



Volume XXVIII Special Issue

NYSUT RC 13

Membership 2019



CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Janice Scriber

Strong Union Active Retirees!

A belated Happy New Year to you all! And is 2019 ever off to a tumultuous start!! Government shutdowns, Brexit exits - all point to an uncertain future economically for many people. We are so fortunate that as NYSUT members and members of the NYS retiree pension systems our financial future is secure. Of course, there is always the possibility that this could change via legislation or changes to the New York State Constitution in the future, but thanks to the activism of our members and the advocacy of NYSUT that is not likely.

This is the time of year we ask you for the 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 and the Committee of 100 in March, send delegates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly in April and the ED meetings for retiree councils in March and October. Because of

your generous support, RC 13 also 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.

The Retiree Council 13 Board of Directors is planning for a productive 2019, albeit one that will bring some changes. Officers, directors and delegates for 2019-2021 will be elected at our annual Spring Luncheon on May 30 at Christo's in Poughkeepsie. Many members of the current board have indicated their willingness to continue to serve, but three of our long-time officers will be stepping down after decades of service -Cathy Berger (secretary), Vicky Schulte & Jan Scriber (co-presidents).

It is important that your Board of Directors represents the diversity of our region. All NYSUT retirees in good standing are eligible to run for office and participate in the election. (The "good standing" caveat reflects the autonomy of locals to determine how retirees continue their NYSUT

membership. Some require dues or other fees payable to the local to continue NYSUT membership, some do not.) Nominations for officers, directors or delegates can be sent to the Nominations Chair, NYSUT Retiree Council 13, 201 Stockade Drive, Kingston, NY 12401 prior to March 30. Please include the name, address, and contact information for the nominee, as well as a description of the nominee's qualifications for the position. Nominations from the floor can also be made at the May meeting, providing the nominee is in attendance or has indicated in writing her/his willingness to serve prior to the election.

Thank you for your support, as we continue our advocacy for education and retiree values!

A STRONG UNION PROTECTS US ALL!



MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION FORM NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL #13

Representing: Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties

January 1 - December 31, 2019

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

(E-mail addresses are for RC13/NYSUT use only)

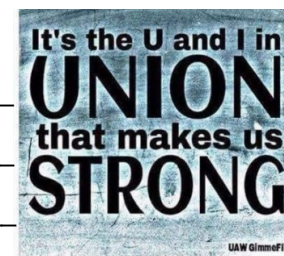
Retired from _____ School District _____

\$10.00 yearly recommended contribution Checks should be made out to NYSUT RC # 13 and sent to:
TREASURER RC #13 NYSUT

201 Stockade Drive, Kingston, NY 12401

I would be willing to work in the areas of: **Newsletter (Bridges)** _____ **Travel/Social Events** _____

RC# 13 meetings are open to all NYSUT retirees & are held at the above address. The meeting calendar is in **MID-HUDSON BRIDGES**.



NYSUT RC#13 2018 - 2019 Calendar

Please check dates & days of week! All Board/Liaisons Meeting @ Regional Office (no meetings: January & February, July & August)

March

- 13 Wed.- Board/Liaison, Kingston (10 am-12 noon)
- 26/27 ED#51 Meeting, Utica, NY

April

- 10 Wed.- Board/Liaison, Kingston (10 am-12 noon)

May

- 2- 4 NYSUT Representative Assembly (Albany)
- 15 Wed.- Board/Liaison, Kingston (10 m-12 noon)
- 21 Tues - NYS, School Budget Votes (12 noon-9 pm)
- 30 Th.- **SPRING LUNCHEON-ELECTION of Officers & Directors - Christo's Poughkeepsie**

June

- 12 Wed.- Board/Liaisons, Kingston (10 am-12 noon)



Union-endorsed benefits designed to protect your loved ones

Legal Service Plan

NYSUT members have access to dozens of endorsed programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality legal and financial planning assistance services that can help to protect their loved ones and provide them with peace of mind.



For an annual fee, the **Legal Service Plan** -- provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. With the base plan, you'll get access to unlimited, toll-free advice from plan attorneys.



