

A "C.U.T." ABOVE

Cathy's Column

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Life is very good, particularly as retired teachers from New York. As seniors, not only do we have Medicare and Social Security benefits, but we also have pensions. Our pensions are very secure and we are very fortunate indeed.

As of this writing General Motors workers are on strike world wide demanding fairer wages, better healthcare and the reopening of factories closed earlier this year when the company announced that they were moving out of the country. There is solidarity on the part of the workers because they belong to a union, THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS. We have the benefits that we are reaping because of NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS. Without a strong union representing our needs-not only personal needs-but the needs of our students, our careers in education and our working conditions would not have been as good as I remember.

Strikes are very difficult for both sides. In the case of GM, the factories are at zero production. For the workers, there are zero dollars being earned and their health insurance is COBRA.

My husband and I know first hand what a strike is like. The teachers in Harrison went on strike in September 1973 and stayed out for 21 days. NYSUT was vital to negotiate a final contract that was beneficial to teachers and students. They supported us in the courts and provided guidance and prudence every step of the ordeal.

Our union supported smaller class size, supportive services, representation in disputes, and a myriad of other benefits including health benefits for retirees, salary increases commensurate with educational degrees and credits, plus years in service and longevity.

Sadly pensions have gone by the wayside in the workplace of today. They have been "replaced" by 401Ks. Full time jobs with benefits are becoming scarcer being "replaced" by part time or freelance workers. It's so unfortunate that the minimum hourly wage of \$15. is not uniform in every state.



Our NYSUT Retiree Clearwater Unit is a part of the Union that helped us get the benefits that we are enjoying today. We support PUBLIC EDUCATION provided by tax dollars. We are now conducting our MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. Please help us by not only sending in your membership and participation fee, but by recruiting new retirees and inviting them to a luncheon. SPACE IS LIMITED, SO RSVP to Marilyn EARLY !! (esatinof@tampabay.rr.com or 727-784-8338)



All about the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch and Egan Cottage, our child-centered project, Safety Harbor

Since 1957, our programs have provided children with a nurturing family structure through our cottage homes, including a full-time house mom and dad, who work with each child to develop a strong work ethic, respect and a sense of responsibility. In addition to family-style living, we use a clearly defined model of care, making sure the children in our programs are given the same opportunities to attend school and participate in extracurricular activities as their peers. Ninety percent of the youth in our programs graduate from high school. By utilizing a network of residential campuses throughout Florida, the Youth Ranches trained and devoted staff are well-equipped to nurture needy, neglected boys and girls and provide a warm sense of security, guidance and tenderness.(From The Rancher website.)

“Growing Up as a Rancher” excerpted from the Fall 2019 issue of The Rancher
At the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, we understand that there is no such thing as an unremarkable child. Over and over again, we see boys and girls living with us come alive in a way that surprises everyone around them. One such example is a young man who lives at our Safety Harbor campus. (Shia)

When Shia arrived at the Ranch, his grades were so low that he didn't believe it was possible to catch up. He decided to buckle down and begin working. He realized that he was a quick study and the work wasn't as intimidating as he had always feared.

Shia's first set of cottage parents (Mom and Pop Rzegota) had a profound influence on him as they watched an angry, scared boy become a helpful and influential young man. The biggest change he's seen in himself is his personal maturity. He's learned to listen and be empathetic, and this has helped him deepen his relationships with everyone he encounters. “When I came here, I didn't have any social skills. I didn't know how to talk to people, how to fit in.. Now I can start conversations, I can get on peoples' levels.” “To me, all my male friends are like my brothers, and my female friends are like my sisters. And then my cottage parents are somewhat like a mom and dad.”

Now that Shia is doing well in school and feels comfortable with his family at the Ranch, he's ready to focus on planning for his future.

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Friday November 15th: 10: 30 am Museum visit to Penny Lane, one of the world's largest Beatles collections 730 Broadway, second floor in Dunedin

Friday November 15th: 11:30 am at Sea Sea Rider (This is next to the museum.)

