

RC 43 TRIF-ic NEWS IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF RETIREE COUNCIL 43, NYSUT TEACHER RETIREES IN FLORIDA. IT IS PUBLISHED SEASONALLY

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Message From the President and RC 43 Executive Board

Happy New Year!

I am never sure how it happens that so many days pass so slowly and yet the years vanish so quickly! 2020 has been like that. And it has been a year unlike any other. I think many of us are happy to end it!

As we look forward to 2021 there will be some usual 'markers' like resolutions, but most of the festivities to ring in a new year will be missing because of COVID. Whatever your thoughts, feelings and intentions about the future, there are more than a few things the Executive Board wishes for you in 2021.

First, the officers of RC 43 want to thank you. Through the difficulties and challenges you have been supportive and enthusiastic.

Next, please give yourselves credit for your commitment to each other, RC 43 and your communities. You have, as always, been generous with your time, talents, and donations.

Then, please promise to take every precaution to STAY SAFE AND WELL. We have come this far, now there is a vaccine...We can do this! And it is important we get there together.

Finally...we hope you contact Miriam Hanan (RC 43 Membership Chair / Secretary) at miriamtrh@gmail.com to update your email and contact information, and join our monthly ZOOM meetings (where we have speakers and share important information). So, stay in touch . And of course....Happy New Year !

REMINDER:

The Villages/Ocala RC 43 Unit is now forming.

We are planning a meeting on Zoom for February 1, 2021 at 10 AM

For information, please contact: Lynn Dodd

lynnndodd33@gmail.com

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/>

<http://rc43.ny.aft.or/TRIF-icNews>



RC 43 TRIF
Teacher Retirees In Florida
rc43membership@gmail.com

Are you hearing voices? Maybe you're being called to fill vacancies on the RC43 Executive Board: Vice President and Secretary are open positions. Please help your organization!

A Note from Judy D. Kalb, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant

I hope this message finds each of you well. It is indeed a most trying time for all of us.

I realize that our RC and each of our Units are having difficulty not only reaching known members but are also finding it difficult reaching out to new members. New and innovative methods of communication including Zoom and Facetime are being used.

Since the pandemic, we all seem to be either locked in or limited to outside activities.

Let me briefly explain my role as RC 43 Consultant. I represent NYSUT's presence in Florida. I act as their liaison. I support the RC in any way needed. I proofread the Newsletter before it is sent to the printer in Albany. I support your yearly RC Conference, as well as provide you with a yearly NYSUT Retiree Conference for all Florida members. If asked to help, I am available to organize, reach out to Units or members, and whenever possible attend some meetings and/or board meetings. I am there to support you.

You can reach me at judydkalb@aol.com, or my cell 561-389-9932

I hope as we begin the New Year, our lives will have some sense of normalcy, and we can meet once again.

Stay well, stay safe

Best Regards

Judy

Deal Reached to End Surprise Medical Bills (*Alliance for Retired Americans, Dec 18, 2020*)

Key congressional committees have reached a bipartisan agreement on legislation to protect patients from massive “surprise” medical bills. These bills can range anywhere from a few dollars to over \$1,000, and affect uninsured and insured Americans. It has not yet come to a vote, but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA) said the measure should be included in a year-end funding package.

Surprise medical bills happen when patients are rushed to an out-of-network hospital, or are simply unaware that a particular doctor or technician does not participate in their insurance plan. Until patients receive a bill after their hospital visit, they have no idea that they will be charged for those portions of their care.

“Surprise medical billing is a problem years in the making,” said Executive Director Fiesta. “Patients should focus on their health, not have to try and figure out whether providers in a hospital are covered by their insurance plan.”

VOTE/COPE and You

Now that Election Day has passed, please, do not let up on your VOTE/COPE contributions.

VOTE/COPE is a year around process that is designed to help with the election of many candidates favorable to our cause. There are many individuals and groups working to do away with or reduce the many benefits that NYSUT has gained for us over the years. These benefits are always in jeopardy. We need to be vigilant so that the opposition does not succeed!

Please, consider an individual contribution or a contribution from your TRIF Unit.

