

# TRIF

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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.

March-April, 2017

## FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT DEB PETERSON

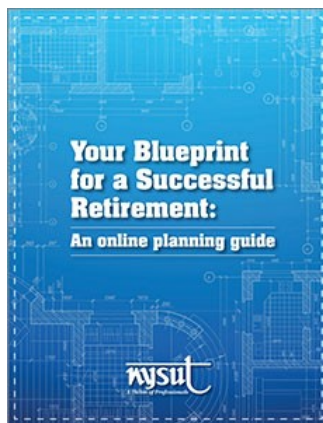
### SPRING CLEANING

I have emptied out the closet in my home office with the intent of recycling, repurposing and reorganizing that huge mountain of paperwork and materials I seem to have collected over the past 10 years. Sound familiar? Now my only problem is creating a pathway between the boxes and piles in order to navigate my way over to my laptop! To help me realize my vision of a streamlined filing system and a more ordered life in general, I am reaching out to the many resources provided by NYSUT and outlined in the newly published "Your Blueprint for a Successful Retirement: An online planning guide." This wonderful treasure was created and developed by members of the 2014-2017 NYSUT Retiree Advisory Committee, an outstanding group of NYSUT Retirees of which I was privileged to be a member.

NYSUT VP Paul Pecorale proclaims: "NYSUT provides you with tools and resources that benefit your quality of life as a new professional in education or health care and throughout your career with professional development, legislative advocacy and benefits as a union member. This guide continues that longstanding tradition of offering services to members at each stage of their career. It will assist you in preparing for the financial, social and psychological adjustments in retirement and provide ways for you to continue to engage in the work of the union."

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Thinking about Retirement
2. I Have Decided to Retire
3. Maintaining Your Union Connection in Retirement
4. Pension
5. Health Insurance Benefits
6. NYSUT Member Benefits & Local Benefit Trusts
7. Social Security
8. Relocation Considerations
9. Financial Planning
10. Estate Planning and Long-Term Care
11. When You Lose a Loved One
12. Personal Record Register
13. Resource Directory



I would encourage all readers of **ODDS 'n' ENDS** to share this most valuable resource with your family members, active and retired colleagues and friends. You can download your own personal copy at <http://www.nysut.org/members/retirees/retirement-guide> You will need your NYSUT Member ID and password.

#### What is Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®)?

Music In Our Schools Month® or "MIOSM®" is NAFME's annual celebration during March which engages music educators, students, and communities from around the country in promoting the benefits of high quality music education programs in schools.

Music In Our Schools Month® began as a single statewide Advocacy Day and celebration in New York in 1973 and grew over the decades to become a month-long celebration of school music in 1985. As a matter of note, NYSUT RC 43 President Deb Peterson participated in every MIOSM Celebration from 1973 until her retirement in 2005.

### Clearwater

**Pres: Cathy Lanza** 727-375-7129 [Lanzac@verizon.net](mailto:Lanzac@verizon.net)

The next meeting is Thursday, March 9th 11:30 A.M.  
Positano's Italian Restaurant in Shoppes of Cloverplace, 3309 Tampa Rd.,  
Palm harbor, 34684

The speaker will be Stacey Orloff from Empath Health  
Reservations must be in by Monday, March 6th to Maddi or Marilyn.

Our annual end of the year picnic will be Thursday April 13th, at the  
Sheriff's Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor. More details to follow.

### Daytona

**Pres: Gordon Russell** 386-310-4188 [g.russ68@gmail.com](mailto:g.russ68@gmail.com)

Daytona TRIF Unit is on hiatus

### Greater Naples

**Co-Pres: Robert Lomicka** 239-514-7234

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

**Co-Pres: Paul Murphy** 239-593-7738

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

The Greater Naples Unit meets the second Thursday of each month from  
October through April 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at Longshore Lake Clubhouse on  
Valewood Drive in Naples. Lunch follows each meeting. Current concerns  
facing NYSUT and retirees will be discussed. On March 14th we will have  
a wine tasting fundraiser at Total Wine from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. March  
25th at 2:00 p.m. we will be seeing the play, "The 25th Annual Putnam  
Spelling Bee" at the Florida Repertory Theatre, Fort Myers. For further  
information, please contact the co-presidents.

