

A "C.U.T." ABOVE

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Cathy's Column

It seems as if so much has happened in the last few weeks since our last Newsletter that it's difficult to imagine the natural disasters that have befallen our planet in such a short time! As far as I know, all our members remained safe during IRMA. We were so fortunate that it was downgraded and that the power outages that most of us endured were relatively short—certainly in contrast to the devastation in Puerto Rico from MARIA. It will be a long time for the city of Houston to fully recover from HARVEY.

What I don't understand is why the majority of our legislators are concentrating on repealing the Affordable Care Act, and put forth little effort toward reducing the causes of these hurricanes—Global Warming.

Why aren't they listening to those who depend on Medicare and Medicaid? Why are they intent on eliminating health coverage for Americans with "pre-existing conditions"? Why are they focused on giving tax cuts to the wealthy? I think you and I know the answers to these questions. Our politicians rely on donations and because the wealthy big businesses can afford to give more dollars, the legislators are beholden to the interests of their donors. In my estimation, the system needs a severe overhaul. Do not underestimate your influence. Every day I get dozens of emails to sign petitions or call Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson and our representatives to let them know how I feel about what is happening in Washington or Tallahassee. I invite you to let your voice be heard also. I have provided contacts.(see below)

Deb Peterson addressed New York's upcoming vote on whether to have a Constitutional Convention in the most recent ODDS 'n' ENDS. Some of us vote in NY. Most of us still have family, friends, and colleagues who can make a difference by voting against having a Constitutional Convention.

Our present Constitution protects all our pensions by disallowing a diminution of benefits to all participants. It guarantees the right to Workers' Compensation and the right to belong to a union and collective bargaining. The present Constitution guarantees every child the right to a free public education. This is so vital considering Betsy DeVos' avocation of charter schools and run-for-profit schools.

A Constitutional Convention was last held in 1967. The cost was \$12,000,000! The revisions were voted down by the voters of NY. In today's dollars, we could end up spending billions-only to make the legislators rich. The consequences could be drastic and definitely detrimental to the workers of our Empire State. Please help to get out the NO vote.

Finally, we need to have representation in government that will promote our ideals for the future. PLEASE DONATE TO VOTE-COPE.

Marco Rubio 202-224-3041, 407-254-2573
Bill Nelson 202-224-5274, 813-225-7040



What is VOTE-COPE and Why is VOTE-COPE Important?

VOTE-COPE is an acronym representing the Voice Of Teachers in Education, the Committee On Political Education. The primary goal of VOTE-COPE is to support the goals of public education and protect all of NYSUT's constituents, from our newest members to our retirees. VOTE-COPE lobbies for:

- state aid for education and health care;
- decent working conditions;
- a secure retirement;
- affordable prescription drugs; and
- affordable health coverage.

Mail your Vote/ Cope contributions to:

Tom Galli

RC 43 Vote /Cope Chair

2980 SW Lauren Way

Palm City, FL 34990



Congress is threatening to repeal key health reforms that expand access and protect consumers. That would devastate the millions of Americans who rely on these programs for coverage and care. If these protections are repealed, more than 20 million will lose insurance, Medicaid will be cut, prescription drug prices for seniors will rise, and people with pre-existing medical conditions will once-again be unable to enroll in insurance.

Tell Congress to vote no on repealing our healthcare protections without providing a real replacement plan that provides comprehensive, affordable coverage. (From Consumers Union)

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. Associate membership in TRIF UNITS shall be open to spouses or survivors of NYSUT retirees, to any other education-affiliated individual and/or to any person who supports the goals and programs of NYSUT A Union of Professionals.

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

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NAME _____ / _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY & ZIP: _____

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

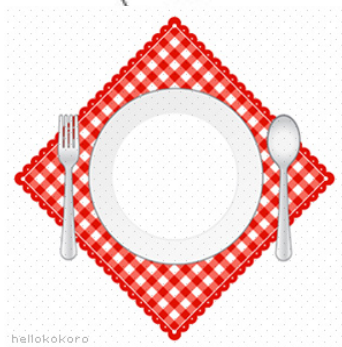
E Mail address (please print very clearly) _____

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.



Positano's

October 12th Luncheon

11:30 a.m.

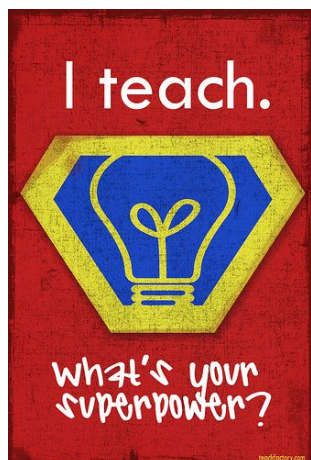
Located in Shoppes at Cloverplace 3309 Tampa Rd. (East of US19N)
Palm Harbor

Report from the RC 43 (September 26th) Conference in Orlando
Updates on Egan Cottage
RSVP by Monday, October 9th to Maddi or Marilyn—See front page

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