



Volume XXXI Fall Issue

NYSUT RC 13

Oct./Nov. 2022



From The Desk of the President
Patrick McCarthy

Looking Ahead!



Dear Colleagues,

I hope that this newsletter finds you safe & in good health!

We often hear the expression “time flies”, and I for one can relate to that as in my mind I am still thinking of possible summer activities to enjoy. Here we are well into fall, with the Holidays fast approaching. Please make every effort to get out & appreciate the outdoors before “Old Man Winter” forces us to resort to hibernation, unless of course, you are a snowbird!

Our website is up and running (retireecouncil13.com)

and if you have not checked it out yet, please do. Continue checking as it will be updated on a regular basis. As 2022 progresses to 2023 we will be offering diverse opportunities to engage with other fellow retirees in the Mid-Hudson Region.

While I am on the topic of opportunities you might engage in, please consider working in some form of support for our in-service brothers and sisters.

The pandemic placed unbelievable demands on teachers & school related professionals in so many ways. A school might operate remotely one day, in person the next, or perform a hybrid form of operation as Health and Safety guidelines continue to change. Expectations & demands for school employees have grown & continue to do so. Yet, with the increase in demands, we have witnessed the sharp decline in teacher and SRP numbers nationwide. To make matters worse, the attacks on public education have increased dramatically. Our members still in-service are feeling overwhelmed & underappreciated.

You can help! Contact the leadership of the local you were affiliated with & learn what activities they sponsor. Many

locals run “Backpack” programs, or food & coat drives. They also work with food kitchens, sponsor “Adopt a Road” & other worthy activities. Please offer your services. Your former district may have opportunities you would enjoy, & which would greatly benefit the community.

CHECK IT OUT!!

Attend a school board meeting since we are witnessing horrific attacks on public education & misinformation about what is being taught. Finally, as unbelievable as it is, there are people demanding books be removed from libraries along with circumventing aspects of American history to avoid making some students feel uncomfortable.

We must show support for our schools however we are able. **Public Education is the cornerstone of our democracy!**

In solidarity,
Patrick McCarthy

NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The election of officers, delegates and board of director members for 2023-2026 will be held at our annual Spring Luncheon on June 1. Per the Constitution of RC #13 this committee is being established to perform the task. This Committee shall propose a slate of officers (President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, & Treasurer) along with NYSUT/AFT delegates, Alternate Delegates and ten(10) Board of Directors.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Tom Lyon (tom@lyoncher.com).

CHAPTER CHATS

Red Hook Retiree Association

Almost 30 members enjoyed their June gathering at the RH golf club. Some also attended the RHFA reception to congratulate new retirees; so far half have joined RHRA. In July four of us walked part of the Empire Trail and lunched in Nassau. We hope to schedule another walk in September, which we will open to other chapters. Currently we are engaged in the Vote Cope campaign, enjoying summer, and looking forward to getting together September 9 at Savonna's in Red Hook.

Submitted: Sally Sober, President

2022/23 Calendar
In person OR
ZOOM WITH US



The RC#13 Board of Directors meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month. If you would like to be a **GUEST** contact President Patrick McCarthy (rc13president@retireecouncil13.com). A link will be sent to you the **day** before the meeting so that you may **ZOOM** in!
PLEASE CHECK DATES!

November
8 - Election Day
9 Wed. - Board/Liaisons, Zoom Only (10:15 am-12 noon)
15 -NYS SRP Recognition Day

December
1 - World Aids Day
14 Wed. - Board/Liaisons, (10:00 am-12 noon)

January
1 - New Year's Day
11 Wed.-Board/Liaisons, Zoom Only (10:15 am-12 noon)

Professional Grant Recipients for 2022

I am pleased to announce the Retiree Council #13 Professional Grant Recipients. There were 4 Grants awarded in the amount of \$500 for each recipient. Their Grant Applications were well done and followed the criterion set forth by the Professional Grant Committee. The recipients are as follows:

Kody Andreas teaches music in Grades K-5 in the Spackenkill UFSD. Kody applied for the grant to attend a two- week program at Hofstra University on Orff Schulwerk Level 1 Training. This program will be an exciting way for Kody to teach and have his students learn about music.

