



# ODDS 'n' ENDS

ODDS 'n' ENDS is the NYSUT Retiree Council 43, Teacher Retirees In Florida Newsletter. It is published bi-monthly, September - August May - June 2016

**\*\*SEEKING NEW EDITOR FOR NYSUT RC 43 NEWSLETTER\*\***  
CONTACT President Deb Peterson  
C: 914-261-0474

## From the Desk of President Deb Peterson

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
RETIREE COUNCIL 43  
VOLUME 32, NUMBER 5

**Affiliated with:**  
NYSUT; AFT; NEA; AFL-CIO;  
NEA; ARA; FLARA; UFT

**COUNCIL 43 OFFICERS**  
**PRESIDENT:**

Deb Peterson  
Ph: 914.261.0474  
[dnkpete@aol.com](mailto:dnkpete@aol.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Felicia Bruce  
Ph: 772.409.4560  
[Spmomtch1@aol.com](mailto:Spmomtch1@aol.com)

**SECRETARY:**

Allan Gair  
Ph: 321.952.0270  
[agair@cfl.rr.com](mailto:agair@cfl.rr.com)

**TREASURER:**

Marsha Friedman  
Ph: 954.270.5336  
[Mushbaker29@comcast.net](mailto:Mushbaker29@comcast.net)

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:**

Maxine Knisley  
Ph: 772.321.4974  
[mknisley744@gmail.com](mailto:mknisley744@gmail.com)

**ODDS 'n' ENDS EDITOR:**

**\*\*POSITION OPEN\*\***

**VOTE-COPE CHAIR:**

Helga Galli  
Ph: 772.288.1153  
[tomhelga@comcast.net](mailto:tomhelga@comcast.net)

**NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES**

**CONSULTANT:**

Judy D. Kalb  
Office: 561.994.4929  
Fax: 561.218.1889

**Change Your Address?:**

Contact NYSUT Member Benefits Dept.  
Tel: 1.800.342.9810  
[memberrec@nysutmail.org](mailto:memberrec@nysutmail.org)



This past April at the 44<sup>th</sup> Representative Assembly & Presidents' Conference, NYSUT rolled out its [PLEDGE TO VOTE CAMPAIGN](#). The purpose of this action plan is to increase NYSUT member voter turnout in Local, State & National Elections. **BACKGROUND:** In 2014, only 83% of NYSUT members were *registered* to vote. Furthermore, less than 56% of **THOSE** members actually *showed up* to vote.

**WHY people say they DON'T vote:**

- Vote doesn't count
- Too busy
- Apathy
- Don't like the candidates
- Imperfect information; don't know enough
- Rebellions

**WHY people SHOULD vote:**

- We DO make a difference
- The right to vote is the most important right granted to a U.S. Citizen, as it is preservative of all other rights
- People fought & died for those rights
- Our enemies are scary
- The outcome will have significant implications
- We get to support candidates (and platforms) of those who have supported issues of importance to us

**NYSUT sends along this important reminder:**

- By MAIL REGISTRATION postmarked no later than October 14th and received by a Board of Elections no later than October 19th to be eligible to vote in the General Election.
- In-person Registration deadline - Oct. 19, 2016
- Notice of "Change of Address" deadline - August 24, 2016

Please take a moment to remind your Retiree Council 43 & TRIF Friends and Family members of these deadlines to make certain all Retirees CAN and DO VOTE this November. PLEASE....Take the PLEDGE TO VOTE! Visit: [pledge.nysut.org](http://pledge.nysut.org)



Pictured left to right:  
Deb Peterson, RC 43  
President; Karen Magee,  
NYSUT President; Judie Mirra,  
President Greenburgh  
Teachers Federation;  
Florence McCue, NYSUT ED  
51-53 At-Large Director

## Clearwater

**President: Cathy Lanza**

727-375-7129

[Lanzac@verizon.net](mailto:Lanzac@verizon.net)

Meeting from September through April

## Daytona

**President: Gordon Russell**

386-310-4188

[g.russ68@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:janetlomicka@comcast.net)

**Co-President: Paul Murphy**

239-593-7738

[Paulfmurphy24@aol.com](mailto:Paulfmurphy24@aol.com)

The Greater Naples Unit meets the 2nd Thursday of each month from October through April at the Longshore Lake Clubhouse on Valewood Drive in Naples, Florida. Lunch follows each meeting. Our fundraiser this year allowed us to give \$1000 to the Immokalee Child Care Center of Guadalupe Social Services and \$400 to Reading is Fundamental. At our April meeting, Brian MacNeil from Protect Security Consultants gave an informative talk about home and personal safety and ways to prevent ourselves from becoming victims. Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 13, 2016.

## Jupiter

**Co-Presidents: Dr. & Mrs. Paul Amrod**

561-625-8988

[drpja@aol.com](mailto:drpja@aol.com)

**Programmer: Jim Brown**

[JimB1600@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, the second Wednesday of the month, 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](mailto:jncsylvester@aol.com)

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of the , 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](mailto:erotheim@tampabay.rr.com)

## Southeast Florida

**President: Miriam Hanan**

516-236-0276

[miriamtrh@gmail.com](mailto:miriamtrh@gmail.com)

**Programmer: Debra Peters**

516-987-8618

[DIP0003@gmail.com](mailto:DIP0003@gmail.com)

Southeast TRIF serves West Palm Beach to Miami, October through April. 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](mailto:dnkpete@aol.com)

**Programmer: Allan Gair**

321-952-0270

[agair@cfl.rr.com](mailto:agair@cfl.rr.com)

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. Contact Programmer for reservations.

