



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 9

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

FEBRUARY 1995

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

The President of the United States has scheduled a White House Conference on Aging, which will make recommendations for a national aging policy that will take the nation into the 21st century. The conference is scheduled for May 2-5, 1995 in Washington D.C., the fourth in the nation's history, and the first under a Democratic president.

It was determined from the outset that the conference should be grassroots driven. 40 percent of the 500 smaller conferences scheduled have already been held, and show that seniors are most concerned with: long-term care, income security, housing, nutrition, and intergenerational issues.

"We have a bully pulpit with the White House Conference," said Robert Blancato its Executive Director when he met with AFT retiree leaders in October. "You always hear that the aging are draining resources...however, spending is about equal to that for younger citizens."

About 2000 delegates are expected. Governors in office in October 1994 appointed 900, members of Congress chose one each, and the balance were appointed by the White House, Department of Health and Human Services, the White House Conference on Aging, and other national organizations.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

In their UPDATE, a.s.a.p., a project of Families USA, had some positive insights on the situation regarding health care. They concluded that for

the first time in U.S. history, bills providing universal coverage were reported out of congressional committees, with the Senate debating and voting on amendments.

Why significant? First, there was general acceptance of a federal government responsibility for the nation's health care. Second, important gains were made on long term care. The issue was put in the middle of the debate, and proponents kept it there. All reform proposals, including the president's, included home and community-based care!

MEDICARE

The WASHINGTON POST reported that: "While health care reform was being clobbered in the last session of Congress, members pushed through new Medicare payment rules that will shift nearly \$1 billion a year from surgeons to the primary care doctors most reforms sought to encourage....this could induce more doctors to go into primary care, where experts say there is a shortage."



NYSUT RETIREE HANDBOOK

At its June 1994 meeting, RAC (Retiree Advisory Committee of NYSUT) agreed to produce a handbook for new retirees. RAC members felt there was much information in the booklet that would be helpful to all retirees and recommended that NYSUT send it to all current retiree members.

By this time everyone should have received it. It is an excellent resource outlining what retiree membership actually is, how the organization works, and much more.



THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'!

If you've been following the news (other than the O.J. Simpson trial!) you know that the November elections, both national and state, have brought with them a load of problems for Retirees that make Pandora's Box look like a picnic basket! With the collapse of the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlements and Tax Reform, we can expect sweeping cuts to Social Security and Medicare to become major components of the national policy debate. What are the issues that may be considered? - means-testing Medicare, changing the formula for calculating the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment, raising Medicare Part B deductible to \$300, increasing Medicare Part B premiums to \$60 per month for those over 200% of poverty, putting a cap on the employer-paid deduction for health insurance, and on and on. It appears that the elderly, the poor, and the disabled are being held responsible for the huge Federal deficit and that it's now their turn to pay back! In New York, immediately after being elected governor, George Pataki put an end to the good-faith promise of pension supplementation we had been assured was there, even though he had agreed with it when he was Senator Pataki. His call for a 25% State tax cut, added to the national cry for a Balanced Budget Amendment, can only mean very deep cutbacks in public services, massive increases in local and property taxes, and very serious erosion of our pension dollars. The moratorium on changes in retiree health insurance ends by May 15 and we can only guess at what will happen after that. Now more than ever it is absolutely essential that we join together to overcome those forces which are forming against us. We've got to close ranks, keep in constant touch with our legislators, and work with our Union to hold our ground. Through ROBS, you have a direct link to the latest happenings and the strength of the Union behind you. Don't waste time complaining - get out there and start doing. To quote from Al Graham, "Handwriting rates a B+, hand-shaking rates an A, but hand-wringing deserves an F."

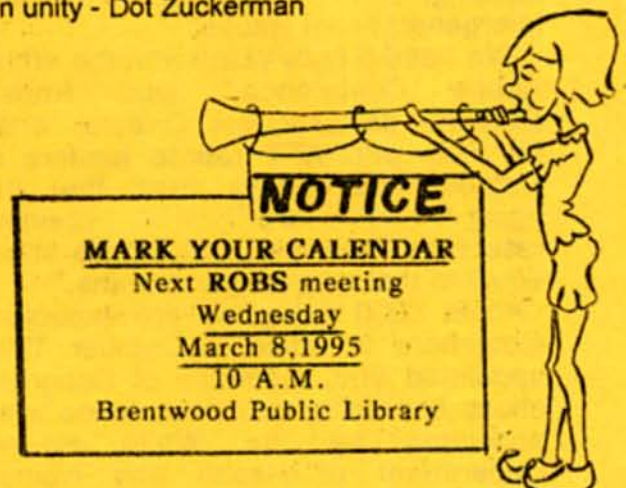
In unity - Dot Zuckerman

FINDING YOUR ROOTS

The December 6th ROBS General meeting was a boon to those of us who are researching our ancestors, and those of us who are just thinking about it. Barbara Schnitzer, a Central Islip retiree, has gone into ethnic genealogy herself, and her knowledge is immense!

