



**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
RETIREE COUNCIL 43**

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Affiliated with
NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO

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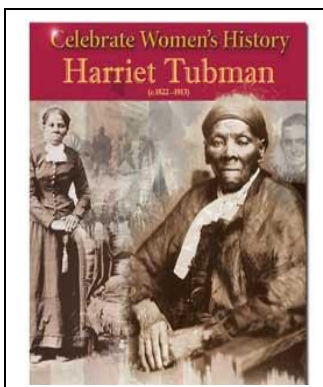
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Change Your Address?:

Contact NYSUT Member Benefits Dept.
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ODDS 'n' ENDS

ODDS 'n' ENDS is the newsletter of NYSUT Retiree Council 43, Teacher Retirees In Florida. It is published bi-monthly, September - August March - April 2016

****SEEKING NEW EDITOR FOR NYSUT RC 43 NEWSLETTER****

CONTACT President Deb Peterson

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From the Desk of President Deb Peterson

An Anniversary is a mile marker - a celebration or other commemorative ritual marking the date of an important event in the past. The year 2016 marks the AFT 100th Anniversary Celebration (1916-2016) of "Honoring Our Past & Inspiring Our Future." Union Brothers & Sisters from all over the country will meet in Minneapolis on July 18 - 21, 2016 to further advocate for the ideals and principles set forth in the AFT Mission Statement.

The American Federation of Teachers is a Union of Professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; high-quality public Education; and Healthcare and Public Services for our students, their families and our communities. As members, we are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and members' political activism.

The American Federation of Teachers, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, today represents 1.6 million members in more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide, including NYSUT. Five divisions within the AFT represent the broad spectrum of the AFT's Membership: Pre-K through 12th-Grade Teachers; Paraprofessionals and other School-Related Personnel; Higher Education Faculty and Professional Staff; Federal, State and Local Government Employees; and Nurses and other Healthcare Professionals. In addition, the AFT represents approximately 80,000 Early Childhood Educators and nearly 250,000 Retiree Members.

There are other anniversaries that are being celebrated throughout 2016 including the 25th Anniversary of NYSUT Retiree Councils & the 15th Anniversary of our very own NYSUT RC 43 Naples TRIF Unit! (See more throughout this publication.)
CONGRATULATIONS!

NYSUT RETIREES PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS FOR THE DELEGATES OF THE 44TH ANNUAL REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 8-9, 2016:

RESOLUTION #18 - RETIREE VOTE-COPE

RESOLVED, that NYSUT consider changing the current practice and recognize their Retirees and Retiree Council efforts in the VOTE/COPE program by returning a portion of the dollar amount contributed by retirees designated as 999 to the Retiree Councils.

RESOLUTION #20 - OPPOSE THE 2017 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

RESOLVED, that NYSUT redouble its efforts against a Constitutional Convention in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT wage a public relations campaign to convince the public of the futility of holding a Constitutional Convention in 2017.

RESOLUTION #35 - PRESERVE AND REINSTATE SOCIAL SECURITY

RESOLVED, that NYSUT urge more active support for maintaining and improving Social Security by its national affiliates, and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT urge its national affiliates to support returning to the previous practice of no taxation of Social Security income.

Clearwater

President: Cathy Lanza

727-375-7129

Lanzac@verizon.net

Meeting from September through April

Daytona

President: Gordon Russell

386-310-4188

g.russ68@gmail.com

Daytona TRIF Unit is on a hiatus until the Fall. They are looking to reorganize and invite all interested NYSUT Retirees in the area to contact Gordon for information.

Greater Naples

Co-President: Robert Lomicka

239-514-7234

janetlomicka@comcast.net

Co-President: Paul Murphy

239-593-7738

Paulfmurphy24@aol.com

Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of each month through April at 11 AM in the Longshore Lake Clubhouse on Valewood Drive, Naples. Lunch follows each meeting. We recently had a speaker from Protect Security Consultants discuss home and personal safety measures. Please join us in the Fall on October 13th. For more info, contact the Co-Presidents.

