



NYSUT Retiree Council 22

Newsletter

November 2019

RC #22 Executive Board

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Vice President: Laura Cappetta

Secretary: Chris Wasko

Treasurer: Bill Rockwell

NYSUT Delegates: Terry Kalb and Rosemary Brennan

Alternate Delegate: Arlene Baressi

Membership Chairperson: Arlene Barresi

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Newsletter Editor: Stephen Stengel

President's Message

by Barbara Barosa

This fall has been very busy. We had a *Welcome New Retiree Breakfast* for our 2019 newly retired members at Zona Out East Diner in Rocky Point on Wednesday, September 18th. There were approximately 75 members there and we welcomed them to the new role of retiree. We heard from RC 22 Officers, Joan Perrini, our NYSUT Suffolk Office Retiree Services Consultant, June Smith, our VOTE/COPE coordinator and our ED Director, Rosemary Catanzariti. There were new retiree manuals, a Fair Trade Raffle and lots of warm wishes extended for a very successful retirement and a hope that new retirees will become active in our RC 22 activities.

On October 2, 2019, RC 22 held a general meeting at the Riverhead Public Library. We heard from Paul Pecorale, NYSUT First VP, our retiree liaison, Joan Perrini, NYSUT Retiree services consultant, and Rosemary Catanzariti, our ED Director and Retiree Representative to NYSUT Executive Board. We also had an interesting presentation from George Bartunek, retired Earth Science teacher on Norway and Glaciers.

Most recently, NYSUT held an all-day conference for retirees at The Watermill Inn on Tuesday, October 29th. Thank you for the support from Albany to offset the cost of this conference for our retirees. There was a continental breakfast served and a plated lunch, as well as Paul Pecorale, NYSUT VP, our morning keynote speaker, and two sets of morning workshops dealing with the future of L. I. drinking water, aging and happiness, senior issues: scams, finances and health issues amongst several others. They were very informative and interesting. This is done yearly and attending is really very enlightening.

We also heard from lunch key note speaker Randi Weingarten, President of

the American Federation of Teachers, our national affiliate. Randi is a former NYSUT teacher and was President of the UFT for many years. She spoke on the status of our country and education in America. Equality, democracy, fairness and divisiveness and technological advances were all mentioned. Randi was eloquent and passionate. She believes in American public education and knows it is the great equalizer. She is a wonderful leader who takes on difficult subjects and challenges us all to think hard and defend those beliefs we hold dearly. That is extremely important in the next year, especially with major elections forthcoming. She says, "Only we the people" can save our democracy and I think she is absolutely correct.

We have to support candidates who believe in the ideals of America and all that entails. Freedom, equality, liberty, truth and justice, just to name a few. More to come on that note.

The 10-year Federal census will be here in 2020. We need to encourage everyone to be counted. Federal dollars and congressional representation, that we all desperately need, is at stake. Please remember to fill out those census forms

online if possible and encourage all to fill them out without the fear of retribution or fear of being put in a data base for undocumented persons. WE NEED EVERYBODY TO BE COUNTED, IT MATTERS!!

Have a great rest of fall and a wonderful winter. We will have a spring general meeting at the BEES office in early June. That meeting is important because we will be electing officers and there is an opening for the President of RC 22. I hope you will be there. Watch for announcements in the late winter for dates and candidacy forms.

May you and your family and loved ones have a great holiday.



Randi Weingarten

Benefits of Union Membership as a Retiree

Maintaining union membership in retirement assures access to:

- Member benefits including discounts on things such as cell phone service, rental cars, appliances and insurance programs. Visit <http://memberbenefits.nysut.org/> for more information
- NYSUT Social Services to help you and your family navigate the system of hospital and elder care as the need arises. Visit www.nysut.org/socialservices or call (800) 342- 9810 ext. 6206
- Social activities such as luncheons, trips and book clubs
- Support for receiving negotiated post-employment benefits
- A regional NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant
- Publications from NYSUT and Retiree Councils
- Advocacy through NYSUT legislative and political department and VOTE-COPE to protect your earned benefits: social security, pension, health care, etc.
- Membership in NYS Alliance for Retired Americans



To learn more about retiree councils, local chapters, etc., please visit Forms of Retiree Organization in the NYSUT Retiree Handbook: <https://tinyurl.com/ugd6lfd4>

For more information
visit www.NYSUT.org/retirees or
call (800) 342-9810, ext. 6291.

