

# A "C.U.T." ABOVE

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## Cathy's Column

Public education has been in the forefront of the media these past weeks, now more than ever before. The gun violence in Parkland has finally awakened the populace to the overwhelming power and undue influence of the NRA on politics. It has taken the teenage students and parents to finally begin to make SOME headway into stricter gun laws. More needs to be done.

Our U.S. President supports "hardening of the schools" rather than making the schools safer through stricter gun legislation. Having guns in the schools is a huge mistake as most, if not all, educators agree. When will our government listen to us? NOT UNTIL THEY ARE VOTED OUT IN NOVEMBER 2018!! Recent special elections across the country are indicating that Americans are finally starting to vote THEIR interests. Trump has his own agenda and it is not in the interests of the poor, the working middle class, the financially overburdened college student, or the senior citizen living on Social Security with healthcare through Medicare/Medicaid. We have become a country ruled by special interests WHICH ARE NOT OUR OWN.

The successful Teacher Strike in West Virginia championed the value of SOLIDARITY IN UNIONISM. Together we are strong. Teachers have always fought for the betterment of their students and the teachers made sure that the students were not overlooked during the days they were out. Donations of food by the teachers helped to nourish those youngsters who depend on the schools for at least one or two meals a day.

Betsy DeVos, who has no experience as an educator or school administrator or as an elected official, has been appointed as our U.S. Secretary of Education. "She's one of the wealthiest members of Trump's very rich Cabinet," according to [vox.com](http://vox.com). Her 60 MINUTE TV interview, has enlightened Americans as to her real initiatives in education. In Michigan, Ms. DeVos' main goal was to take public funding away from the public schools and funnel the money into charter schools. She is not interested in improving the public schools. She has no inclination to give resources to failing schools because she would like to basically eliminate them. This is her basic goal. We cannot let this happen.

At this writing, new revelations into the dealings of Trump, his family and inner circle are rampant. I do not have a "crystal ball", but I hope and pray that Americans make their choices and vote for THEIR INTERESTS in upcoming November elections!



## **Minutes from March 8, 2018 dinner and meeting**

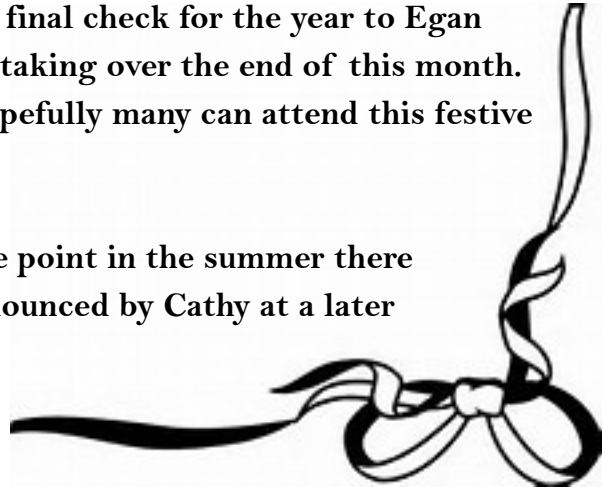
### **Submitted by Eva Joline**

Our monthly meeting was held Thursday, March 8th at Rumba's restaurant on Tampa Road in Oldsmar. We attended an early bird dinner followed by a short meeting.

Cathy explained about the April 12th event at Sheriff Youth Ranch. It is at 11:30 a.m. The event is an indoor picnic- rain or shine! Anyone attending this picnic in the past tells how it promises to be a fine day.

At this event our Teacher Group will be donating our final check for the year to Egan Cottage. There will be new cottage parents for Egan taking over the end of this month. We will have a chance to meet them at the picnic. Hopefully many can attend this festive event.

This will be our last meeting before summer. At some point in the summer there will be a get together. The time and place will be announced by Cathy at a later date.



## **\$\$\$ Treasurers Report \$\$\$**

TRIF collected \$3342 in fees and donations.

We paid Retiree Council 43 \$650 for fees. Donations to Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch included \$1200 dollars for the project and \$500 for the Christmas gifts and party at the Egan Cottage.

Expenses included donations to Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch, Newsletter, Conference and dinner for guests at the luncheons which came to a total of \$2845 with a balance of \$497. TRIF Clearwater BB&T balance for 02/28/2018 was \$5,699.12. Encumbered expenses for 2017-18 include \$650 dollars in fees to RC 43 and \$600 dollars to the Sheriffs Ranch. The last activity of the 2017-2018 year will be the annual picnic when TRIF Clearwater's fiscal year ends in August 31<sup>st</sup> 2018.



March 3rd proved to be a glorious spring day and perfect for the ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE at the Sheriff's Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor. Tours of the Cottages were available by the residents as was musical entertainment, canine demonstrations, equipment, and a delicious BBQ. Several of our members were present, along with hundreds of area residents, and all enjoyed the campus and the worthwhile benefits that the Ranch offers to its youth and community.

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**Thursday, April 12 th, 2018**

**11:30 am arrival**

**Sheriffs Youth Ranch Clubhouse  
Enterprise Road**

**Cost: \$10 per person**

**Menu: Hot rotisserie cooked chicken, barbecue baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, rolls, assorted cookies, and both hot and cold drinks**

**Also, please call Maddi at 727-786-6379 or e-mail Marilyn at [esatinof@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:esatinof@tampabay.rr.com). to make your reservation. Deadline is Monday April 9th**

**DIRECTIONS: Using McMullen-Booth to Enterprise Road, turn east for 100 yards to the entrance of the FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCH. Drive past the office building on the left to the large building behind with the portico entry and spacious parking area.**

**We will be presenting our donation to Egan Cottage at this time. Terri and Allan Martin, our present Cottage Parents, will be leaving because of family commitments. We will be meeting our new Cottage Parents, Cheryl and Bruce Rzungota. Let's give them a warm welcome!**



# Membership

Membership was 45 which included 40 NY retired teachers and 5 associates members for 2017-18. We had 4 new members this year, but this is 12 less than in 2016-17. NYSUT provided us with the names of all NY retirees in Florida and we sent letters to all of them in our area but the response did not yield any new members. Some retirees joined because of the Odds & Ends newsletter, but they are not in our Clearwater area.

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