

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

Just as students returned to school from their winter vacations, teachers in Los Angeles were ready to leave. Working in the second largest school district in the U.S., they were prepared to go on strike after failed negotiations in their quest for smaller class sizes, higher pay and increased funding for school counselors and nurses.

The Los Angeles dispute can be seen as a sign that the issues behind last year's wave of walkouts—education cuts and low teacher pay, among them—aren't resolved. But the story of teacher strikes in the U.S. goes much further back than that. Some historians have seen recent events as a resurgence of teacher activism that has roots in the 1960s and '70s.

Entering the 1960s, public employee unions were weak, engaging in "collective begging" rather than "collective bargaining." But then public workers rose up in one of the great upsurges in U.S. labor history. Public workers marched on school board meetings. They conducted slowdowns. And they struck, by hundreds of thousands over the next two decades, to win union recognition. The civil rights movement inspired sanitation workers' strikes throughout the South. Teachers in Florida and Utah pulled off statewide walkouts. Postal workers struck nationwide, in a wildcat conducted against the wishes of union leaders. Police and firefighters contracted "blue flu" and "red rashes" to demand what private sector workers already had: the right to bargain. This wave of militancy won both contracts and changes in labor law. In the process, public employee union membership surged from 400,000 in the late 1950s to 4 million by the mid-1970s. Strikes, it's safe to say, helped create the public employee labor movement.

## WHAT IS RED FOR ED?

When we think about the promise of education today, we see the future leaders of our nation and the qualified educators who reach, teach and inspire them. We see classrooms with modern tools that help students prepare to make an impact on the world. We see students getting the support they need to thrive and educators having the support they need to serve. We see progress and hope. But, we also see budgets being cut, overcrowded classrooms and outdated materials. We see educators working around the clock to make a difference in the lives of their students and standing up to lawmakers to ask for better pay and school funding.

We're raising our voices together for our students, for our schools and for our educators, our communities and public education. That's why we're wearing **RED FOR ED.**



Visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/New-York-State-United-Teacher-Retirees-In-Florida-166355720080638/>

On the Web: <http://rc43.ny.aft.org/>

**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 the following plays during the remainder of the 2018-2019 season: *Hay Fever* on February 16 at the Florida Repertory Theater, and *Guys and Dolls and lunch* on March 9 at the Broadway Palm. Plans are in the works for a trip Kennedy Space Center in March. On April 4 at 5 PM we will hold a fundraiser at the Boston Beer Garden, 2396 Immokalee Road. 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 at the Longshore Lake Clubhouse on Valewood Drive in Naples. Lunch follows each meeting. Please join us."

**The Clearwater Unit** is made up of retirees from all parts of New York including New York City. Many have taught in Florida after leaving the New York area. One of the commonalities, besides geography, is their generosity and their commitment to the youth at THE SHERIFF'S YOUTH RANCH. For the last dozen years we have made biannual donations that go directly the kids living at Egan Cottage in Safety Harbor to enrich their lives and provide those "extras" that help to make lasting memories.

This past December, the Egan Cottage parents, Bruce and Cheryl Rzegota along with one of the teenagers from the Cottage came to our ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON to tell the teachers how our relationship has made a lasting impact on the children. Through our donations a year long membership was possible at a nearby waterpark. In the past, the young residents were able to rent a house in Orlando and enjoy three day passes to Disney World, thanks to the generosity of our members. We also collect for Christmas presents so that each resident at the Cottage has a specially selected gift under the tree at our "Gift Opening Pizza Event". This year, besides a personal gift, Mr. Bruce arranged for a FULL DAY AT CELEBRATION STATION for the kids including rides and beverages! Our donations go directly toward enriching the lives of these youngsters and, as evidenced by the teachers attending, our dollars are much appreciated!

We welcome any retiree in the Pinellas, Hillsborough or Pasco County area to find out more about our unit.  
Please contact Cathy Lanza, (727) 375-7129 or email at [lanzac@verizon.net](mailto:lanzac@verizon.net)

We meet the second Thursday of the month, September through April with an ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES, in February.



**Bruce Rzegota, Egan Cottage parent, Cathy Lanza, Clearwater Unit President and Eva Joline, Secretary and teacher liaison to the Cottage presenting our bi annual gift. Holiday Gift Opening/Pizza Celebration at Egan**

**The Southeast Unit** has these plans:

**Tuesday, February 12:** We will have our annual visit from Stephan Coles, our VOYA representative. He will answer questions about our tax deferred retirement accounts and will let us know whether any changes have taken place. Light refreshments.

**Tuesday, March 12:** At 9:30 at the Civic Center. Program TBA

**Tuesday April 9:** At 9:30 at a location TBA. Rosalind Murray of PBC Criminal Justice Commission will inform us of the latest criminal justice developments. (Possibly at The Original Pancake House on Boynton Beach Boulevard.)

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

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

**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 [erotheim@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:erotheim@tampabay.rr.com) by February 7.

**Friday March 15, 2019 10 AM.** Manatee River Cruise. 1005 Riverside Dr, Palmetto, FL. Boarding at 9:45. \$20 per person ( 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 March 7th,

Note: This event was rescheduled from Nov. Luncheon at Bravo Restaurant has been cancelled.

