

ODDS 'n' ENDS

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Mission Statement: Through a representative democratic structure, New York State United Teachers improves the professional, economic and personal lives of our members and their families, strengthens the institutions in which they work, and furthers the cause of social justice through the trade union movement.

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

November – December 2016

From the Desk of President Deb Peterson

In the last edition of **ODDS 'n' ENDS**, I highlighted 2 NYSUT Social Justice Programs: the "Why in 5" campaign which uses a short set of talking points to educate others about significant Social Justice issues and the "Start the Conversation Program" which shines a light on race and ethnicity.

In this issue, I would like to shine a light on **Fair Trade**. NYSUT has been encouraging Fair Trade since a **2006 NYSUT RA** resolution was passed. The resolution resulted in a statewide education and awareness campaign, encouraging **NYSUT** members and the schools they work in to purchase Fair Trade products.

Coffee and chocolate are two of the most widely traded commodities in the world, and the United States consumes one-fifth of the entire world's coffee, making it the largest consumer in the world. In fact, coffee is the second largest import into the U.S. after oil.

Many small coffee and cocoa farmers receive prices for their crops that are less than the costs of production because a variety of commercial buyers, processors, and exporters take advantage of them, forcing them into a cycle of poverty and debt.

Children have to quit school and are denied basic human rights including a sound education because they are forced to work on coffee farms to keep labor costs low.

In addition, there are severe environmental consequences to the current commercial methods of growing and harvesting these crops, e.g., poisoning the land due to overuse and misuse of herbicides and pesticides.

Small growers and cooperatives in Latin America, Africa and Asia find it almost impossible to compete with large corporations and agribusiness in locating buyers for the high quality products they produce.

Fortunately, Fair Trade is a viable economic solution correcting market imbalances by guaranteeing a minimum price for small farmers' harvest encouraging organic and sustainable cultivation practices, and assuring consumers that the coffee they drink was grown, harvested and purchased under fair and humane conditions.

NYSUT has built support for Fair Trade through an education and awareness campaign and by encouraging the purchasing of Fair Trade products by its 600,000 members and the schools within which they work. **NYSUT** encourages all of its locals, actives and retirees, to show solidarity and support by these workers by pledging to purchase Fair Trade products especially, coffee, tea and chocolate, whenever possible. The following links will take you to a list of Licensed Fair Trade products and vendors:

<http://fairtradeusa.org/products-partners#tabset-tab-2>

<http://www.globalexchange.org/print/11834>



Clearwater

President: Cathy Lanza
727-375-7129
Lanzac@verizon.net

November Luncheon: 10th Regency Oaks (North Building) 2751 Regency Oaks Blvd. Clearwater. Reservations MUST be in by November 3rd. This is a catered luncheon and items have to be ordered. Bring exact change or a check payable to NYSUT RC 43 / Clearwater Cost: \$ 13.50 per person Contact to reserve: MADDI OKUN 727-786-6379 MADDI368@AOL.COM or MARILYN SATINOFF 727-784-8338 ESATINOF@TAMPABAY.RR.COM

HOLD THE DATE: Friday, December 9th Holiday Luncheon. 11: 30 am Back to Regency Oaks. Reservations must be in by December 1st at the latest. Call RHODA with your menu choice, This is a catered luncheon.

Daytona

President: Gordon Russell
386-310-4188
g.russ68@gmail.com

Daytona TRIF Unit is on a hiatus until the Fall. We 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

"The Greater Naples Unit will be meeting the second Thursday of each month from October through April at 11:00 a.m. at the Longshore Lake Clubhouse on Valewood Drive, Naples, Florida. Lunch follows each meeting. Current concerns facing NYSUT and retirees, plans for a fundraiser, and our social agenda will be discussed. We are going to see Agatha Christie's "Mousetrap" on December 3 at the Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers. We are planning to see "Phantom of the Opera" in February and "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" in March. Please join us. For further information, 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. All retired teachers and support staff are welcome.

