

RC 43 TRIF-ic NEWS IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF RETIREE COUNCIL 43, NYSUT TEACHER RETIREES IN FLORIDA. IT IS PUBLISHED SEASONALLY Summer 2021 Issue

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Change Your Address?

Contact NYSUT Member Records

Ph: 1-800-342-9810

memberec@nysutmail.org

Message From the President

Former RC 43 President Deb Peterson was recognized for her decades long commitment to unionism, women and service to others. She has received accolades and awards in the past including the AFT Living Legacy Award (2014). At this RA she was named Retiree Member of the Year (2020, delayed due to COVID). Her achievements are many and speak to her dedication as well as leadership in empowering others.

The 2021 RA was filled with recognitions, documentation of both individual achievements as well as information and updates on the status of everything happening in NYSUT, the state legislature and their impact on members. Thanks to the CARE and RESCUE packages passed in DC, New York's budget crisis was averted, relief is here or on its way and school layoffs were avoided.

Unlike Florida which saw antiunion forces gaining momentum, New York had a seat at the table and received many concessions from lawmakers that will make public education stronger and better for students, families and educators. President Andy Pallotta said "this was the best year EVER for public education!" In Florida, the state legislators gave health care facilities total immunity from unhealthy or unsafe practices that result in illness or even death among workers, sharpening the contrast with New York where employees have preventative guarantees from harm incurred on the job and reasonable recourse if they are injured.

YOU made a difference! Many of our members answered the call to help our union brothers and sisters at FEA defeat some of the ugliest anti-union bills seen in Tallahassee (or anywhere else) this session. FEA saw 600,000 visits to its FEA.web page and yours were among them. Across the state 10,000 members were engaged (retired and active) which made a difference; and **YOU** were among them. Letters, emails and tweets (over 1 M) were sent in record numbers; and **YOU** were among them.

Every RC 43 member gives more credence to the facts that *Activists never retire; that everyone has a contribution to make; that together we are stronger.*

Thank you for all that you did, all that you continue to do and all that you are. You give more meaning to **UNION FOR LIFE**. Stay safe and well; please continue to take reasonable precautions so that we may resume in person meetings safely in the fall.



Deb Peterson

NYSUT Retiree Member of the Year (2020)

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>

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Be on the lookout for information about Fall 2021 RC 43 meetings that will take place in various locations around Florida. We will have interesting speakers and other surprises.



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

Florida Retiree Council 43

The NYSUT retirees who have relocated from New York State to Florida, permanently or seasonally, may not be aware of NYSUT services available to them in their new location. Retiree Council 43 is an official arm of the New York State United Teachers union whose members reside in Florida. It consists of 10 units namely Nature Coast, Jupiter, the Southeast, the Treasure Coast, Space Coast, Sarasota, Greater Naples, Clearwater, Orlando, and the Villages.

RC 43 welcomes NYSUT members and friends "to the wonderful world of the Sunshine State and all the 'Fun in the Sun' opportunities for retirees. Whether you have relocated permanently or seasonally or are just here for a short visit, there are like minded colleagues waiting to meet you."

NYSUT encourages its members in Florida to join the Florida Council, Retiree Council 43. It is important for them to hear about political and social events that are held regularly. They need to be aware that there are forces that continue to try to eliminate or reduce some of our retirees' benefits. The Council meetings and the unit meetings can keep our members informed.

Right now many Florida retirees continue to maintain their affiliation with their former councils in New York. But we have news for you! **You do not have to leave your affiliation with your New York Council in order to join the Florida Council.** You can be a member of the Florida council and receive information from both New York and Florida.

The Council usually has at least 2 conferences a year with interesting guest speakers from Florida as well as NYSUT officers from New York. You can also attend the meetings held by the local units. **Regional symposiums are planned for early November. Contact RC 43 Pres Felicia Bruce for specific dates and locations**

If you are a snowbird, you can attend Florida council meetings even if you are not a member. In addition to political information, you will also find a number of social events that might interest you – such as book clubs, trips, and luncheons which can be fun.

We hope this information will encourage you to join RC 43. Contact Felicia Bruce, President of RC 43 – spmomtch1@aol.com OR Retiree Consultant, Judy Kalb – judy.kalb@nysut.org (telephone 561-389-9932) or visit the website at <http://rc43.nyaft.org>.

