

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

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Change Your Address?
Contact NYSUT Member Records
Ph: 1-800-342-9810
memberec@nvsutmail.org

From The Desk of RC 43 President Felicia Bruce

Every year NYSUT holds a Representative Assembly (RA). The purpose is to be responsive to members, change things that are outdated, add new directives and generally reflect the wants, needs and priorities of the nearly 700,000 members.

The process is democratic. ED's (Election Districts) across the state meet periodically during the year, discuss issues and events, draft resolutions, refine them and submit them before deadline. The language and procedures are clearly defined. When all the details are determined to be in compliance, NYSUT publishes them for delegates to review.

This year 33 resolutions were submitted. They were divided into categories as follows: civil and human rights, college and university, educational issues I and II, healthcare and workplace safety, legislative/political action I and II, organization, pension /retirement. They focused on protecting insurance through leadership training, increasing the COLA benefit on pensions, increasing retiree involvement in Union for Life and Retiree Council recognition. Several resolutions focused on fixing Tier 6. They concentrate on mobilizing members to fight for equity among the tiers. Resolution 33 is of special interest to retirees as it would increase the COLA.

Groups were formed and delegates either volunteered or were assigned to speak to the issues raised and recommend support or lack thereof on passage of the resolutions. RC 43 participated in the process from start to finish. Although we did not author any of the resolutions, we stood in support of all seven that originated in our ED 52 meetings. The delegates you sent were President of RC 43 Felicia Bruce, 2nd VP Lynn Dodd and alternate Deb Peterson (former president) who replaced deceased Treasurer Marsha Friedman. Every RC has 3 votes which may be cast by the credentialed delegates OR if less than 3 are in attendance, the vote is weighted accordingly. Vote-COPE continues to be integral to efforts in getting pro- public education and pro- labor candidates elected.

The NYSUT candidates for leadership positions (Executive Board, ED Directors, Delegates At Large) were uncontested. The newly elected officers (incomplete list) are:

Melinda Persons, President has served NYSUT as its Executive and Political Director

Jaime Ciffone, Executive VP has served as Instructional Specialist at the NYC Department of Education

Ron Gross, 2nd VP and J Philippe Abraham, Sec-Treasurer were both incumbents.

Florence McCue, At Large ED 51,52,53 has long held the position and maintained a close relationship with RC 43. Prior to the RA were the Presidents Conference and the Committee of 100.

To find a full report on the elections, details, resolutions passed, etc., go to the NYSUT web site (<https://www.nysut.org>)

THANKS! NYSUT RC 43 completed elections for 2023-2026. All seats were uncontested. According to law (Landrum-Griffin), Secretary Ottile Woodruff cast one vote for the slate of officers. Sadly, Marsha Friedman died, leaving the position of Treasurer vacant. If you, or someone you know, is qualified and would like to serve RC 43 please contact anyone on the Executive Board.

RC 43 will begin working on drafting resolutions for the 2024 RA in July. In light of recent developments in Florida, we have a vested interest in NYSUT taking an active role in trends being set here that affect higher education, charter and voucher programs, as well as human rights, civil rights and federal programs such as Social Security. If you have thoughts about these or other important issues please share them !

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)

NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 43 REGIONAL MEETINGS WERE HELD IN WEST PALM BEACH, FL, MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023 AND IN SARASOTA, FL, TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023

Our RC 43 Regional Meetings were well-attended and very successful. Participants heard from important unionists including AFT President Randi Weingarten, Andrew Spar, President of the Florida Education Association, FEA, Ron Gros, 2nd Vice President of NYSUT, Florence McCue, NYSUT E.D. 51-52-53 At-Large Director, Joan Perrini, NYSUT E.D. 52 Director, Felicia Bruce, NYSUT Retiree Council 43 President, Maura Przybylek, Benefits Coordinator, NYSUT Member Benefits, and Miriam Hanan, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant.

We learned that in Florida vouchers will take \$4 billion out of the public schools with very little oversight, but that 70% of the students who take vouchers generally return to the public schools within two years.

New York Tier 6 retirees will receive considerably less in their annual pensions than Tier 4 retirees, unless Tier 6 is revised. For two teachers, one in Tier 4 and one in Tier 6, earning the same \$90,000 salary after 30 years, the Tier 4 teacher will receive \$52,800 per year, while the Tier 6 teacher will receive only \$22,704 per year. In addition, the Tier 4 teacher will have contributed only \$12,300 to their pension over the thirty years, while the Tier 6 teacher will have contributed \$74,910. NYSUT is actively working to correct this inequity, but it still stands as of now.

