

**RC 43 TRIF-ic NEWS IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF RETIREE COUNCIL 43,
NYSUT TEACHER RETIREES IN FLORIDA. IT IS PUBLISHED FIVE TIMES PER YEAR**

Fall, 2018

Vol. 35, No. 1

**Affiliated with NYSUT,
AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO,**

COUNCIL 43 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Deb Peterson
Ph: 914-261-0474
dnkpete@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT: Felicia Bruce
Ph: 516-395-3721
Spmomtchl@aol.com

SECRETARY: Miriam Hanan
Ph: 516-236-0276
miriamtrh@gmail.com

TREASURER: Marsha Friedman
Ph: 954-270-5336
mushbaker720@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP: Maxine Knisley
Ph: 772-321-4974
mknislev744@gmail.com

RC 43 TRIF-ic NEWS EDITOR:
Cheryl Dodes
Ph: 561-877-2067
rcdodes@aol.com

VOTE/COPE: Tom Galli
Ph: 772-288-1153
tomhelga@comcast.net

NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES
CONSULTANT: Judy D. Kalb
Office: 561-994-4929

Change Your Address?

Contact NYSUT Member Records

Ph: 1-800-342-9810

memberrec@nysutmail.org

From the Desk of the President, Deb Peterson

In the spirit of collaboration, I invited Ken Goodfriend, UFT Florida Coordinator of Sections and Services and Bill Sauers, President of Florida Alliance of Retired Americans to share some information about their Florida organizations. They will also share NYSUT RC 43 and TRIF Units information with their membership. Strong labor partnerships between teachers' unions, represented by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the National Education Association (NEA), and pro-education groups are essential for the health and welfare of the future of public education and collective bargaining. As retirees, we have the knowledge base and experience to lead the way. Let's build those partnerships throughout Florida!

Message from Ken Goodfriend:

The UFT has retiree sections in 7 locations around the State - Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm beach Counties, Orlando, Ocala, Tampa and Sarasota. They run phone banks in all locations and in the 2016 Presidential Election the Union were able to reach 75% of their members in the State. The UFT in Florida is currently making use of the AFL-CIO Labor Action Network database for the phone banking efforts in Sarasota and Tampa. In addition, they are working with the AFT to serve as contact personnel in Florida for the upcoming November Gubernatorial and Senatorial races. For more information: KGoodfriend@UFT.org; <http://www.uft.org/chapters/retirees/florida-section> ; 561-994-4929

Message from Bill Sauers:

The Florida Alliance for Retired Americans (FLARA) represents 188,000 Union and like minded Community based organizations throughout FL. Currently, there are 15 Area Chapters across the state with the objective of protecting and expanding Social Security and Medicare. Area Chapters meet throughout the state during the months of Jan, March, May, September and November. FLARA members lobby Federal and State legislators in their home districts on a monthly basis to keep senior issues in front of our elected officials all the time. For more information: billsauers@flara.org; <http://www.flara.org/>; 561-792-8799; FloridaARA@flara.org; <https://www.facebook.com/FloridaAllianceforRetiredAmericans/>

The upcoming November 2018 elections may be the MOST crucial election in several decades. There are many citizens who routinely vote ONLY in presidential election years. PLEASE ENCOURAGE FRIENDS, FAMILY AND ACQUAINTANCES to vote this year on November 6th.



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 43 TRIF UNITS IS NOW ON PAGE 3

This page will highlight the various RC 43 TRIF Units.
Please send us news about what your TRIF Unit is doing so that your TRIF Unit may be featured.

News from the NYSUT RC 43 TRIF Units...

The Treasure Coast Unit will resume its seasonal schedule with a breakfast meeting at Perkins Restaurant on US 1 in Port St. Lucie at 9:30 AM on Wednesday October 17. Educators and all support personnel from any school anywhere in the US are welcome! This group gathers to support education and socialize throughout the winter season. For more information call Mary Brower 772-283-3887.

The Greater Naples TRIF Unit raised \$1,200 at a wine tasting fundraiser and holiday fundraising dinner. \$600 will be given to The Children's Advocacy Center and \$600 to Pinecrest School in Immokalee for school supplies.



Greater Naples Successful Wine Tasting Fundraiser

They had an active year going to 5 plays, a trip to Key West and holding our fundraising activities.

