



## ROBS NEWSLETTER

JUNE / JULY 2005

RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

ISSUE 60

### ROBS MEETING DATES: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 8  
October 14  
November 10  
December 2 (Luncheon)  
January 5, 2006 (Breakfast)  
March 9  
April 13  
May 11  
June 2 (Luncheon)

### New NYSUT Benefit Carnival Cruise Lines through Carlson Wagonlit Travel

see flyer in this issue

### DON'T DRIVE?

If you live in NY state, but are not licensed to drive a motor vehicle, you may qualify for a non-driver photo identification card from the Dept. Of Motor Vehicles. Residents 62 and older can receive a 10 year ID card at a reduced fee of \$6.50. Applicants are required to complete form MV-44. "Application for Driver License or ID Card." These are available at your local DMV or call the Center's toll free number: 800-342-5368

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## ROBS AWARDS \$2,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship Committee members are Adrienne Eastman, Marty Hochheiser, Marge Kirchner, Harriet Pepine and Lynn Prass. Marge Kirchner submitted the following for the committee:

One of the nicest parts of being a member of the Scholarship Committee is reading the application packets submitted by Brentwood HS seniors wishing to pursue careers in education. Included in those papers are the students'

academic records, SAT scores, recommendations from faculty members, extra-curricular activities, community service and essays about their aspirations.

Our committee feels it is important to consider each applicant's grades, activities and contributions, but we are also very mindful of the need each student has. We read more than 25 packets this year and found many to be worthy of scholarships. It was also encouraging to read about how

many students wished to pursue education due to having teachers who made a difference in their lives. If one of our winners was your student, be sure to give yourself a pat on the back.

Our congratulations go to the three recipients of this year's scholarships:

**Jessica Walker** will receive \$1,000.00, **Karen Quilty** will receive \$500.00 and **Marianna Valle** will also receive \$500.00.

## BABY BOOMERS – CAN YOU COMPETE WITH THIS?

My article, "Retirement So Sweet..." on a retired 72 year old hired to manage the Florida Marlins, and our own vibrant ROBS retirees was worth a Journalism award this year. Here's a continuation of that 10/03 story.

Concerned that we hadn't seen ROBS retiree Bianca (TP) and sister Italia Pirro during the winter, Carmela Criscione, our member contact person, sent a card.

But not to worry, the Pirros, both in their 90s, were homebound only due to the weather, but family gatherings kept them quite busy. And then there was the line dancing, exercise classes and parties at the senior center.

They wrote to "Dear Lady Carmela:" that "the HS's

have senior citizen proms for us in W. Babylon, Farmingdale, Levittown, Seaford, Massapequa, Hicksville & Island Trees.

"Colleges offer us free tickets to performing arts events at Suffolk & Nassau Community, Five Towns, Hofstra & Adelphi. That's because we're the oldest seniors who attended Suffolk."

Not to be outdone, "the libraries have theatre productions and films for us to learn from and enjoy."

The sisters also attend health fairs and lectures at Good Sam, Brunswick & Southside, as well as Cancer Foundation annual events. There are countless lectures on Wholeness, Wellness and the Environment.

June finds them in Lido Beach for line dancing & fun for 10 weeks: swimming, ballroom dancing (the Peabody is their forte), bocci, exercise classes in & out of the water, singing, cards, etc.

It's the etc. that has me intrigued. Writing this has me exhausted.

As we continuously read stories about the problems of seniors, we really need to hear about those of us who are active (as most are) and involved with the life around us. (we all are).

But the Pirro's certainly model activity more than most. Have you ever done the Peabody? That's exercise!

So no excuses. Lets get up and get going!

Chris Veech

# PHYLL'S FORUM

Phyllis Goodwin, President – (631-673-2971)



Dear Colleagues,

Here we are at the end of a very busy year. We are setting up programs for next year with some of your suggestions in mind. We were not successful in planning a day trip for ROBS members but we will try again next year. Our Spring Luncheon was a huge success with 50 people in attendance. Program Director Ruth McCalla, with help from Harriet Pepine, Toni Acunzo, Letty and Sheila Sustrin, did a wonderful job with our programs, luncheons and breakfast. A very special thank you to Bill and Louise Heran for tickets to the Long Island Ducks game, Frank Spencer for his generous donation of tickets to a Yankee game and Letty and Sheila Sustrin for the gift of their new book "Mrs. Belle Goes to Camp." These were great door prizes.