Financial Counseling Program

Meanwhile, the **Financial Counseling Program** -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides you up with to six hours of toll-free phone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.

And unlike with purchasing products available to the general public, there's no need to go it alone when Member Benefits has your back. Member Benefits acts as your advocate for any program you participate in, and we'll do our best to quickly resolve any issues or concerns you may have.

Whether you are participating in one of our legal or financial services; insurance plans; or shopping, travel or entertainment offerings, NYSUT members have the **"Power of the Union"** behind them.

A wealth of financial information -- Now available on the NEW Member Benefits website

Financial Planning Center

MEMBER BENEFITS

nysut

Working to Benefit You

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.



VOTE-COPE

Everything points to a 2018 banner year. Contributions to VOTE-COPE, our Union’s voluntary political action fund, are perhaps the greatest single defense in preserving our retirement security, as well as protecting, for our active members, tenure, bargaining rights, salaries and ensuring adequate funding for public schools, universities and health care systems in addition to protecting labor rights. Most recently, VOTE-COPE funds were used to help defeat the Constitutional Convention by a margin of 83% to 17% two years ago, and this past fall these funds helped us get candidates from both sides of the aisle elected, who are supportive of education, health care and labor!

Much of this success can be attributed to RETIREE CONTRIBUTIONS. We asked, and retirees answered by increasing the dollar amount being contributed as well as the number of retirees increasing in contributing to VOTE-COPE.

It would be great if we could rest on our laurels, but given what we face on the Horizon-the radical Trump/ DeVos agenda for Public Education and worker rights we are in the battle of a lifetime. This legislative session NYSUT will be using VOTE-COPE funds to **FIGHT**: to fix APPR and the “Testing Insanity,” for state funding for schools, colleges and health care systems, against charter operators and vouchers, to save the SUNY hospitals.

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 pmcCarthy@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



Pictures from Legislative Luncheon 2019



Patrick McCarthy received an award, from NYSUT President Andrew Palotta, for his 23 years as a Political Action and VOTE COPE-Coodinator.



NYSUT members together with our newest congressman Antonio Delgado(D-19).



Retiree Council #13

OFFICERS:

Co-President: Janice Scriber Red Hook 845-876-6864
 Co-President: Vicky Schulte Rondout Valley 687-0452
 Vice-President: Susan Eagan Marlboro 889-4416
 Secretary: Cathy Berger Kingston 331-6043
 Treasurer: Pete McMahon Red Hook 336-7814

NYSUT RA DELEGATES:

Tom Lyons, William Rule, Victoria Schulte
 Alternates: Cathy Berger, Marguerite Cotter

AFT DELEGATES:

Victoria Schulte, Janice Scriber

Presidents Emeritus:

Matt Ostoyich, Marvin Eisenberg

DIRECTORS:

Jaimee Boehme Chatham (518) 392-6184
 Carole Chambers Hyde Park (845) 454-9696
 Marguerite Cotter Spackenkill (845) 473-3016
 Mary Lou Davis Spackenkill (845) 223-5544
 Cliff Foley Wappingers (845) 297-1875
 Tom Lyon Coxsackie-Athens (607) 547-2709
 Pat McCarthy Sullivan BOCES (845) 583-7874
 Paula Ptaszek Chatham (518) 929-8641
 William Rule Wallkill (845) 687-0849
 Kathy Taylor Ulster BOCES (845) 417-4623
 Helen Walker Rondout Valley (845) 687-9327
 Janis Bianco Rondout Valley (845) 338-0215

NYSUT RC 12-13 RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT: Jennifer Shaad-Derby jderby@nysutmail.org (518)783-7977

NYSUT Mid-Hudson Regional Office 201 Stockade Drive Kingston NY 12401 (845)339-4450

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 represent retirees in local educational and contractual issues
 - *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!

SAVE THE DATE**ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON**

Christo's Poughkeepsie, NY

MAY 30, 2019



Strong Union Active Retirees!

About Retiree Council #13

nysut
A Union of Professionals

**Retiree Council #13
Mid-Hudson**

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 ptaszekp@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: APRIL 10TH

Visit our website for other useful information:
<http://ny.aft.org/rc13>

