

RC 43 TRIF-ic NEWS IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF RETIREE COUNCIL 43,  
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## From the Desk of the President, Deb Peterson

**NYSUT Retiree Advisory Committee (RAC)** was established in 1991. Members are appointed for a three-year term by the President with the approval of the **NYSUT Board** of Directors. Chief among **RAC's** responsibilities is to keep apprised of retiree organizing, political, financial, pension, healthcare and member benefits issues, and to make recommendations to the **NYSUT Board** of Directors, officers and staff. To that end, recent **RAC** achievements have included improving and enhancing communications and record keeping for **NYSUT** Retirees; developing and promoting target (person, organization or topic) oriented materials and campaigning strategies for the **NYS Constitutional Convention**; and generating and posting the online retirement guide: **Your Blueprint for a Successful Retirement**. <https://www.nysut.org/members/retirees/retirement-guide>

The results of the 2016 election and the outcome of **JANUS**, coupled with the positive results from stopping the **NYS CON CON**, have served as a sort of rallying call for **NYSUT** Retirees and Actives. For example, before **JANUS** even hit the courts, **NYSUT** actives were asked to sign commitment cards for at least one year. **NYSUT** Locals also ran face-to-face campaigns with their membership Retirees proving their value during the process by providing in-kind services, volunteering their labor, office space and materials, spending hours at the phone banks and canvassing our membership. The message **NYSUT** encourages us to share: "When we organize, we are not just trying to get our co-workers to join or get active in something that already exists; we are also trying to get them to help us to create something new and better. We don't just want them to join. We want them to be committed, active members who help our union do its work." <https://www.nysut.org/members/retirees>

**RAC** also created a guide, "**Union Involvement as a Retiree**," which highlights means and benefits of being a **NYSUT** retiree. Advocacy through **NYSUT** legislation, political department and **VOTE/COPE**, helps protect our earned benefits – social security; pension; healthcare. Member benefits include discounts on items such as cell phone service; rental cars; appliances; insurance programs. **NYSUT Social Services** helps navigate you through the system of hospital or elder care as the need arises. Plus, your included membership in the Alliance of Retired Americans, in whatever state you reside, (in our case Florida, <https://florida.retiredamericans.org>) helps keep us engaged, pursuing and promoting legislation and public policies in the best interest of current and future retired Floridians.

Building retiree membership and collaborations with other retiree labor groups is critical for the health and welfare of our union. As retirees, we donate contributions of time; contributions of our efforts to advocate for current and future benefits; monetary contributions to V/C & classroom supplies; and legacy contributions such as the **Triborough** which leveled the bargaining playing field and stopped public employers from slashing our salary and benefits. **RAC** and **NYSUT E. D. 51-53 Contiguous** Retirees are developing mechanisms to share Retiree Chapter & Councils best practices for organizing, educating and recognizing the value of all retirees. Remember, "The union is people. The union is members. The union is you."

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** is the due date to submit nominations for the 2019 **NYSUT** Awards. For more information, contact **NYSUT RC 43 President Deb Peterson** at [rc43president@gmail.com](mailto:rc43president@gmail.com)

- 2019 **NYSUT** Constituency Awards Nomination Form
- "Not for Ourselves Alone" Sandy Feldman Award Nomination Form
- Sandy Feldman Leadership Grant Application
- Community Service Award Nomination Form:
  - ◊ Community Service by Local Union
  - ◊ Community Service by Individual Member or Members
- **NYSUT** Life Line Honor Roll Nomination Form
- Ken Kurzweil Social Justice Recognition Award Form



**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 43 TRIF UNITS IS NOW ON PAGE 4**

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 Greater Naples Unit** has planned to see four plays during the 2018-2019 season. They are *Tenderly-The Rosemary Clooney Musical* on January 31, *Hay Fever* on February 16 all at the Florida Repertory Theater, and *Guys and Dolls* on March 9 at the Broadway Palm. Information about these activities, current concerns facing NYSUT, retiree issues and fundraiser plans will be discussed at our meetings the second Wednesday of each month, October through April. Please join us."

**The Clearwater Unit** invited NY retirees, not currently members, from the area to a FREE brunch to introduce them to the members and acquaint them with their mission and activities.

