



1994 RA REPORT

NYSUT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

DOROTHY ZUCKERMAN, PRESIDENT AND DELEGATE
ED21 Retiree Council

March 3-5, 1994 • Issue

NEITHER RAIN NOR SNOW NOR SLEET NOR HAIL could prevent NYSUT delegates from finding their elected way to the New York Hilton for the 22nd Annual NYSUT Representative Assembly. The weather was frightful all over the state (AGAIN!) but more than 2000 people arrived to tell their tales of travel woe and to participate in the business of the Union. Detailed coverage of the RA will soon be reported in the New York Teacher. This summary is intended to give a personal overview of the proceedings.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

****NYSUT JOURNALISM AWARD OF MERIT FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE TO ED21 RETIREE COUNCIL, FOR RETIREES ON TRACK:** Congratulations to Cathy Killian, our editor, and to Chris Veech, our communications chairperson!

****NYSUT JOURNALISM AWARD OF MERIT FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE TO RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS FOR ROBS NEWSLETTER:** Congratulations to Chris Veech (one more time)!

Cathy and Chris attended a 7:30 A.M. breakfast Saturday morning to receive their awards.

****NYS Comptroller H. Carl McCall:** "We are now exploring pension supplementation and a possible cost-of-living increase for retirees"; emphasized responsibility to protect pension funds.

****NYS Attorney General G. Oliver Koppell:** Schools and society must be made safe; he is setting up a task force on illegal handguns.

****U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley:** The Clinton administration is committed to re-establishing schools as "safe havens" for teachers and students; on

inclusion: "For certain disabled kids, (special education) is the least restrictive environment"; "Education is back from the dead in Washington."

****State Education Commissioner Thomas Sobol:** Held a question-and-answer period which he called "time to play 'get the commissioner'"; received a standing ovation for his humor and good nature while dealing with tough questions and constant interruptions caused by a fire alert in the hotel during his presentation!

****NYS Governor Mario Cuomo:** Pledged increasing support for education; will not support vouchers; schools need to be fixed up, inside and out; "You're the best thing we've got going."; told his wonderful ma and pa stories; received a standing ovation.

****AFT Secretary-Treasurer Edward J. McElroy:** Conveyed message of thanks to United Teachers on behalf of AFT President Al Shanker, who is ill; "...You are never, never afraid to share your talents."

****Celeste Holm:** Met with retiree delegates to talk about Long-Term Health Care Plan.

****Salute to Executive Vice President Herb Magidson (newly retired) aboard the aircraft carrier Intrepid:** Delegates were met by U.S. Navy Marine Cadets for an evening of celebration.

****NYSUT Elections:** All candidates running for office were re-elected; officers, directors-at-large, directors, and AFT vice-presidents.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RESOLUTIONS WE SUBMITTED?

Establishment of Safety and Health Committees: Adopted as submitted

Retiree Representation in the NYSUT Political Endorsement Process: Adopted as submitted

Election of Retiree RAC Members: Adopted as amended, asking the Board of Directors to consider

submitting a constitutional amendment at the 1995 RA

Election of Retiree to NYSUT Board: Defeated

Permanent COLA: Adopted as submitted

Pension Supplementation: Adopted as submitted

Safeguarding Pension Funds: Adopted as submitted

Retirement Option Change: Tabled with the intent to kill- The Board of Directors has considered it; it is now undergoing a NYSTRS actuarial study which has not been completed

Eliminate the Tier System: Adopted as submitted

Health Insurance Protection for Retirees: Substitute resolution presented which was then referred to the Board of Directors

National Health Care: Adopted as amended, making provision for information to be made available to NYSUT members as to how the proposed measures would affect them

Providing Staff Assistance to Retirees: Defeated

SCHOOL VIOLENCE

The issue that pervaded the convention was the need to ensure safe schools and a better learning environment. More than 10,000 NYSUT members have been reported victims of on-the-job violence since the 1990-91 school year. A 14-point program for a Comprehensive Safe Schools Act was approved by the delegates. In addition to this legislative priority, other efforts to improve the teaching environment will include an Ad Hoc Task Force on School Violence, a series of conflict resolution educational programs throughout the state, and the development of a training program on school safety and violence for local leaders to be made available in the late spring of 1994.



MEETING APRIL 6, 1994
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
see page 3...

