

### **NYSUT Member Action Center Go to: [mac.nysut.org](http://mac.nysut.org)**

Then take action by clicking on the topics you are most interested in. You can write letters, emails and make phone calls to your representatives and the Governor with one or two clicks.

### **Get involved - Use your voice - Make a difference**

### **AFT Action you can take today.**

These days, it's difficult for workers to get a fair union election without facing employer intimidation and delays. And now, President Trump's National Labor Relations Board wants to change the rules so that it's even harder for workers to have a voice on the job and a free and fair election for a union.

Now's your chance, before the board changes any rules, to speak up for a fair union election process by telling the NLRB to protect our democratic rights in the workplace.

### **Tell Trump's NLRB that it should be easier, not harder, for workers to have a voice on the job.**

Go to **ATF Activist** - scroll down to **OUR ACTIONS** and click on the box on the left that says:

**Tell the NLRB: protect employees' right to freely vote in a union election**

You can then send a letter with one click.