

# A "C.U.T." ABOVE

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## Cathy's Column

Despite everything that is going on in this most disastrous world, I am thankful and count my blessings each and every day. My family has been able, so far, to remain safe and healthy during the pandemic. We do know several people who have contracted the virus but have recuperated albeit with residual ailments. Our social life has really taken a BIG hit. We do not attend any indoor activities—unless doctor and dentist appointments count! No dinners out. No drinks after golf. No card games. No domino games. No Sunday Mass except by live stream. I'm so used to seeing everyone with a mask on, that I don't even think about it anymore. I take a few steps back if someone approaches me to say a few words. Life has changed-but I want to be around when we triumph over this virus.

We haven't visited with our sons and our 50th Wedding Anniversary was not celebrated as originally planned. BUT there will be LIFE AFTER COVID. If we can look to a brighter future and sacrifice a bit more, we can celebrate Christmas in July as I told our sons. Hallmark does it, why can't we?

We are so fortunate because I can still keep in touch with family and friends via Facetime. My grandsons have celebrated birthdays for the first time without us there. But I didn't feel completely left out because of digital technology. It's a different world and I am thankful.

I am just one of many who remark that each day goes by slowly, but somehow the weeks and months seem to fly by so quickly. I'm definitely missing our luncheons and catching up with each of you. So please postpone gatherings and travel. Mitigate any chance of infection. We will prevail and life will go on.

**PLEASE STAY SAFE.**

# UPDATES

Happy  
Holidays

## FROM THE SHERIFFS' YOUTH RANCH

I recently spoke to Scott Halbach from the Sheriffs' Youth Ranch in order to find out how the children were doing in the throes of this pandemic. Scott informed me that only one cottage is functioning-Egan Cottage. They have consolidated the residents into Egan and they have ten children there. Last time I had spoken to Scott, he told me that the Ranch was in "lockdown". The kids were all on "virtual learning" at least for the first nine weeks of school. Right now, all of the kids are attending school "brick and mortar" and participating in sports. They are all adhering to the social distancing guidelines, wearing masks, and making sure to sanitize hands frequently. No one at the Ranch has contacted the virus.

Obviously we will not be hosting the Annual Holiday Gift Giving Celebration at Egan Cottage this year. However, we would like to follow our tradition of gift giving for each of the ten residents for Christmas. In past years, our members have been very generous to our HOLIDAY FUND. November is traditionally the time for reminding everyone that the time is almost upon us. Could you please send gift donations in the form of a check made out to: NYSUT RC#43/CLEARWATER, 7450 EVESBOROUGH LANE, NEWPORT RICHEY, FL 34655, so that we can forward a check to the Egan Cottage parents to buy individual gifts to help bring a bit of joy into the lives of these youngsters in this unprecedented time in their young lives?

## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

As of today, we only have 26 memberships. Our roster is usually in the 40's by this time. I realize that we haven't met because of the pandemic, but if you haven't sent in your membership form and participation fee, now is the time. You can also include the Holiday Gift Donation/Egan Cottage in the memo area of the same check. Just a reminder, if you participate in any of the NYSUT MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS, you must be an active retiree member.

## FROM RC#43

Since life has drastically changed in this "corona world", we have adjusted accordingly and ZOOM MEETINGS seem to be the best and safest way to conduct business of all kinds. I Zoomed in on the October 30 meeting of the RC43 Board. Some members were here in Florida, some still in New York and the guest speaker, David O'Keefe, President of NYSTRS, was in Long Island with some early snow on the ground. David has been a speaker at many of the Conferences I've attended over the years in Orlando and the message is still the same. OUR PENSIONS ARE SAFE, SECURE, AND DOING WELL. Because of the pandemic, there was a "spike" in the number of teachers retiring. Usually about 800 teachers retire each year. This year, there were 1400 retirees. Obviously, this meeting took place before the election. At the time, we were all hopeful that Joe Biden would win.

We are optimistic that not only will the pandemic get under control, the vaccine and vaccinations will be administered, jobs will come back, the environment will be on a healing mode and people will have money for food and housing. We will regain our status in the leadership of the world. We need to heal our nation and I'm hopeful that the change we need begins with the change in Washington.

The next Zoom meeting of RC#43 is on December 4 at 11 am. If you would like to tune in please email Miriam Hanan at [miriamtrh@gmail.com](mailto:miriamtrh@gmail.com)

You can always check out the RC43 website at [rc43.ny.aft.org](http://rc43.ny.aft.org)

## UPDATE ON LUNCHEONS

We will not be meeting as a Unit until it is safe for us. We are in that "vulnerable" group and I am hesitant to put anyone in jeopardy. I am hopeful though that once we are vaccinated, life will resume in a more normal way. Rhoda has canceled our HOLIDAY LUNCHEON at Alfano's and our ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES in February. Buffets are an option that doesn't exist anymore and probably won't in a post pandemic world. A picnic in the park with "box lunches" sounds like a good prospect if all goes well!

## All About TRIF / CUT and Membership

Membership participation of \$30 covers costs for both the local unit and the statewide Florida Council during the 2020-21 season. Our season goes from September 2020 to August 2021. 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 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 SEASON is \$30. (\$20 for Associate Membership)

### Our mission is:

to develop new friendships established within our Unit and seek new acquaintances

to keep members informed of changes involving health and retirement benefits

to spotlight political choices ONLY if they may impact our members

to feature programs and speakers having significant impact on our group

to select and support youth based projects benefiting Tampa Bay youngsters

### Your membership helps to support the following:

Giving a group donation toward a special child-centered project.

Providing the funds to send one or two of our members to the annual NYSUT conference.

Paying for the cost of our newsletter including printing costs, mailing labels, and stamps.

Buying the lunches for our guest speakers.

Having a contingency fund to defray the expenses for special guest speakers, whom we would want to hear, that require some fee or donation to their organization.



COMPLETE AND SEND YOUR 2020-2021 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 \_\_\_\_\_

District from which you retired \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Additional contribution to Egan Cottage( Sheriffs Youth Ranch) Amount of \_\_\_\_\_

This does not include money for the Egan Cottage Holiday Fund