THE NYSUT RETIREE



ROBS WINS NYSUT AWARD

In its first year of publication, ROBS Newsletter won the NYSUT Journalism Award of Merit for General Excellence. There are two awards given in each of four categories. ROBS competed in Category I. Chris Veech, content editor accepted the plaque on behalf of ROBS from NYSUT president Tom Hobart and Vice-president Toni Cortese at the March 5th breakfast to honor union editors from across the state. The event was held during the recent Representative Assembly at the New York Hilton.

Local and chapter publications were judged by three working journalists. Some of the comments about this newsletter were: Clip-out forms are a good feature...convenient. News items of interest...very good, useful, i.e., home repair service, breast cancer information. "Cameos" is an excellent feature. Nice, clean layout, good graphics.... Sprightly, energetic. "News Notes" well done....

INTERESTING BITS AND PIECES

- **CHECK YOUR NYNEX SERVICE OPTIONS.** Flat Rate Service, basic charge is \$12.45 to \$22.27 plus taxes and surcharges; Message Rate Service, basic charge is \$6.60 plus taxes and surcharges. Check the way you use your phone and be a wise consumer. There is a \$40 charge for changing, which you may spread out over a year if you request it.
- **PRESERVE YOUR PRIVACY.** Per Call Restrict is automatically on every line now! Your number will appear on Call ID or Call Return, unless you dial *67 (touch-tone), or 1167 (rotary or pulse-tone). After dialing the code, you will hear a special stutter dial tone. For more information call the Privacy Information Line on 1-800-322-3436.



WILL YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS BE TAXED?



Effective January 1994, some Social Security beneficiaries will pay higher federal income taxes on their benefits because of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1993. In general, beneficiaries with incomes above \$25,000 and \$32,000 already pay taxes on part of their benefits. The new law increases from 50% to 85% the percentage of benefits that may be taxed. It works this way:

- If you are married and have a combined provisional* income of \$32,000 to \$44,000, or single with an income of \$25,000 to \$34,000, up to 50% of your Social Security benefit can be taxed.
- If you and your spouse have a combined provisional income of \$44,000 or more, or if you are single and your income is \$34,000 or more, up to 85% of your Social Security benefit is subject to tax.
- In general, Social Security beneficiaries who do not pay taxes on benefits now will not be taxed on them when the new law goes into effect. If you and your spouse have a combined income of less than \$32,000, or if you are single and your income is less than \$25,000, your benefits are not subject to tax.

The new law applies to benefits received in 1994. Thus, it will affect 1994 taxes paid early in 1995. Those who file estimated returns during the year may need to adjust payments if they are subject to the 85% taxation level.

Revenues raised from increased taxes on benefits (\$24.6 billion over the next five years, estimated) are allocated to the Medicare Trust Fund.

- * Provisional income is one half of your SS benefits, plus your other taxable income, plus your tax-exempt interest income, less adjustments to income such as IRA's, Keoghs, and alimony.

Source: AARP

NOTICE!

BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL END OF THE YEAR & RETIREMENT PARTY

Thursday, June 9, 6:30-11 P.M.

Huntington Town House (Penthouse)

\$55 per person includes cocktails, dinner, D J, Gifts for Retirees

Checks payable to: Teachers' retirement party fund

Send to: Harriet Helman, Ross Building, Brentwood 11717



After a great job, a lot left to do

Important ROBS meeting:

Date - Wednesday, April 6, 1994 Time - 10:00 am
Place - Brentwood Public Library



MEETING

Topic I. Volunteer Opportunities

Speakers: Cathy Killian for Hospice Volunteers
Vinnie Viola for Literacy Volunteers of Amer.

Have time on your hands?? Come and hear how you are needed!

Topic II. Presentation of proposed slate of officers

Here's another chance to be heard and a time to choose!

In keeping with the constitution Section VI, Parts I&G the nominating committee consisting of: Dorothy Schaller, Edy Filosa, Terry Cornelius, Lenny Seiden, Polly Lane and Chair - Ruth McCalla discussed and presented to the executive board the following candidates for the ROBS slate of officers.

President - Dorothy Zuckerman; Vice Pres. - Christin Veech
Treasurer - Harriet Pepine; Secretary - June Dawson

The following procedure is being used;

1. Any member in good standing is eligible for nomination of office
2. This is a proposed slate. Any eligible member may take this opportunity to nominate candidates for any position presented.
3. This is the first written notice announcing the time and place of election of officers.

The actual election will take place on May 4th at the Brentwood Public Library at 10:00 am.

