

A "C.U.T." ABOVE

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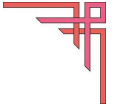
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Cathy's Column



We are living through a period of the history of our country that is particularly turbulent. Our Constitution has provided the structure, balance and rule of law for almost two and a half centuries, with a few exceptions like the Civil War, Jim Crow, Red Scares and the Japanese Internment. The three branches of government have provided the necessary "checks" to make our America the great democracy that our forefathers had envisioned so many years ago and helped to make the United States the hope to the rest of the world.

Yet, this Constitution is being attacked daily. Our free press is under siege. A country that opened its arms to people of all nations is separating families. There is blatant discrimination because of race, gender and/or religion. Public education, provided by our tax dollars, is being negatively impacted by people like our Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. Tax dollars are being diverted to put guns in our schools and pay for "schools for profit". Our state and federal officials are turning away from environmental controls and insisting that there is no global warming. There have been convictions of administration officials connected to corruption in the executive branch and the legislative branch is not providing the necessary checks to the abuses. The judicial branch is in jeopardy of going the same route for a generation. What is going on?

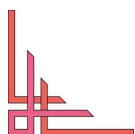
Recently, Joe and I had the "opportunity" to spend time at Moffitt Hospital. It is a wonderful facility staffed by hard working, caring professionals. Yet, so many of them are not registered to vote. Surprising? Not really. So many of us have reasons (excuses) not to take advantage of our right and privilege to choose our leaders who will support our interests. THESE MID TERM ELECTIONS ARE CRUCIAL TO OUR DEMOCRACY AND WAY OF LIFE. We can't let our constitutional checks and balances disappear!

I propose that each of us ask our family, friends, and neighbors if they are planning to vote in November. Encourage them to register, if they aren't, and to VOTE. Florida has early voting and vote by mail available to its residents. As President Obama said in a recent speech, "We CAN make a difference, but only if we vote."

Don't despair! There has been high voter turnout in the recent primary elections in New York and Florida. We need to choose men and women who reflect OUR interests in healthcare, the environment, PUBLIC education, gun control, immigration, Medicare and Social Security.

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6th

VotePinellas.com
pascovotes.com
hillsboroughvotes.org



All About TRIF / CUT and Membership

Membership participation of \$30 covers costs for both the local unit and the statewide Florida Council during the 2015-16 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)

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 to membership. This does not include money for the Egan Cottage Holiday Fund

Mail your contribution to :

VOTE/COPE Chair
2980 SW Lauren Way
Palm City, FL 34990
772 288-1153

Please write RC43 in the
memo section

Public Notice:

Due to recent budget cuts, the rising cost of electricity, gas, and oil, plus the current state of the economy, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off.

HAVE A NICE DAY.



Our first meeting of the year was designated as our very first MEMBER APPRECIATION BRUNCH, held at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch, Don Genung Activity Center in Safety Harbor on Thursday, September 13th. There were 26 attendees. The delicious luncheon was organized and prepared by the members of our board.

We began the day with the dedication of a bench we purchased in honor of Betty and Fred Egrè who began our involvement with Egan Cottage a decade ago. Scott Halbach, Unit Director of Sheriff Youth Ranch, spoke to us. He thanked us for our contributions to SYR, particularly Egan Cottage. He explained that this campus focuses on sibling groups. They rely on married couples residing and caring for these children in each of the 3 group homes. Peer culture here is strong. Their mission and structure is mainly: Work, Study, Pray and Play. There are also two program therapists on this campus working with individuals and in groups. There are 3 other campuses- Live Oak, Bradenton and Bartow. Children come from all over the state. They come from abusive or parental abandonment situations.

Betty Egrè thanked us for the bench in honor of her and Fred. She spoke of their years of involvement with Egan Cottage and their mission to help these children. She spoke of the joy and fulfillment they have received over the years working with them.

Shannon Veronesi, Program Director at SYR, spoke to us. She shared a letter from Bruce and Cheryl Rzegota, Egan Cottage house parents, who were unable to attend. They thanked us from the kids who know we love them and help provide for them. Currently there are 8 children at Egan: 4 high schoolers, 1 middle schooler and 3 in elementary school. Bruce wrote about their many activities, describing a most active and busy household. Besides their school activities, the children are involved in homework, household chores, sports, horseback riding, Y activities and the list goes on and on. Bruce explained that our donations from last school year were used to obtain a year of Largo Water Park passes. These full year passes cover all the children living at Egan and the Cottage Parents. They are absolutely loving the facility and they can access it for a full year! Shannon shared with us some information about some current and past residents. Everything changes except their endurance and patience.

Bruce extended an invitation to all of us to come for dinner or a visit anytime at Egan.

Cathy Lanza, our President, extended a warm welcome to our new NYS retirees at our brunch. She introduced each and we all hope they will join our Clearwater Unit and become active members. Cathy thanked Ellen Artale for creating the lovely brunch invitations for our potentially new members. She also thanked all the board for their help with the brunch..

We welcomed:

Pat O'Beirne - from Nassau Community College

Francine Karwasky- from Sewanaka District

Penny Haugli- from Rome District

Scott and Nancy Loper-from Peru District

Barbara Glanz- from Riverhead District

Submitted by Eva Joline



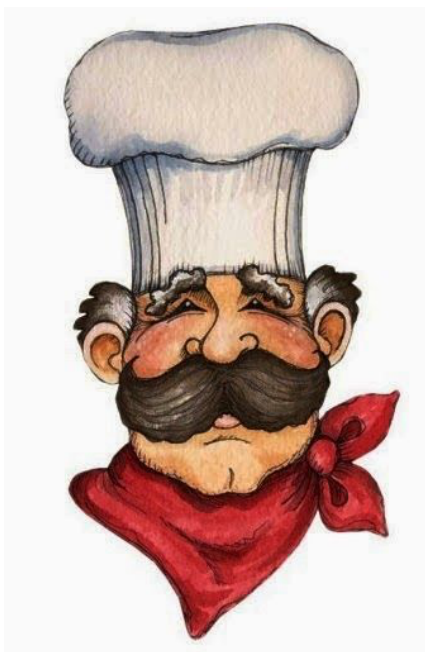
Past President Phil Meissner and honoree Betty Egrè at Dedication of the bench to Egan Cottage



October 11- Positano's, Palm Harbor- 11:30 a.m.

Call or email Marilyn Satinoff or Pat O'Beirne to make a reservation if you are coming by Monday 10/8.

Cathy and Joe will be attending the RETIREES COUNCIL #43 CONFERENCE in Orlando On September 25th. They will keep us informed of current issues and progress at our October meeting. They will also be speaking to us about the AMENDMENTS that will be on the ballot in the upcoming and MOST IMPORTANT MIDTERM election in November. Cathy encouraged us to vote by mail to be sure that our vote is counted early and in the comfort of our home with no transportation needed or waiting in line!



Positano's

Located in Shoppes at Cloverplace

3309 Tampa Rd. (East of
US 19 N)

Palm Harbor

11:30 a.m.

November 8- Paradise Diner, Safety Harbor- 11:30 a.m.

December 13- Alfano's, Clearwater- 11:30 a.m.

Our February Day at the Races specific date is not yet determined.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**