Matt Haynes teaches ELL at the middle and high school levels at Tri-Valley Central School. Matt applied for the grant to purchase Timekettle Earbuds. These Earbuds will have a positive impact on learning & social interactions for ENL students. These Earbuds help interpret any form of verbal communication.

Elyse Joy is a science teacher at the Orville Todd Middle School in the Spackenkill USFD. She applied for the grant to attend Mindfulness and QI Gong Training. Elyse is noticing more & more students coming into the classroom with stress, anxiety, and frustration. Elyse will be teaching her students QI Gong strategies that will help them in school as well as at home.

Natalie Sauer is an elementary visual art teacher at Sullivan West CSD. She applied for the grant to purchase 4 display boards to showcase elementary students' visual artwork. The visual artwork would be set up for community viewing in conjunction with the Spring Musical at the Sullivan West High School. The utilization of these boards will be on going with the community.

The RC #13 Professional Grant Committee looks forward to the feedback we expect to receive in July of 2023 and wish the students and recipients all the best.

Susan Eagan, Paula Ptaszek, and Jan Scriber

Retiree Council #13

OFFICERS:

President: Patrick McCarthy Sullivan BOCES (845) 701-1825
 1VP: Kathy Taylor Ulster BOCES (845) 417-4623
 2VP: William Rule Wallkill (845) 687-0849
 Secretary: Susan Eagan Marlboro (845) 889-4416
 Treasurer: Mary Lou Davis Spackenkill (845) 223-5544

NYSUT RA DELEGATES:

Patrick McCarthy, Kathy Taylor, Donna Matthews
 Alternates: Paula Ptaszek, William Rule

AFT DELEGATES:

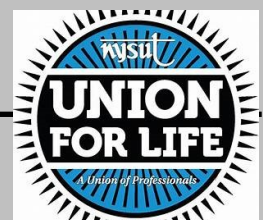
Patrick McCarthy, Kathy Taylor

Presidents Emeritus:

Marvin Eisenberg, Matt Ostoyich, Janice Scriber, Victoria Schulte

DIRECTORS:

Susan Grybas	Chatham	(518) 755-9431
Paula Ptaszek	Chatham	(518) 929-8641
Sharon Carloni	Coxsackie-Athens	(518) 339-6619
Carole Chambers	Hyde Park	(845) 454-9696
Sandra Breitenberger	Kingston	(845) 657-2164
Irene Romano	Red Hook	(845) 417-1823
Janis Bianco	Rondout Valley	(845) 338-0215
Donna Mathews	Ulster BOCES	(845) 706-6973
Laurie Silver	Sullivan BOCES	(845) 626-3468
Cliff Foley	Wappingers	(845) 297-1875



OUR VOICE, OUR VALUES**NYSUT VOTE-COPE**

VOTE-COPE voluntary contributions ensure that our collective voices are heard on the issues that are so vital to us. It allows us to elect candidates, regardless of political affiliation, who are pro-public education and pro-labor.

To get more information on VOTE-COPE go to www.NYSUT.org and click on the Take Action Tab and select VOTE-COPE or access the links directly on RC #13's new website www.retireecouncil13.com under the VOTE-COPE Tab.

To request a Pension Deduction or Direct Contribution Form for VOTE-COPE email Patrick McCarthy at: rc13president@retireecouncil13.com or call (845-701-1825), with your name, mailing address & name of the local you retired from. Contributing to VOTE-COPE is more important than ever.

Contributions can be mailed to the following address:

VOTE-COPE

P.O. BOX 295

Canajoharie, N Y 13317-0295

Recap- RC 13 Regional Conference

On October 13th our RC #13 Regional Conference was held at the Wiltwyck Golf Club in Kingston. We had a great group of attendees that were engaged and able to interact with speakers throughout the day.

NYSUT 2nd VP Ron Gross discussed the importance of staying active in the union during retirement. He unveiled a new NYSUT Program called The Peer Support Line. This is a new service available through NYSUT Member Benefits at no cost to all NYSUT members & their families. This confidential helpline - staffed by trained in-service and retired individuals who understand the unique professional & personal challenges of NYSUT members - can provide answers, referrals, and empathetic support when you need it. For more information or to speak with someone at the Peer Support Line, call toll-free 844-444-0152, or visit <https://www.nysut.org/peersupport>.

