

A "C.U.T." ABOVE

Cathy's Column

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It's not even the end of July, but this has been a very politically active summer. Candidates have been filling my mailbox everyday with their proposals of what they plan to do should he/she become the candidate for office in the VERY IMPORTANT upcoming primary on August 28th. As educators and citizens, we need to become informed about each of the prospective candidates and vote with our common goals in mind. We need a governor who will support the public schools and not give tax dollars to "for profit" charter schools. The Florida Education Association has endorsed Gwen Graham for governor.

We need a governor, a senator, congressman or congresswoman who does not support "zero tolerance" immigration policies. All of us have ancestors who were immigrants. We need to protect affordable healthcare, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Just within the last couple of months, our democracy is being challenged and the strides that have been made toward world peace appear to be falling apart. Alliances, environmental protections, tax cuts for the wealthy under the guise of "tax reform", are just a few of the "changes" being made by the current administration. "Draining the Swamp" was really Donald Trump's putting friends with little or no experience into important and expensive positions. For example, Betsy DeVos was appointed Secretary of Education and has had NO EXPERIENCE in the public schools. Rather, her family has spent millions to support the charter schools in her native state of Michigan.

Scott Pruitt, before he became the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, was "a leading advocate against the EPA's activist agenda". As you know, he finally resigned after many ethics controversies earlier this month, but not until he had misused lots of our taxpayer dollars.

Trump is very happy to tout his many golf courses and wealth--BUT WE ARE THE ONES PAYING FOR HIS TRIPS TO HIS "WINTER WHITE HOUSE", his trips to embarrass world allies and to blatantly seem to befriend the Russian dictator who meddled in our free 2016 elections and democracy.

Another development this summer has been the JANUS Decision. This decision states that unions can no longer collect agency fees. The Conservative Court took note of the recent victories of union walkouts and sought to weaken the unions as a political force. Agency fees cover the costs of representing nonmembers in contract negotiations and disputes with employees. This decision has serious ramifications for Teacher UNIONS.

With respect to the judicial branch of government, under the Trump administration, his Supreme Court appointees could have lasting effects for a generation to come. With his conservative choices, women's rights, now guaranteed under the law, could be overturned. The integrity of The Mueller Special Counsel Investigation could be in jeopardy.

Everything that is happening points out that the upcoming 2018 elections are very important to the future of our country. We can't let greed, disrespect for humanity, flagrant misuse of power and tax dollars, ineffective gun laws and restrictions rule our country. Our country, as the leader of the free world, deserves legislators who will vote for the best interests of our great country.

VOTE ON PRIMARY DAY AUGUST 28

VOTE ON ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 6





APRIL CATCH UP NEWS

Our monthly meeting was held on Thursday, April 12 at the Sheriffs Youth Ranch (SYR) on Enterprise Road in Safety Harbor. Cathy's committee organized a delicious catered luncheon at the Activity Center. Twenty five attendees enjoyed the food, presentations and camaraderie. The new house parents for Egan Cottage, which our group helps all year with donations, were introduced to us. They are Cheryl and Bruce Rzegota.

Arvid Cowell, the donor relations officer for SYR spoke. He graciously thanked us for our dedication, support and donations throughout the year to Egan Cottage. Mr. Cowell presented one of our members, Linda Van Valkenburg, with a Certificate of Appreciation Builders Society Award for the generous individual donations she has made to SYR. He gratefully thanked her for her contributions to SYR. The award states, "Thank you for helping us build a place of hope and healing for deserving children. Attending Lives, Healing Hearts."

Cathy announced that Maddi Okun, one of our 1st Vice Presidents, is resigning. She is moving to the Orlando area to be closer to her family. Cathy thanked her for her years of service and support to our group. She will be deeply missed. We all wish her much happiness spending more time with her family. Anyone interested in filling her position should contact her or Cathy.

After the luncheon, Cheryl and Bruce spoke to us concerning some of their past adventures. Bruce is an exceptional speaker and truly had us "in the palm of his hand" with his informative and interesting stories. This couple originally came from Elmira, NY. They spent 34 years in the ministry spanning 5 continents!! As house parents at Egan they live and work there for 2 weeks, then have 1 week off. They have youth care assistants helping, Laura being the closest assistant. Bruce detailed a day in their lives, tending to 10 children, the dynamics of some leaving, some newcomers, and never knowing when a change is coming and sometimes only hours to prepare for that change. As former teachers, we can all well imagine the challenges and hurdles confronted on a daily basis. Both Cheryl and Bruce are most grateful for the challenges ahead of them. We all wish them and "their kids" the best of luck in their endeavors!!

Bruce personally invited us to call his cell phone anytime to invite ourselves to enjoy a dinner with them and visit with the children. His cell number is 419-706-7416. He hopes we will visit! After their conversations with us they were presented with our summer donation to Egan Cottage. Bruce thanked us and assured us it will gratefully be used for a "fun" time with the Egan children!!

Cathy informed us this is our last meeting of the year. She will communicate with us later regarding a summer breakfast or luncheon.

Submitted by Eva Joline



An open letter to our President, Cathy Lanza

Hi Cathy,

A lot has been happening this summer at Egan Cottage. We have had a lot of turn over; kids going home and other kids coming. We had two leave for North Florida, FL yesterday. Change remains the one thing that does not change at Egan. Our current make up is 8 ranchers. The youngest is 9, the oldest turns 18 on Tuesday. We expect two more to leave before the summer is over. Cheryl and I truly love working here with them even if it means for only a short time.

Thank you for your support. You have been such a blessing to us. Your gift from the picnic lunch is allowing us to purchase year long passes to a water park in Largo. Management there gave us a great price and have even agreed to allow us to transfer the passes to new residents when someone goes home. The paperwork took a lot of doing, but today is our first trip to Splash Harbor.

I have attached a picture of the bench that your association donated in memory of the Egrés. It sits in front of the garage entrances to the cottage. It serves as a daily reminder of your partnership

Be blessed. Let us know when the next association event is. Remember you are welcome to visit anytime.

Bruce and Cheryl Rzegota
Egan Cottage Parents
Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch

COMPLIMENTARY MEMBER APPRECIATION BRUNCH

Date: **Thursday, September 13, 2018**

Time: **11:30 am**

Place: **THE SHERIFF'S YOUTH RANCH
DON GENUNG ACTIVITY CENTER
310 ENTERPRISE ROAD EAST
SAFETY HARBOR, FL 34695**



RSVP Before September 10th to Marilyn 727- 784- 8338 or
esatinof@tampabay.rr.com

Reservations are a must

Find out about Clearwater Unit of Retiree Council 43
Meet other retirees interested in PUBLIC education
Learn about our connection with Egan Cottage at the Ranch
BRING ANOTHER TEACHER RETIREE OR FRIEND OF EDUCATION WITH YOU!

You may join us at 11 a.m. for the dedication of the bench.



All About TRIF / CUT and Membership

Membership participation of \$30 covers costs for both the local unit and the statewide Florida Council during the 2018-19 season. Our season goes from September 2018 to August 2019. 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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 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

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 2018-2019 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. This does not include money for the Egan Holiday Fund

