



LINKAGE

*The Newsletter of Retiree Council 18
New York State United Teachers*



Retiree Council 18 Represents Retirees From: Baldwin, East Rockaway, Elmont, Floral Park-Bellerose, Franklin Square, Freeport, Hempstead, Hewlett-Woodmere, Island Park, Lawrence, Long Beach, Lynbrook, Malverne, New Hyde Park-Garden City Park, Oceanside, Rockville Centre, Sewanhaka, Uniondale, Valley Stream, West Hempstead, and the Woodward Children's Center
March-April 2018 Edition

President's Corner — Why Continue Membership in Retirement?

By Barbara Keilty-Michaleski, RC 18 president

As retirees we are considered NYSUT members for Life, under the umbrella of our in-service locals. In Retiree Council 18 the majority of our 21 locals recognize their retirees and have established retiree chapters. Those locals where no retiree chapter exists are listed as at-large retirees. Regardless of the status of your local retirees, Retiree Council 18 represents all retirees within our 21 locals. At-large retirees are requested to send \$3 annually as a participation fee. Notices are printed in our newsletter.

However, there are NYSUT guidelines which preclude such representation. If your local has an established retiree chapter and collects local annual retiree dues set by the in-service local or retiree chapter constitution, filed with NYSUT and are IRS compliant, in order to remain a retiree in good standing by NYSUT, one is required to pay those dues to one's chapter. If one does not, his/her in-service local has the right to remove such retiree from the active list, which means the retiree is no longer allowed any Member Benefits provided by NYSUT.

As in-service members our union dues were a combination of NYSUT, AFT, and local dues. Each local sets their own local dues according to their internal needs. NYSUT and AFT are the same for all, set annually. As retirees we no longer pay in-service dues.

Most retiree chapters charge nominal annual dues. None in our council charge more than \$50 annually. Retiree chapters forward \$3 per member to our Retiree Council annually to pay for our delegates to attend the NYSUT RA, AFT Convention, meetings not reimbursable through NYSUT, monthly meetings' business needs, etc. None of the officers and delegates are salaried. We are volunteers.

Think about what your in-service local continues to do for retirees:

*a strong Defined Benefit pension system is a direct benefit from years of negotiations by the in-service locals

*protection against diminishment of pension benefits (NYSUT campaign launched to defeat ConCon last November)

*post-retirement health insurance benefits are from your in-service local's continued negotiations (locals cannot negotiate for retirees, but they are diligent in negotiations not to affect retiree benefits)

*any additional benefits you may continue in retirement — whether it be an Excess Medical Plan, NYSUT Legal Plan, dental insurance through NYSUT, car insurance — is a direct benefit provided through your local's negotiations.

*Committee of 100 delegates, in-service and retirees, continue to fight with success to protect our Medicare IRMAA reimbursements. NYSUT continues to fight for our members.

Paying an annual retiree chapter dues, if your chapter does so, is piddles for all you have in retirement. Being an active member in your retiree chapter is vital.

Think about what you paid in union dues as an in-service member.

We have much to be grateful for as union retirees. How does your retiree chapter's dues compare?

“A penny spent wisely is worth a million dollars in return.”

If retirees don't have established retiree dues paid to a chapter, consider establishing such with your in-service local. You will be helping your local!

If you haven't so in the past, join your local retiree chapter!

Committee of 100 — March 5-6, Albany

District Representatives met with Sen. Todd Kaminsky who represents the 9th Senate District.
Committee of 100 Delegates: Barbara Keilty-Michaleski, Toni Vitelli, Tom Cook

Seven hundred plus NYSUT members descended on The NYS Capitol to voice our concerns with executive budget proposals. Our RC 18 delegates were amongst the numbers who traveled to the Senate and Assembly to have our voices heard. Once again the proposal to freeze Medicare Part B premiums and eliminate IRMAA reimbursements for NYSHIP retirees were included in this year's executive budget proposals. Each year it reappears and each year we are the voice for our retirees.

On the educational front, many of the same issues of past years continue to be major concerns. Highlights from the list: NYSUT opposes the APPR, tax cap, inequities in funding, vouchers, charter school dollars pilfered from our public school budgets and the lack of accountability in charter schools. Additionally funding is needed to sustain SUNY hospitals, and SUNY higher ed. The newest included support for early voting and securing **funding for school safety**.

You can help! Contact your NYS representatives via NYSUT MAC app, phone calls, emails. We elect them to support our concerns.



Left to Right: The District Reps. were from: Valley Stream, Long Beach, RC 18, PAC Rep. ED 18, Sen. Kaminsky, W. Hempstead, Island Park, Malverne, RC 18. PAC Rep. Nassau, Lynbrook and Rockville Centre.
Photo by Sen. Kaminsky's Intern

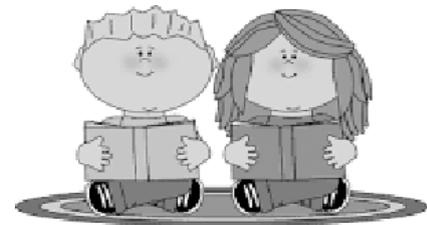
Retirees on the Move Enjoying Retirement!

