



=NEWSLETTER=

NUMBER 13

RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

DECEMBER 1995

HARENBERG ADDRESSES ROBS MEMBERS

At the October 11th ROBS meeting, ROBS members and guests from both counties were fortunate to have former teacher, and now Assemblyman Paul Harenberg, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Aging, speak about what is really happening in Albany.

He reminded us that we cannot separate Washington and New York State. Health care is being decimated on the federal level, which can only help decimate it on the state level as well. Legislators need input and help from constituents.

Out of Pataki's 1.26 billion dollar cuts for the blind, continuing care, respite care, Alzheimer's, long term health care, adult day care programs, assisted living, nursing home assistance, senior nutrition programs, foster grandparent programs to name a few, legislators were only able to restore 5.6 million.

Marion Cohen, an aide to Harenberg, has researched HMOs. She found there are cost savings in the beginning, but the perks advertised are not permanent. HMOs are a profit making industry, and decisions will have to be made very soon about raising costs to the insured, or reducing services. She concluded that decisions on who needs a higher level of care must include an appeal process to protect patients.

A6800, a bill on Health Care Consumer Rights, which includes an appeal process, has been filed in Albany.

Harenberg stressed that the danger in the deep cuts in Medicaid is that they affect the elderly who are in nursing homes, who are covered by Medicaid after they have spent down their assets. One can only imagine what could happen if there were no funds to house them. The Gingrich team wants to fix what they say is a 70 billion dollar deficit in the Medicare Trust Fund by cutting Medicare by 450 billion dollars over 7 years, with no money going into the Fund.

Assemblyman Harenberg held a hearing on October 18 in Hauppauge on Medicare cuts and their impact on the 2.3 million elderly in New York State. Several Retiree Council members attended, and reported that it doesn't look good for New York's aging population. There are other hearings scheduled around the state during the next few months.

Stay tuned. Paul Harenberg is out there trying to keep the ship from sinking!

NYSUT RETIREES IN SARATOGA SPRINGS

On October 5 and 6, NYSUT hosted its eighth Leadership Conference for retirees. Representing Retiree Council 21 were Cathy Killian, a Hauppauge retiree, Chris Veech and June Dawson of Brentwood. The Conference was held at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs.

John Costello, of the NYSUT Legislative Department, cautioned

retirees that while NYSUT was able to salvage some items in the 1995 budget, the fact remains that higher education was pummeled, state workers lost jobs, and block grants as well as the three year tax cut will decimate education, as well as health care.

The three year tax cut will leave a 3 1/2 billion dollar hole that local

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (continued)

governments will have to close by raising property taxes. The 1987-'88 tax cut did not keep Kodak, IBM, Smith Corona or Singer-Link from leaving the state with their job-loss fallout in various areas of New York. Any job creation statistics available now reflect jobs in the service sector which offer low salaries and little or no benefits.

NYSUT opposes the call for a Constitutional Convention due to concern that it could change and reduce current guaranteed pension benefits and other rights of both working and retired teachers.

The conferees stressed a strong desire to dialogue with teachers still in the classroom, to keep the positive lines of union position's and history ever in their consciousness. Helping with election campaigns, volunteering for help with mailings, attending union meetings were some of the suggestions made by retirees.

Pension Supplementation is still in the court. No one knows when the checks will be in the mail. Legislators have been saying September 1995. John Costello said September 1996.



"How come Dick Clark is '60 years young' but I'm '60 years old'?"

RETIREES ROLE IN UNION

At the Leadership Conference in October, Robert Allen, Director of NYSUT Field Services led a workshop on our role in the union. Some interesting points were made. Among them, that of all the states, New York seems to be the best organized!

AFT announced last spring that it had 100,000 retirees. Of that group, 70,000 were New Yorkers. This reflects organization and record keeping at NYSUT.

A survey was conducted of 50% of the affiliated K-12 locals. Out of 325 forms, 202 were returned. The results:

.54 reported a retiree chapter directly affiliated with the active local.

.17 indicated a retiree chapter was organized but not affiliated with local. This relates to county and/or regional retiree groups.

.126 said no chapter exists yet.

.125 had a retiree on the local's executive committee, or they favor this.

.65 commented they do not have or do not want a retiree on the executive committee.