### Jupiter

**Co-Pres: 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

**Pres: Tom Smith** 352-638-9432

[Birdman32347@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Birdman32347@tampabay.rr.com)

Nature Coast covers Hernando and Pasco Counties and any other County  
on the Nature Coast that doesn't have a TRIF Unit. Meets from October  
through April, 2nd Wed., 11 AM with Speakers at most meetings. All  
retired teachers and support staff are welcome.

### Laces of Love—Greater Naples Unit



The Greater Naples Unit has  
donated new sneakers and  
contributed money to Laces of  
Love. It is an organization that  
provides new sneakers to low  
income and disadvantaged  
children in Collier and Lee  
Counties, Florida. For further  
information, please contact the co-presidents. This Unit does a lot of  
volunteer work: Volunteering at the Naples Botanical Garden,  
Delivering mail at Bentley Village Nursing Home, Service Chair for  
Donations for Charities at Longshore Lake Women's Club, Longshore  
Lake Fitness Committee, Welcoming Committee at Hampton Park,  
Lector at St. John XXIII, Helping residents at Harbor Chase Assisted  
Living and Memory Care of Naples, Alzheimer's Support Network of  
Naples, Volunteer teaching at Lake Trafford Elementary School of  
Immokalee, Bayshore Fire and Rescue, ECHO, Habitat for Humanity,  
Collier Harvest and Bread to Immokalee from Publix, Lake Advisory  
Committee Longshore Lake HOA, Reading is Fundamental, evaluating  
teachers for Golden Apple Teacher of the Year, and many more.

### Orlando

**Pres: Janice Sylvester** 407-932-4850 [jncsylvester@aol.com](mailto: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

**Pres: Robert Gentile** 941-251-5071 [erotheim@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:erotheim@tampabay.rr.com)

Tuesday March 21, 2017 10:45 AM, Manatee Historical Village Park. 1404  
Manatee Ave E, Bradenton, FL Lunch to follow at Yacht Sea Grill (Order from  
menu) 101 Riverfront Drive, Bradenton. To reserve you spot call Bob or Elly 941  
251 5071 or email [erotheim@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:erotheim@tampabay.rr.com) by March 10.

Directions to Village Park. I 75 Exit 220B State Rt. 64 (Manatee Ave.). Go east on  
St. Rt. 64 to 14th Street East. Steam Engine is on Left. Turn left at light. Parking on  
left.

Tuesday April 4, 2017 11:45 Carmel at the Shoppes at University Center, 8433  
Cooper Creek Blvd., Bradenton, FL Across from BJ's Wholesale. (Order from  
menu) To reserve you spot call Bob or Elly 941 251 5071 or e-  
mail [erotheim@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:erotheim@tampabay.rr.com) by March 28.

### Southeast Florida

**President: Miriam Hanan** 516-236-0276 [miriamtrh@gmail.com](mailto:miriamtrh@gmail.com)

**Programmer: Debra Peters** 516-987-8618 [DLP0003@gmail.com](mailto:DLP0003@gmail.com)

Serves West Palm Beach to Miami. Meets at 9:30 AM at the South County Civic  
Center, Delray Beach October – April.

March 14: Bonnie Conrad—Project Director, Elder Rights Center; April 18:  
Stephan Coles – VOYA Financial Updates (+ optional lunch at Henry's)

All programs are subject to change.

### 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)

Meets the second Friday of the month from October – April at the Eau Gallie  
Library in Melbourne. March 10, 2017: 10:30AM - Sarah Williams, Aging  
Matters will address their numerous programs and volunteer opportunities. Please  
Take Note: March is the month for the Elections of all NYSUT RC 43 TRIF Unit  
Officers.

April 14, 2017: 10:30AM - The Visiting Nurse Association will be sending Dr.  
Balaji to speak about hypertension and high cholesterol. Lunch will follow at BJ's  
Brewhouse just outside the Melbourne Mall.

### Treasure Coast

**President: Thomas Galli** 772-288-1153 [tomhelga@comcast.net](mailto:tomhelga@comcast.net)

We will meet on March 29th at 11am sharp at Fort Pierce Central H.S.'s Cobra  
Café, 4101 S. 25th Street. Please send in your check for \$12.00 pp to Helga by  
March 22nd : Helga Galli, 2980 SW Lauren Way, Palm City, FL 34990 772-  
288-1153. April info will arrive by email.