In Florida, the Governor is doing all he can to render teacher's unions ineffective, starting with eliminating dues check-off in paychecks and forbidding any union activity on school property, in addition to raising the threshold for union certification to 60% of all teachers employed in a school district.

On a more positive note, NYSUT supports retirees in many ways, including printing, mailing, and paying for the postage of newsletters such as RC 43 TRIF-ic News, holding retiree regional conferences, public relations, providing Member Benefits, assistance with establishing new retiree chapters, assistance with in-person and virtual phone banks, and financial procedures workshops and ongoing support.

Conference evaluations by participants showed great satisfaction.

Below are some photos from the two Regional Conferences.



FEA Pres. Andrew Spar, NYSUT Consultant Miriam Hanan, RC 43 Pres. Felicia Bruce, Ron Gross, NYSUT 2nd V.P.



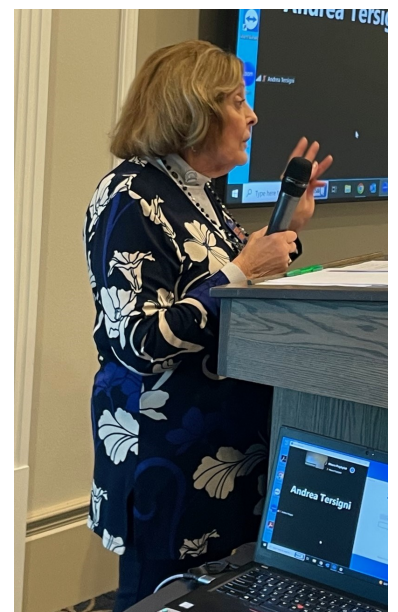
Sarasota Meeting attendees listened to and participated in the day's presentations.



A Certificate of Recognition was presented to RC 43 TRIF-ic News Editor Cheryl Dodes by NYSUT Consultant Miriam Hanan, RC 43 Pres. Felicia Bruce, and NYSUT 2nd V.P. Ron Gross



Please support our Florida colleagues by going to feaweb.org and using your Florida address to take whatever action is requested.



NYSUT E.D. 52 Director Joan Perrini addressed the attendees.

**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 2022-2023

CLEARWATER

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miriam.hanan@nysut.org

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.

JUPITER

Reorganizing. Contact
Miriam Hanan
miriam.hanan@nysut.org
516-236-0276

ORLANDO

Reorganizing. Contact
Miriam Hanan

SPACE COAST

Reorganizing. Contact
Miriam Hanan

VOTE/COPE

As retired educators from New York, we enjoy many benefits that we have earned throughout the years. They were achieved by the hard work of many individuals as well as through major efforts by NYSUT. VOTE/COPE money has helped preserve these benefits. Continued attacks on teachers and unions, especially in Florida, have been persistent. Even in New York, however, there are factions who want to divert funds from public education into corporate hands. It is imperative that we remain strong and voice our concerns every single day.

You can understand how important it is for VOTE/COPE to give the power to NYSUT to achieve its goals. Even if you already contribute via pension deduction, please consider making an additional donation so we can continue to fight for you and for our children.

Please send checks made out to VOTE/COPE to:

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

RC 43 Tidbits

RC 43 has monthly zoom meetings to keep our retirees informed on the second Friday of every month at 11 AM, except during the summer; meetings will resume this fall. (to get the link contact Miriam.hanan@nysut.org)

There are many units active in FL that are affiliated with RC 43, the only authorized RC outside NYS

We work closely with other retiree groups under the AFT, UFT, NEA umbrella

As affiliates of AFT we are entitled to ALL the benefits they get!

That includes SouthWest Airline discounts, loans, credit cards, dental services, legal, vision and hearing, DEATH BENEFIT INSURANCE .

Registration with the correct AFT ID number may be required. The Death Benefit contact is Tish Olshefski, 202-879-4520,

Email aftplus@aft.org. To register, contact AFT in DC at 202-879-4400. Ask for Mary for how to enroll, get correct AFT ID, etc.

Clearwater Unit: Our charity project for the last fifteen years has been the Egan Cottage at the SHERIFFS' YOUTH RANCH in Safety Harbor. Although our membership has decreased this year, our donations haven't. We were able to provide a special entertainment gaming system gift and pizza party for the kids at the Cottage. At our April meeting, we presented a check for \$1200.00 to Scott Halbach, Unit Director, for special summer activities for the kids at Egan Cottage.

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 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

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