With Maxine Knisley's help, Cathy Lanza was able to get a mailing list of NY retirees in our area and began her "telephone marathon" this summer. Not all the phone numbers were listed or active, but she persisted and finally had about twenty-five former New Yorkers who expressed an interest in our unit. These retirees were sent individual invitations to our very first MEMBER APPRECIATION BRUNCH, beautifully handmade by our very accomplished Newsletter editor, Ellen Artale. The Board was very encouraged by the turn out and may make the MEMBER APPRECIATION BRUNCH/LUNCHEON an annual event!

The Unit's youth based project has been Egan Cottage at THE SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCH in Safety Harbor for the past dozen years. They planned a DEDICATION CEREMONY for the first meeting at the Ranch and it was a perfect opportunity to let prospective members find out about their mission and support for public education. The bench is in honor of Fred and Betty Egge who were the inspiration for our project and were the liaisons for the majority of the years of our involvement with the ranch. Sadly, Fred passed away in December 2017.

The donations provide extra equipment for the children, enriching activities off campus and individual Christmas presents with a pizza party before Christmas.

The Brunch was attended by twenty seven people, including two representatives from the Ranch informing us about what was happening and specifically how our involvement has impacted the lives of the children over the years. We also had six retirees new to our unit, of which four joined that day.

Cathy Lanza is following up on "snowbird" retirees who expressed an interest in the Unit and will be emailing the Clearwater Newsletter to them.



**Phil Meissner, recent past president of the Clearwater Unit and past secretary of RC43, with Betty Egge on the occasion of the DEDICATION of a BENCH in honor of the devoted service of her and her late husband, Fred, to Egan Cottage at THE SHERIFF'S YOUTH RANCH IN SAFETY HARBOR.**

**The Space Coast TRIF Unit** meets regularly on the second Friday at Eau Gallie Public Library, located on 1521 Pineapple Avenue in Melbourne, FL, 32935. For information, contact Isabel Youssef-Ochoa at 321-431-7202 OR [isa1150@aol.com](mailto:isa1150@aol.com)  
**November 9, 2018 at 10:30 AM:** Following our regular meeting's agenda, our guest speaker Diana Chasan van den Boogaard, a former Brevard teacher, will guide us into understanding how to "Document Family History and Genealogy". This month we dine at Makotos' Japanese Steakhouse on 785 S Babcock St, Melbourne 32901

**December 14, 2018 at 12 Noon:** HOLIDAY PARTY—Once again, we celebrate the Holiday Season at Rooney's Pub, located at 2641 NE Palm Bay Road. Please bring articles of clothing and/or supplies for 0-3 month-old-infants for our yearly donation to the Children's Home Society.

**January 11, 2019 at 11:00 AM:** SPECIAL JOINT MEETING and Silent Auction with Treasure Coast TRIF Unit Members at the Golden Corral located on 880 Palm Bay Rd NE, Palm Bay, 32905. Please bring your unwanted "treasures" for us to "recycle" and raise funds for the Virginia King Early Education Launch Award.

**Check out Space Coast TRIF (Teacher Retirees In Florida) <http://meetu.ps/c/44mg6/FpbGj/d> on Meetup**

**The Sarasota Unit** has these plans for its meetings:

**Friday November 16, 2018, 10 AM.** Manatee River Cruise. 1005 Riverside Dr, Palmetto, FL. Boarding at 9:45. \$20 pp (subsidized by Sarasota TRIF, gratuity included). Bring your own snacks & drinks. Send checks to Elly Rotheim 7014 Grand Estuary Trail #101 Bradenton, FL 34212 by November 9. Directions: I 75 to Exit 220. Turn Left on State Rt. 64 (Manatee Ave.) Go west to 9th Street West. Turn right and go over the bridge to Riverside Dr. Turn left and proceed to parking lot. Boarding at end of pier to the right of "Riverhouse Reef & Grille" restaurant within Regatta Point Marina.

**December, *Sailor Circus.The Greatest 'Little' Show on Earth.*** 2075 Bahia Vista St, Sarasota, FL. Students from grades 4-12 perform spectacular circus acts. Date, time and location to be determined.

