

A "C.U.T." ABOVE

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Cathy's Column

This summer is not only a hot, wet season, but also one that is filled with 'BREAKING NEWS' each day. Revelations of undisclosed meetings with Russians, resignations, inflammatory 'tweets' from the president, and at the center of it all—Robert Mueller's special investigation into a Russian connection during the recent election. This probe may prove to be the undoing of the administration which ran on the presumption that there was a "swamp in Washington that needed to be drained".

Well, so far he has had appointed the multi-millionaires who have been and are committed to eliminating the very departments that they have been entrusted to preserve. As an educator, albeit retired, I am very concerned about the future of public education with Betsy DeVos as the the Secretary of Education. Everyone knows that she has had NO experience in the public sector of the education. As a matter of fact, this multi-billionaire, and her family have worked actively to promote the charter-school movement in her home state of Michigan. She has lobbied for school choice voucher programs to promote private and religious institutions of learning. In my opinion, her record in the field speaks for itself. She has NO interest or facility to oversee the public education of over fifty million youngsters in our country.

In recent history, there have been attempts to "improve" our system of education. No Child Left Behind worked on the premise that testing was necessary and that if schools were failing, they would not be eligible for much needed funds for support services in the schools for remediation. Rather the "better" schools would get the funds as a reward for success. Testing took up valuable teaching time and the results would not be in to use as a diagnostic to help the failing students. The publishers of the tests were the winners—not the students. As Diane Ravitch, professor of Education at NYU, has said, "We have become a data driven educational system". Ms. Ravitch supports a learning system which favors creativity and the joy of learning. A system which supports teachers and the whole child. A system which will prepare our youngsters for the challenges they will face in today's and tomorrow's world.

Unfortunately, I'm not optimistic at all about what the future holds for our students. Our voices can be heard through the use of our vote for candidates who support public education. Education for profit was not the vision of our forefathers. The VOTE-COPE drive will be underway in preparation for the November elections. PLEASE SUPPORT VOTE-COPE.

I look forward to seeing you at our first luncheon on Thursday, September 14. Details are in the Newsletter

All About TRIF / CUT and Membership

Membership participation of \$30 covers costs for both the local unit and the statewide Florida Council during the 2017-2018 season. Our season goes from September 2017 to August 2018. Who may join? Any retired New York State public school teacher, and any AFT teacher retiree from any state may join our group.

For the 2017-18 CUT (Clearwater Unit of TRIF) season of gatherings and programs commencing in September, we hope to see ALL of you joining our leadership and the plans and programs for our group. Please, if you have not already done so, would you complete this membership form today and send it to treasurer Joe Lanza with your membership check. YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017-2018 SEASON is \$30. (\$20 for Associate Membership)

Our mission is:

- to develop new friendships established within our Unit and seek new acquaintances to
- keep members informed of changes involving health and retirement benefits
- to spotlight political choices ONLY if they may impact our members
- to feature programs and speakers having significant impact on our group
- to select and support youth based projects benefiting Tampa Bay youngsters

You brighten
my life!

Your membership helps to support the following:

- Giving a group donation toward a special child-centered project.
- Providing the funds to send one or two of our members to the annual NYSUT conference.
- Paying for the cost of our newsletter including printing costs, mailing labels, and stamps.
- Buying the lunches for our guest speakers.
- Having a contingency fund to defray the expenses for special guest speakers, whom we would want to hear, that require some fee or donation to their organization.

For your convenience, we will have extra membership forms available at the check-in desk for each meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

COMPLETE AND SEND YOUR 2017-2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please, make your check payable to: NYSUT RC 43 / Clearwater

Mail this form and check to:

JOE LANZA, 7450 EVESBOROUGH LANE, NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34655

Special Note: If there is a retiree chapter involving the NYS local from which you retired, you must remain a member of that chapter in order to maintain your membership in NYSUT/AFT and any benefits that the local NYSUT/AFT provide. Additionally, you may participate here in Florida.

PLEASE PRINT ON THE FORM.

NAME _____/_____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY & ZIP: _____

FLORIDA PHONE: [_____] ____/____ CELL PHONE (if preferred): [_____] ____/____

E Mail address (please print very clearly) _____

SIGNATURE: _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM WHICH YOU RETIRED _____

Additional contribution to Egan Cottage (Sheriffs Youth Ranch) Amount of donation _____ added to membership. This does not include money for the Egan Cottage Holiday Fund.



The Clearwater Unit celebrated our End of The School Year with our Annual Picnic at the Sheriff's Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor. The event is deliciously catered by Publix and highlighted by the presentation of a check to Egan Cottage to be used for special activities for the residents during the summer months. In December, we also donated two checks. One to be used for Christmas gifts and the other for extra activities for the children. Currently there are ten kids in residence at Egan Cottage ranging in age from five to sixteen.

Egan Cottage Happenings

from Janice and Stephen Drinane

Our hearts filled with joy last night as my husband Stephen, Ellyn Kessler, and I joined the staff and youngsters of Egan Cottage and the other cottages for the Annual Spring Awards Banquet hosted by the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor. The Ranch commemorated the achievements and strengths of their young people. In this extremely competitive world, it particularly pleased us to witness the children's heartfelt support of their friends as their cottage mates received awards and the excitement when they themselves were recognized. These youngsters' generosity of spirit and friendship enriched the event for everyone. We thank the Ranch for inviting us to share this special evening.



Egan Cottage Summer Catch-Up



Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.
MENDING LIVES, HEALING HEARTS.

Dear Friends,

Thanks so much for the wonderful donation to Egan cottage! The funds will be used to enrich the kids summer experience this year. Once again, THANK You!

*Alan and Terri Martin
and the kids at Egan*

“NOT Back to School Luncheon”

Date: Thursday, September 14th

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: Another Broken Egg Cafe

2554 McMullen Booth Rd.

Clearwater 33761

727-240- 8655

Reservations to Maddi or Marilyn by Monday, September 11th

Rhoda has found a hidden gem for our social gathering to celebrate that we do not have to go “Back to School”

This restaurant is tucked away behind SteinMart, Wells Fargo Bank and Jersey Mike Subs. Take McMullen Booth to Eastland Blvd. Turn west on Eastland. Make your first left into the back side of Northwood Plaza. You cannot see the restaurant from the road. Stay to your left and then curve to your right. When you are behind Wells Fargo Bank you can see the restaurant on a corner—straight ahead. As I said a “hidden gem.”

TRIF/CUT
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