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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 to August.

January - February, 2017

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT DEB PETERSON ELECTION NOTIFICATION FOR TRIF UNITS & RC 43 OFFICERS

ALL TRIF UNITS MUST HOLD ELECTIONS FOR THE 2017 - 2020 TERMS OF OFFICE

In accordance with the NYSUT Retiree Council 43 and TRIF Unit Constitution and Bylaws, the following guidelines MUST be followed for the election of TRIF Unit Officers. Nominations for TRIF UNIT Officers, Delegates and Alternate Delegates to NYSUT Retiree Council 43 shall be made in the following manner:

The Officers of TRIF UNITS shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The immediate Past President shall be a member ex-officio of the TRIF UNIT Board of Directors.

A nominating committee composed of no less than three (3) nor more than five (5) active fee paying members shall be appointed by the President in January of each year in which elections are scheduled.

The Nominating Committee will propose a Slate of Officers in February for election at the March meeting of the TRIF UNIT of the year in which elections are scheduled.

Nominations may also be made by Letter of Intent or from the floor at the election meeting.

Any member in good standing is eligible for nomination for office.

Election shall be by secret ballot.

In the event there is no contest for a position of Officer, the Secretary shall be instructed to cast one ballot for each such candidate, in lieu of the above procedure.

Term of office: Duly elected Officers shall serve a three (3) year term commencing April 1st.

The Secretary shall preserve all election records, including ballots, for a period of one (1) year.

NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 43 ELECTION NOTICE

Under the Labor Law Department regulation for election of Union Officers, and in conformity with the guidelines for the operation of NYSUT Retiree Council 43, this notice is to advise the membership of NYSUT Retiree Council 43 of the procedure for election of the following Officers of NYSUT Retiree Council 43 :

- PRESIDENT
- VICE PRESIDENT
- SECRETARY
- TREASURER
- MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
- DELEGATE 2
- DELEGATE 3
- ALTERNATE DELEGATE 2
- ALTERNATE DELEGATE 3

The term of office for the above positions is three (3) years, beginning with the conclusion of the Annual NYSUT Retiree Council 43 Conference to be held in September 2017. Candidates for Office must be NYSUT Retiree Council 43 members. In accordance with NYSUT Retiree Council 43 guidelines, the person elected President will serve as NYSUT Retiree Council 43 Delegate to the NYSUT and AFT Conventions. The person elected Vice President will serve as Alternate Delegate to the NYSUT and AFT Conventions. NYSUT Retiree Council 43 members wishing to run for any of the positions listed above must send a written letter of intent, postmarked no later than June 30, 2017

Janice Sylvester
NYSUT Retiree Council 43 Elections Committee
1801 Wedgewood Way
Kissimmee, FL 34746

Positions where there is only one candidate will be deemed filled. If there is more than one candidate for the position, a written ballot will be sent to each NYSUT Retiree Council 43 member of record as of June 30, 2017.

The new Editor of Odds n' Ends is Cheryl Dodes, retired science teacher and department chairperson from Weber Middle School, Port Washington UFSD and prior to that, science teacher in New York City at IS 73Q

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. We are looking to reorganize and invite all interested NYSUT retirees in the area to contact Gordon for further information.

Greater Naples

Co-President: Robert Lomicka

239-514-7234 janeltomicka@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 through April 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at the Longshore Lake Clubhouse on Valewood Drive in Naples. Lunch follows each meeting. Plans for our fundraiser and current concerns facing NYSUT and retirees will be discussed. A number of our members are going on a cruise leaving the end of January on the Allure of the Seas. On February 11th we are going to the Broadway Palm Theater for lunch and a performance of "Phantom of the Opera". In March plans are to see "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee". All are welcome. For further information, please contact the co-presidents.

Jupiter

Co-Presidents: Dr. and 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

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 jncsylvester@aol.com

Meetings are on the first Wednesday, 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

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 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 DLP0003@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.

On January 10, Joan Perrini, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant for Suffolk County will discuss "What's Happening Up North: Retirees Issues and Benefits. On February 14 we will enjoy an iPad and iPhone Technology Workshop. All programs are subject to change.

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.

Please see below for information about the joint meeting with the Treasure Coast unit on January 13, 2017.

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.

Treasure Coast Unit will join Space Coast Unit on January 13, 2017 at 11 am at the Palm Bay Golden Corral, 880 Palm Bay Road, tel: 321 722-4142 (take I95 to Exit 176 toward Palm Bay/Malabar for .04 miles on the right; .02 miles past Bass Pro Drive N.E.) Support Space Coast Unit's Chinese Auction Scholarship Fundraiser - bring gently used or new items you cannot use or no longer want.

