



# NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 22

A NYSUT-NEA-AFT Affiliate

RC-22 Website <http://rc22.ny.aft.org/>

Look for news, resources, member benefits and more by visiting the site!

## Upcoming Event

**VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
November 29, 2023 @ 10 AM

Register TODAY!

<https://tinyurl.com/RC22Zoom>

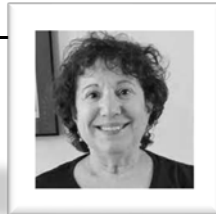
### AGENDA TOPICS:

Medicare and Social Security

Trouble registering? Contact us at:

[rc22president@gmail.com](mailto:rc22president@gmail.com)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Hello RC 22 Retirees,

It was such a pleasure to meet so many of you earlier in October at our Welcome to Retirement Brunch honoring our brand newbies to our Retiree Council. As we enjoy the fruits of our labor with union facilitated pensions and healthcare, we can never take them for granted. There are powerful forces at work looking to profit from the privatization of our public schools and looking to privatize our health insurance. Medicare and Social Security, which we fund through payroll contributions, add nothing to the National debt or deficit yet they have become a target of those who want to diminish, privatize, or eliminate them. By lifting the cap on the very wealthy's contribution to Medicare, it would be healthy and solvent for our grandchildren's retirement, we could even add vision, hearing and dental coverage so needed by seniors as we age. By using our collective voices and Vote-Cope dollars, we can protect what we have earned, and even improve these programs. Do your part- let's make Union For Life a reality!

This year, NYSUT's political action focus is on FIX TIER SIX. Many of you like me who were hired under Tier 3, were able to retire under a much improved Tier 4. It took 11 years to Fix Tier 3, which collected 3% of our salaries for our pensions every year. Tier 4 capped that at 10 years, after which that 3% charge stopped, as well as reducing the Social Security penalty for money earned in retirement. Our unfortunate colleagues hired under Tier 6 must pay 3% rising to 6% of their salaries toward their pensions every year they work until age 63 (!) for a full pension, and their pensions are lower as well. It is no wonder with these disincentives that it is so hard to hire and keep career educators. We owe a debt to those who fixed Tier 3 for us, to help Fix Tier Six for teachers now and for the future of the schools our grandkids attend. Other lobbying priorities include stopping the proliferation of charter schools which siphon precious dollars from our actual public schools, and renewing the reimbursement of the IRMAA surcharge on our Medicare premiums each year. Please consider a pension deduction on yearly contribution to VOTE-COPE, every dollar counts! **Our November 29th Member Meeting at 10AM on ZOOM will highlight Medicare for discussion. Please join us.**

Best Wishes, Terry

## RC-22 Executive Board

**President and NYSUT/AFT Delegate**

Terry Kalb

**Vice President** Susan Wilson

**Secretary** Chris Wasko

**Treasurer** Bill Rockwell

### NYSUT Delegates

Rosemary Brennan

Mary Ellen Pantaleo

Terry Kalb (President)

### Membership Chairperson

Stephen Stengel

### Representatives

**Bellport-South Ctry** Teri Palermo

**BOCES** TBD

**Mattituck-Cutchogue** Elena Grefe

**Patchogue-Medford** TBD

**Riverhead** Pamela Normandeau

**Rocky Point** Susan Wilson

**Sag Harbor** Marianne Terrigno

**Southampton** Vinny Mangano

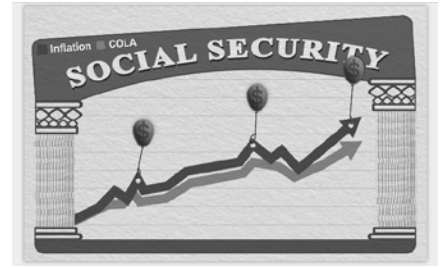
**William Floyd** Sue Gleason



# Good News for Retirees!

## Social Security Announces 3.2 Percent Benefit Increase for 2024\*

In early October 2023, the Social Security Administration announced a 3.2 percent cost of living adjustment for retirees, survivors and people with disabilities. Social Security will begin notifying people about their new benefit amount by mail starting in early December. Individuals who have a personal my Social Security account can view their COLA notice online, which is secure, easy, and faster than receiving a letter in the mail. People can set up text or email alerts when there is a new message--such as their COLA notice--waiting for them in my Social Security.