Friends and fellow retirees from Hempstead, Sewanhaka CHSD, and West Hempstead, along with several additional friends, traveled to South Africa, Swaziland, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Zambia. The adventure included going on safari, hippo-hunting on the Zambezi River, elephant-riding through the bush. The history learned and the beauty of all was magnificent. This is a trip to add to everyone's bucket list!

The photo was taken at the most southern point of the African continent — Cape of Good Hope.



Left to Right: Dawn Sherwood, & her sister, Cheryl Daniel, Dawn & Cheryl's Cousins, Onaldo & Linda Pedro, Leslie & Charles Renfro, Liz Killings & husband — Frank Drayton, Monica & Vernon Webb, Maddy Maffetore, Barbara Keilty Michaleski & sister — Joan Kurz.



From an RC18 Volunteer
Val Lucas, Floral Park-Bellerose retiree:

**Let's Educate Our Young
About the Value of Unions**
A New Children's
Christmas Classic for Labor!
(great for any time of the year)

Imagine young children reading a book about a union that wins back the job of a sanitation worker who is unfairly fired. For years, Jake has repaired broken toys he pulled from the trash on his rounds, repaired them, and regifted them to children in the local shelter. When an angry motorist turns Jake into the sanitation company, he is fired for breaking city regulations. His union takes the case to arbitration. Will Jake win his job back? A good lesson to teach our young!

Written by : Mark Torres Translated
by: Madelin Arroyo Romero

Your monthly bills won't stop if you become unable to work

Insurance is the type of product that you hope you never have to utilize. In the event that you need to use it, though, it's important to have the insurance product that best meets your individual needs.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed voluntary Disability Insurance Plan -- provided by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -- provides valuable income replacement benefits to help meet your living expenses if you become partially or totally disabled and are unable to work.



Disability insurance can be customized to fit within your budget and still provide peace of mind until you are able to get back on your feet and return to work. Applications for the new NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed Disability Insurance Plan are now available, with coverage effective dates on or after Jan. 1, 2018 from the Plan Administrator, Mercer Consumer.

For more information and/or to get an application, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** for specific information about this program.

Call to Action: Proposals requested for NYSUT *Educator's Voice*



New York State's classrooms are among the most diverse in the nation. In recognition of this, NYSUT is currently seeking article proposals on "**Culturally-Responsive Teaching**" for consideration in its annual edition of *Educator's Voice*, a *Journal of Best Practices in Education*. **The deadline for proposals is June 15, 2018.**

Do you have a project or practice that works well in your classroom, something you are passionate about and would like to share with other educators across the state? This is a great opportunity to write about it and become published in NYSUT's member journal, a publication created by NYSUT members for NYSUT members. No previous experience is needed nor do you need to be a professional writer to be published in *Educator's Voice*.

Once accepted, authors receive a great deal of editorial support and writing guidance throughout the year-long publication cycle. The result is a professional, research-based publication that can be shared with your colleagues and used for professional development. Authors or author teams can collaborate across schools or with partners in higher education; at least one author must be a NYSUT or affiliate member.

For more information and/or to download the author submission form, visit <http://www.nysut.org/educatorsvoice>.

Previous editions of this publication are available at <https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/educators-voice>.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Mar./Apr. '18

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, NAME, STATUS OF MEMBER



The *LINKAGE* newsletter is printed by NYSUT, Latham, NY. RC 18 does not print or mail them. Please submit any changes of address, name, or status of member to: Memberec@nysutmail.org.

☆ **RC18 Board of Directors:** ☆

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NYSUT Delegates: Marie-Antoinette Vitelli and Thomas Cook
AFT Alternate: Virginia Levine
NYSUT Alternates: June Innella and Guy Jacob

Calendar of Events

RC 18 Meetings - 9:45 a.m. - noon
at the Bellmore Memorial Library
2288 Bedford Ave., Bellmore, NY.



Future Meeting Dates: March 19, April 16, May 21, and June 18 (End-of-Year Breakfast)

INVITE FELLOW RETIREES!

Questions/concerns to: <bkeiltymic@aol.com>

Don't be fooled:

They are coming for you!

Spread the word:

Union strong - Never Quit!

 **Retiree Council 18's June Breakfast Meeting** 

Monday, June 18, 2018 from 9:30-12:00 at the Empress Diner
2490 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY
(at the intersection of Newbridge Road. and Hempstead Tpke.)

Main Breakfast – Choose From the Following:

- 2 eggs any style with toast and home fries • pancakes-bacon/sausage/fries choice
 - French toast-bacon/sausage/fries choice • hot cereal with fruit
- Cost: \$10.00 per person (RC 18 will pay the tip.)

RSVP by: June 1, 2018

Please send a check (made payable to RC 18) to:
Barbara Keilty-Michaleski • 33 Spruce Street • W. Hempstead, New York 11552

 On your check, please indicate the retiree chapter or local from which you retired. 