## Treasure Coast

**President: Thomas Galli**

772-288-1153

[tomhelga@comcast.net](mailto:tomhelga@comcast.net)

Serving retired teachers and SRP's and their spouses from Jupiter to Vero Beach. Meetings from October through April; March is usually a Joint Meeting with Space Coast Unit at Half Hour Inn in Vero Beach *High School*.

If you are a NYSUT or NYSUT Affiliate Retiree, including SRP's, living in or visiting Florida, you are invited to attend any of the meetings of the Teacher Retirees in Florida (TRIF) Units listed above. The meetings/activities are very interesting and the luncheon costs are very reasonable. Please come and enjoy the camaraderie of other NYSUT, A Union of Professionals Retirees. For more information on any of the TRIF Units, contact the president or programmer, or contact Maxine Knisley, Membership Chair at 772-321-4974 or [mknisley744@gmail.com](mailto:mknisley744@gmail.com)



RC 43 President Deb Peterson and  
HFA Delegate David Dougherty  
Took the **PLEDGE TO VOTE** at the  
44<sup>th</sup> NYSUT Representative Assembly



## VOTE/COPE: THE BARE ESSENTIALS

**VOTE - Voices Of Teachers for Education (NYSTA)**  
**COPE - Committee On Political Education (UTNY)**  
**VOTE/COPE - 1973 Merger of NYSTA & UTNY = NYSUT**

1) Without money to lobby and support of those legislators who vote on our agenda in Albany, we would lose every battle to the corporate interests who lobby against teachers and other public employers. All of our **VOTE/COPE** funds don't begin to compare to the private sector money used against us.

2) Right now the most powerful forces in history are trying to remove tenure, reduce our pensions, eliminate our Triborough protections, reduce our salaries and benefits and slash aid to our public schools. We have no way to fight back, other than with dollars we get from **VOTE/COPE** Contributions. Our dues are not legally allowed to be used for political action purposes.

3) **VOTE/COPE** dollars buy print, radio and TV ads, pay for phone banks and mailers, and allow us to make direct contributions to campaign committees. We support those candidates (whether Democrat or Republican) who support our agenda of adequate funding for public education, health care, social security and other needs of working families. We look for those candidates who support collective bargaining in NYS and all across America. We do **NOT** take positions on wars, gun control, abortion, the death penalty, stem cell research or other matters that our members may be passionate about and deal with through other organizations.

4) Teachers are shocked when they find out that Tiers III and IV, as enacted in 1976 and 1983, were absolutely *horrible* compared to the way they look today. Through the use of **VOTE/COPE** dollars, we have successfully lobbied for the past 30 years to eliminate the worst features of Tiers III and IV. Now it looks to us as though these Tiers

are fabulous. In fact, as originally enacted, no one in Tiers III and IV could retire until they were 62, regardless of how many years they had worked. With relentless lobbying, we got that rolled back to age 55 for those with 30 years in teaching. Today, more than 80% of those teaching retire before they are 62. That would never have been possible without the enormous lobbying done to amend Tiers III and IV, as originally enacted.

5) Did you know Tiers III and IV, as written, had teachers paying 3% of their salaries for their entire careers? Through lobbying and with **VOTE/COPE** dollars we stopped those contributions after just ten years. However, there are legislators who would, if given the opportunity, have Tiers III and IV members with more than ten years experience once again pay this 3% contribution. It is absolutely incredible how much money this puts back in our pockets every year. Someone making \$40,000 saves \$1200 per year; at \$80,000 we save \$2400 per year. This giant victory alone should illustrate how the tiny gesture of contributing \$25, \$50, or \$120 per year produces this vital fund that works for all of us. The money is needed to protect the hard-fought victories it took us so long to achieve and to preserve public education as we know it. **IF NOT US, WHO** will fight this fight?

6) Our most recent challenges, such as APPR and Common Core, make it essential that we have NYSUT Lobbyists working non-stop on our behalf. In addition, we have already begun the work of trying to remove or reduce some of the most onerous provisions of Tiers V and VI affecting our newest sisters and brothers.

**BE THE UNION! MAKE YOUR VOTE/COPE CONTRIBUTION TODAY!**

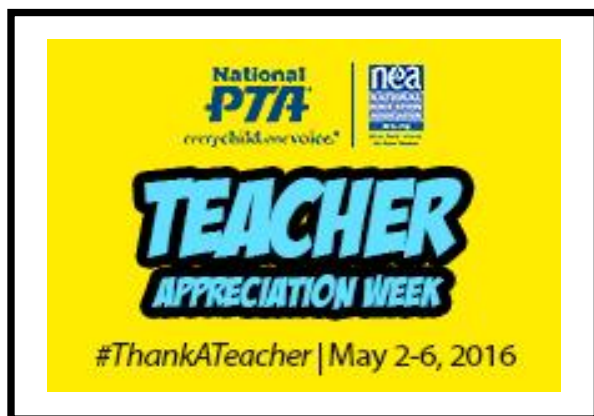
(Reprinted with permission from NYSUT Retiree Council 20 Newsletter, Winter 2016 'New Beginnings' Volume 2 Issue 1)

## CLEARWATER TRIF UNIT'S "SUNSHINE" WEATHER EVENT



Josh Linker, Bay News 9 Meteorologist, was our featured speaker at our March Luncheon at Chili's. Josh shared information and weather stories. He answered a multitude of questions that our "transplanted" members had about our "Sunshine State". Kudos to Rhoda Langstein, our program chairperson, for planning all our luncheons this year with provocative and interesting speakers

SAVE THE DATE!  
NYSUT RC 43 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016



NYSUT: "In New York, we are particularly proud that so many of our teachers are among the best and most dedicated in the nation. To date, more than 1,600 New York teachers have earned teaching's "gold standard" — certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. In addition, each year one NYSUT member is recognized as the state's Teacher of the Year, ably representing their colleagues and their profession."