Information about Medicare changes for 2024 will be available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). For Social Security beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare, their new 2024 benefit amount will be available in December through the mailed COLA notice and my Social Security's Message Center.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

To read more, please visit [www.ssa.gov/cola](http://www.ssa.gov/cola).

**It is also important to remember that as a retiree you should make your views known to those in Congress and State legislatures who represent you on the issues that affect retirees each and every day.**

## RC-22 Fall News

### New Retiree Brunch a Huge Success

RC-22 hosted a Retiree Brunch on Wednesday, October 4, at The Vineyards at Aquebogue to honor those that have retired during the 2022-2023 school year. Additionally, RC-22 invited retirees from all years to attend the event complimentary to help celebrate the new retirees. The brunch was a huge success. Our attendees were pleased with the venue and the food. They were enthusiastic about our push for greater engagement, participation, and the call to activism.

There were several invited guests that spoke during the event. They included:

- Joan Perrini, NYSUT ED #52 Director
- Rosemary Pearce, A retired school librarian and member of the Riverhead Anti-Bias Task Force
- June Smith, NYSUT Suffolk PAC and Vote Cope Coordinator





# Members Get Benefits!

Member Benefit Information can be found on the NYSUT Website

Go to the NYSUT website, <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/> to explore the many benefits available to all NYSUT members, including retirees. NYSUT encourages all NYSUT members to sign up for its MAP (Member Alert Program) alert email service to be among the first to learn about new endorsed programs and services, changes to existing programs, and special prize drawings. To login to the NYSUT website you will need your NYSUT membership I.D. number.

## Membership I.D.

Your Member I.D. is on your NYSUT Membership Card. Lost your card? Don't know your I.D. number? Call NYSUT Membership during business hours at 1-800-342-9810.

## Retirement and Continuing NYSUT Services

NYSUT has one of the most active and successful union retiree programs in the country. The NYSUT Retiree Services Program, part of Program Services, was established by NYSUT to help its retirees organize and to act as a service provider for those retiree groups. In an effort to better serve the growing number of retirees, 11 retiree services consultants have been hired to serve members in the field.

## Is Your Contact Information Up-to-Date?



Keeping your information updated is important! Stay informed! You are a NYSUT member for life. Many retirees forget to inform NYSUT, locals, and chapters of address, email, and phone number changes. Many emails bounce back, and US Postal mail is returned. Here are some important contacts you should be aware of: your retiree chapter (if one exists), local from which you retired, NYSTRS, Social Security (Medicare), all your insurance companies, car insurance, doctors, credit card companies, post office (forwarding address), your financial institutions, DMV, voter registration, financial advisor, annuity company, mobile phone company, utility companies, pharmacy, any services you need to dispense with, vet (for pet records), and, of course, your personal contacts. You remain a member of your chapter and Retiree Council 22 even if you move out of state as long as you pay dues required by your chapter. If you choose not to pay chapter dues you are considered "not in good standing"; you will no longer be eligible for NYSUT Benefits, and your in-service local may have sanctions that are benefits you receive through them. You are responsible to report address changes to NYSUT and your local chapter. To update your information, email [rc22president@gmail.com](mailto:rc22president@gmail.com).

## Give to VOTE-COPE

Your statewide union has a political fund-raising arm called VOTE-COPE. VOTE-COPE is NYSUT's non-partisan action fund that coordinates the voluntary contributions of members and supports NYSUT-endorsed candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public-education and pro-labor. No NYSUT dues dollars are used to support candidates or campaign committees. NYSUT sends rebates to local unions based on a percentage (up to 40 percent) of the contributions VOTE-COPE receives from that local union's members. Those rebates can be used in local activities such as school board races and for passage of school budgets. You can ask your local president how to participate. To "Give to VOTE-COPE," visit this link below and log into your NYSUT account to fill out the donation form. <https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/legislation/vote-cope>





For more information or assistance, call toll-free 844-444-0152

	<b>Experienced</b>	<b>NYSUT – A Union of Professionals</b> 800 Troy-Schenectady Road Latham, NY 12110-2455
	<b>Resourceful</b>	
	<b>Engaged</b>	
<b>NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 22</b>		

## 2023-2024 Individual Membership Form

New York State United Teachers – Retiree Chapter #22

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Participation Fee \$5.00     New Member     Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School District Retired From: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Retired: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone #( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Is this your     House #     Cell #

Email Address (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable "RC-22"**  
**Any questions? Email RC22.NYSUT@gmail.com**

**Mail to:** RC-22 Bill Rockwell  
 30 Carman Boulevard | Brookhaven, NY 11719