Jupiter

Co-Presidents: Dr. & Mrs. Paul Amrod

561-625-8988

drpja@aol.com

Programmer: Jim Brown

JimB1600@aol.com

Serves Northern Palm Beach County; Oct. – March, at Bella Cucina Restaurant, Donald Ross Village, Palm Beach Gardens. Contact Jim for details

Nature Coast

President: Tom Smith

352-638-9432

Birdman32347@tampaabay.rr.com

VP – David Miller

Nature Coast covers Hernando and Pasco Counties and any other County on the Nature Coast that doesn't have a TRIF Unit. We meet from October through April, 2nd Wed., 11 AM with Speakers at most meetings. The April meeting is a "Pot Luck" luncheon at the President's home. Call Tom for details. All retired teachers and support staff are welcome.

Orlando

President: Janice Sylvester

407-932-4850

jncsylvester@aol.com

Meetings are on the 1st Wed., October to April, 11:30 AM, at the Olive Garden on International Drive in Orlando.

Sarasota

President: Robert Gentile

941-907-0991

erotheim@tampabay.rr.com

Southeast Florida

President: Miriam Hanan

516-236-0276

miriamtrh@gmail.com

Programmer: Debra Peters

516-987-8618

DIP0003@gmail.com

Serves West Palm Beach to Miami. March 8th Program by Joel Reitman; "Writing and Self-Publishing". April 12th Program will be on Financial Management in Retirement. All meetings are at 9:30 AM at the South County Civic Center, Delray Beach.

Space Coast

President: Deb Peterson

914-261-0474

dnkpete@aol.com

Programmer: Allan Gair

321-952-0270

agair@cfl.rr.com

April 8, at 10:30, will be a program by Blue Life on environmental issues. Lunch will follow at Squid Lips, adjacent to the library. May 13, will be a luncheon at the Ocean Beach Grill at 12 noon. June 10 at 10 AM, will be a tour of Sam's House on Merritt Island, 6195 N. Tropical Trail

Treasure Coast

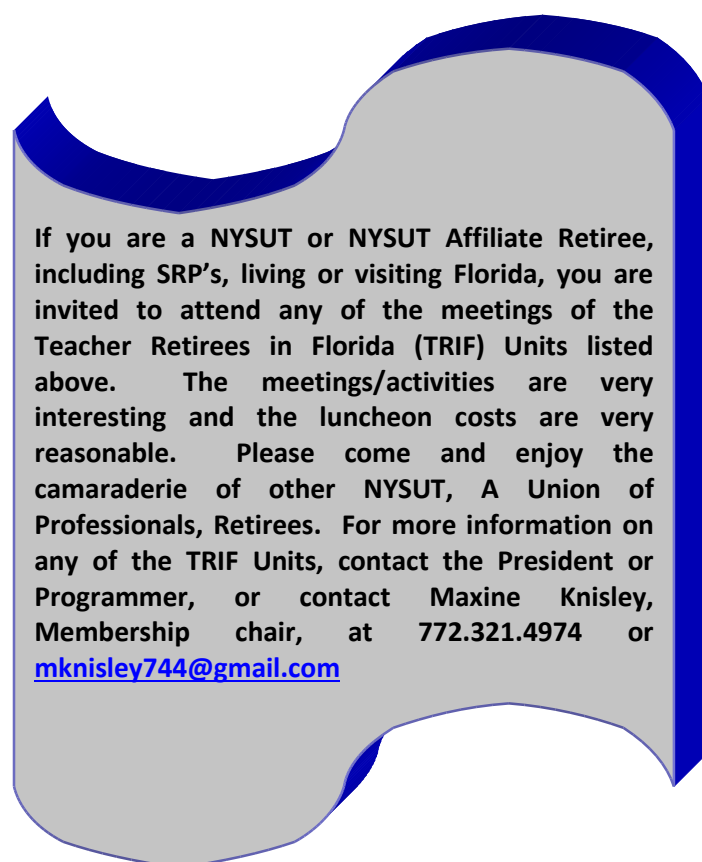
President: Thomas Galli

772-288-1153

tomhelga@comcast.net

Serving retired teachers and SRP's and their spouses from Jupiter to Vero Beach. Meetings from October through April; March 16 at 11:00 AM, will be a Joint Meeting with Space Coast Unit at Half Hour Inn in Vero Beach High School.