Please mail checks to:

Tom Galli

2980 SW Lauren Way

Palm City, FL

34990

**A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO ALL THE TREASURERS OF RC 43 RETIREE UNITS IN FLORIDA
AND SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FAMILY OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

Sincere thanks for all the hard work you do collecting participation fees, paying expenses from your Units, and keeping such wonderful records. It is a pleasure working with each and every one of you. The job of Council Treasurer may seem easy, but it is not. We are responsible for collecting money and ensuring that it is distributed correctly.

NYSUT has brought to my attention that we are not all on the same page on how our checkbooks are set up. I will send a special email to all our Unit treasurers about this. The checkbooks will have to be made uniform for all Units when it comes time to order more checks.

I now have a current list of all the treasurers in every Unit. Please know which Unit you belong to and send your participation fees directly to them. Only if you are new or do not know which Unit you belong to should you send your fees to me. Also, it is important to let each Unit know your telephone number and email address. That will ensure that you will always receive your newsletter. A list of all the treasurers will be in this newsletter.

Some treasurers and participating members wonder why we are collecting fees at all during the pandemic. We are a viable organization which doesn't shut down because there is a problem in our world. It's just the opposite. From our fees we are now able to serve the community better. Our fees can be used to give more back to the people who need help. We can support NYSUT, VOTE/COPE, Food Banks, and Student Scholarships in our own area. This is a very dire time with so many people getting COVID and out of work. Why not help them with monies from our units?

Remember - half of the fees collected go directly to RC 43 Council, while the other half stays in your Unit. The Council is also supporting our communities. So far, the Council has donated money to VOTE/COPE and to the athletes of the Special Olympics of St. Lucie County. This is just the beginning for this year. When all the participation fees are in by April, we will be able to do more. It's now time to give back because we can. This will be over and when it is, we can go back to our "new normal" way of life.

You can use the portion of the fees that remains in your Unit to benefit your members. In the Southeast Unit, we occasionally go out for lunch and pay part of the expenses from our fees. We took a bus trip to the MODA museum and paid for the bus from our account. We paid part of the trip expenses to the Morikami Museum for our members. There are also many ways you can use your participation fees to support worthy causes in the community.

We are a viable organization; we are just experiencing difficult times due to the pandemic. Remember all that your Union has done and continues to do for you. Keep those participation fees coming in. Stay well, safe, and ready for a bright future

Fraternally,

Marsha Friedman
RC 43 Council Treasurer

NYSUT RC 43 Treasurers for Each Unit 2020-2021

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Come Zoom with Us!

NYSUT Retiree Council 43 is having meetings on Zoom!
All NYSUT retirees who live or snowbird in Florida are welcome to join us
Let's keep in touch. Learn about what's going on!

Next meetings:

Friday, January 8, 2021 at 11 AM: Bill Sauers, President Florida Alliance for Retired Americans, will be addressing us on the Florida state elections, the 2021 State Legislature projections for labor, seniors and public education as well as other relevant issues.

(Southeast Unit, but everyone is welcome) Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 10 AM: Stephan Coles, VOYA Financial Services, will speak about investments and 403b accounts. Bring your questions!

Interested?

Please send your email address to

Miriam Hanan

miriamtrh@gmail.com or phone her at 516-236-0276

RETIREE COUNCIL 43 & LOCAL UNIT PARTICIPATION FEE/MEMBERSHIP FORM - SEPTEMBER 2020-AUGUST 2021

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ CELL PHONE (____) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

DISTRICT FROM WHICH YOU RETIRED _____ YEAR OF RETIREMENT _____

TRIF UNIT _____ HOBBIES _____

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES _____

When you join your local unit, you are also joining RC 43. The membership year runs from September 1 - Aug, 31

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 TRIF Unit you would like to join, (see page 3) OR

2. MARSHA FRIEDMAN, 5065 Bleu Lapis Drive, Boynton Beach, FL 33437

QUESTIONS? CONTACT MARSHA FRIEDMAN at Ph: 954-270-5336

or mushbaker720@gmail.com