The survey concludes with the following note: "On the negative side, there were some comments indicating a perception that retirees individually or as a group have a very narrow focus - health insurance and pensions. This makes it more difficult to suggest involvement with the active local."

Long Island seems to be well organized compared to upstate where geographical distances are huge.

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SEC'Y. - June Dawson
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THE NYSUT RETIREE

MARCHING DOWN TO WASHINGTON

NOVEMBER 8, 1995

Before the blustery, cold dawn's early light, the intrepid retirees of Suffolk County boarded the bus to Washington, D.C. carrying the message to Bill Clinton: VETO! VETO! VETO! We arrived at noon to join the thousands of other shivering, tired, but enthusiastic demonstrators gathered in Lafayette Park across from the White House. A coalition of organizations representing advocacy groups such as seniors, labor, children, students, and the disabled joined forces to tell President Clinton and the Congress that Medicare and Medicaid must be protected from the proposed cuts of the Budget Reconciliation Bill. I was proud to see that the large number of NYSUT retirees swelled the size of the assembled group when they arrived.

Sparked by National Council of Senior Citizens Executive Director Steve Protulis, the crowd responded loudly to calls for action from House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala. There were many speakers at the rally from diverse groups, only some of which were the AFL-CIO, Families, U.S.A., AARP, National Consumers League, NAACP, National Farmers Union, Gray Panthers, National Students Organization, and the Older Women's League. I was disappointed to realize that no one from the American Federation of Teachers spoke, even though the headquarters is located in Washington. I later learned that there were representatives from AFT mingling in the crowd.

The six hour ride home was euphoric, especially for those among us who had just been to their first lobbying rally. We saw first hand that we are not alone in our fight to resist Medicare and Medicaid cuts. We felt wonderful about having actively played our part in the democratic process. Hopefully our voices will be loud enough to reach the ears and the hearts of our President and our congress people. *In union there is strength.*

- Dorothy Zuckerman

Tell Congress NO on budget reconciliation bills

NYSUT leaders are urging their lawmakers in Washington to vote against budget reconciliation bills that would make large cuts in social programs to fund tax cuts that primarily would benefit the wealthiest Americans. New York would stand to lose more than \$50 billion in federal aid for Medicare, Medicaid, student loans, and other programs. States would be forced to spend more on social programs, which inevitably would make a bad situation worse for education.

"We still can make a difference," said NYSUT Executive Vice President Alan Lubin, urging members to call 800-238-1727 and ask for their Representative or Senator. "The members of the House and Senate need to hear from their constituents. Although

the federal budget battles in Washington may seem distant, the effects which will hit us in 1996-97 could be devastating to state education funding."

Under the bill, Medicare would be cut by \$270 billion over seven years, resulting in higher out-of-pocket expenses for older Americans, many on fixed incomes. President Clinton has vowed to veto the bill if it reaches his desk. "I will not let you destroy Medicare," he told legislators. The reconciliation bill also would cut Medicaid by \$182 billion and turn the program into a block grant to the states, thus eliminating the assurance that all who need care will receive it. Student loans would lose \$10 billion, significantly increasing the cost of a college education.



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**WE WELCOME LETTERS TO THE
EDITOR**

NEWS NOTES

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Leo (Lou) Stamler**, husband of ROBS founding Vice President **Rhoda Stamler** in September. The **Stamlers** had just sold their Plainview home and moved down to Florida this summer for health reasons.

Frank Spencer, who retired this past June from the Attendance Office, was feted on November 1st at the LaGrange Inn in West Islip. Family, friends and colleagues joined in celebrating this new direction in an already full life. Congratulations!

Shirley Walker Lloyd shared the following with us:

Warmest Wishes AS YOU RETIRE by Karen Ravn

There's a season for beginnings
when the world is fresh and new,
when we shape our dreams of all the things
we plan and hope to do,
A season for maturing
when we think and work and grow,

And a season for the harvesting
of all we've come to know,
And each successive season
grows still richer than the last
as treasures of the present
add to memories of the past.



On November 16th, Hemlock Park Elementary School hosted a Retirement dinner for three of their school colleagues who also left in June. They are: **Shirley Walker Lloyd**, **John Sullivan**, and secretary **Lynn Hughes**.

Shirley Walker Lloyd reports happily that daughter **Tambra Walker** is engaged to be married. The event is next year, so **Shirley** will have a lot to do. Good luck.