The Greater Naples TRIF Unit meeting day has been changed from the second Thursday to the second **WEDNESDAY** of each month at 11:00 AM from October through April at Longshore Lake Clubhouse on Valewood Drive in Naples."

The Clearwater Unit has had as its charitable project EGAN COTTAGE at THE SHERIFF'S YOUTH RANCH in Safety Harbor for the last twelve years.

The project was initiated by Fred and Betty Egge, long time members and past officers. Fred and Betty also served as tireless liaisons to the Cottage for the past 12 years.

When Fred and Betty weren't "official" liaisons, they were tutoring others to take their place. Fred never lost his special connection to the children at Egan Cottage. They were instrumental in setting up a tutoring program for the youngsters when there arose a need. An annual Christmas Pizza Party is an annual affair at the Cottage with each child receiving a specially chosen gift with special funding by the teacher retirees. Each year we are able to donate \$1200.00 for the Cottage parents to use to enrich the lives of the kids through special outings, equipment, etc. that make life more special and memorable for the kids.

All of this is possible because of the vision of the Egges.

Sadly, Fred passed away this past December. The Clearwater TRIF Unit felt that a lasting memorial to the Egges and their commitment to Egan Cottage was in order.

On September 13 a bench will be dedicated to Fred and Betty Egge at the Member Appreciation Brunch at The Sheriff's Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor.



Bench Dedicated to Fred and Betty Egge

The Southeast Unit will host its Welcome Back Breakfast on Tuesday, October 9 at 9:30 AM at the South County Civic Center on Jog Road in Delray Beach. Our guest speakers will be from the League of Women Voters. The topic will be "The Midterm Elections and Amendments to the Florida Constitution". RSVP to Miriam Hanan, 561-509-0042.

FLARA Honors Senator Bill Nelson and Rep. Ted Deutch

On Monday July 30, 2018, Bill Cea and Miriam Hanan of RC 43 Southeast Unit attended a presentation by FLARA to honor and thank Senator Bill Nelson as a "hero" in protecting Medicare and Social Security. All attendees were union affiliated and presented the award to Michelle McGovern, the Senators Assistant and staff members. Simultaneous presentations were taking place at the same time in all the Senator's offices throughout the state. The Senator received his award in person at the Orlando office.

Also on July 30, Representative Ted Deutch received the Hero Award from FLARA in honor of Social Security's 83rd birthday.



FLARA Honored Senator Bill Nelson Rep. Ted Deutch Received the Hero Award from FLARA

The Space Coast Unit and the Brevard Federation of Teachers in Collaboration: As a memorial to one of our founding members Virginia King, the Space Coast TRIF Unit established The Virginia King Early Education Launch Award. This award is given annually to a beginning teacher of Early Education in Brevard County. To be eligible for the \$250.00 Launch Award, the candidate must be a member of the Brevard Federation of Teachers (BFT), as the selection process occurs collaboratively with the Federation.

The 2018 Virginia King Launch Award was presented to Caitlin Thompson from Croton Elementary School. Caitlin's accomplishments include the implementation of a student-led 'Mindful Minute,' sponsoring the Croton Innovation Games; and presenting 'Flocabulary' Professional Development to her fellow teachers.

SC TRIF Board Members Michael and Doris Zackheim and Isabel Youssef-Ochoa presented the award. Also present were (BFT) President Anthony Colucci, BFT-VP Vanessa L Skipper and Assistant Principal at Croton Elementary Jennifer Susin, the 2008 Virginia King Award Recipient!



The Space Coast TRIF Unit meets regularly the second Friday at Eau Gallie Public Library, located on 1521 Pineapple Avenue in Melbourne, FL. 32935. Please refer to this calendar for alternate meeting places, luncheons and events! For lunch reservations please contact Isabel @ 321-431-7202, isa1150@aol.com

This year we are starting our first meeting on October 12, 2018 at 10:00 AM by welcoming back our members with a **BRUNCH**. The meeting's agenda will focus on updates from NYSUT, AFT, RC 43, FLARA, UFT and NEA.

Membership

As NYSUT members who live in Florida, **NYSUT RC 43 Teacher Retirees In Florida** is our direct link to our Union Leadership in Albany and member benefits. In addition to the nine **TRIF** Units across the state, we are looking to start **TRIF** Units in other parts of Florida.

