

Affiliated with NYSUT,  
AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO,  
COUNCIL 43 OFFICERS

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Interested? Contact President  
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Change Your Address?  
Contact NYSUT Member Records  
Ph: 1-800-342-9810  
[memberec@nvsutmail.org](mailto:memberec@nvsutmail.org)



## From The Desk of RC 43 President Felicia Bruce

The temperatures are HOT and rising; the politics are almost as heated. Energy is low, but utility bills are on the rise. It's all part of summer in Florida! While the snowbirds are gone, and even year round residents take road trips to avoid the daily sizzle....your executive board has been hard at work preparing for a successful 2023-24 year for all our RC43 members.

In person meetings, Zoom meetings, conferences and daily tasks have continued. Miriam Hanan, your Retiree Council Consultant, has made hundreds of phone calls. Some of them were in search of qualified members to step into leadership positions left vacant in the SE unit by Marsha Friedman's passing and Miriam's own necessary resignation as unit president. Not surprisingly, two people will share Miriam's former responsibilities as president. Please welcome co-presidents Alene Model and Elinor Neri. To date, RC 43 is still without a treasurer and Miriam has added that job to her other duties. She is in constant contact with Albany on a myriad of issues to make RC 43 more effective, better serve our membership, and expand our enrollment.

Cheryl Dodes is working tirelessly on newsletters, updating mailing lists and keeping us informed as is our new VOTE COPE Chair, Ross Stonefield. Ross has implemented several new ideas to solicit contributions and expand our VOTE COPE presence in the NYSUT family. Lynn Dodd has grown her VILLAGES unit and maintained year round activities to keep her membership growing and engaged. Ottilie Woodruff has kept our Face Book (<https://www.facebook.com#!/pages/New-York-State-United-Teacher-Retirees-InFlorida/166355720080638>) and web pages (<http://rc43.ny.aft.org/>) current, maintained our Executive Board and membership minutes and boosted our presence on social media.

Additionally, the Executive Board has reviewed our RC 43 Constitution and By Laws, found a variety of ways to help our Florida union brothers and sisters who are struggling under the harsh laws enacted by the Florida State Legislature to oppress unions and micromanage classrooms, attended ZOOM meetings, training sessions, communicated with NYSUT and AFT on how best we can serve the interests of retirees as well as tried to keep retirees engaged in political dialogue so that they can make informed decisions.

ALL of this is not just LABOR motivated....it is truly a labor of love. In several contexts recently I have drawn on a saying that I used to post in my classroom: "Do good. Feel good". Unselfish acts that help others make us feel good about ourselves. That is why Miriam, Cheryl, Lynn, Ross, Ottilie, and I consider it an honor to serve you: it makes us feel good!

Sadly, one of the great and powerful leaders of the labor movement in Florida died suddenly. Mike Williams was a union icon who fought tirelessly for working families in Florida. He founded the FIGHT FOR FLORIDA group, a community organization dedicated to the dignity of workers and their families. He served as President of the Florida AFL CIO for nearly two decades. If you would like to make a donation in memory of his unwavering, unselfish service please send it to Fight For Florida, 135 S Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

VISIT US ON LINE  
RC 43 Website:  
<http://rc43.ny.aft.org/>  
RC 43 Facebook Page:

[New-York-State-United-Teacher-Retirees-In-Florida](https://www.facebook.com/New-York-State-United-Teacher-Retirees-In-Florida)

## Online Presentations about Alzheimer's Sponsored by NYSUT and Alzheimer's Association

**Sep. 18, 2023, 4 p.m.**

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

REGISTER: [bit.ly/NYSUT\\_UnderstandingAlzheimers](https://bit.ly/NYSUT_UnderstandingAlzheimers)

**Oct. 16, 2023, 4 p.m.**

Know the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

REGISTER: [https://bit.ly/NYSUT\\_10Signs](https://bit.ly/NYSUT_10Signs)

**Nov. 14, 2023, 4 p.m.**

Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors

REGISTER: [https://bit.ly/NYSUT\\_DementiaBehaviors](https://bit.ly/NYSUT_DementiaBehaviors)

### Tips to Help Save The Only Home We Have *by Felicia Bruce, RC 43 President*

"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something" Think globally, act locally"...there are lots of catchy sayings but if you were looking for some quick, easy ways to make a significant difference without changing your lifestyle or going 'off the grid'...here are some steps to take:

**REUSE** means to use the same item more than once. Do it often. With glass, totes

**REDUCE** means to live more carefully so you create less waste. Try to purchase things with less packaging, for example. Purchase on line to avoid paper waste. Pay bills on line to reduce mail.