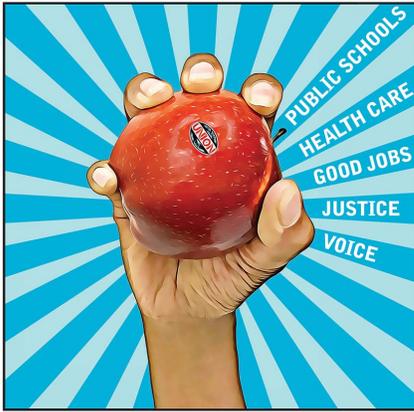
Thursday December 12th : Holiday Luncheon at Alfano's, 1702 Clearwater Largo Rd. N. In Clearwater. Meet the new cottage parents and one of the young residents from Egan Cottage.



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO INVITE OTHER TEACHER/EDUCATOR RETIREES TO ANY OF OUR EVENTS. IF YOU SEND CATHY EMAILS OF ANYONE INTERESTED, SHE WILL CONTACT THEM AND SEND INFORMATION ABOUT TRIF



OUR VOICE, OUR VALUES



OUR VOTE-COPE



Your statewide union has a political fund-raising arm called VOTE-COPE. VOTE-COPE is NYSUT's non-partisan action fund that coordinates the voluntary contributions of members and supports NYSUT-endorsed candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public-education and pro-labor.

No NYSUT dues dollars are used to support candidates or campaign committees.

NYSUT sends rebates to local unions based on a percentage (up to 40 percent) of the contributions VOTE-COPE receives from that local union's members. Those rebates can be used in local activities such as school board races and for passage of school budgets.

Last year, your colleagues contributed more than \$10 million to VOTE-COPE.

Make your check payable to VOTE/COPE and write RC 43 in the memo line

Mail your contribution to :

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

October 10th Luncheon

11:30 a.m.

Positano's

Located in Shoppes at Cloverplace

3309 Tampa Rd. (East of US 19 N)

Palm Harbor

We have a guest speaker, Deputy Sean O'Brien, from Pinellas County. Deputy O'Brien will be speaking about FRAUD.

RSVP by Monday, October 7th to Marilyn
esatinof@tampabay.rr.com



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ALL ABOUT TRIF/CUT AND MEMBERSHIP

Membership participation of \$30 covers costs for both the local unit and the statewide Florida Council during the 2019-2020 season. 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 2019-2020 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 2019-2020 SEASON is \$30.(\$20 for Associate Membership).

COMPLETE AND SEND YOUR 2019-2020 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.

Our Opening Clearwater Unit meeting was held September 12, 2019 at the Sheriffs Youth Ranch Activity Center in Safety Harbor.

There were 20 attendees which included members and guests. Cathy Lanza, our President, welcomed us. A special thanks was given to Phil, Rhoda and Joe for their help setting up the brunch buffet.

Member Betty Egrè created a Rancher Scrapbook for all of us to see. It highlighted students from the Ranch.

We were told that there are new Cottage parents at Egan Cottage, David and Sara Malott. This was their week off from the Cottage so we look forward to meeting them at a later meeting.

After our delicious buffet, Cathy introduced Scott Halbach, Director at the Ranch, who discussed the direction of Sheriffs Youth Ranch. He mentioned the SYR budget is based 80 percent on the generosity of others. He thanked us for our relationship with the Ranch for over the past thirteen years that Egan Cottage has been our charitable project.

Cathy then introduced Shannon Veronesi, Program Director at Safety Harbor Ranch. Shannon thanked us for our contributions. She explained about the success of the tutoring program they have instituted and how extremely pleased they are with the great improvement the students have made not only in reading but in self confidence. She thanked us for our continuing support. Currently there are 20 children at the Ranch. Egan Cottage is currently closed due to a complete kitchen renovation.

Arvid Cowell, SYR Donor Relations Officer, was then introduced. He presented our chapter with a 4th star on our plaque, signifying over \$20,000 we have contributed to the Ranch. (see picture)

Cathy thanked the 3 representatives for coming to our brunch/meeting. She reminded our members that in December we host a pizza and Holiday gift party for the Egan Cottage children.

New teachers and members were introduced. Rosann Barraco is from Comsewogue District (Port Jefferson Station) where she was a Remedial Reading Specialist mostly with the elementary students. Rosann resides in Land O' Lakes. Judy Korn comes from Michigan where she worked with high school children. She resides in Holiday.

Submitted, Eva Joline