Joan Perrini, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant

UFT's KEN GOODFRIEND RECEIVES AWARD

Congratulations to UFT's Ken Goodfriend, UFT Office Administrator in Boca Raton, Florida who received the *Tony Fransetta Outstanding Senior Advocate Award* at the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans (FLARA) annual state meeting and awards ceremony, June 24 and 25, 2021.

Ken and his staff do a great job providing services, classes, and information to South Florida retirees. He has always been a friend to NYSUT RC 43 Units and members.



Ken Goodfriend

VOTE/COPE and You

Hundreds of educators met for a Zoom meeting on March 8 with members of the New York State Legislature. Many of the educators presented their views for a future of legislation that will benefit teachers. This included ways to boost recruitment and retention of new teachers. Ways to implement diversity in the work force was also discussed. We were told that as of March 8th there was no outstanding legislation that impacts NYSTRS members.

As we all know, it is important for NYSUT to keep us abreast of the legislation that is in the future. We also know that this legislation may be beneficial or harmful to us as teachers and retirees. Therefore, we must support VOTE/COPE to help with legislation to protect us from harm.

Please, send your VOTE/COPE contributions to

Tom Galli

2980 SW Lauren Way

Palm City, FL 34990

Please, make checks out to VOTE/COPE"

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM YOUR RC 43 TREASURER

First of all, I want to thank each and every one of the unit treasurers for going beyond your responsibilities this year. You not only took on the responsibility of collecting participation fees but took on the added burden of collecting money for VOTE/COPE. You were successful in both jobs and I extend my deepest appreciation to all of you. Without your continuous help and support, I would not be able to do my job.

Unfortunately, with this pandemic, our jobs are not finished. Every week I get additional participation fees sent to me. I then must send them to you for membership purposes, but you must resend them back to me. In the first newsletter of 2021-2022, I will let our members know which towns belong to each unit. That should be helpful for our members. This way they know which unit gets their participation fees.

For VOTE/COPE, RC 43 Council matched each dollar that was donated from your units. It is still not too late to continue our contributions. I am asking those units who have not joined us to ask their unit boards to please rethink this. As of today, we have sent NYSUT for VOTE/COPE over \$1,100. We should be proud of ourselves. I also want to thank Tom Galli for his efforts in being responsible to see that the VOTE/COPE money goes where it should. Also, in letting NYSUT know it comes from Florida RC 43. Tom, you are a lifesaver in taking over this job.

Again, I cannot thank the unit treasurers enough for all your help. I am glad we can work together so well.

Information we should know:

Our first Fall Zoom meeting is September 10 at 11AM

In Solidarity,

Marsha Friedman RC 43 Council Treasurer

Text or Other Messages Asking for Money for Bogus “Upgrade” of Retirement Plan Are Fraudulent

New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli is warning retirees not to be fooled if they received text messages or other communications that purport to come from the state’s retirement fund and the Office of the State Comptroller, asking for a payment to “upgrade” the retirement fund. It’s a scam. Report the message to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov or by calling the Albany FBI Field Office at 518-465-7551 or 1-800-CALLFBI.

“I want to be very clear to our system’s retirees and members—these are phony messages from scammers trying to steal your money,” DiNapoli said. “The fund has not, and does not, send out any electronic messages asking for payment for upgrades. Don’t be fooled. Protect yourself by not responding and by reporting these messages to law enforcement if you get one.”

The sham messages attempt to trick recipients into making a payment for “an upgrade” in exchange for reduced taxes, additional money added to their funds and other benefits.

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

Currently the Southeast TRIF Unit is inviting all of our members to Zoom Meetings. Please send a current email to Miriam Hanan at miriamtrh@gmail.com from an email account that you can participate from to join all our future meetings. We look forward to having our meetings once again in person hopefully sometime in the late fall. Stay tuned for updates in our next newsletter.

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 2021-AUGUST 2022

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ CELL PHONE (____) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

DISTRICT FROM WHICH YOU RETIRED _____ YEAR OF RETIREMENT _____

TRIF UNIT _____ (See page 3 for contact information for your Unit)

When you join your local unit, you are also participating in RC 43.

The membership year runs from September 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2022

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