**Thursday January 24, 2019, 11 AM** Der Dutchman Restaurant 3713 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota. Jim and Jan Breidster share their "around the world" cruise. Buffet lunch, including pie, \$15.50 pp (all inclusive) Please send checks payable to RC 43/Sarasota to Elly Rotheim 7014 Grand Estuary Trail #101 Bradenton, FL 34212 by January 11.

**February 15, 2019, 11:30. AM,** at Seasons 52, 170 University Town Center Dr, Sarasota, FL. Order from Menu. To reserve your spot call Bob or Elly 941-251-5071 or email [erotherim@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:erotherim@tampabay.rr.com) by February 7.

**The Southeast Unit** has these plans:

**Tuesday, November 13, 2018:** In lieu of the November Meeting: Morikami Tour and Luncheon. At the Museum's Cornell Café. Located at 4000 Morikami Park Rd, Delray Beach FL 33445, Just off Jog Rd, (North of Yamato Rd, South of Linton Blvd). Cost: \$30 pp including admission and lunch; \$20 if you have paid your participation fee.

Please RSVP to Miriam Hanan at (561) 509-0042 or her cell at (516) 236-0276 if you will be joining us for the trip to Morikami.

\*\*\* Members are welcome to bring guests \$30 pp. The more the merrier!

MUSEUM EXHIBIT: Hard Bodies: Contemporary Japanese Lacquer Sculpture.

**Tuesday, December 11, 2018:** Speaker about Gun Control followed by lunch on your own at Henry's.

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019:** Marcia Herman from League of Women Voters. Topic: Your Florida Government.

*Southeast TRIF (Teacher Retirees in Florida) meets at the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, FL 33446 Delray Beach, Florida 33446*

**Meetings of The Treasure Coast Unit:**

**November 7:** Vero Beach HS culinary school, 11AM

**December 14:** Holiday Inn Port St Lucie US 1, 11 AM Holiday Party

**January 11:** Joint Meeting with Space Coast Unit; Golden Coral Vero Beach

**February 5:** West Palm Beach Conference 9-5

**March 20:** 11 AM ; TBA

**April 11:** St. Lucie River Boat Ride and Luncheon on Island Princess

**CONTACT:** Mary Brower for changes, reservations or questions [mebrower1@comcast.net](mailto:mebrower1@comcast.net) 772-283-3887



## Membership by Maxine Knisley, RC 43 Mem. Chair

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. There are 9 **TRIF** Units in Florida.

During the 2018 – 2019 meeting season we would like to restart the inactive unit in The Villages. We are inviting NYSUT members interested in restarting a **TRIF** Unit in The Villages to contact RC 43 Membership Chair Maxine Knisley @ 772 321 4974 or rc43membership@gmail.com.

As Educators and 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 must contact our Legislators with our input via phone calls, visits and emails. We can also 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 while maintaining membership in their NY home school district local.

All the NYSUT Benefits we enjoyed as in-service members are retained as Retirees. Through TRIF meetings as well as two annual NYSUT Conferences., it is easier to: 1. Have access to up-to-date programs & services, and 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 about 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 in this newsletter or me directly: Maxine Knisley, RC 43 Membership Chair 772-321-4974 or email rc43membership@gmail.com

## NYSUT Retiree Contiguous E.D. Meeting in Albany

The NYSUT Retiree Contiguous E.D. 51-53 Meeting was held in Albany New York October 3-4, 2018. RC 43 President Deb Peterson, RC 43 Southeast Trustee and FLARA member Bill Cea and RC 43 Treasurer Marsha Friedman were the delegates attending this meeting from our RC 43 Council.

They worked on resolutions, retiree issues and shared what NY Councils & Chapters are doing to attract all retirees both old and new. Many ideas were expressed and hopefully can be used by our TRIF units to bring in new members and keep our old ones.



Attendees at the NYSUT Retiree Contiguous E.D. 51-53 Meeting in Albany



(L-R) Marsha Friedman, Bill Cea, and Alan Lubin, NYSUT Executive Vice President



(L-R) Barbara Keilty-Michaleski, President NYSUT RC 18 ; Paul Pecorale, NYSUT Second Vice President; Deb Peterson, President of RC 43

# 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](mailto:rc43membership@gmail.com)

*NYSUT Regional  
Conference  
Tuesday, February 5, 2019  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Invitations to Follow  
In November*



A Union of Professionals

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