As Educators & Retirees it is essential that we continue to stay aware of the actions of our legislators. This vigilance includes monitoring legislators in Florida, New York as well as Washington D.C. Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, and Federal Education Regulations are among the National Issues that we should give input to our Legislators with phone calls, visits & emails. We can easily maintain input on critical issues through the NYSUT MAC Center. <https://mac.nysut.org> OR through AFT's Take Action Center <https://www.aft.org/action>

I invite you to renew your **NYSUT** activism and camaraderie by visiting one of our **TRIF** Unit meetings. If you live in an area with no nearby **TRIF** Unit, our Board will help you meet others in your area to start a new **TRIF** Unit. **NYSUT** members living in Florida both permanently or as snowbirds can join a Florida **TRIF** Unit and maintain membership in their NY home school district local.

All of the **NYSUT** Benefits we enjoyed as in-service members are retained as Retirees. Through **TRIF** meetings as well as 2 annual **NYSUT** Conferences., it is easier to: 1. Have access to up-to-date programs & services; 2. Be informed which candidates the Florida Education Association and other unions in Florida have endorsed. This last information can be elusive when we aren't familiar with Florida politics.

Our website <http://rc43.ny.aft.org> includes articles and resources focusing on **NYSUT** Retirees living in Florida. Our Facebook page New York State United Teacher Retirees In Florida <https://www.facebook.com/New-York-State-United-Teacher-Retirees-In-Florida-166355720080638/> helps us to stay current on issues of which we, as active retirees, should be aware. Both social media sites enable us to stay connected and informed on current issues relevant to Education, as well as to our **NYSUT Retiree Membership**. (You don't have to be a member of or signed into Facebook to view our page.)

For additional help in locating an **RC 43 TRIF UNIT** to visit, contact a **TRIF** Unit as listed on page 4 of this newsletter or me directly: Maxine Knisley, **RC 43 Membership Chair** 772-321-4974 or mknisley744@gmail.com

PRIMARIES IMPORTANT BUT ONLY IF YOU'RE NOT AN INDEPENDENT by Bill Cea

I frequently get asked as to why it is important to register for a political party rather than registering as an independent. The answer is simple. Most states, including Florida and New York, have what are called closed primaries rather than open primaries. In closed primaries members must be registered to vote in that party's primary. In open primaries usually you can vote for candidates of either party including of the party for which you are not registered. Therefore, by not being a member of a political party, a voter in the general election is usually in a position of voting for candidates chosen by members of either of the two major political parties.

In the Florida primary for Governor Democrat Andrew Gillum will face Trump endorsed Ron DeSantis. In the Senatorial contest Democrat Bill Nelson will face off against Rick Scott. Either way Republicans will still control both Houses of Congress. If the Democrats gain control of either house (looks better for the House of Representatives) you can be sure that Republicans will try to get as much of their agenda as possible passed prior to the seating of the new Congress on January 3. As of September 1, the House of Representatives has 236 Republicans and 193 Democrats as well as 6 vacancies.

A major area of concern is in insurance programs (falsely called entitlement): Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. The leadership of the Republican Party is planning on pushing legislation cutting these programs to pay for the \$1.4 trillion tax bill passed last year.

We must continue to fight to preserve these programs now and hopefully with the new Congress. That is why it is so important to vote on November 6.

Bill Cea is a member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans (FLARA) and a Trustee of RC 43 TRIF, Southeast Unit



RC 43 TRIF UNITS



CLEARWATER

Catherine Lanza
7450 Evesborough Lane
New Port Richey, FL
34655
Lanzac@Verizon.net

DAYTONA (inactive)

Gordon S. Russell
200 North Street
Daytona Beach, FL
32114
g.russ68@gmail.com

GREATER NAPLES

Co-Presidents:

Robert Lomicka
11543 Tanager Court
Naples, FL 34119
Janetlomicka@comcast.net
Ph: 239.514.7234

Paul Murphy
1770 Tarpon Bay Drive #201
Naples, FL 34119
Ph: 239-593-7738
Paulfmurphy24@aol.com

JUPITER

Dr Paul/Jennifer Amrod
2137 Wells Place
Palm Beach Gardens, FL
33418
drpja@aol.com
Ph: 561-625-8988

OCALA UNIT (inactive)