Congratulations are in order to Chris Veech. Her article in the October 2003 ROBS Newsletter: "Retirement so Sweet..." about 72 year old Jack McKeon, fired by the Cincinnati Reds, retired & s hired to manage the Florida Marlins who went on to win the World Series won a NYSUT Award of Merit in the Journalism contest. A job well done!!!

Adrienne Eastman came to the rescue and supplied us with minutes for our remaining meetings, and clerical retirees.

Lilian Kelly did a great job as our RC 21 delegate. She was responsible for all the

information on RC 21 functions. Lilian is definitely a clone of the Energizer Bunny.

Marge Kirchner is the conscience of our board. She has chaired our scholarship committee, introduced us to the AHRC printing shop and of course, kept track of all those dimes and nickels.

Everyone is aware of the Dynamic Duo, John Sherin and Carmela Criscione. They have put in a tremendous amount of time on the individual membership videos.

Lynn Prass, Joe Purcell and Marty Hochheiser, our At Large Delegates, help make some of those decisions which keep us from being a hung jury.

Many thanks to Dot for our NYSUT updates and emails keeping us abreast of the issues.

Jack Zuckerman has had a very rough year but he set up our database and gave us a splendid Directory.

Marty Hochheiser is our BTA liaison. BTA delegates love the copies of the newsletter.

Frank and Verne Spencer have supplied us with 4 or 5 families to adopt at the Holiday Season through Project Hope and the Suburban

Children Organization. Many thanks to all of the shoppers and wrappers who made this possible.

With all this in mind, I hope that we can get as many people to our meetings as we do for our luncheon. There are several committees that need help. We are asking you to make a concerted effort to attend our meetings.

We especially miss our secondary people. If you have any ideas in mind for programs: email, snail mail or just call me. I will get back to you. Enjoy your summer and we'll see you in September.

In Harmony, Phyllis Goodwin

After the abrupt withdrawal of pain-killer Vioxx, the nation needs assurance that medications they are taking are safe. The FDA Drug Safety Oversight Board was formally established in May to make sure dangerous drugs are taken off the market. One of the goals of the new board is to make the safety review process more independent of the new drug review process. But when 11 of the 15 voting positions on the board are filled by senior managers of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, the same office responsible for approving new drugs, that goal is clearly being ignored. (There's now a Senate bill for a board independent from the FDA.)

## ROBS NEWSLETTER

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## ROBS OFFICERS

PRES. Phyllis Goodwin

V.PRES. Harriet Pepine

SEC'Y. Adrienne Eastman

TREAS. Marge Kirchner



My goal in life is to be a person as good as my dog already thinks I am.

## ROBS Newsletter Editorial Board:

Carmela Criscione  
Adrienne Eastman  
Linda Gibson  
Phyllis Goodwin  
Marge Kirchner

## THE M-T CORNER

"Ideology is just an escape from thought."

— John Kenneth Galbraith



## LETTER FROM LAST YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

May 27, 2003

Dear Retirees of Brentwood Schools:

My freshman year at St. Joseph's College is officially over. I can proudly say that my first year of college was successful both academically and socially. Academically I ended my Freshman year with a G.P.A. of 3.74. Of course this G.P.A. was not easy to achieve. It often involved making sacrifices, such as spending less time with family, in order to complete an assignment. Fortunately my sacrifices worked out for the best. In fact, immediately following the end of my Freshman year, my family and I went to El Salvador to visit family and enjoy the time that I now had for myself

As far as my social life in college, it was difficult to establish. Having graduated from Brentwood I was used to the diverse student population. When starting at St. Joseph's College, there was a noticeable lack of diversity. To adjust to this new environment I joined the Psychology Club, but I didn't feel a part of the club.

Nonetheless I did my best to make an effort to speak to students, whether in class or outside of class, just so I had a familiar face. By the time my second semester came around, I had a few faces to look for in the hallways or in class. Also during my second semester, I joined the Diversity Union Club in which I met more minority students. While in this club I felt more comfortable because the members could relate to what I was going through for they themselves had come from schools with a diverse student population, such as Longwood and Wyandanch. In fact, I not only became a member of the Diversity Union Club but it's secretary as well.

Looking back on my Freshman year of college I can say it was definitely a time of growth. I learned how to adapt to the college lifestyle of sleep deprivation and constant workaholic mode, learned to step out of my comfort zone in order to meet new people, and as a result I learned to be comfortable in my own skin. In college you start off with a clean slate: no one knows you and it's your job to make sure that if you're going to make yourself known, you've got to make sure you don't start off on the wrong foot, whether it's with a student or a professor. From the looks of things I feel things will only progress as time goes on. Thank you again for your scholarship. It has helped me out with college bills and paying for my Spanish CLEP exam in which I received the highest mark: 12 credits. Thank you for your cooperation.