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This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Retiree Councils. We proudly offer you the Mission Statement and Goals of NYSUT Retiree Services.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Retiree Services is to facilitate the process by which NYSUT and its affiliated retiree groups promote union goals and enrich the lives of retirees as these groups provide organizational, educational and social programs and activities by:

- Assisting in improving communication between NYSUT and retirees;
- Encouraging retirees to participate more fully in NYSUT retiree organizations;
- Assisting and encouraging retirees to participate in union-endorsed advocacy campaigns;
- Assisting in the planning and implementation of activities that help enhance retirees' lives

NYSUT RETIREE GOALS:

1. Work to keep pensions secure and to improve COLA
2. Work with in-service members and the community to secure access to affordable health benefits for all retired members.
3. Work to enrich the lives of retiree members through educational and social activities.
4. Continue to organize, represent, advocate for and provide services for retired members.
5. Work with in-service members to promote collective bargaining, political action, better education and improved health care working conditions.
6. Work for positive socioeconomic societal changes.
7. To defend income security (including Social Security and Medicare) for all retired workers

THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF RETIREE COUNCIL 43 AND TEACHER RETIREES IN FLORIDA (TRIF) UNITS HAVE BEEN AMENDED!

The membership of the NYSUT RC 43 TRIF Units voted during their February meetings to approve the proposed amendment to the Constitution and By-laws as follows:

EXECUTIVE BOARD

F. The Term of Office for the NYSUT Retiree Council 43 Executive Board shall be for three (3) years and shall begin at the conclusion of the NYSUT Retiree Council 43 Annual Conference.

TRIF UNIT ELECTIONS

E. Term of Office. Duly elected officers shall serve a three (3) year term commencing at the conclusion of the last business meeting of the year. Each officer shall remain in office until his/her successor assumes the office.

(Each of the terms was extended from two to three years to be in compliance with NYSUT, which has gone to a three (3) year Election Term.)

The above amendment had been approved by the Executive Board on Sept. 28, 2015, and by the Delegates at the General Assembly on Sept. 29, 2015.

The present RC 43 Board and TRIF Unit Officers will extend their present term to the next Election Cycle in the Spring of 2017.

HOW SUFFRAGIST POSTCARDS GOT OUT THE VOTE

Considering what obvious justice suffrage for women was, it's surprising that it took 62 years from the birth of the U.S. suffrage movement to come up with an equally simple way of making the case. But in 1910, the **NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION** distilled their best arguments into one-paragraph gems printed on postcards. Their "Think It Over" series proved to be not only an excellent consciousness-raiser but fundraiser as well, since NAWSA received a commission on each card sold. Though people today generally associate black and white images and grim determination with the suffragists, here's proof from 1916 that they could be colorful and whimsical:



NYSUT NAPLES TRIF UNIT'S 15th ANNIVERSARY BRUNCH



Ardeth McNally from the Naples TRIF Unit reported: "On Sunday, February 28th the Greater Naples Unit celebrated our 15th Anniversary at the Marco Island Sailing and Yacht Club. We had a delicious brunch overlooking the water. NYSUT RC 43 President Deb Peterson spoke to our group about some of the issues facing Teacher Retirees. We also had an auction and raised/donated \$1000 to the Guadalupe Center in Immokalee to be used for Early Childhood Programs and \$400 to Reading is Fundamental. In the last nine years we have raised \$9,600 to help different educational groups including: Education Foundation of

Collier County (now known as Champions for Learning); Holocaust Museum; Disaster Relief (NYSUT); Indykids; and Children's Advocacy Center. Some recipients received money more than once."

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
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C: 914-261-0474

CLEARWATER TRIF UNIT'S ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES



Cathy Lanza, President of the Clearwater TRIF Unit reported: On February 18th, over 30 of our members and guests attended our ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES. This year the fourth race was dedicated to our group. Frank and Sharon McKeown plus Paul and Nancy Dittbrenner had their photo taken at the *Winner's Circle* by our very own photographer, Marie Knabbe. A delicious buffet was enjoyed by all and, whether we were *Winners* or *Losers*, a good time was had by all.