**Reminder: TRIF Unit Elections take place in March  
Letter of Intent to run for a NYSUT RC 43 Office  
is due June 30, 2017**

**RC 43 Officers Elections are at our September  
Conference...unless they are unopposed**

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)

# Women's March: DC January 21, 2017

Traveling alone from Florida to DC for the march I wasn't sure what to expect. The only thing I was certain of is that I was compelled to be there. It wasn't just the disappointment of my candidate losing the prize despite garnering the most votes. It wasn't the sadness of a dream so close to reality yet still unfulfilled. It wasn't the frustration of an incompetent, unqualified man usurping the election from the most qualified candidate in modern times. It wasn't even the insulting conduct of a spoiled winner who refused to try to breach the divide he had exacerbated.



It was that all the issues being voiced were MY concerns: issues I had advocated for, called on legislators for, written about.... As a teacher I had lost students to gun violence. As a mother I saw the agony on the faces of women who had had 'the talk' with their young black sons, but still they were dead in the streets. As a woman old enough to remember the days before Roe v. Wade, I know we couldn't turn the clocks back on a woman's control of her body. As an environmentalist I care deeply about our planet so climate change denial disturbs me. As an educated woman, I respect science and know its value to students AND to communities. As a retiree I certainly cannot afford to have my earned benefits of Social Security and Medicare diminished. As a friend, I know people whose lives have been saved by the Affordable Care Act, Obamacare. As a minister, I prize freedom of ALL religions.

Marching I saw signs everywhere. Every single one had meaning for me. Some made me laugh. Some made me want to cry. It's so hard that after all these many years, we are still fighting the same battles.

And so I went. But I found more than I expected. I found camaraderie. I made friends with strangers. I was inspired. I was motivated. I was energized. I got so much more than I either expected or I gave. I was welcomed. Churches opened their doors. Signs were prepared for me. Hospitality was shared. Police acknowledged us with smiles and high fives. And through it all it was clearly self evident: we were not alone. Ours was not a voice in the wilderness. Ours was a universal call to conscience. A wake up call. A call to arms. A reality check that the world is watching and it doesn't like what it sees. But its voice will not be ignored. This is a movement: Like Abolitionists, Like Suffragettes, Like Civil Rights demonstrators, Like Viet Nam protesters: we will not be ignored or silenced until we have the justice we seek.



If the election was a surprise, this was a shock. The pundits didn't predict it. The media didn't understand it. And the political parties are not yet sure what to do about it.



But I was there. I was fully present. I know the future is through uncharted waters. But there is no doubt there is no turning back. The only way is forward.

On March 3, 1913 a women's suffrage march in Washington D.C. was attacked by angry onlookers while police stood by. The march occurred the day before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration. Many of the 5,000 women participating were spat upon and struck in the face as a near riot ensued. Secretary of War Henry Stimson then ordered soldiers from Fort Myer to restore order. Unfortunately, it seems that the more things change the more they stay the same.



A photo from another protest march 100 years ago: Suffragists picket the White House in 1917. (Library of Congress, Manuscript)

—Article contributed by Felicia Bruce, Vice President, RC 43

Have a story, personal accomplishment or [color picture](#) to share? A book, an organization, a concept you would like to review? We are expanding our [online edition](#) of ODDS 'n' ENDS to feature members' contributions we are unable to include in our 4 page B&W print copy. Please submit any ideas to: Cheryl Dodes at [redodes@aol.com](mailto:redodes@aol.com) or Maxine Knisley at [mknisley744@gmail.com](mailto:mknisley744@gmail.com)

## Retired Teachers Love to Volunteer



April is National Volunteer Month. We asked TRIF Chapters in RC 43 to tell us about the volunteer work that members do. We are overwhelmed by the response! Here are some of the ways that retired NY teachers in Florida continue to give back to the community: **TREASURE COAST:** Gail Adelhardt—American Association of University Women, Brandeis National, Mary's Shelter. **SARASOTA:** David Greise—aquarium guide, Mote Marine Laboratory; Ginny Griese—AV at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lakewood Ranch, Volunteer at Taoist Tai Chi Society, Women's March Sarasota; David Muolo—President Selby Botanical Garden Associates; Sue Levinson—All Faith Food Pantry, Venice FL, Womens' March Washington DC; Pat Benson—President of Democratic Womens Club, Vice President of AAUW and TRIF, Reading Pals volunteer (United Way), Mentor for Take Stock in Children, Thrivent Volunteer for community outreach, Stem Program for Manatee Branch of AAUW, NAACP volunteer when needed; Liz Lynne—Lakewood Ranch Humane Society; JD Lynne—Tour Guide Historic Spanish Point, Tour Guide Susan B Anthony House, Rochester, NY, Americans United for Separation of Church & State, Board of Directors, Local Coordinator Sarasota/Manatee Secular Organizations for Sobriety; Elly Rotheim—Director Selby Botanical Gardens Associates, Selby Botanical Gardens Welcome Center, Women's March Sarasota; Jim Paone—Selby Botanical Gardens, John Ringling Museum; Lee Henks—Usher at Venice Theatre, works in the dining room at Our Lady of Perpetual Help,