Orlando

President: Janice Sylvester
407-932-4850
jincsylvester@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
941-251-5071
erotheim@tampabay.rr.com

Monday October 28, 2016 11 AM, Der Dutchman Restaurant , 3713 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota. There will be updates and news from the RC 43 Annual Meeting. Buffet Lunch including pie \$15.30 per person (all inclusive). Please send checks payable to RC43/Sarasota to Elly Rotheim 7014 Grand Estuary Trail #101 Bradenton, FL 34212 by October 22,

Friday November 18, 2016 11:45 AM, Casey Key Fish House 801 Blackburn Point Rd. Osprey, FL. (Order from Menu) To reserve your spot call Bob or Elly [941-251-5071](tel:941-251-5071) or e-mail erotheim@tampabay.rr.com by March 28. Directions: Tamiami Trail to Blackburn Point Rd. Go West to Casey Key Fish House just after the bridge. Overflow parking across the street.

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. All meetings are at 9:30 AM at the South County Civic Center, Delray Beach October – April.

Space Coast

President: Deb Peterson
914-261-0474
dnkpete@aol.com
Programmer: Allan Gair
321-952-0270
agair@cfl.rr.com

Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month from October – April at the Eau Gallie Library in Melbourne. The group continues to enjoy luncheons throughout the summer months.

November 11, 2016: 10:30AM The Let Life Bloom Speakers for TransLife Organ Donors will be here again this year to bring us up to date on their relevant and interesting programs. We dine at Woody's BBQ.

December 9, 2016: NOON Holiday Party—Once again, we celebrate the holidays at Rooney's Pub on Malabar Road east of Babcock Street. Please bring articles of clothing and/or supplies for 0 - 3 month old infants. More information will follow later on in the season.

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 are from October through April; there are two Joint Meetings with Space Coast Unit

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

DID YOU KNOW...?

On June 1, 2016, New York State United Teachers applauded the enactment of legislation that will allow honorably discharged veterans employed by state or local governments to purchase up to three years of credit toward their pension. "This legislation rightfully recognizes the men and women who have so selflessly served our nation, and the enactment of this bill represents a significant victory for NYSUT, which for three years fought relentlessly to ensure this bill became law," said NYSUT President Karen E. Magee. Under the new legislation, female public employee veterans - for the first time - would have the opportunity to purchase such service credit. That, Magee said, is especially significant to NYSUT since more than 70 percent of the union's membership is female.



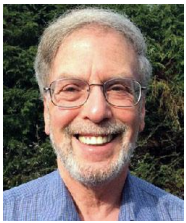
Prior to the signing of this legislation, only those veterans who served during certain periods of conflict — including World War II, Korea, Vietnam, hostilities in the Persian Gulf, Lebanon, Grenada and Panama, — were eligible to purchase service credit. "This important legislation corrects the inequities in the state's pension laws pertaining to veterans," said NYSUT Executive Vice President Andrew Pallotta. "The fierce fight waged by NYSUT for the passage of this bill was the right thing to do for the men and women who personally sacrificed to keep our nation secure. We are privileged to call these people our members." **Happy Veteran's Day – November 11, 2016!**

School-Related Professionals Recognition Day, importance of the NYSUT members who are an SRPs are cafeteria workers, custodians, building monitors and attendants, mechanics, teacher professionals, security personnel and many other. advocacy by NYSUT members. NYSUT-backed lobbying by NYSUT staff and members, resulted State. It is celebrated annually on the third within American Education Week, Nov. 13–19. Take this opportunity to thank an SRP who made your working experience extra special!



celebrated this year on Nov. 15, recognizes the integral part of students' educational experience. and grounds workers, clerical staff, bus drivers, aides and teaching assistants, health care SRP Recognition Day is the direct result of legislation, made possible through the extensive in a permanent SRP Recognition Day in New York Tuesday in November. This year's Nov. 15 date falls

NYSUT's new Ken Kurzweil Social Justice Recognition Award honors locals, chapters and retiree councils that support social justice causes throughout the year. The award is named in honor of Retiree Council 15 member Ken Kurzweil, the former longtime chair of the NYSUT Civil and Human Rights Committee, former president of the Bedford Teachers Association and science /computer science teacher for 35 years. "We named this in recognition of Ken's unparalleled experience, passion and years of support for NYSUT's social justice agenda, both as an in-service and retiree member,"



said NYSUT VP Paul Pecorale, "We hope this award inspires other members toward greater social justice involvement." As an educator, he impacted the lives of students, fellow educators and other community members. He demonstrated the ability to inspire, lead, organize and engage other educators, parents and the community to advocate on social justice issues. He has been an ambassador and advocate for social justice issues and a tireless champion of civil and human rights.