E-mail Tom tomhelga@comcast.net or Deb Peterson from the Space Coast Unit with your acceptance: dnkpete@aol.com

Our February meeting will take place on February 8, 2017 at Al's Family Farms in Ft. Pierce. An e-mail will be sent out with directions, menu choices and deadlines.

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

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NYSUT REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The NYSUT Regional Retiree Conference will be held on January 17, 2017 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Palm Beach Gardens. Invitations will be mailed out in November. Contact Judy Kalb, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant, at 561-737-8071, for information.

A New Way to Go

Impact travel may be the new way to go... After reading about NYSUT'S new Ken Kurzweil Social Justice Recognition Award, I was motivated to expand my community service experiences. Already involved and committed to living a purposeful life and 'making a difference', I knew there were other opportunities from which I could learn and help others. Luckily, I found out about *impact travel*, which meant I could learn, grow, help, and have fun all at the same time and in foreign countries.



Workers in Cuba Making Chocolate

First, we tried a cultural exchange program to Cuba. Music, art cooperatives, neighborhood chorale groups, native food in restaurants and private homes were the focus of that trip. The ship, the Adonia, anchored at three harbors so

many production aspects of a cocoa business to help a group of female entrepreneurs in their sustainable operation, teaching English to adults or children, or laying a cement floor for the benefit of an extended family unit. Each activity is a half day long and cruisers can sign up for one or more of these unique opportunities.

Frequently, educators want to 'make a difference' and these impact travel experiences are the perfect way to combine social purpose, fun and learning. People who sign up for the Peace Corps are also committed to immersing themselves in a foreign culture to make a difference, but that requires much more time and sacrifice.



Cuban Art Coop

we could experience Cuban culture firsthand.

Travel to the Dominican Republic, by contrast, involved getting our hands dirty on reforestation projects either in the mountains or on the beach, and helping a community make a water filtration system. Other opportunities involved working in the

Like ripples from a pebble tossed in the water, the effect we can have on others is exponential. To view some of the statistics of the Adonia's impact travel go to their website <https://www.fathom.org/>

- Contributed by Felicia Bruce



2017 Medicare Premiums Announced

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services just announced the 2017 Part B premiums for Medicare, and they are going up. For nearly 70% of Medicare recipients, the premium will increase from the existing \$104.90 to \$109. This increase corresponds to the recently announced cost of living adjustment, which averages \$5.

For the remaining 30%, who are not protected by the hold harmless provision in the Social Security law, the basic premium will increase from the current \$121.80 to \$134. Recipients in this category include:

New enrollees in 2017

Recipients not yet receiving Social Security

Those with higher incomes (starting at \$85,000 single/\$170,000 married) subject to the Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA)

Those who are subject to IRMAA pay additional amounts beyond the \$134, depending upon their income.

As noted previously, these higher premiums illustrate the exact situation that RPEA raised when we successfully opposed Governor Cuomo's plan to cap the NYSHIP reimbursement of Medicare premiums at the \$104 level. Retirees are not to be viewed as a revenue stream for the state budget, and we commend the legislature for agreeing with us.



On January 21, 2017 at 10 AM we will unite in Washington, DC for the Women's March on Washington. We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families -- recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country.

The rhetoric of the past election cycle has insulted, demonized, and threatened many of us--women, immigrants of all statuses, those with diverse religious faiths particularly Muslim, people who identify as LGBTQIA, Native and Indigenous people, Black and Brown people, people with disabilities, the economically impoverished and survivors of sexual assault.

In the spirit of democracy and honoring the champions of human

rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore. The Women's March on Washington will send a bold message to our new administration and to the world that women's rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us.

We support the advocacy and resistance movements that reflect our multiple and intersecting identities. We call on all defenders of human rights to join us. This march is the first step towards unifying our communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up. We will not rest until women have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all. **HEAR OUR VOICE.**

For more info: <http://bit.ly/2fJx3re> or Facebook Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-march-on-washington-official-tickets-29428287801>

RC 43 Website:

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

RC 43 Facebook Page:

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



American Heart Association Announces New Go Red for Women Initiative

The mission of the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" movement is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. That single purpose drives all they do. The fact is heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year. That's approximately one woman every minute! Go Red for Women advocates for more research and swifter action for women's heart health.

An engaging new initiative to keep healthy living, interesting and fresh is "Go Red Get Fit". Macy's is joining to cheer on participants and keep them motivated with exciting prizes, like the chance to win a \$1,000, \$500, or \$250 Macy's gift card!

You may join the #GoRedGetFit Facebook group and begin a healthy lifestyle journey that positively impacts the way you look and feel. #GoRedGetFit is a quarterly health and fitness challenge that combines nationally known and influential celebrity fitness trainers with the power, influence, and encouragement of real women like YOU! Join at website <https://www.goredforwomen.org/>