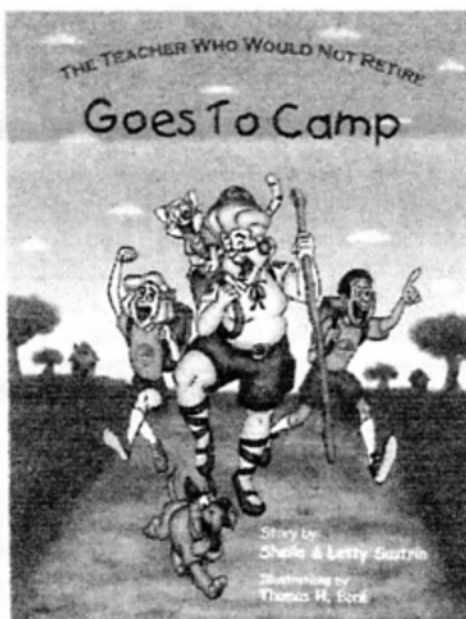
Sincerely,

Perla Iglesias

## MRS. BELLE IS BACK by Sheila & Letty Sustrin

Mrs. Belle, heroine of our first children's storybook, "The Teacher Who Would Not Retire," continues her escapades in our sequel, "The Teacher Who Would Not Retire Goes to Camp." Mrs. Belle could truly be a member of ROBS. She's vivacious, caring, daring and fun to be with.

Little did we realize that our "Life After Retirement" would be as exciting as the 38 years we taught in Brentwood. Since our first book was published in 2002, we have been on a whirlwind of school visits, senior group presentation, book signings and many other



public appearances.

We have reconnected with old friends and students, and our circle of new friends continues to grow. Life has been good!!!

We are looking forward to doing a Book Signing and Presentation for our ROBS members in the Fall. Further details will be in the next issue.

It's important that all of us should have a positive attitude about retirement. It keeps both the mind and the body healthy. We're already thinking about what our next book should be about.

Mrs. Belle wishes all of you a "Safe and Happy Summer."

# NEWS NOTES

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** **Claudette (Benjamin) Parker**, (Sond. '98) has relocated from Florida to 7513 Stagville Road, Bahama, NC 27503; 919-479-9010. Her new email is: (cparker31@verizon.net). **Marianne Gruskin's** (Sond. '95) new email is: (stringbean03@optonline.net) The Ebert & Roeper duo of Phoenix. **Jim Watson & Gilda Mantin**, want you to know that they saw "Merchant of Venice," and Robert DiNero was magnificent as Shylock. Both are retired from the English Department! Go rent it!

**Dot Zuckerman** (NE '91) was off to Helsinki, St. Petersburg and a river cruise up the Volga to Russia in June with a group of retirees. Among them is **Lilian Kelly** (South Middle '96) who is off on her first real extended vacation in 2 1/2 years due to medical problems. She says: "I am thrilled. As most of you know, I never thought I would see this day. My medical situation is status quo and I thank God every day that I awake and see the day and the garden, etc." Another tripper is **Oneida Lee**, (SW, '85) who is going away for 2 weeks for a change of pace from medical visits.

Our motorcycling retiree, **Rich Edwards** (Sond. '98) is off again. He has now motored to 49 states. As you read this, he has completed a few weeks in Alaska, which he says is magnificent. He called **Jim Watson** from Fairbanks to report in on June 25th. He started off from Florida, got to New York for his son Brian's wedding, and loaded his bike on the train and was off! Kudos!

**Chris Veech** (Ross '91) had a May of reunions. First it was Stowe, VT and the "kids" who grew up in Brooklyn (they meet every 2 years somewhere in the country). Then it was out to St. Olaf College (it's a Norwegian Lutheran college, not a town, Betty White) for her 50th reunion. The creative bunch (there were 110 out of a class of 260) put on a 50's style show, poodle skirts and all, as well as an operetta, written and performed by members of the class of '55, planned & plotted by email and phone. FUN, fun, fun....

And from **Phyllis Baumann** (Sond. '92): She took her grandson for a Bar Mitavah lesson in Brewster, NY, with Cantor K. Ben-David, who looked familiar. It turned out he was the son of **Kay McDevitt** (ESL, deceased). The Cantor converted to Judaism, changed his name and is retiring this year. "It goes to show you that it truly is a small world." As a result of **Phyllis'** email, **Charlotte Gross** has this query: Daurice S. taught dance in Brentwood Schools and taught her daughter who went on to teach with Daurice. Anyone know where Daurice and Jack are?