Ron Harrison
4750 SW 22nd Place
Ocala, FL
Noralle2@embarqmail.com
Ph: 352-895-1225

NATURE COAST

Tom Smith
9506 Elida Road
Spring Hill, FL 34608
birdman32347@tampabay.rr.com
Ph: 352.683.9423

LAKE/SUMTER, WINTER HAVEN & FIRST COAST

(inactive)
Contact Maxine Knisley
701 Rose Avenue
Sebastian, FL 32958

ORLANDO

Janice Sylvester
1801 Wedgewood Way
Kissimmee, FL 34746
jncsylvester@aol.com
Ph: 407.932.4850

SARASOTA

Robert Gentile
7014 Grand Estuary Trail #101
Bradenton, FL 34212
erotheim@tampabay.rr.com
Ph: 941.251.5071

SOUTHEAST

Miriam Hanan
8111 Muirhead Circle
Boynton Beach, FL 33472
miriamtrh@gmail.com
Ph: 561.509.0042

SPACE COAST

Deb Peterson
5190 Wild Cinnamon Drive
Melbourne, FL 32940
dnkpete@gmail.com
Ph: 914.261.0474

TREASURE COAST

Felicia Bruce
106 Mariner Bay Blvd
Ft Pierce, FL 34949
spmomtchl@aol.com
Ph: 772.409.4560

RETIREE COUNCIL 43 PARTICIPATION FEE/MEMBERSHIP FORM

SEPTEMBER 2018-AUGUST 2019

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE(_____) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

DISTRICT FROM WHICH YOU RETIRED _____ YEAR OF RETIREMENT _____

Please check the amount of your participation fee: _____ \$30 (NYSUT Retiree) _____ \$20 (Assoc.)

Remit a check payable to NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 43—TRIF UNIT'S NAME by mail to either:

1. The Treasurer of the TRIF Unit you would like to join, OR
2. MAXINE KNISLEY, 701 Rose Avenue, Sebastian, FL 32958 (if not certain of your Unit)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT MAXINE KNISLEY at Phone: 772-321-4974 Email: rc43membership@gmail.com



RC 43 TRIF UNIT TREASURERS 2017-2020



CLEARWATER: Joseph Lanza. 7450 Evesborough Lane. New Port Richey, FL 34655. Ph: 727.375.7129. Lanzaj@Verizon.net

JUPITER: Diana Kaufman. 1525 Bear Island Dr. West Palm Beach, FL 33409. dkaf99@bellsouth.net

ORLANDO: Christina K. Sharp. 203 Drennen Rd. Orlando, FL 32806. Ph: 407.328.0607. tisharp@aol.com

SPACE COAST: Michael Zackheim. 1082 Jans Place. Melbourne, FL 32940. Ph: 321.751.7050. spacecoastbb@hotmail.com

NATURE COAST: Bonnie Ruge. 5010 Breakwater Blvd. Spring Hill, FL 34607 Ph: 352.592.9856. blruge@tampabay.rr.com

DAYTONA: CURRENTLY INACTIVE. Contact **Gordon S. Russell**. 200 North Street. Daytona Beach, FL 32114. Ph: 386-310-4188
g.russ68@gmail.com

SARASOTA: Eleanor Rotheim. 7014 Grand Estuary Trail #101. Bradenton, FL 34212. Ph: 941.251.5071. yogabear14@icloud.com

TREASURE COAST: Ivan Brower. 5220 Burning Tree Circle. Stuart, FL 34997. Ph: 772-283-4096. ibtaxsvc@comcast.net

GREATER NAPLES: Harriet Vender. 11168 Phoenix Way. Naples, FL 34119. Ph: 239-404-7258. Vender6226@hotmail.com

OCALA: CURRENTLY INACTIVE. Contact **Ron Harrison**. 4750 SW 22nd Place. Ocala, FL. Ph: 352-895-1225. noralle2@embarqmail.com

SOUTHEAST: Marsha Friedman .5065 Bleu Lapis Drive. Boynton Beach, FL 33437. Ph: 954.270.5336. mushbaker720@gmail.com

LAKE/SUMTER, WINTER HAVEN, & FIRST COAST: CURRENTLY INACTIVE Contact **Maxine Knisley**. 701 Rose Avenue. Sebastian, FL 32958. Ph: 772-321-4974. rc43membership@gmail.com