Florence McCue, NYSUT At-Large Retiree Director, gave a Retiree Update, which included details of the NYSUT Endorsed Legal Plan through Member Benefits. The cost is only \$55 yearly or \$50 when you use pension deduction. The Plan allows you to have a free: will, power of attorney & Health Care Proxy. She stressed the importance of having our affairs in order making it easier for those after we are gone.

The NYSUT Legacy Award was presented to Janice Scriber for her outstanding leadership over decades of Union Involvement at her Red Hook Local and with RC #13.

Patrick McCarthy also presented AFT Legacy Awards to Paula Ptaszek, and Laurie Silver for their dedicated union service of over 40 years. Mary Lou Davis also received the award but was not present. Her Award will be presented at our next RC #13 meeting.

Sheryl Baker Delano, NYSUT Retiree Services Con-

sultant, made a presentation, "There is Value in Our Union" & outlined programs available through Member Benefits, information on Alzheimer's from NYSUT's Women's Committee, & Anti-Biased Training through NSYUT's Many Threads One Fabric Initiative. Additional Topics included Retiree access to NYSUT's ELT Program (Education & Learning Trust), and NSYUT's flagship partnership with Making Strides- Breast Cancer Awareness that has raised 16.2 million dollars over the last twenty years.

RC #13's new website was unveiled at the conference, and can be found at www.retireecouncil13.com. It is a great way to easily access resources, news, & upcoming events with direct links to information.

The Political Action Update was given by Sheryl Baker Delano and Emiljana Ulaj, our Regional Political Action Organizer. A political action Survival Guide was shared & can be found on the RC #13 website under the political action tab. NYSUT endorses candidates that support our union values, public education and our local communities. Three of those Endorsed Candidates- Pat Ryan (CD 18), Michelle Hinchey (SD41), & Sarahana Shrestha (AD 103) spoke to the attendees, shared their stories/goals and stayed to answer questions.

It was stated by Sheryl Baker Delano that it is imperative that we are educated voters and know that our voice & vote matter. Our participation is important because standing together & playing an active role in the democratic process makes our union, our communities, and our nation stronger!

Let your voice be heard & your vote counted!

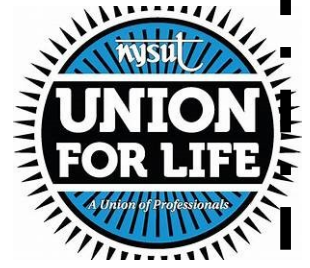
Overall, the day was informative, held at an inviting venue with: great food, fun activities, & door prizes from around the region. If you didn't get a chance to join us make sure you sign up for RC #13's General Membership meeting, in June, at the Beekman Arms & our next Regional Conference in October 2023.



MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION FORM NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL #13

Representing: Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties

January 1 – December 31, 2023



Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

(E-mail addresses are for RC13/NYSUT use only)

Retired from _____ School District _____

\$10.00 yearly recommended contribution Checks should be made out to **NYSUT RC # 13** and sent to:
TREASURER RC #13 NYSUT

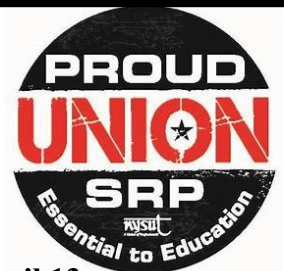
201 Stockade Drive, Kingston, NY 12401

I would be willing to work in the areas of: **Newsletter (Bridges)** _____ **Travel/Social Events** _____

RC# 13 meetings are open to all NYSUT retirees & are held at the above address. The meeting calendar is in **MID-HUDSON BRIDGES**.



**Strong Union
Active Retirees!
About Retiree Council #13**



Mid-Hudson Bridges, is a quarterly publication of the Mid-Hudson Retiree Council 13, serving: Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Ulster, & Sullivan Counties.

Email articles to: Paula Ptaszek, Editor of Mid-Hudson Bridges, at ptaszekp@gmail.com

Co-editors are: Mary Lou Davis at maryloudavis125@gmail.com
William Rule at wvr12@aol.com

Electronic files are appreciated attached as a Word document or embedded as text of an email.

Next issue deadline: November 25th
Visit our website for other useful information:
retireecouncil13.com

