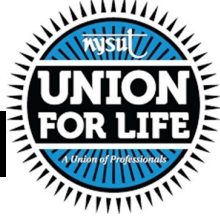


# MID HUDSON BRIDGES

Representing ..... **Columbia Dutchess Greene Sullivan Ulster Counties**



Volume XXXII Fall/Election Issue

NYSUT RC 13

Oct./Nov. 2023



**From The Desk of  
the President  
Patrick McCarthy**

## *Fall is in the Air!*

### Dear Colleagues,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health as we enter the season of Fall! Many of us find Fall to be the best of the 4 seasons. I hope you get out and enjoy the spectacular colors of the Hudson Valley foliage.

These amazing colors will serve as the setting for **the NYSUT Fall Conference on October 19th** at the Wiltwyck Golf Club in Kingston. The agenda for the conference offers something for everyone. Join us to engage with peers from the Mid-Hudson while sharing good food and conversation. Our Spring luncheon in June at the Beekman Arms was an overwhelming success with attendance at maximum capacity for that venue. It will be great to duplicate that success.

On a more serious note, it has been 10 years since Tier 6 was added to the New York State pension system. As a result, over 100,000 NYSUT members are

now enrolled in Tier 6, a tier that has extremely draconian aspects in comparison to the tiers under which most of us retired. NYSUT has made it one of its major goals to address this inequity!

For those of us who retired under Tier 4 we originally were to pay 3% for our entire career. However, through the lobbying effort of our legislative department and the voices of hundreds of thousands of members we were able to get that removed after 10 years of paying into the system. We were able to retire without penalty at age 55 if we had 30 years of service. Tier 6 members must work until age 63 & pay 3% to 6% into the pension system their entire career. Their contributions grow with salary increases. This has created a lesser pension system for newer members and undervalues our valuable profession, which should be reflected in our pensions.

Thanks to our advocacy, some

gains were made & we were able to reduce the time for vesting from 10 years to 5 years, thus guaranteeing a pension benefit for Tier 6 members. **However, MORE needs to be done!**

By contributing to **VOTE-COPE**, NYSUT's voluntary, non-partisan, political action fund we can get the message to our lawmakers moving them to positive change. Contributing is **PENSION PROTECTION**.

I once again want to urge you to take time each week to visit RC #13's website for the latest updates & additions of opportunities for us to engage on a variety of levels: in-person as well as virtual webinars & events.

In solidarity,  
Patrick McCarthy  
(no relation whatsoever to Kevin!)

**WE ARE MEMBERS  
FOR LIFE!**

SCAN ME



**retireecouncil13.com**

**T**uesday, **November 7th**, is Election Day and in NYS early voting runs from Oct. 28 to Nov. 5. To find out where your voting site is or for early voting information you can go to the NYS Board of Elections site: (<https://www.elections.ny.gov>),



under Voter Information click on **“Unsure if you are registered & where to vote?”** Go to your county of residence on the drop box, enter your name, birthdate, & zip code & you will see both the early voting sites & times, as well as your site for voting on **Election Day**.



# NYSUT Educator Peer Support Line

by Doreen Boone-Pitcher, Retiree – Hyde Park Teachers Association

<http://nysut.org/peersupport> 1-844-444-0152 Monday- Friday, 12 Noon – 8 PM

The NYSUT Educator Peer Support Line is a confidential, **NO COST** member benefit for NYSUT members, both in-service and retired, and their families. The program went live in September 2022, as a partnership between NYSUT Member Benefits and Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care. The mission is to help NYSUT members with questions about life, career, retirement, physical and mental health issues.

NYSUT Peer Educator Support Specialists have had extensive training and are here to help in any way we can. A Peer Educator may assist you through: supplying resources, answering questions about benefits, finding mental health or family counseling, housing issues, Medicare/Medicaid, or simply being a good listener when you are in need. Our database is extensive, and we work closely with callers to ensure their questions and concerns are addressed and resolved.

I am proud to be part of this important and timely program designed around the concept that speaking with a peer about issues one is facing has positive and therapeutic benefits. We as educators have had mutual life and career experiences, unique to our profession. Connecting with a peer that is empathic and can relate to you has tremendous social, emotional, and physical value. We have all faced enormous stressors these past few years, and this program is here to foster our members' well-being. I am grateful for the chance to work with this program and give back to my NYSUT family. Remember that we are, "Union Strong, Union for Life!"

