



=NEWSLETTER=

NUMBER 12 RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS OCTOBER 1995

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

The fourth Conference on Aging, attended by 2,217 people representing senior America in Washington, D.C. on May 2-5, sent a strong message: Save Social Security, protect Medicare and Medicaid. Among the delegates were 13 from the AFT, among them, AFT Vice President Fred Nauman representing NYSUT, and Jeannette DeLorenzo representing UFT.

President Bill Clinton reiterated his position that the key to cost savings in Medicare is holding down the cost of health care everywhere. "It is wrong, in my judgment, to reduce coverage under the Medicare program, or to undermine health services in rural and urban areas that are already undeserved, or to make changes that simply coerce beneficiaries into managed care," he declared. "We can't save Medicare and Medicaid by using savings to fund tax cuts for people who are already well off or other purposes. That is the wrong way to approach this problem. **But we must approach the problem.**"

There was an air of realism among the delegates that some changes have to be made. Fred Nauman agreed things have to be tightened up, and costs have run out of control. But he felt cuts had to be made "with a scalpel, not a meat ax."

Other resolutions adopted by WHCoA were: preserving the integrity of the Older Americans Act, increased funding for Alzheimer's disease research, universal health-care coverage, further development of home-and-community-based long-term care services, and the acknowledgment of the contributions made by older volunteers.

Delegates also called for greater assistance for grandparents who serve as primary care givers for their grandchildren. This resolution clearly captured the Conference theme, "America Now and into the 21st Century: Generations Aging Together With Independence, Opportunity and Dignity."

There will be a post-Conference series titled "Turning Resolutions into Results," which will examine how best to implement the adopted resolutions at the local, state, and Federal levels.

One of the highlights of the Conference was first lady Hillary Clinton's forum on Medicare and mammography during which she and 12 others spoke of the importance of mammograms for older women. 78% of breast cancer victims are over 50, but denial is their number one issue. An upcoming national campaign will call mammogram reminders "mama" grams in honor of Mother's Day.

AFT RETIREE MILESTONE

It wasn't on the evening news, but a milestone was reached for the American Federation of Teachers' retiree division when the number of retired AFT members hit the 100,000

mark recently, more than tripling the number of retirees since 1990! AFT retirees played key roles in the Nat'l. Council of Senior Citizens/AFL-CIO caucus at the recent WHCoA!

UPCOMING EVENTS

RETIREE COUNCIL 21 MEETING

Tuesday, October 24, 10 A.M., Bay Shore Library
 Martha Reines will advise retirees on:
**HOW OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS INTERACT
 WITH PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

There's a "Surprise Party" afoot! It's for Frank Spenser, who just retired. Tentative date is November 1st at the LaGrange. Bruce Romboli at Special Services Building is handling arrangements.

ROBS

EXECUTIVE BOARD NOTES

Catherine Tomney has been appointed Secretary/Clerical Liason. Contact her with news or questions at 563-3573.

Elinor Tepper has been named ED 21 RC Representative; Jack Zuckerman, Legislative/Political Action Chair.



CONGRATULATIONS

RETIREE CLASS OF 1995



List of teachers, secretaries, clericals, and administrators retiring this year.

Sandra	Adams	Bernard	Kaplan	Anthony	Spitznagel
Rhoda	Aguinek	Raymond	Klotz	Clement	Stancik
Edna	Alexander	Paul	Koretzki	Catherine	Taylor
Johanna	Alexander	Donald	Kubicsko	Charles	Taylor
Helene	Antwarg	Joseph	Landry	Joyce	Trespel
Honey	Aves	Daniel	Levy	Bruce	Van Duynes
Mary	Baber	Barbara	Lindsey	Charles	Vespa
Joseph	Basso	Robert	Locherer	Shirley	Walker-Lloyd
Arthur	Bennett	Anthony	Maritato	James	Watson
Blanche	Blitstein	Sandra	Marks		
Irene	Brown	Lilian	Masten		
Ronald	Burr	Henry	Muller	Joan	Beck
Clara	Cannavo	Constance	Nichols	Elizabeth	Cascone
Mollietta	Comunale	Buela	Perry	Marion	DiGregorio
Theresa	DellaBella	John	Podstupka	Ann	Doherty
Anthony	DeMarco	Jean	Price	Peggy	Field
Ciro	DeRosa	Phyllis	Ramjattansingh	Jean	Geraci
Michael	DeSousa	Thomas	Ramsden	Lynn	Hughes
Joseph	Dooley	Alan	Rosenzweig	Eileen	Kelly
Madeline	Dwyer	Richard	Roth	Mina	Lynch
Loretta	Ellington	Joyce	Rothenberg	Betty	Marrazzo
Beverly	Fischer	Carson	Russell	Grace	Mauro
Kate	Fitzgerald	Sandra	Samuel	Esther	Monticello
Barbara	Floyd	Maryann	Sauro	Katherine	Nelson
Barry	Freidfertig	Rita	Sebastian	Alice	Walsh
Richard	Gell	Margaret	Sheehan	Florence	Woryscz
John	Gilmartin	Stanley	Sherman		
Mariann	Gruskin	Larry	Shreckengost		
Bernard	Hahnke	Herminia	Silos	Gabriel Gengler	
Peter	Healy	Charles	Smith	Andrew Lovito	
Ronald	Home	Shirley	Smith	Joseph Rotolo	
Patricia	Hucke	Franklin	Spencer		