To qualify, groups must participate in at least five social justice activities over the course of a year. **RC 43 WILL SUBMIT ONE APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF ALL OUR TRIF UNITS.** To that end, will you please review the PDF version, available online and send me all the activities in which your TRIF Unit has been engaged over this past year. NYSUT also requests that we send them evidence of qualifying participation by sharing artifacts such as newspaper articles, pictures and/or event literature so that they can celebrate our commitment to social justice on social media. For a review of the application, visit [NYSUT.org, Social Justice, Resources, Ken Kurzweil Award](http://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/social-justice/kurzweil) <http://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/social-justice/kurzweil>

Please send articles, pictures and even just lists of said evidence to me ASAP. **Deb Peterson dnkpete@aol.com**

Established in 1993, the NYSUT Community Service Awards were created to recognize individuals who have given outstanding volunteer service to their communities. Since its inception, hundreds of NYSUT members have been nominated by their locals or Retiree Councils to receive this Award. The 2016 Retiree Council 43 Recipient is: **Felicia Bruce**. Felicia is a NYSUT Retiree from the Brentwood UFSD, where she served as Building Rep from 1998 – 2011 when she retired. She is the NYSUT RC 43 VP and Webmaster; author of several award winning articles; and Legislative Liaison, monitoring legislation from Albany, Tallahassee and Washington, DC that affects teachers, retirees and seniors. She works tirelessly across active and retiree lines to provide timely information and insights by speaking to a wide range of groups. She reaches out to unions throughout the Treasure Coast and beyond to coordinate efforts that will benefit working and retired families.



Besides being the NYSUT RC 43 VP, Felicia is the Legislative Coordinator for FEA-R; St. Lucie FEA Teachers Tiger PAC Chair; and past FLARA Board Member. She is a regular contributor of articles in local and regional newsletters that are pro teacher, pro education and pro union.

As a community service volunteer, Felicia serves as GAL (Guardian Ad Litem) helping abused or abandoned children in St. Lucie County. She is a Sunrise Theater volunteer and a Savannahs Preserve volunteer doing presentations, working as an Educational Advisor and Tour Guide. Felicia is also a member of the Sierra Club; Environmental Defense; Audubon and Nature Conservatory.

As an Interfaith Minister, Felicia performs weddings and other ceremonies. She speaks frequently to religious and cultural tolerance issues.



NYSUT Retiree Council 43 TRIF UNIT Treasurers 2014 – 2017



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LAKE/SUMTER & WINTER HAVEN & FIRST COAST

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RC 43 Website:

<http://rc43.ny.aft.org/>

RC 43 Facebook Page:

[New-York-State-United-Teacher-Retirees-In-Florida](#)

RETIREE COUNCIL 43 PARTICIPATION FEE/MEMBERSHIP FORM SEPTEMBER 2016-AUGUST 2017

NAME _____ EMAIL _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE (____) _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
DISTRICT FROM WHICH YOU RETIRED _____ YEAR OF RETIREMENT _____

Please check the amount of your participation fee: ____\$30 (NYSUT Retiree) ____\$20 (Assoc.)
Remit a check payable to NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 43—TRIF UNIT'S NAME by mail to either:
1. The Treasurer of the TRIF Unit you would like to join, OR
2. MAXINE KNISLEY, 701 Rose Avenue, Sebastian, FL 32958 (if not certain)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT MAXINE KNISLEY at **Phone:** 772.321.4974
Email: rc43membership@gmail.com