Congratulations again to **Jack** and **Dot Zuckerman** on their 40th anniversary. They celebrated with a trip to Italy in October. Between the four photo albums and the stories, it is obvious it was a delightful trip!

BIG GET WELL WISHES to our ROBS tennis coach and champ! **Ivy Rosenthal** was at Brunswick for an operation. We hear she's at home now, and mending well.

And **Florence Koehler** is recuperating after cataract surgery. Another **BIG GET WELL WISH!**

Also our best wishes to **John Sherin's** wife **Ellen**, who is battling a bad wrist.

Maria DiTucci, School Nurse Teacher at South Middle moved to Stuart, Florida, and settling nicely. Good Luck!

(This month we start an ongoing column by one of our retired secretaries).

CATHY'S CLERICAL CORNER

by Catherine Tomney

This is a special invitation to all retired secretary/clericals to come and enjoy the ROBS meetings. ROBS (Retirees of Brentwood Schools) means all of us lucky people - no "class" distinction. Meetings cover subjects of interest to all, plus the opportunity for fun breakfasts, luncheons, and year end get-togethers. If you can't make the meetings, call or drop a line to let us know what you're doing with your well earned freedom. **Kay Gagliardo** visited **Maria Campaign** who is now living in Vegas. **Flo Worysz** is enjoying retirement while she babysits her 11 month old grandchild. Good to see **Dorothy Gordon**, **Ann Doherty** and **Selma Berkowitz** at the last meeting!





ROBS NOVEMBER MEETING

Our Election Day gathering featured a nostalgic trip through 1940's radio. Let us know if you can get the three we couldn't get. Connect the program name, character or product association to tell us which radio program each of the following is from.

1. Good Eeeeeevening, Ladies and Gentlemen...
2. The Rushville Center Lumber yard.
3. A barber in a town named Hartville, his daughter Nancy and Kerry Donovan.

Besides Legislative updates, Edy Filosa was elected as a membership delegate to the ROBS Executive Board.



**NEED LEGAL SERVICES?
AFT CAN HELP**

CALL 1-800-452-9425

BRIDGING THE GAP

On Tuesday, November 21st, ROBS inaugurated its first **WORK TO RETIREMENT** workshop at the Brentwood Public Library at 10 A.M.

Questions dealt with were: Do you love it or hate it? Are you feeling pain or gain? Do you see it as a beginning or an end of the beginning?

Led by John Sherin, Frank Spencer, Alan Rosenzweig and Herb Loeb, the group also examined the selection from Guillaume Appolinaire:

Come to the edge, he said.
They said: "We are afraid."
Come to the edge, he said.
They came.
He pushed them...and they flew!

Call John Sherin, 921-2971, for more information.



ARTS AND CRAFTS

Have you ever wanted to learn the art of Decoupage? Especially in time for the holidays?

We've started an ongoing group of crafters who will meet at the Islip Public Library, 71 Monell Avenue from 10 to 12 starting Friday, December 1st.

Lillian Masten, a retired Brentwood art teacher will facilitate the groups. Type of crafts for each session will originate with the group, so bring your long wished for ideas.

Paper marbling, water color painting or chalk drawing are all possibilities.

Call Lillian at 567-7294 for more info. Dates are Fridays: December 1, January 12, February 9, March 8, March 29, and April 26. Small materials fee for some crafts.

BITS AND PIECES

The Colonel's Way Award, a national competition celebrating the achievements of people over 60, is being sponsored by Kentucky Fried Chicken Corp. in honor of Harland Sanders, who founded the fast food franchise when he was 62. There is a grand prize of \$10,000 and smaller cash awards in different categories of seniors chosen by a panel. For details, send a #10 self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Colonel's Way Award, 200 E. Randolph Drive, 63rd Floor, Chicago, Ill. 60601.

Check out a living arrangement that gives you the right to live in your house for the rest of your life while protecting your assets for your heirs: the life estate, which is less complex, and less expensive than the irrevocable trust which involves permanent transfer of the property. Check with an elder law advisor. These are both ways of protecting against long term care and nursing home situations.