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UPDATE

In the June issue of ROBS Newsletter, we listed some 40 retirees. Then the State offered an incentive, and as you see above ... the list doubled!

ROBS

SEPTEMBER MEETING A SMASH!



NEWS NOTES

Some 50 Brentwood retirees, both old and new, looking tanned and rested, jammed the Brentwood Library on September 12th. After socializing, introductions, and the latest news from the Albany Front, the meeting was turned over to John Sherin, who led us in an interesting **KEYS TO MEMORY** activity. (No, it had nothing to do with losing it). It was a delightful exercise in getting to know each other.

In fact, one of our members, with a bandage on his arm, shared with us the fact that he had encountered the importance of life and memory the day before when he had been in the hospital for a heart catherization. We felt honored that he joined us and shared his intimate self with us.

BITS AND PIECES

Notes from the Social Security Office: widows or widowers should check on whether their own benefits are higher than spouse's benefits taken at age 60.

FREE: The Metpay Emergency Handbook. Call Metpay at 1-800-GET-MET-1 (1-800-438-6381).

SeniorNet is a non-profit organization for seniors who use computers and want to learn more about computer technology. The organization has set up 71 learning centers, mostly throughout the U.S., although there are two in New Zealand. To learn more, call 415-750-5030 or 800-747-6848. One year's membership is \$35 for an individual, \$40 for a couple.

Mammograms, low cost or no cost, call 1-800-522-5006. (State of New York).

Now that the hot, h o t , h o t, summer is behind us, we're back on track and looking for news of our members. **Chris Veech**, the editor, disappeared into the woods of Vermont for the entire summer and soaked in the just slightly cool waters of Fern Lake where she has a house. She spoke with **Jim Watson**, who was in Maine until he moved to Amsterdam.

But the world seemed to flock north. **Dot and Jack Zuckerman** spent their 40th anniversary in Vermont, which is a favorite place. They visited **Chris**, and an anniversary lunch was in order. They are planning an anniversary trip to Italy in October. Happy, happy, joy, joy....

Rita Rosenthal reports that she has a new grandson, Bernard Rosenthal. It is her very first one. O, the special joy of the first one! Enjoy, **Rita!**

And **Miriam Massucci** is just as ecstatic about her new granddaughter, Elizabeth Kaitlin, born on July 27th to her son and his wife. Congratulations!

Some of you may have read about the sudden death on July 6th of **Gary Mintz**, principal of the High School. He jogged before going to work, got in the car, and had a massive coronary. He was 48. A scholarship fund for needy and academically talented high school students has been established in his memory.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 11 (Wed.) ROBS MEETING
Assemblyman Paul Harenberg
November 15 (Wed.) ROBS MTG.
Brentwood Library, 10 A.M.

CONTENT EDITOR: CHRIS VEECH
PRODUCTION EDITOR: MARY RUFFINO



MEMBERSHIP ALERT

To All ROBS Members and Friends:

We are beginning our drive to renew the membership of all ROBS members. We invite those who haven't joined us yet to become a member of what might be the fastest growing NYSUT retiree chapter in Suffolk County.

A few years ago eight teachers who were about to retire met to plan a way to continue meeting, to protect our interests when we were no longer in-service teachers, and to work to maintain and improve our standard of living as retirees. That small group grew to 240 paid up members of ROBS by 1995. This past June 80 teachers, secretaries, and clericals retired from Brentwood. More than 20 have already become members of ROBS.