From old scrapbooks, which clue you in on time, to burial cards in old attic boxes, and census records in the public library, she led us on a mystery-solving adventure.

An excellent, and close, resource that many of us did not know about was the Mormon (Latter Day Saints) Library in Plainview. It is a family history library that is international, and inclusive in scope. It is open three days a week, and material is on Microfiche: 160 Washington Ave., Plainview; 516-433-0122.



"Any jackass can kick down a barn, but it takes a good carpenter to build one."

Sam Rayburn



We were saddened to learn of the death of **BETTY FRANKEL** of Oakdale in early December. **Betty** taught Home Economics at the high school for many years, and always exuded a sense of calm for those of us who tended to get too upset about things. She was always a lady! We shall miss her at our breakfasts, and in our lives. Our sincere thoughts are with her husband, **Irv**, and the family!

NEWS NOTES



JOHN SHERIN is teaching a 10 week course for new teachers at the Brentwood Teacher's Center. Its title is: "What Do I do Tuesday?" Good Luck, John!

Special wishes are extended by ROBS to two retired administrators who wound up across the hall from each other in Stony Brook Hospital in January. **HARVEY BRICKMAN**, principal of Sonderling High School, and the Kindergarten Center, was there for heart complications. He is at home in Oakdale recuperating. **RUTH ROSENTHAL**, assistant principal at Sonderling, was in the hospital for heart surgery. She is home in Brentwood now, also recuperating



PHYLLIS BAUMANN drove down from Brewster with husband **GEORGE** to attend the ED21 Retiree Council Holiday Party at the Irish Coffee Pub in East Islip, where a great time was had by all!

ELIE STEFFEN made the long trip from Woodstock, N.Y. to join us at the ROBS Breakfast on January 10th. She looks great! Loves her backwoods homestead, paints and volunteers at a center for women in trouble. She also drives to Jersey to take care of her grandson one day a week. Busy, busy. And, she was wearing purple! **ELIE** is also trying to sell or rent her house in Bay Shore. She describes it as tiny. Rent is \$600 a month, sale price is \$67,000. Call her 914-679-5302 if interested.

Some folks never stop traveling. **MILLIE EISENBERG**, Special Ed in the high school, has had a busy fall; she and husband left for the Mediterranean and Spain on January 20th! They're in line for the traveling award!

DOROTHY SCHALLER got away to the warm in December. She cruised the Caribbean with friends. Came back rested and looking great. At the breakfast she was passing around pictures of **THE SEASONED STEPPERS**, a group of high kicking grandmothers whose choreographer is a former Rockette! **DOROTHY** and **KITTY HAYES** (both former Ms. Senior New York), are hoofers with the group which performs around the Island. Let me tell you, those women looked goood!

Congratulations to grandpa **FRANK SALADINO** whose son and daughter-in-law presented him with his first in January. At the breakfast, he was bubbling over with anticipation! He was even looking forward to diapering and feeding!

Another bubbling parent was **EDY FILOSA**, retired nurse from Sonderling. Her son, **SANDY**, who graduated from the high school, recently received his Master's Degree. He is teaching Special Ed in Merrick.

We heard from **JACKIE HAINES**, Interlachen, Florida. She was a secretary in Ross H.S. Guidance. She loves keeping up with news here, and sends greetings to all her old friends.

Y Smile!

CONGRATULATIONS



BITS AND PIECES

Anyone who needs more information about the new lower Medicare costs for older New Yorkers, as well as how to avoid overpaying their doctor under Medicare Part B, should call the State Office's **Health Insurance Information and Counseling Program Hotline** at 1-800-333-4114. Staffers can also provide help and information about Medicaid, Medigap, Long Term Care Insurance, as well as other health insurance and HMO's.

**YOU CAN STILL CALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FREE!
1-800-768-2221**

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A study conducted by OWL (Older Women's League), reveals that women don't know all the facts about osteoporosis! Half of all American women will be affected, and it causes 1.5 million fractures annually. It is a preventable and treatable disease. Send self-addressed business sized envelope to: **Osteoporosis materials, Older Women's League, 666 Eleventh Street NW, Suite #700, Washington D.C. 20001.**

For information about all Peace Corps volunteer opportunities, call 800-424-8580. Ten percent of its 6,500 volunteers now in service are 50 and older!



MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST

This winter's breakfast at the Expressway Diner was characterized by wonderful weather, with no snow. Last year we all trudged through a near blizzard.

About 35 retired Brentwood teachers broke bread and chatted about life, politics, and the promise of 1995!

Thanks again to the dynamic duo, Harriet Pepine and Ruth McCalla, for their work in putting the breakfast together!



