



# NYSUT Retiree Council 22

## Newsletter

May 2021

### RC #22 Executive Board

**President and NYSUT/AFT Delegate:** Terry Kalb

**Vice President:** TBD

**Secretary:** Chris Wasko

**Treasurer:** Bill Rockwell

**NYSUT Delegates:** Rosemary Brennan

Arlene Barresi

**Membership Chairperson:** Stephen Stengel

#### Directors:

John Neely

Gail Shafer

Elena Grefe

**Newsletter Editor:** Stephen Stengel

### President's Message

Dear RC22 Retiree,

My name is Terry Kalb, and I am your new RC22 president, succeeding my friend and mentor Barbara Barosa who chose to step down from this role last year. At a Zoom meeting of members last October, I was elected along with our Secretary Christine Wasko, Treasurer Bill Rockwell, and Delegate Rosemary Brennan to new 3 year terms effective as of July 2020. Our alternate delegate Arlene Barresi has stepped up into the 2<sup>nd</sup> delegate position. Since then, we have been working on a required revision of the RC 22 Constitution, and we will bring it to you for ratification at another virtual meeting planned for June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am. It is still not possible for us to schedule meetings or events in person, but we all hope that by the fall, it may be safe to do so.

The other members of our current Executive Board are John Neely representing Riverhead, Gail Shafer representing Patchogue-Medford, and Elena Grefe representing Mattituck Retiree Chapters. We would love to have representatives from Rocky Point, William Floyd, Southampton, and any other East End District with a NYSUT Retiree Chapter. If you are interested, please let your chapter know there is an opening! We also welcome retiree members at large who retired from districts without an official NYSUT Retiree Chapter.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a breakfast out together as we have done in previous years to welcome our new retirees? We hope that with the increasing availability of vaccine supplies, everyone seeking vaccinations has found appointments, and that it will be much safer to gather inside this fall when most people are inoculated.

#### SPRING ZOOM MEETING and CONSTITUTION RATIFICATION

On June 2 at 10 am, we will hold our Spring meeting on ZOOM. We need and value your participation. We will discuss Medicare reimbursement issues, the role of retirees in NYSUT, and ideas for expanding participation in RC22. We will also hold a ratification vote on necessary revisions to our outdated RC 22 Constitution.

Please review the revised Constitution at the RC22 website at this link:

[http://rc22.ny.aft.org/sites/default/files/article\\_pdf\\_files/2021-04/rc\\_22\\_constitution\\_2-23-21\\_revised.pdf](http://rc22.ny.aft.org/sites/default/files/article_pdf_files/2021-04/rc_22_constitution_2-23-21_revised.pdf)

You must register for the meeting at the following link.

REGISTER HERE:

<https://nysut.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctd-mqqTltG9ZpkkeEyzjPe-fNrhmZD1xe9>

In addition to our RC22 website <http://rc22.ny.aft.org/> we also have an RC 22 Facebook page where you can find announcements and retiree information. To find us on Facebook, search for NYSUT RC22 (Retiree Council) and add your name to join. We are a private group for RC22 members only.

#### SOME GOOD NEWS!

The NY State budget has just passed with increased funding for public education. That is very good news for our grandchildren in public schools, and for our still working colleagues who would have faced steep cuts and layoffs if the federal American Rescue Act and the NYS budget agreement were not achieved. For retirees, the NYS Medicare Premium and IRMAA reimbursements that our school districts send to us were approved for another year. Every year our union lobbies on our behalf to keep those important reimbursements in place.

We hope to see the removal of the \$10,000 cap on State and Local Tax deductions (SALT) by Congress in this year's federal budget which will give even more relief to taxpayers in NY and on LI in particular. Our VOTE COPE dollars keep the pressure on our legislators to protect all these essential protections, and others like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid fully funded.

Please consider making a monthly pension contribution to VOTE COPE, or an annual donation. The form you need is in this newsletter, and is also available at our RC22 Website here:

[http://rc22.ny.aft.org/sites/default/files/article\\_pdf\\_files/2021-04/v-c-newretireescontributionform\\_2.pdf](http://rc22.ny.aft.org/sites/default/files/article_pdf_files/2021-04/v-c-newretireescontributionform_2.pdf)

Wishing you a healthy and happy spring and hope you will join us at our June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on Zoom at 10am!

Terry Kalb  
RC 22 President

### RC-22 web site

<http://rc22.ny.aft.org/>

Look for news, resources, member

benefits and more!

# NYSUT Retirees: Get ready to ‘Access’ big savings!

NYSUT Member Benefits is pleased to announce the launch of its newest endorsed program - **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals provided by Access Development**. This exciting offering dramatically increases the number of discounts offered to NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) on a national basis. More importantly, this program provides numerous savings opportunities at restaurants and merchants on a local and regional level.



This money-saving benefit is available exclusively to you as a NYSUT retiree and features the nation’s largest private discount network. These deals can be utilized either online or from the palm of your hand through Access Development’s MB Deals mobile app.

Register your account on the Access website with your NYSUT ID number by visiting **mbdeals.enjoy-mydeals.com**. You will then be able to enjoy exclusive access to savings of up to 50% at more than 700,000 locations on shopping, restaurants, movie tickets and entertainment, travel, oil changes and vehicle maintenance, and much more.

One of the best features of the Member Benefits Discounts & Deals program is the ability to recommend your favorite local business, restaurant, coffee shop, etc. to potentially join the Access Development network. You can learn more information about recommending a merchant by visiting the site.