THE TOPIC WAS DRUGS



Retiree Council 21 had as its October speaker, Martha Reines from RSVP. The topic was the Interaction of Drugs. Some points from the morning were:

- ...Include over the counter drugs in any profile of drugs you take.
- ...70,000 people over 65 are treated for reactions of drugs. 7000 are fatal.
- ...Diet can affect drug reaction. Check with doctor or pharmacist.
- ...The elderly take 27% of the drugs prescribed.
- ...Color code medications on bottles and on a chart if you take many.
- ...Ask pharmacist to type in capitals on bottles, or use large type.
- ...You can request no safety caps from pharmacy if they are difficult for you.
- ...Watch expiration dates! Clean medicine cabinet, where drugs should be kept.
- ...Don't take anyone else's medicine.
- ...Take cotton out of medicine bottles. It absorbs moisture and makes medicine less potent.
- ...The color of the medicine containers is important for keeping light out. If you change containers when traveling, use same color vial.
- ...Balance your vitamins. One-A-Day hasn't enough antioxidants.
- ...Two sources to check are THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO PRESCRIPTION AND NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS by H. Winter Griffith, and THE VITAMIN ALMANAC.
- ...And remember you are the consumer, and it is your responsibility to talk to your doctor about all the drugs you take, as well as things like eye drops and nose sprays, etc.. All drug interactions can affect your body!

MORE NEWS NOTES

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Winnie Fleischer** on November 14th in Florida. She worked many years in the Sonderling High School Front Office as Attendance Secretary.

Also, **Lillian Newman's** husband died.



DIRECTORY/ MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Jack Zuckerman

The 1996 ROBS Directory is now in the planning stage and as soon as the membership drive has is over, I will put it together. This year's version will include more new features. Most of the new retirees have joined, so you will have a larger and better Directory!

That was the good news. The bad news is that you must be a ROBS member to receive a copy of the Directory. I know that a few people photo copy the Directory, or use a friend's copy. I have even had a request to purchase a copy from a former student who wanted to write to former teachers.

It is the official policy of ROBS to deny all requests for Directory information from non-members. Our members trust us to keep all information confidential. A request for address or phone number will only be honored if the member gives permission first.

Please be careful who shares your Directory.

Our dues remain \$10 for the year, less than \$1 a month. You receive our award winning ROBS NEWSLETTER and ON TRACK NEWSLETTER from Retiree Council 21. You receive literature from NYSUT and AFT.

We are planning to start up clubs and continue activities based on member interests. We might even plan a group trip of Europe or Canada. All this for \$10, which doesn't even mention our legislative efforts and reports on behalf of our members.

Send in your membership dues as soon as possible if you haven't already. As of this report we have 215 members for the 1996 year.

ALL OUT OF STATE MEMBERS: Don't forget to plan on coming back for our end of the year Gala...a Dinner Dance at the Timber Point Country Club on May 29th!



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



THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER
IF YOU DO NOT JOIN ROBS.

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

BRENTWOOD PHYS ED HIT HARD IN '95

Ray Perez, Brentwood soccer coach, and guidance counselor at Ross High School...a 1965 graduate...died of an apparent cerebral aneurysm on November 1st. He collapsed in mid sentence talking with some students while playing a pickup basketball game at South Middle School. He was 48.

Gerry Hollings, the junior high school football, basketball, baseball and wrestling coach died of cancer in April. He was also 48. Three 48 year olds, including high school principal, Gary Mintz, have died within 6 months.

In a **NEWSDAY** article, Ron Eden, Brentwood assistant soccer coach was quoted as saying: "I know this sounds terrible, because people say, 'Well, he's in a better place.'" And, of course, I hope that's true. But I just can't believe that God would believe that He needed Ray more than we needed him down here." There were reportedly 3000 people who attended the funeral wake.

RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS
C/O ZUCKERMAN
8 Woody Lane
Oakdale, N.Y. 11769

ROBS JANUARY BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars now for our Breakfast Get-together on Thursday, January 11, 1996 at the Forum Diner in Bay Shore for 9 to 11 A.M.

Twelve complete breakfast choices, \$5 for members, \$6 for non-members. Make your reservations by January 5, 1996 to ROBS Treasurer, Harriet Pepine.

See attached flyer for more information, and reservation form.

Albert Shanker

It's no mystery that the greatest expansion of the middle class in our history coincided with the peak years of union membership.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS !

**THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER
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Late breaking bulletin - IBM is offering a special limited-supply computer offer to AFT members: the IBM Aptiva M41, a great holiday present for the whole family. For detailed information call IBM 1-800-426-2968.