Amy (recuperating in Florida) and **Bernie Heller** (Ross Guid. '90) send their thank you for the cards ROBS has been sending both as they mend from illnesses. As does Oneida Lee (SW '85) who says: The cards "are such a comfort to me to know that you are thinking of me. Thank you for your kind thoughts."

Last year, **Tom McDonough** (S Jr. Hi '84) suffered a stroke after hip replacement surgery. He is doing well recovering at home and wishes to be remembered to all the Brentwood people, says his son, who sent us an email in April. at Tom's request. His mailing address is 54 Rains Court, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127. His phone is: 386-767-3140. He'd love to hear from you.



Get well wishes to: **Jack Zuckerman** (Ross '90): Edy Welsh, Nurse teacher, Administration, recuperating from surgery in May; **Cora Spencer** (Sond. '83); **Joe Carson**, (Music NE); **Jean Price**; and **Sue Wayman** (SS, NMS). **Peter Cerullo** (North '83) was back in Good Sam in June reports **Andy Book**. You can reach **Pete** at 33 Moffitt Blvd., East Islip, NY 11730 and by phone at 631-376-5381. Wife Amy says he'd love to hear from colleagues.



**Lou Cairo** (Ross Guid. '93) died in April due to complications of heart surgery. **Josephine Schimpf** (sec'y. MT) who was gravely ill, passed away in May. **Marianne Gruskin's** (Sond. '95) husband Matt passed away in Hospice care on June 26. All were on our get well list in the April News Notes. Our condolences to family and friends.

And sadly we note the passing of **Dorothy Ackley** (Sec'y. IMC). Also **Herb Fishman**, 88, principal at Pine Park for 20 years, died in April after a long illness. He retired in 1983.

Other passings: **Constance Nichol's** (Elem. PP) husband Frank (Sterling & Glen Assisted Living at 53 Ocean Ave., Bay Shore, NY 11706); **Kay Aveni's** (Sond. Sec'y. '82) husband Larry (8012 Bridge Pointe Dr., Chester, MD 21619); **Harry Haden's** (Sond. '00) mom in April (33 Laurel Dr., Brentwood). Our thoughts are with family and friends of these much loved folks.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2005



LOUIS ANZOVINO	PAT LAWTHER	NOREEN VELMACHOS
JOSEPH BIONDO	ELIZABETH LEONARDI	ROBIN WEISER
CHERYL CASTANO	ANNE MYGLAND	KATHLEEN WILLIAMS-GING
PATRICIA CESARIO	DIANE NEESHAM	
ROBIN COURTNEY	MARCIA POLLOCK	
ROSE DALY	LOIS RITZ	
CLAUDIA DE BELLIS	FRANCES ROESSNER	
ROBERT DE SOTO	CAROL ROSENBLUTH	
GRACE DE RIGGI	CAROL SCHANSINGER	<u>CLERICAL RETIREES:</u>
MARY JANE DE VITO	FRED SCHIEFERSTEIN	SUSAN CANINO
ANITA DIAMOND	SHERRY SILVERMAN	CHARLOTTE CURTO
LIS DICCE	JANET SOLNER	CYNTHIA DUVAUL
ELLEN EDELSTEIN	EDWARD STOBL	JACKIE LLOYD
JOSEPH FASANO	BRUCE STUHLREHER	JEAN STAGG
GARY FERRIGNO	ANTHONY TORRGROSSO	MARLENE WASHINGTON
HARRIET HELMAN	DENISE VARELLO	



## TEACHER BASHING, AGAIN!

Brentwood's budget passed on the second vote, fortunately. Statewide, 85% of budgets passed. Vicious attacks on teachers began again on L.I. just as school budgets went up for vote in May. Here's a comment from Martin Hochheiser:

For many years **NEWSDAY** writers and editors seemed to enjoy attacking schools, teachers and their unions. I can remember writing a letter to the editor 30 years ago, challenging continuing negative articles about Brentwood schools, pointing out the many positive activities and programs in the district.

The negativity eased somewhat, except of course for the annual publishing of state test results, pointing the finger of failure at the public schools. Unequal funding of education was not pushed as much as it could have been by **NEWSDAY**.

When the percentage paid by school districts to the pension fund was reduced considerably as the stock market was on the rise, teacher's salaries were not in the spotlight.