4. Election shall be by secret ballot.
5. Members delinquent in payment of dues may be suspended from their right to vote.
6. If no candidate receives a simple majority for her/his office, a runoff election of the two(2) candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be held as soon as possible.
7. The Secretary shall keep all election records, including ballots, for a period of one(1) year.
8. Terms of office of duly elected officers and elected Executive Board Members shall serve a two(2) year term, beginning July 1. Each officer shall remain in office until her/his successor assumes the office.
9. If the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall assume that office. If any other office becomes vacant, it shall be filled by an election within the Executive Board, when feasible, and that person shall hold office until the next election is held by the general membership.

Your vote counts. Come and bring a member friend. Bring this notice with you. Future "good things" are in the making.



We don't make
mistakes. We just
have learnings.



ENTERTAINMENT

. Theatre Development Fund, 1501 Broadway, NYC, 10036; 212-221-0013, offers low cost admissions to Broadway and off Broadway plays, dance and music events. TDF programs are for the benefit of students, teachers, union members, members of clergy, retired persons and others who might otherwise be unable to attend these events. Tickets are limited. Call for information.

We heard from **Catherine Miceli** too late for the last issue, that husband **Joe** had open heart surgery in November. She reports that he is doing fine. Glad to hear that!

Bill Heran's wife, **Betty**, broke her wrist recently. Mending nicely we hear. **Bill** is filling in for **Jerry McCarthy** of the high school guidance office as he recuperates from surgery.

And **Bill Hawkins** writes that he and wife **Francena** have moved to Virginia Beach, Va., and love it! They were also presented with their first grandson in August.

One of our **CAMEO** subjects in the October 1993 issue, relocated from Bay Shore to Woodstock, New York. **Ellie Steffen** writes that "I join some former Brentwood teachers who have settled in the Woodstock area." She has a "a new career as an owner of an old and neglected Woodstock house complete with two cottages and a stream in back." She reports also that she is a landlady! **Ellie** has wanted to live permanently in the quaint artist area for a long time. Retirement is the time to make wishes come true. Good going, **Ellie**. Best wishes!

Phyllis Baumann and husband **George** left Bay Shore in February to occupy lovely condo in Brewster, New York. Closer to grandchildren, and easier to travel from. Good Luck!

A few of your favorite things AFT 3/94

Ever wonder why it's so hard to find a spittoon at your union meetings? Want to know why AFTers never want to join you in a rousing chorus of "Achy Breaky Heart"? Baffled when no one at work gushed over your new Tupperware cracker keeper? Or wonder why your colleagues weren't breaking down the door when they found out you had ringside tickets to Wrestlemania '94?

The answers are simple: AFT members are 77 percent less likely to chew tobacco than the average American... 55 percent less likely to buy country music... 33 percent less likely to be professional wrestling fans... and 17 percent less likely to spend at least \$10 at a Tupperware party.

Those numbers come courtesy of a new demographic report com-

missioned by the Wohlers Insurance Co., the provider of the union's life insurance program. To market its product effectively, Wohlers wanted to understand union members a little better. They found that, compared with the average American, AFT members are:

- 70 percent more likely to have taken at least two trips abroad,
- 59 percent more likely to drink imported brandy,
- 77 percent more likely to listen to all-news radio,

■ 28 percent less likely to go target shooting,

■ 16 percent less likely to smoke nonfilter cigarettes,

■ 46 percent less likely to be "regular cola heavy users,"

■ 48 percent less likely to watch TV auto racing and

■ 50 percent less likely to use pest control services.

The Wohlers study is interesting, although incomplete. Some obvious categories—"Saw Elvis at a Tupperware party while traveling abroad," "Gets pests drunk on imported brandy, then makes them listen to country music,"—were never included. Neither was "Takes demographic studies very seriously"—but, hey, let's not get ridiculous about this!

CONTENT EDITOR: CHRIS VEECH
PRODUCTION EDITOR: MARY RUFFINO



DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, April 6: ROBS General Meeting

Tuesday, April 26: E.D. 21 R.C. General Meeting

Wednesday, May 4: ROBS General Meeting: Election of Officers

Friday, May 13: E.D. 21 R.C. Luncheon: NYIT Culinary Institute

Tuesday, June 21: E.D. 21 R.C. Trip/Luncheon: Sagamore Hill/Milleridge Inn

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

c/o Zuckerman
8 Woody Lane

Oakdale, N.Y. 11769

