

A "C.U.T." ABOVE

President

Cathy Lanza
 7450 Evesborough Lane
 New Port Richey, FL 34655
 727-375-7129
lanzac@verizon.net

Co-1st Vice Presidents

Marilyn Satinoff
 727-784-8338
esatinof@tampabay.rr.com

Maddi Okun

727-786-6379
maddi368@aol.com

2nd Vice President

Rhoda Langstein
 727-785-1099
rlangste@aol.com

Treasurer

Joe Lanza
 727-375-7129
lanza0660@gmail.com

Secretary

Eva Joline
 727-642-3949
ejoline1103@gmail.com

President Emeritus and Advisor

Phil Meissner
 727-669-7656
philm2384@gmail.com

Sunshine Committee

Marilyn Satinoff 727-784-8338
esatinof@tampabay.rr.com

Betty Egge

727-787-8580
bettyegge@gmail.com

Egan Cottage Liaisons

Janice and Stephen Drinane
 845-304-9679
enuff234@gmail.com

Associate Egan Cottage Liaison

Ellyn Kessler
 727-726-0770
eskclwtr@tampabay.rr.com

Newsletter Editor

Ellen Artale
 727-772-5656
eartale@icloud.com



Cathy's Column

The strength of our great country has been from its very outset its diversity. We are a nation of immigrants. Immigrants fought valiantly and many gave their lives in our wars. They have labored to build our roads, bridges and skyscrapers. They have contributed to our culture in music and theater. They have contributed in the areas of physics and medicine. Why is the government forsaking and sending away immigrants who yearn to be a part of our citizenry?

The future of our country is our children. Why are "the powers that be" turning away from public education by making our tax dollars available for private schools for profit?

Unions have fought for better working conditions to protect the worker since Samuel Gompers in 1869 started the American Federation of Labor. Why are some of our lawmakers trying to dissolve our union strength by proposing that you need not pay dues to your local union to protect your rights and your future employment. Our strength has always been in our solidarity and commitment to improve working conditions, benefits, fair wages, and job security. The unions have sought to accomplish this throughout our history.

With yet another senseless massacre in Parkland, Florida, our majority legislators are reluctant to pass any sort of gun control. They are more concerned that their campaign backers might rescind millions of dollars for their re-election. Their campaign funds are more important than the lives of our children.

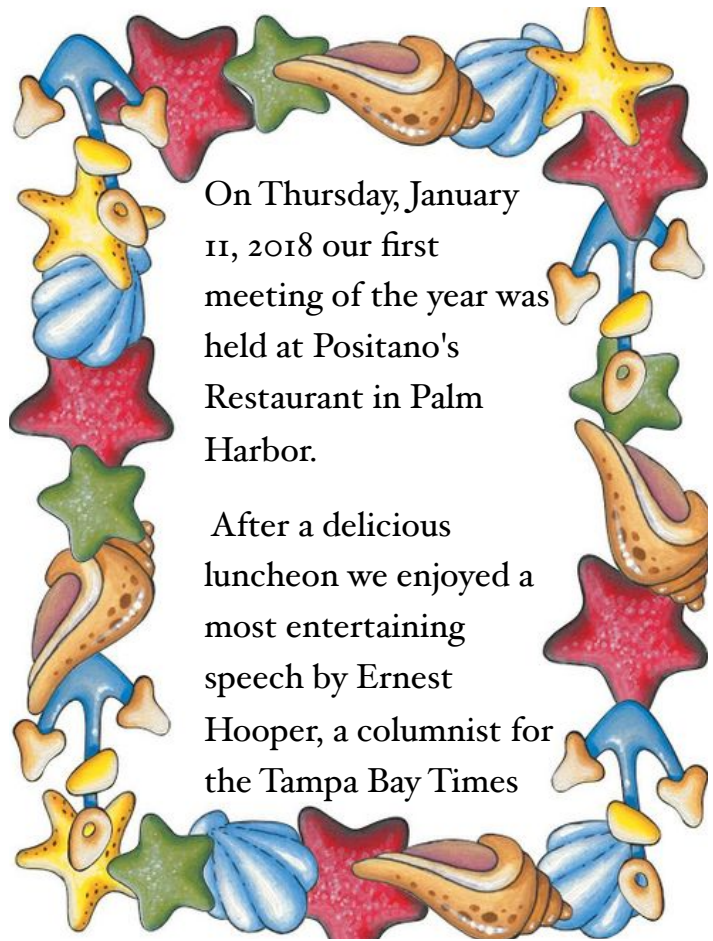
Why is it that clean air and the protection of our public land have no place on the agenda of the majority party in the branches of our government? According to them, there is no global warming. We don't need to use alternative energy. We can't continue like this! There will be no generations to come unless there is a drastic change.