(Continued on back page)

## “NO” to a NY State Constitutional Convention



Every twenty years a referendum appears on the ballot in New York State asking voters whether a Constitutional Convention should be held. NYSUT recommends that voters vote “No” in 2017 for a Convention to be held in 2019 for many reasons. The NY State Constitution contains many guarantees. For example, it provides the right to a public education for the state’s children, the right to collective bargaining for all state employees, land rights, and the following phrase: “Your pension cannot be diminished or impaired”. Enhancements to the Constitution **can** be made **without** holding a Convention.

Some people want to change many provisions. One result might be wholesale upending of the pension system, including charging NY State income tax on our pensions, changing the way our pensions are calculated, and other modifications that would prove detrimental. NYSUT is mounting a campaign to discourage New Yorkers from voting for a Convention. A Convention would cost taxpayers at least \$340 million dollars, money that could surely be better spent elsewhere. It is very important to contribute to VOTE/COPE at this time to provide the resources that NYSUT will need to publicize the negatives about holding a Constitutional Convention. Encourage every registered NY voter to Vote NO for a Constitutional Convention!

### RC 43 Website:

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

### RC 43 Facebook Page:

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

### Volunteers (continued)

Tutors at Epiphany Cathedral School, volunteers at Venice Regional Hospital; **SOUTHEAST: Miriam Hanan**—President of Southeast Unit TRIF, Interim Secretary RC 43, Vice President Democratic Club of Greater Boynton, Vice President PBC Democratic Veterans Caucus, Seated Member of PBC Democratic Executive Committee, Elected Precinct. Leader for Democratic Precinct 3150 in Election Zone 7W, Merrick Retired Teachers Coordinator of Communications and Retiree Benefits, Muirhead Estates at Aberdeen HOA Secretary in charge of legal documentation, Active member in PAP Corps, Member of ORT, Stage manager and performer in annual community show; **Bill Cea**—Trustee, Southeast Unit TRIF, Board of Directors FL Alliance for Reired Americans and Broward County AFL-CIO, member of Knights of Columbus, Lector and Eucharistic Minister- Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Jude Roman Catholic Church; **Cheryl Dodes**—Newsletter Editor ODDS n’ ENDS and The Southeast Catalyst; Newsletter Editor Boca Raton Orchid Society, Docent at Green Cay Nature Center, Volunteer at Broward North Hospital, Joint Replacement Center, Writer and Production Staff for Times of Your Life magazine; **Carolyn Buonomo**—Secretary of TRIF, Usher at First Presbyterian Church in Pompano Beach Conservation Chair of Boca Garden Club, Member of Get out the Vote Team of Democratic Club of Highland Beach, Highland Beach Library volunteer; **Debra Peters**—Teaches weekly iPad/iPhone classes for members of her over-55 community, Facilitates weekly 2-mile sunrise ocean beach walks, including a little yoga and QiGong, Vice President of Programming for TRIF Southeast Unit, has organized HS reunions for the last 40 years; **Marsha Friedman**—Treasurer of RC 43 for the state of Florida, Treasurer of the Southeast Chapter of RC 43, Programming Chairman of the Mayim Hadassah chapter at Cascade Lakes community, on the set up and clean up committee of Hadassah, membership Vice President of the singles club in Cascades Lakes community; **SPACE COAST: Deb Peterson**—President RC 43; President Space Coast TRIF, Member NYSUT RAC, Schroon Lake Public Library Volunteer (Used Bookstore and House & Garden Docent), Schroon Lake Fish & Game Club (Lobster Bake Volunteer), Seagle Music Colony - does quartet & ensemble a cappella performances community/civic groups; **Allan Gair**—NYSUT RC 43 (retiring) Secretary, Space Coast TRIF VP Programs, Treasurer, Board Member, Chairman ER Front Desk, Chairman ER Back Supply, and Co-Chair Courtesy Valet Service at Health First Medical Group at Holmes Regional Hospital, Assistant to the Board, Compass Pointe HOA.