THE DEVIL'S DICTIONARY

Here are some "daffynitions" from the work of Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914).

absurdity, n. A statement or belief manifestly inconsistent with one's own opinion.

alone, adj. In bad company.

ambidextrous, adj. Able to pick with equal skill a right-hand pocket or a left.

conservative, n. A statesman who is enamored of existing evils, as distinguished from the Liberal, who wishes to replace them with others.

dentist, n. A prestidigitator who, putting metal into your mouth, pulls coins out of your pocket.

diagnosis, n. A physician's forecast of disease by the patient's pulse and purse.

impunity, n. Wealth.

inventor, n. A person who makes an ingenious arrangement of wheels, levers and springs, and believes it civilization.

WE WELCOME LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: 11 Yates Ave. Commack New York 11725



COMPUTERS

Special pricing for AFT members. Contact

IBM 1-800-

426-7456 or

Apple 1-800-

959-2775 ext.

506. Bank

financing

available.

AFT BULLETIN: SOCIAL SECURITY

- ☛ 1995 COLA is 2.8 percent, up from 2.6 in 1994.
- ☛ 1995 exempt amount for beneficiaries who work: \$8,165 individuals under 65, \$1 withheld for every \$2 above limit; \$11,200 for individuals 65-69, with \$1 withheld for \$3 over the limit. Does not apply to over 70.
- ☛ Medicare Part B premium will rise from \$41.10 in 1994 to \$46.10 per month. Automatically taken out of SS check!
- ☛ Medicare deductible remains at \$100.
- ☛ Medicare Part A inpatient hospital deductible, \$696 in 1994 to \$716. 61st to 90th day rises from \$174 to \$179. Co-insurance amount for lifetime reserve days of in-patient care goes from \$348 to \$358.
- ☛ Co-insurance for skilled nursing facilities, 21st to 100th day of care, \$87 to \$89.50.
- ☛ Cost of buying Medicare Part A for non-covered retirees will increase \$16 to \$261 per month.



CORTLI LUNCHEON

The Coalition Of Retired Teachers of Long Island will have its Spring Luncheon on March 30 at the La Grange Restaurant in West Islip. Cost is \$20 per person. Reserve for ED21 Retiree Council tables, and we'll divide up into Brentwood at the luncheon. Contact Sheila Goldberg, 92 Quail Run Dr., Deer Park, N.Y. 11729. Specify fish, chicken or beef.

INTERESTING TRIVIA

The Employee Benefits Research Institute reports that the proportion of privately insured Americans enrolled in a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), or other managed care plan, grew from 27.4 percent in 1988 to 53.9 percent in 1992--and to an estimated 61.9 percent in 1993!

AH YES...

ED 21 RETIREE COUNCIL

Next General Meeting: Tuesday, March 28th at the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Library on Montauk Highway in Bay Shore, just west of the Forum Diner. Good coffee and information.

MEDICARE WINDOW

For those who did not enroll in Medicare at 65, there is a 3 month open enrollment from January 1 to March 31, 1995. This is also for those who dropped Medicare.

Those who did not enroll in Part B at 65 should be aware that for each 12 month period they do not enroll, premiums are 10% higher than normal.



Who says AAA is the only way to go?

Through NYSUT Member Benefits, you have access to Road America Motor Club, a NYSUT-endorsed program similar to AAA but offered at discounted rates.

Next time you're taking a trip or planning a vacation, let Road America help. Not only will a Road America Motor Club membership provide emergency roadside assistance for you wherever your automobile travels, they will help make your travel planning easier!

It's as easy as mailing in the Road America Trip Planning Card included in your membership kit. Simply tell Road America where you are planning to travel and they will provide you with the most direct or scenic route to get there. As a Road America member, you will receive Custom Trip Routing Packages, which include hand-marked state maps accompanied by narrative directions, travel time estimates, mileage charts, information on places of interest and local maps.

NYSUT's discounted annual membership to Road America is only \$49.95 per year. Dependent children to age 19 (age 25 if full-time students) can be included for only \$19.95 each. For this low fee, you and your spouse not only

receive a Custom Trip Planning Service, but a variety of other benefits, including:

- Emergency roadside assistance dispatched to your vehicle anywhere in the United States and Canada, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Coverage up to \$100 per occurrence for road, towing and lockout services.
- Emergency travel expense reimbursement up to \$1,000.
- Nationwide hotel/motel discount of up to 50 percent.
- Car Theft Reward of \$1,000.
- Discounts on car rentals.
- Security credit card registration.
- Ambulance service reimbursement.

Become a member of Road America Motor Club today! For an application and brochure, call NYSUT Member Benefits, **800-626-8101**, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



**IF THIS SPACE IS EMPTY, YOU
HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR
ROBS MEMBERSHIP
AND
THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST
MAILING!**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR RENEWAL.
YOUR ROBS MEMBERSHIP CARD
IS ATTACHED IN BOX TO LEFT.**

NOTICE!