Education costs have risen over the past few years, including lack of funding for "NCLB," rising fuel costs and stock market dips.

**NEWSDAY**'s answer to budget defeats and these rising costs: teacher's salaries are too high, Boards of Education should take a strong stance in negotiating with teacher's unions to stop these high salaries. Another voice from the past calls for larger classes to reduce the number of teachers needed. Teachers should also teach Saturdays and summer school for their same regular salary, and pay more for health insurance.

What is next? Teachers doing custodial jobs? Extend the school day by a couple of hours? Not receive step increases for longevity or additional schooling?

I'd like to see **NEWSDAY** fight harder for equity in funding of education, including pushing legislators to increase the budgets to pay for state and federal mandates. Scapegoating teachers and teacher's unions is certainly not the answer.

**IF YOU ARE HAVING A HARD TIME THROWING  
THINGS AWAY, HERE'S A PLACE TO  
RECYCLE:  
[HTTP://WWW.FREECYCLE.ORG/](http://www.freecycle.org/)**

## ROBS PET PROFILES:

**BAILEY OF ANDOVER**

Shiela &amp; Letty Sustrin



Mary Pat Lyons, a devoted daughter to Kay Lyons, who is a retired teacher from the Levittown School District, made her mom's "90th" birthday an event to remember. Let's read about it.

What can you give your ninety year old mother on her birthday? How about an adorable, lovable, playful, and friendly sixteen week old Pug. That is what I did in March of 2003 when "Bailey of Andover" came into our lives and won the hearts of every one

At the age of eighty-eight, Mom finally had to give up driving and therefore her independent life style. Even though I retired from Brentwood in 2002 I was still doing consulting work, so Mom was left at home many days on her own. Mom and Bailey quickly became best of friends and settled into a routine that satisfied both of them. Bailey devoted his days to Mom and spent the evenings with me.

On weekends and holidays, Bailey found a family of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, fighting for his love and attention. He always has enough to go around and still has some left over for any friend who might stop by. Bailey doesn't even mind when three or four of the great grandsons want to take him for a walk. Since the boys range in age from 18 months to six years, the walks are contained to inside the house. Bailey plods along as he is walked from room to room with two boys walking him while the others wait in the wings for their turn.

In June of 2004, we moved from a large colonial house to a one story villa so that Mom wouldn't have to worry about the stairs any more. Bailey was the first to adjust and make new friends, both two and four legged ones. He has never found a person or a dog he doesn't like. Bailey is always ready to play and looks forward to his play dates with his best friend, Belle Sustrin.

Within the past year Mom has slowed down and is now confined to a wheelchair. This doesn't phase Bailey. He supervises Mom's companion as she gets Mom up and dressed in the morning and then, as soon as she is in her wheelchair, it is Bailey's time to say good morning with lots of hugs and kisses.

Even though many people thought I was crazy getting Bailey for Mom, I know it was the best present I have ever given her.

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**

Excerpted from NYSUT Retiree Organizer

This Naval Chaplain's request for donations for US troops was printed in the *Farmingdale Focus*, a publication of Farmingdale Retired Teacher. Bowen's Open Window Foundation, a volunteer organization in the Kaiserlautern Military Community, looks after wounded US troops and their families to ensure that their needs are taken care of in Germany.

They desperately need clothing for the injured/wounded troops being admitted to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC). At one point, they were receiving an average of 200 - 300 patients every 2 weeks, and that fluctuates depending on the level of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, and elsewhere.

Patients are received from down-range wearing only hospital gowns, and when they are transported to other hospitals, they have no clothing in which to travel. The need for clothing is great and will continue to be so until the war is over. If folks are able to mail the following items, they will be gratefully and thankfully accepted. All clothing items must be brand new with tags still attached. Large & X large sweat sets (pants & tops); XXL is good too; men & women's underwear; slippers; warm jackets; thank you notes for their selfless service. Mail to: Kathi Macleod, Warrior Preparation Center, Einseidlerhof AS, Germany; USAFE WPC/J5, Unit 3050, Box 20, APO AE 09094. Phone from US: 011-49-631-536-7706/7758. Email: [kathimacleod@ramstein.af.mil](mailto:kathimacleod@ramstein.af.mil)

## Let's GO on a Cruise!

If you've been thinking about taking a cruise, be sure to consider the newest benefit from NYSUT Member Benefits - **Carnival Cruise Lines** through Carlson Wagonlit Travel.