It seems to me that the back bone, strength and future of our country will be resting with decisions that will be made in the very near future. It is truly unfortunate and very short sighted that we have elected a president and Congress that will be making those critical decisions based on making the wealthiest of our country even wealthier and neglecting those of our populace who need affordable health care, public education, a safe work place and fair wages.

Why is the majority party working to end defined pensions? NYSTRS is funded at 98.4 % which is best in the nation. Policy makers want to close participation in pension plans to all new hires! These folks want to cut benefits & increase employee contributions or convert to do it your self defined contributions which can't weather a BUSH TYPE recession like in 2008. Our pension receives 17% of its assets from employer/employee contributions and 83% from investment returns. No 401k comes even close.

The party in power would like to rid seniors of Medicare and eliminate Social Security for the future. The "safety net" of retirement would be gone!

Our recourse is to stand by our convictions by exercising our right to vote and be sure to support those candidates who will legislate the way our forefathers did over two hundred forty years ago. We can't let this present administration chip away the foundations that our country was built upon.



On Thursday, January 11, 2018 our first meeting of the year was held at Positano's Restaurant in Palm Harbor.

After a delicious luncheon we enjoyed a most entertaining speech by Ernest Hooper, a columnist for the Tampa Bay Times

Mr. Hooper's theme throughout his talk was about the scrapbook of images that are left in the minds of former students. Teachers leave that indelible mark on them. It is true that a dedicated teacher never grows tired of hearing, in various ways, of the positive impressions that have been left on former students.

Mr. Hooper spoke of his childhood education in Tallahassee . Although there were very few African Americans where he was growing up, he never felt isolated as a black student. His teachers all left lasting and usually valuable impressions on him. He remembers vividly the effect they've had on him.

Raised in a family of many teachers, he also credits that to his beliefs of the value of positivity and perseverance. Throughout his speech he stressed the fact that teachers should never underestimate the power one has on the children in their classroom.

Mr. Hooper told us, as an adult, his way of "giving back" to the community for his strong guidance in life is to try to "give back" to those young people aspiring to careers in Journalism.

His speech was not only most enjoyable but also highly inspiring.

Submitted by Eva Joline



For over ten years, at the suggestion of Fred Egge, who sadly passed away in December, our Clearwater Unit has had a special relationship with Egan Cottage at the Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor. It has not only been a financial, but also a caring and social closeness and awareness that has bound us with the youngsters living there.

We received this award last month in recognition of our ties with the Ranch.

Thank you for your continuing support of the youngsters at Egan Cottage.



EARLY BIRD DINNER
THURSDAY, MARCH 8TH

4:30 P.M.

RUMBA ISLAND BAR & GRILL

3687 Tampa Road

Oldsmar

Modern, airy restaurant & bar crafting American fare with Jamaican flair, plus tropical drinks.

CONTACT MADDI OR MARILYN BY
TUESDAY, MARCH 6TH TO MAKE A RESERVATION

TRIF/CUT
7450 EVESBOROUGH LANE
NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34655

FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

ADDRESS LABEL

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

**Special
Event**