By staying involved in NYSUT through your local and retiree council you can:

- Participate in volunteer opportunities: mentoring, book giveaways to students, holiday activities, etc.
- Advocate for issues related to education, health care, earned benefits, etc. in your local, state, and federal legislatures by phone banking, picketing, contacting elected representatives and using the NYSUT MAC app <https://mac.nysut.org>
- Share institutional history with new union members
- Assist with local initiatives
- Help get candidates elected to school board/city council, etc.
- Run to be a member of a local school board/city council, etc.
- Find resources to help get answers to personal concerns
- Share concerns and issues of in-service members with community organizations



Participate in your NYSUT Retiree Council and stay involved in issues that will affect your retirement!

<https://www.nysut.org/members/retirees/retiree-council-websites>



Contributions to VOTE-COPE can be made online at:

<https://www.nysut.org/my-nysut/reference/toolkit/member/political-action/vote-cope>

Grandparent Scheme

Here's How it Works:

Criminals assume your identity to steal from your grandparents. And sometimes you give them the information to do it.

Here's how it works:

Your grandparents get a call, usually in the middle of the night:

**"Grandma, it's me...
I'm in trouble."**

Startled out of a sound sleep, your grandparent may actually provide the name:

"Mike, is that you?"

More and more often, though, scammers have checked out your social media pages, figured out who your relatives are and are coming armed with information.

It will go something like this:

**"We went to Canada for a concert
and I got arrested for DWI.
I need bail money.
Please don't tell Mom."**

What Happens Next?

Your grandparent is instructed to wire \$1,000, \$5,000, even \$10,000 to somewhere out of state or out of the country. And when you wire money, it's the same as handing them a wad of cash. There's no getting it back.

The Stories Change, the Demands Do Not.

Instead of an arrest, it might be a car accident, or a drug arrest or a medical emergency. But the "ask" is the same: wire money, don't ask questions, don't tell anyone.

Scammers know how to play this: They use your social media accounts to find real names, real interests, real phone numbers. Or they steal your phone and have all the information they need. They call in the middle of the night, counting on the confusion of a sudden waking and the expectation of bad news at that hour.

Most of all, they play on a grandparent's unconditional love and their desire to help their loved ones, no matter what the cost. And they count on people being too embarrassed to report the crime.

Crimes Should Be Reported

Call local law enforcement and the Office of the Attorney General, even if you are just contacted by a scammer and didn't send any money. Keeping track of how the grandparent scam is committed can go a long way toward preventing it.

Also, tell the victim to call the money wiring service they used; it may help them identify agents who facilitate the scam. If the scam involved wiring money to Canada, contact Canadian authorities on their hotline: 888-495-8501.

SUPPORT RC 22



As a NYSUT retiree, you are a lifetime member of RC 22; however, without financial support from you, RC 22 cannot represent you at county, state and national conferences and meetings. We ask you to contribute an annual \$5 participation fee. If you pay dues to an operating retiree chapter, (Eastern Suffolk BOCES, (BEES), Mattituck-Cutchogue, Patch-Medford, Riverhead, Rocky Pt, Southampton and Wm. Floyd), your \$5 fee will be forwarded to RC 22 by your chapter. If you do not pay dues to one of these chapters, please fill out the form below and send it with your \$5 check payable to **RC #22**.

Mail to: Bill Rockwell, RC #22 Treasurer 30 Carmen Blvd. Brookhaven, NY 11719

Name: _____ Telephone _____

Address: _____

Email: (please print clearly) _____ Local you retired from: _____



NEW Endorsed Program

Get ready to Access ... big savings!

NYSUT Member Benefits is pleased to announce the launch of our newest endorsed program -- **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals provided by Access Development!**

This money-saving benefit is available exclusively to NYSUT members and features the nation's largest private discount network.

These deals can be accessed either online or from the palm of your hand through Access Development's MB Deals mobile app. Visit mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com to learn more.

Register your account on the Access website with your NYSUT ID number using the URL above. You will then be able to **enjoy exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on shopping, restaurants, movie tickets & entertainment, travel, oil changes & vehicle maintenance, and much more.**

Have a favorite local business?

One of the best features of the MB Discounts & Deals program is the ability to recommend your favorite local business, restaurant, coffee shop, etc. to potentially join the Access Development network.

Register your account on the Access website by March 31, 2020 to be eligible to win prizes -- visit the Member Benefits website for more information!

Learn more by calling **800-626-8101** or visiting ***memberbenefits.nysut.org***.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

Nov./Dec. '19

**MEMBER
BENEFITS**

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Working to Benefit You