On behalf of the officers & directors of Retiree Council 13 I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newly retired colleagues - the “Class of 2019, and the “Class of 2020.” May your retirement years be filled with adventures, good friends & good health.

As a retiree we are still members of NYSUT and, given the uncertainty of the anti-Union Janus decision, it is now more important than ever that we stay connected to our state organization and our former in-service local. This can be done by joining Retiree Council 13 if you haven’t already in 2019(form included in this newsletter), and by participating in your local’s retiree chapter if one exists, or helping to create one where there is none. Currently in our region there are several groups who are in various stages of planning and developing a retiree chapter. If your local does not have one, I would urge you to do so. NYSUT provides a template for chapters and we have people on the RC 13 Board of Directors who will work with you to establish a chapter.

A retiree chapter serves a variety of purposes for its members including, but not limited to creating a social environment for retirees of a given local, serving as a connection to the in-service local and providing them with a variety of resources (history, mentoring support for their activities, advocacy for retirees, etc.). Above all it will keep you connected to the profession we so cherish and informed on what is happening on a local, state and national level that can affect all of us. We cannot let our guard down, as the threats to Social Security, Medicare and Unions in general have never been so real as they are today.

We are able to bask in the joy of retirement given the fact that we in New York State have one of the best “defined pensions” in the country thanks to the efforts of NYSUT and all its members, both retired and in-service. Our voice at the Polls two years ago was a clear message to the New York State Legislature and Governor to NOT dip into our pension for any reason! We must continue to send messages to our representatives when we go to the Polls each year. 2020 is already being touted as the “Election of a Lifetime” and our effort must be to ensure that we elect representatives, regardless of party affiliation, who will protect Public Education, Unions and Labor Rights as well as sending a very clear message of “HANDS OFF SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE!”

In solidarity,
Patrick McCarthy

A STRONG UNION PROTECTS US ALL!
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day(s)</th>
<th>Board/Liaisons, Location and Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Board/Liaison, Kingston (10 am-12 noon)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Board/Liaison, Kingston (10 am-12 noon)</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Board/Liaisons, Kingston (10 am-12 noon)</td>
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During these unprecedented times and in the face of incredible adversity, each of you continue to sacrifice and dedicate yourselves to our children, our families and our communities.

We thank all of the educators, school-related professionals, nurses and other health care workers who continue to demonstrate their unwavering compassion, dedication and commitment to our communities on a daily basis.

memberbenefits.nysut.org | 800-626-8101

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.
The need for VOTE-COPE contributions does not cease in retirement, rather it becomes greater. VOTE-COPE, our Union's voluntary political action fund is our tool to fight back against those who would diminish our pensions, social security, medicare, as well as slash funding to public education and eliminate workers right. If you haven’t already contributed to VOTE-COPE this year, or if you would like to increase your current monthly pension deduction contribution to VOTE-COPE please send an email to: pmcrthy@verizon.net with your name, mailing address & name of the local you retired from and a direct contribution/pension deduction form will be mailed to you pronto! Contributing to VOTE-COPE is more important than ever.

Contributions to VOTE-COPE can be mailed directly to the following address:

VOTE-COPE
P.O. BOX 295 Canajoharie, N Y 13317-0295

If you would like to contribute via PENSION DEDUCTION (highly recommended) you can contact your retiree chapter leadership for a Pension Deduction form, or you can either email me at pmcrthy@verizon.net or call (845-701-1825), provide me your name and mailing address and I will get one off to you ASAP.

The only thing between us and Wisconsin, where the Governor and Legislator took away bargaining rights, is VOTE-COPE.

WE HAVE NO OTHER WEAPON! PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!

Thank you to all who have and continue to contribute.

Patrick McCarthy, Mid-Hudson VOTE-COPE COORDINATOR & RC #13 Director

COVID-19 Delayed Us

Usually January is the time of year we ask you for your financial support that enables us to represent your interests throughout the year. Your annual voluntary contribution of just $10 to Retiree Council 13 is used to send: representatives to meet with legislators at the annual ED 13 Legislative Luncheon each February & the Committee of 100 in March, and delegates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly in April & the ED meetings for retiree councils in March & October. Also, because of your generous support RC 13 contributes to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund, which assists fellow members in need, offers grants for classroom projects to support active members in our local schools, and contributes to local organizations, such as the Special Olympics. Please don’t forget to fill out the Membership Contribution Form on Page 1 and send it in.

Retiree Council #13

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NYSUT RA DELEGATES:

Thomas Lyon, Patrick McCarthy, Kathy Taylor

Alternates: Paula Ptaszek, William Rule

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Patrick McCarthy, Kathy Taylor

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Cliff Foley Wappingers (845) 297-1875

NYSUT RC 12-13 RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT: Jennifer Shaad-Derby jderby@nysutmail.org (518)783-7977
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**Strong Union Active Retirees!**

About Retiree Council #13

Mid-Hudson Bridges, is a quarterly publication of the Mid-Hudson Retiree Council 13, serving: Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Ulster, & Sullivan Counties.

**Email articles to:** Paula Ptaszek, Editor of Mid-Hudson Bridges, at ptaszkek@gmail.com

**Co-editors are:** Mary Lou Davis at davehdvis@aol.com
William Rule at wvr12@aol.com

Electronic files are appreciated attached as a Word document or embedded as text of an email.

**Next issue deadline: August 10th**

Visit our website for other useful information: [http://ny.aft.org/rc13](http://ny.aft.org/rc13)

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**WANTED - NYSUT Local Retiree Chapters**

- To create social interaction with other retirees, local and state wide
- To maintain institutional history of in-service locals
- To maintain connections with in-service NYSUT locals
- To serve as a liaison to NYSUT in-service locals and former employers
- To form a political force helping in-service locals and NYSUT, through phone banks and other activities
- To help mentor in-service teachers and leadership when needed
- To interact with Retiree Services at NYSUT on retiree’s behalf
- To be an active part of Retiree Council #13
- To attend the NYSUT Representative Assembly and other functions
- To have a voice in the Union we have worked to strengthen as it comes under attack from outsiders

To create a Retiree Chapter takes a couple of people and some time. Have a “not going back to school” luncheon or a monthly retiree breakfast, a food pantry drive, or a holiday party. Then get talking. The momentum will grow. The template for creating a local retiree chapter is available from NYSUT. Retiree Council #13 can offer help.

Contact: Tom Lyon, Coxsackie-Athens CSD, 607-547-2709, tom@lyoncher.com or Bill Rule, Wallkill CSD, 845-687-0849, WVR12@aol.com

WE ARE THE UNION!