If you have any questions about this new program, please visit **memberbenefits.nysut.org** or call **800-626-8101**.

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

(Reprinted from Retiree Organizer, Volume 33, Issue 2, Winter 2020)

## NYSUT Web Pages Related to Retirees

### Featured Resources

<https://www.nysut.org/resources/all-listing/filtered-resources/audience/retirees?audience=Retirees>

### Endorsed Insurance Programs

<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/insurance>

### Member Exclusives - Discounts and Special Services

<https://www.nysut.org/my-nysut/member/discounts-and-special-services>

### KEEP UP TO DATE!!!

#### All Address changes for NYSUT publications

Send written requests to:  
NYSUT Member Records  
Troy Schenectady Rd  
Latham, NY 12110

To add/change your email address to your  
NYSUT profile, send a message to:

**RC22Membership@gmail.com**

NOTE: Your email address will not be shared  
with third parties.

Call NYSUT Member Records  
1-800- 342-9810 x6224

### Stay Informed

The following websites are great resources for retirees.  
Information about state and federal legislation on important  
issues.

New York State United Teachers  
[www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org)

American Federation of Teachers  
[www.aft.org](http://www.aft.org)

New York State Teachers Retirement system  
[www.nystrs.org](http://www.nystrs.org)

New York State Alliance for Retired Americans  
[www.newyorkstateara.org](http://www.newyorkstateara.org)

NYSUT Member Benefits  
[memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org)



## Pension Deduction Authorization Form



**VOTE-COPE is the New York State United Teachers political action fund.**  
**VOTE-COPE solicits and accepts only voluntary contributions.**  
**Contributions or gifts to VOTE-COPE are not tax deductible.**

The undersigned authorizes the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) or the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) to deduct from each of my regular defined-benefit pension payments the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (per month) and to forward that amount to VOTE-COPE, PO Box 5190, Albany, NY 12205-0190. I understand that this monthly amount will continue to be deducted until revoked by me in writing.

This authorization is made voluntarily and without fear of reprisal and with the understanding that the making of contributions to VOTE-COPE is not a condition of membership in any labor organization, will not impact the provision of my defined-benefit pension and that VOTE-COPE will use the money it receives to make political contributions and expenditures in connection with federal, state and local elections. This authorization shall remain in full force and effect for all purposes until revoked by me in writing.

I expressly acknowledge and understand that the deduction, as specified above, be withheld monthly and that NYSUT will transmit this authorization to the appropriate retirement system. I hereby certify to NYSTRS and NYSERS that I am a member of NYSUT, an employee organization entitled to receive union deduction payments as provided by law.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Pension # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Local from which you retired \_\_\_\_\_

## Contributions to VOTE-COPE can be made online at:

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



## Contribution Form



**VOTE-COPE is the New York State United Teachers political action fund.**  
**VOTE-COPE solicits and accepts only voluntary contributions.**  
**Contributions or gifts to VOTE-COPE are not tax deductible.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Local # \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution \$\_\_\_\_\_ Check #\_\_\_\_\_ (Make check payable to VOTE-COPE)

Please provide your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to: VOTE-COPE, PO Box 5190, Albany, NY 12205-0190**

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



## Not sure where to start with your summer to-do list?

Whether it's assisting NYSUT members with everyday essentials, important choices about insurance needs, or making prudent decisions about financial and legal concerns, NYSUT Member Benefits can help.



Scan the QR code below to learn more about the following endorsed programs and services.

### Saving you money: MB Discounts & Deals

With the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program, NYSUT members can save up to 50% at more than 700,000 merchants nationwide (including thousands throughout New York State). Save on groceries and food delivery; restaurant dine-in or takeout; gasoline, oil changes and vehicle maintenance; clothing and shoes; and much more. You can even request that your favorite merchant join the network.

### Saving you money: Every \$\$\$ counts

Whether your summer plans include home renovations, replacing or upgrading appliances, getting a new car, stocking up for the return to school, or even just hanging out and enjoying some time off, Member Benefits has a variety of endorsed programs -- **Purchasing Power, Buyer's Edge Inc., Office Depot/OfficeMax, Bose, Powell's Books** -- that might be able to minimize the impact on your wallet and maximize your enjoyment of the all-too-fleeting summer months.

### Protecting your family: Insuring yourself and your family

Member Benefits endorses a number of competitive insurance programs that are available to NYSUT members. These include **auto/home/renters, life, disability, long term care, dental, vision**, and even **pet insurance**. Some of these programs are also available to or cover spouses/domestic partners of members, dependent children, dependent parents, and grandparents. Most offer payroll & pension deduction as payment options.



### Planning for the future: Have a plan for wherever life takes you

It's never too early or too late to make a plan. Just starting a career or looking at retirement? Beginning to pay off loans or building a nest egg? Looking to buy a new home or refinance the one you're in? Welcoming a new child or adopting? Now would be a good time to look into the ways to put a plan in place or make adjustments to your existing one. Explore the **Member Benefits Financial Learning Center** for assistance; while you're there, check out our **Legal Service Plan** and **Financial Counseling Program**.

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of programs and services that are available to NYSUT members and their families, including the following options:



DINING & SHOPPING DISCOUNTS



TRAVEL & TOURS



CAR & TRUCK RENTALS



LIFE INSURANCE



AUTO & HOME



LONG-TERM CARE & DISABILITY

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit **[memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org)**, call **800-626-8101** or scan the **QR code** above.

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

May/June '21