**RECYCLE** means to process used materials into new products. Milk cartons can be recycled into benches or carpet for example; cardboard can be used to make paper bags and paperboard; metal cans can be made into new car parts.

#### At Home And In Your Yard:

Put on a sweater instead of adjusting the thermostat.

Get out and WALK...it is healthier for you and the planet!

Discard CAREFULLY! Some things can contaminate soil or water if disposed of improperly.

VOTE for environmentally friendly candidates who will protect the earth.

SUPPORT science based advocacy, research and public education.

INFORM others; share these simple rules.

AVOID plastic and paper products to save marine life.

BYOB bring your own reusable containers.

Flip OFF lights. Use one source of illumination at a time. Save your electric bill and avoid adding more light pollution.

PLANT a tree. It's good for the soil. It's good for the birds. It helps reduce climate change.

GET OFF mailing lists!

Support charities, causes and candidates that work to protect threatened species, preserve natural habitats, promote clean air/ water/ soil

#### On The Water

To promote a wild, healthy ocean for the future, you must live an ocean friendly lifestyle if you don't live on the ocean! Little things can benefit the ocean and marine life such as:

Be mindful of the land sea connection. Everything flows downstream. What we do affects our waterways. Runoff from lawns, farms, streets, parking lots and construction sites is a HUGE source of pollution. Poor habits are creating 'dead zones' where nothing can survive

Use less fertilizer by creating compost for your gardens.

Wash cars on grass not driveways so the grass can act as a filter.

#### PLANT TREES

Don't use the toilet as a trash can or garbage disposal

Sweep walks and driveways because hosing them drags chemicals such as oil, antifreeze, etc into storm drains or waterways

Retrieve all fishing lines, lures and gear to avoid wildlife entanglements

Drive boats carefully, slowly so as not to kill marine life (both plants and fish...)

Carry Out everything you carried onto the beach to avoid wildlife ingesting or becoming entangled in your trash.

By following these simple rules, you can help keep the ocean, the land and all the living things we share HEALTHY. Voting for conservation programs and candidates that support them helps create policy that protects the earth. Download apps like CleanSwell to track trash. Visit websites like [www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org) or [www.oceanconservancy.org](http://www.oceanconservancy.org) to get more tips.



Please support our Florida colleagues by going to [feaweb.org](http://feaweb.org) and using your Florida address to take whatever action is requested.

## We Grieve the Loss of NYSUT RC 43 Treasurer Marsha Friedman

The RC 43 Family grieves the loss of our longtime treasurer and friend Marsha Friedman. Marsha served Yonkers children from 1967 to 2000. She loved her students and searched for creative ways to meet their needs and engage them. Always an activist, in 1977 she was drawn into union leadership by her longtime BFF Florence McCue. She became and remained a lifetime unionist. RC 43 recruited her to be our treasurer more than a decade ago. From the first day she took her fiduciary responsibility seriously and fulfilled her duties conscientiously and cheerfully. The light Marsha shown upon friends, family and even strangers will be missed by everyone because to know her was

to love her. Condolences may be sent to her family at home of Steven and Heather Sanford at 1890 NE 198th Terrace Miami FL 33179.



The late Marsha Friedman  
May her memory always be for a blessing.