**Thursday April 11, 2019, 11:30** Dockside Waterfront Grill 509 N. Tamiami Trail Venice, FL. Order from menu. To reserve your spot call Bob or Elly 941-251-5071 or email [erotheim@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:erotheim@tampabay.rr.com) by March 4th

**The Treasure Coast Unit of RC 43** resumed meetings in October and will continue through May. Members gathered at different locations in St Lucie County to discuss and review election results in NY and Florida as they may impact retirees and public education in both states. Several new members have been welcomed. At a holiday meeting gifts were exchanged by lottery and traded until everyone went home happy!

Joint meetings are scheduled in 2019 with Space Coast sister chapters as well as meals at local culinary programs, boat rides and other events.

Most retirees continue to serve children, education or the public good through volunteering in a variety of settings such as schools, hospitals and community boards.

Many are looking forward to the statewide meeting in Palm Beach where they will see other retirees and hear from NYS union officials about benefits and legislation affecting them

Contact Mary Brower at [mebrower1@comcast.net](mailto:mebrower1@comcast.net) for dates, times, locations of upcoming events. We welcome retirees from other locals, states and those concerned about the future of public education.

**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

**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)

February 8, 2019 at 10:30 AM: Following our regular Agenda, guest speaker Jessica Pettit, Hearing Instrument Specialist. We dine at BJ's Brewhouse located east of the Melbourne Mall.

March 8, 2019 at 10:30 AM: Following our regular Agenda, our guest speaker Barbara Grandkin, BSW, One Sr. Place will speak to us about Senior-related matters. This month we dine at Memaw's Bar-B-Q located at 4916 NE Babcock St. (South of Palm Bay Road.)

April 12, 2019 at 10:30 AM: Following our regular Agenda, our guest speaker TBA. This month we dine at Squid Lips Overwater Grill located at 1477 Pineapple Av. Melbourne, FL 32935



Members of the Space Coast TRIF Unit, donated clothes, toys, and supplies, at their December Holiday Party, to benefit newborn-3 month-old babies, to the Children's Home Society of Brevard County. SC TRIF Unit President, Deb Peterson and VP Programs Isabel Ochoa-Youssef, made the presentation to Sonia Montalvo, who accepted the gifts & spoke about the various CHS programs.





## NYSUT MEMBER BENEFITS

# MAP

MEMBER ALERT PROGRAM

In recognition of all that NYSUT members do on a daily basis, Member Benefits is set to launch the 2019 Member Appreciation Month celebration on February 1 to run through the entire month. This special event will be filled with a series of prize drawings for items donated by Member Benefits and NYSUT endorsed program providers such as Amazon Gift Cards; iPads; Echo Dots; Regal Movie Tickets; and Much More!

We encourage all NYSUT members to join the MAP (Member Alert Program) email service to be among the first to learn about new endorsed programs & services; changes to existing programs; and various prize drawings. MAP Alerts are sent out approximately once every three weeks. You **MUST** be a member of the MAP Alert email service to be eligible to win prizes as part of Member Appreciation Month. If you are already a MAP Alert member, you are automatically entered to win prizes each day in February! If you or your colleagues would like to be eligible to win, simply sign up for MAP

If you would like more information about endorsed voluntary benefit programs for individual members or endorsed group benefit plans available to locals, benefit funds and employers of NYSUT members, please contact us at the following address: NYSUT Member Benefits, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110-2455. 800-626-8101



The **American Federation of Teachers** is offering one-year interest-free, no-credit-check loans of up to \$1,500 loan program for thousands of members affected by the partial shutdown of the federal government, with no payments due until after the shutdown has ended

The **AFT** represents not only teachers but also other government employees, including corrections officers, firefighters, engineers and budget analysts who work in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other tribal agencies. The union, which represents 1.7 million members in more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide, created the program with the **AFL-CIO Employees Federal Credit Union**. The union said about 5,000 members are affected by the shutdown.

AFT public employee members who are in need of assistance while furloughed can apply for interest-free loans or access more information at [go.aft.org/shutdown](http://go.aft.org/shutdown)

### **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](mailto: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.

Many of 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](mailto:rc43membership@gmail.com)

## International Women's Day

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. No one government, charity, corporation, academic institution, women's network or media hub is solely responsible for International Women's Day.

The world has witnessed a significant change and attitudinal shift in both women's and society's thoughts about women's equality and emancipation. Great improvements have been made. We do have female astronauts and prime ministers; women can both work and have a family; women have real choices. However, many from a younger generation may feel that 'all the battles have been won for women' while many feminists from the 1970's know only too well the longevity and ingrained complexity of patriarchy. With more women in the boardroom, greater equality in legislative rights, and an increased critical mass of women's visibility as impressive role models in every aspect of life, one could think that women have gained true equality. The unfortunate fact is that women are still not paid equally to that of their male counterparts; women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics; and globally, women's education, health and the violence against them is worse than that of men.

To help celebrate and bring awareness to International Women's Day, join in on or host one of the many global and diverse local activities that connect women from all around the world, ranging from political rallies, business conferences, government activities and networking events through to local women's groups. [Check out NYSUT's Women Committee <https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources/sites/womens-committee> ]

So make a difference, think globally and act locally!  
Make everyday International Women's Day.  
Do your bit to ensure that the future for girls is bright, equal, safe and rewarding.



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