A block of inside, oceanview and balcony staterooms has been reserved on six upcoming cruises from February 2006 through February 2007. (Note: Suites may be available but are not included in this pricing.) To get these great rates and \$100 onboard credit per cabin, only eight rooms per cruise need to be booked. This can be accomplished in several ways: a group of eight NYSUT members, various NYSUT members who happen to book eight rooms on the same cruise, or one NYSUT member booking with friends or family to fill eight rooms. Booked cabins will be added together to reach the eight-room minimum, and Carlson Wagonlit will monitor the number of rooms booked by NYSUT members.

**Western Caribbean Cruise** (7-day) from Miami, FL on *Carnival Triumph*  
(Ports of Call: Cozumel, Mexico; Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands; Ocho Rios, Jamaica)  
**February 18-25, 2006: Rooms from \$560 to \$860**

**Eastern Caribbean Cruise** (7-day) from Port Canaveral (Orlando), FL on *Carnival Glory*  
(Ports of Call: Nassau, Bahamas; St. Thomas, USVI; St. Maarten, NA)  
**April 15-22, 2006: Rooms from \$580 to \$880**  
**February 17-24, 2007: Rooms from \$640 to \$940**

**Eastern Caribbean Cruise** (8-day) from New York City, NY on *Carnival Legend*  
(Ports of Call: San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. Thomas, USVI; Tortola, BVI)  
**June 29-July 7, 2006: Rooms from \$1,210 - \$1,610**  
**July 23-July 31, 2006: Rooms from \$1,260 - \$1,660**

**Southern Caribbean Cruise** (7-day) from San Juan, Puerto Rico on *Carnival Destiny*  
(Ports of Call: St. Thomas, USVI; Dominica; Barbados; Aruba)  
**February 18-25, 2007: Rooms from \$540 - \$840**

These rates are cruise only, per person, based on double occupancy. Port charges, taxes and fees are not included. These rates are **only** available through Carlson Wagonlit Travel, which will make all of your travel arrangements.

Keep checking the link off [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org) for special promotions. Of course, you can book any cruise at any time. If it so happens that eight rooms are booked by a NYSUT member(s) for that same cruise, you may receive a discounted rate provided no other special pricing or promotions are in effect.

Call Carlson Wagonlit Travel at **1-800-786-1766**. Be sure to identify yourself as a NYSUT member to get these rates, and use our special **ID #: C230**. This will facilitate the tracking of rooms booked by NYSUT members. And have a great time!



## RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

c/o Marge Kirchner, Treasurer  
666 Hawkins Road East, Coram, New York 11727  
June 2005

Dear ROBS Member:

Thank you for helping your Executive Board by sending in your dues so quickly last year. We had a wonderful membership drive and for the 2004-2005 year we have 400 members in our Organization. 145 of those members sent in their dues by August 31<sup>st</sup> and a total of 291 had joined by October 31<sup>st</sup>. All those individuals were listed in our 2004-2005 directory.

Receiving your completed membership forms and dues promptly definitely made trips to the bank, bookkeeping and beginning to type the directory a whole lot easier. I hope this year will be equally as great in that regard.

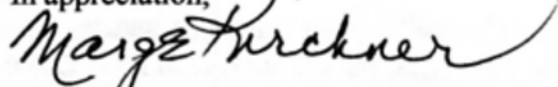
**Our fiscal year begins on the July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, your applications and dues for the 2005-2006 year may be sent to ROBS beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. It is important to completely fill out the enclosed application form so that our directory and files are correct. We have changed things a bit and request that you PLEASE send them to my home address that is listed above. Also, please make your checks out to ROBS and not to me.**

The Board hopes you have taken advantage of the direct payment option for Vote-Cope contributions. If you have not done that and wish to send a Vote-Cope contribution with your application and dues, you may certainly do so and I will forward it to NYSUT.

We started our scholarship program just a couple of years ago. This year we awarded 2 scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 and one scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00. These scholarships have gone to three very deserving seniors who will be pursuing careers in education. We also have been contracting with A.H.R.C. to print, collate, fold, address and sort our newsletters and other notices we sent you. Your Board feels very strongly that we have, thus provided another scholarship – that in the form of work for the differently-abled people who work for that fine organization.

We appreciate your membership in ROBS very much and hope you will continue to join our organization. Remember, the cut-off date for people wishing to be included in our membership directory is **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005**. Any money I receive after that date, will be deposited to our account, grant you full membership in ROBS, but will **not** give you the opportunity to be part of the directory that will be sent to our members prior to the winter holidays.

In appreciation,

  
Marge Kirchner, Treasurer