### NYSUT RC 43 Treasurers for Each Unit 2023-2024

#### CLEARWATER

Joseph Lanza  
7450 Evesborough Lane  
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#### NATURE COAST

Bonnie Ruge  
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#### SARASOTA/MANATEE

Glenn Simpson  
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#### TREASURE COAST,

SPACE COAST,  
ORLANDO, and  
JUPITER  
Reorganizing. Contact  
Miriam Hanan  
[miriamtrh@gmail.com](mailto:miriamtrh@gmail.com)

#### GREATER NAPLES

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#### THE VILLAGES/OCALA

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#### SOUTHEAST

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Boynton Beach, FL 33472  
516-236-0276  
[miriamtrh@gmail.com](mailto:miriamtrh@gmail.com)

Please send your Participation Fee to the Treasurer of the Unit that you wish to join. Choose the Unit that is closest to your location. Our membership year runs from September 1— August 31.

## VOTE/COPE

It's Back to School time!

Teachers and former colleagues are preparing for the start of another school year. It's an exciting time for everyone with promises to come. But we also know that there are powerful forces who are trying to undermine the advances we have made in education, healthcare, Medicare and Medicaid, and our pensions. If a candidate believes in public funding for education, letting our teachers teach facts and real history, promoting equality for all students, and allowing educators to determine what books should be available to students, then they are the people we should be backing. Your contributions to VOTE/COPE help ensure that we support those candidates, despite their political party, who support us and our ideals.

Please send checks made out to VOTE/COPE to:

Ross Stonefield  
9 Haig Pl. Apt 501  
Dunedin, FL 34698

## RC 43 Tidbits

**Greater Naples:** The Unit donated \$1,000 to The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc. to support the Hurricane Ian Relief Fund. Our group meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. from October through April at Longshore Lake Clubhouse on Valewood Drive, Naples, Florida. A lunch follows each meeting. At our October meeting, we will be discussing our plans for the year. For more information, please contact Robert Lomicka at 239-514-7234 or Paul Murphy at 239-593-7738.

**Sarasota/Manatee:** We meet one Wednesday per month, usually at 11 AM at various venues. We will meet October 4, November 8, December 13, January 10, February 7, March 6, and April 10. Please contact Eileen Hosler-Simpson at 585-746-1405 for more information.

**The Villages/Ocala:** We welcome all former New York educators with the common goal of improving education and enjoying our retirement. We meet at noon on the first Friday of the month from September through June at Hibiscus Recreation. Please contact Unit President Lynn Dodd at 716-308-5736 for more information.

**Southeast:** Southeast meets the second Tuesday of the month from October through April at the South County Civic Center on Jog Road in Delray Beach., unless we have a trip planned. Our next meeting is Tuesday Oct. 10 at 9:30 AM. We have interesting speakers at each meeting and serve refreshments. Contact Co-Presidents Alene Model, 845-548-4681 or Elinor Neri, [suelin13104@yahoo.com](mailto:suelin13104@yahoo.com) for more information.

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 we are inviting all of our members and interested retirees to Zoom Meetings. Please send your email address to Miriam Hanan, [miriam.hanan@nysut.org](mailto:miriam.hanan@nysut.org) or phone her at 516-236-0276 to receive an email invitation to the next meeting.

VISIT US ON LINE

RC 43 Website:

<http://rc43.ny.aft.org/>

RC 43 Facebook Page:

[New-York-State-United-Teacher-Retirees-In-Florida](#)

RETIREE COUNCIL 43 & LOCAL UNIT PARTICIPATION FEE/MEMBERSHIP FORM - SEPTEMBER 2023-AUGUST 2024

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT FROM WHICH YOU RETIRED \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR OF RETIREMENT \_\_\_\_\_

TRIF UNIT YOU WISH TO JOIN \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions? Topics of interest? \_\_\_\_\_

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

The membership year runs from September 1, 2023 - Aug. 31, 2024

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 the Treasurer of the RC Unit you wish to become part of (see page 3), or contact Miriam Hanan, Ph: 516-236-0276

[miriam.hanan@nysut.org](mailto:miriam.hanan@nysut.org)

\*\*\*Participating in RC 43 is in addition to membership in your New York RC Unit. You are not transferring your membership to RC 43.