We would like to begin the 1996 fiscal year with our membership lists finalized. You are eligible to become a member of ROBS (Retirees of Brentwood Schools) if you were a member in good standing of BTA and NYSUT. If you retired before there was a NYSUT, don't worry, we have made special provision for you. The distinction between teacher, secretary, and clerical has no meaning in ROBS; we are all Brentwood retirees.

This past year, we, together with our sister and brother NYSUT retiree chapters, lobbied hard and successfully to maintain our health benefits. The moratorium on any changes in health insurance has been extended for another year. We fought for and achieved a supplemental increase in pensions for those of us who retired before 1990 on much smaller pensions. This was the first pension increase in eight years even though the cost of living had continuously eroded the retirees' standard of living. Most recently we were successful in blocking the Governor's attempt to withhold these supplemental increases. We are still fighting to prevent him from taking money from public pension funds to pay for the deficit he is creating.

In Washington, the big fights are still ahead: Medicare, health care, reduction of taxes for the upper brackets and increases for just about everyone else. Our affiliation with AFT and the labor movement in general will be the front line of defense.

But ROBS is not just about lobbying and legislation. Our social activities, breakfast, and lunches have been enjoyed by all those who were able to participate. This year we are planning a big social reunion in May at the Timber Point Country Club. If you are no longer in New York, you might want to plan a visit to Long Island to join us for what promises to be a spectacular event. Watch for more details!

By now the point should be clear. ROBS, like all dynamic organizations, needs money to function. Last year because of the growth of membership, we were able to lower the dues to \$10 for the year - \$5 stays with the ROBS treasury and \$5 goes to Retiree Council 21, our NYSUT regional affiliate. By joining ROBS you automatically become a member of Retiree Council 21 and are represented at the NYSUT RA and at the AFT conventions.

Now is the time to send in your dues as soon as possible. Help us get fund raising out of the way so we can attend to the activities you want and need. As a bonus for membership, you will receive in the spring the 1996 Directory of ROBS members throughout the country, which will include all new retiree members.

WELCOME TO ROBS!

IF YOU'VE ALREADY SENT
YOUR DUES FOR 1996,
YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD
IS ON ITS WAY!



IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

Only one third of our retirees live out of state. Most of us are busy people with lives that are so full we wonder how we had time to go to work. Some of us are organizers and enjoy group activities. Others of us are solitary beings who don't get involved with meetings. BUT ALL OF US ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE AS IT CONCERNS OUR QUALITY OF LIFE!

WHAT HAPPENS IN WASHINGTON AND ALBANY AFFECTS US ALL!
WHEREVER WE LIVE, WHATEVER WE'RE DOING NOW!

Don't let our future security and financial stability be dependent on the whim of Congress and the State Legislature. Lend us your support so we can continue to alert you to action on behalf of our retiree benefits, as well as giving us a good sized membership to represent when we try to "educate" elected officials.

GET ON OUR MAILING LIST! JOIN US NOW!

CLIP AND RETURN

_____ I am enclosing \$10 for my 1995-96 ROBS dues.

_____ I am enclosing a separate check for \$_____ made out to NYSUT VOTE-
COPE to support legislative efforts on my behalf (Include SS# on check)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

_____ DO NOT INCLUDE MY NAME IN THE ROBS DIRECTORY

BUILDING RETIRED FROM _____

YEAR RETIRED _____

MAIL TO: ROBS Treasurer Harriet Pepine
82 Gloria Boulevard
Hauppauge, New York 11788



CELEBRATION

ROBS 5th ANNIVERSARY

WE'RE PLANNING A PARTY AND
HOPING YOU'LL COME.
THERE'LL BE GOOD FOOD AND
DANCING FOR EVERYONE
(with or without a partner).

So mark your calendar and join us on
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1996.

**STAY TUNED FOR MORE
INFORMATION.**

**ROBS
OCTOBER 11
MEETING**

**ASSEMBLYMAN
PAUL HARENBERG
SPEAKER**

**Public Library
Brentwood
10 A.M.**

Representative Paul Harenberg, 5th Assembly District, has been there when we needed him. He has led the fight against the gutting of programs which benefit the elderly of New York State.

Join us and get the inside view from a man who battles every day for fairness for the elderly. Ask questions, get answers, join the dialogue, get involved!

**RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD
SCHOOLS
c/o Zuckerman
8 Woody Lane
Oakdale, N.Y. 11769**

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**DON'T FORGET:
ROBS GENERAL MEETINGS
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 10 A.M.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15, 10 A.M.**

**WE WELCOME LETTERS TO THE
EDITOR**