



# 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 Events

### SAVE THE DATES

**RC 22 Member Meeting (Zoom)**  
Wednesday, June 13, 2024 @ 10 AM

**Register Online Today!**  
<https://tinyurl.com/RCJuneMeet>

**Trouble registering?** Contact us at:  
rc22president@gmail.com

**NYSUT Retiree Conference**  
Tuesday, October 15, 2024



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hello RC22 Retirees, new and experienced!

It's been a busy winter and spring union-wise, never have I felt so grateful for VOTE-COPE and the power of our collective voices. You may have read that Governor Hochul's budget presented two months ago was unexpectedly unfriendly to our public schools as there were cuts in foundation aid across the state, aid that was finally fully restored just last year. It was also a shock to see the proposed elimination of state reimbursement of IRMAA--the annual surcharge in Medicare premiums for higher income earners. If you are in a two income household, you are likely familiar with IRMAA. NYSUT, along with other public employee unions jumped into action, lobbying our legislators to restore foundation aid money, and restore the annual reimbursement of our IRMAA payments. **THERE IS GOOD NEWS!** Our impact was swift and dramatic--foundation aid is fully funded, and so is IRMAA reimbursement in BOTH the NYS Assembly and the NYS Senate's budget proposals, and were in the final budget they passed awaiting the Governor's signature. And even more amazing news, the budget includes a very important first step in fixing Tier Six! Their pensions will now be based on the average of their final THREE years salary instead of the awful final FIVE years.

By now, most of you should have received your reimbursement for your Medicare premiums, and IRMAA which is processed by your school district. Remember that we who receive Medicare reimbursements are a privileged group- most people in our state do not have this benefit. And as you read above, in NYS, the IRMAA component must be approved every year. The Social Security COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) increases have been so helpful to us in the past 2 years, and they are cumulative over our retirement years. I urge you to fill out a pension deduction card if you haven't already, and make a small monthly direct donation to VOTE-COPE from your pension. You are unlikely to miss a 5-10 dollar reduction every month, and those dollars are used to protect our benefits, and the funding of our public schools. The form is in this newsletter.

➡ **Continued on next page**

## 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  
**Pat-Med** Pat Brown-Coleman  
**Riverhead** Pamela Normandeau  
**Rocky Point** Susan Wilson  
**Sag Harbor** Marianne Terrigno  
**Southampton** Vinny Mangano  
**William Floyd** Sue Gleason

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Your RC 22 elected delegates Rosemary Brennan, Mary Ellen Pantaleo, and I have just spent a long weekend at the annual NYSUT Representative Assembly (RA) which was held this year in NYC with delegates from all over NYS. We worked on over 50 resolutions in committees to guide our union's policies and agenda, approving the majority of them in the general session. We heard a very positive speech from NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli about the superior performance of our NYS Pension Fund, one of the very healthiest in the country. We proudly watched our own dynamo ED52 Director Joan Perrini (former local president of the West Islip Teachers) receive the "Not for Ourselves Alone" Award for her 60 years of dedicated leadership for our working members and our retirees. Congratulations, Joan! We also were impressed by our new NYSUT President Melinda Person for running an inspiring and efficient RA in her first year on the job.

I hope to see many of you at our June 13th RC22 Member Meeting on Zoom at 10AM where you will hear more specifics about upcoming elections with retiree concerns at stake! Look in this letter for the Zoom link to register.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

Terry



Joan Perrini, ED52 Director



### 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>

# **-SAVE THE DATE-**

2024 NYSUT Retiree Conference

## **Long Island Retirees in Action!**

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Marriott Melville Long Island  
1350 Walt Whitman Road, Melville, NY 11747

**\$56**

**Continental Breakfast and plated lunch included**

Plan to join us for our annual Retiree Conference, with special focus on the upcoming legislative elections - including sessions on retiree activism, health and welfare.

**REGISTRATION FORMS AND MORE INFORMATION  
WILL BE MAILED TO ALL RETIREES IN SEPTEMBER**

*Questions?*

*Contact Claire Zatorski, Retiree Services Consultant, Nassau: 516-496-2035*

*or*

*Jim Kinnier, Retiree Services Consultant, Suffolk: 631-273-8822*



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>		

## 2024-2025 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