**OUR  
SOCIAL  
SIDE**

**SAVE THE DATES!**  
Full details & cancellation policy  
([www.retireecouncil13.com](http://www.retireecouncil13.com)) and click on **EVENTS** - to see new additions

**WEDNESDAY, October 4<sup>TH</sup>, 10:30 A.M., Fall Walk With Me: Walkway Over the Hudson, 61 Parker Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.** To RSVP call 845-706-6986 or email Sheryl Baker Delano - [sheryl.delano@nysut.org](mailto:sheryl.delano@nysut.org)



GREAT day at the **Maritime Museum** & on the **Hudson River!**

## Retiree Council #13

## DIRECTORS:

### OFFICERS:

President: Patrick McCarthy Sullivan BOCES (845) 701-1825  
 1VP: William Rule Wallkill (845) 687-0849  
 2VP: Laurie Silver Sullivan BOCES (845) 626-3468  
 Secretary: Susan Eagan Marlboro (845) 889-4416  
 Treasurer: Mary Lou Davis Spackenkill (845) 223-5544

### NYSUT/ AFT DELEGATES:

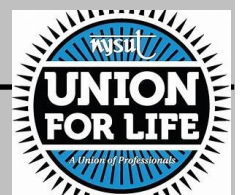
Patrick McCarthy, Donna Matthews, Caren Levant

**Alternates:** Paula Ptaszek, William Rule

### Presidents Emeritus:

Marvin Eisenberg, Matt Ostovich, Janice Scriber, Victoria Schulte

Susan Grybas	Chatham	(518) 755-9431
Paula Ptaszek	Chatham	(518) 929-8641
Sharon Carloni	Coxsackie-Athens	(518) 339-6619
Nancy Sharoff	Ellenville	(845) 798-5925
Carole Chambers	Hyde Park	(845) 454-9696
Sandra Breitenberger	Kingston	(845) 657-2164
Irene Romano	Red Hook	(876) 758-0333
Janis Bianco	Rondout Valley	(845) 338-0215
Donna Matthews	Ulster BOCES	(845) 706-6973
Caren Levant	White Plains CSD	(914) 479-8774
Cliff Foley	Wappingers	(845) 297-1875
Sue Huggler	Liberty	(845)-701-5668







Our day out at the



CIA

“Tasting Like A Chef!”



***Professional Grant Recipients for 2023***

We are pleased to announce the Retiree Council #13 Professional Grant Recipients. There were 3 Grants awarded in the amount of \$500 for each recipient. Their Grant Applications were well done & followed the criterion set forth by the Professional Grant Committee. The recipients are as follows:

**Patricia Ruggles** teaches Family and Consumer Sciences in Grades 7-12 at Sullivan West Central School District. Patricia applied for the grant to do a project with her students on, **Healthy Beverage Preparation, Exploration & Production.**

**Matt Haynes** teaches ELA in Grade 8 and Civics, Social Studies, and College Speech in Grades 11 and 12 at Tri-Valley Secondary School. Matt applied for the grant to purchase items for the school’s **Community Closet of Athletic Equipment**, for students who do not have the funds to purchase the necessary items to be able to participate in school sponsored sports.

**Jason Clark** a science teacher in grades 7-12 at Sullivan West Central School District. Jason applied for the grant to purchase the necessary materials for the project, **Growing Plants & Flowers for Food Use in the Classroom, Hydroponically.**

The RC #13 Professional Grant Committee looks forward to the feedback we expect to receive in July of 2024 & wish the students and recipients all the best. Susan Eagan, Susan Grybas, Paula Ptaszek, & Jan Scriber

**Social Security Update**

The Social Security Administration is predicting a COLA (January 2024) of 3.4% to 3.7%, which would raise the average benefit paid monthly by about \$62 to \$68.(AARP Bulletin, July 19, 2023)

**OUR VOICE, OUR VALUES**



***PROTECT YOUR PENSION***

If you are not currently contributing to VOTE-COPE, our Union’s voluntary Political Action Fund, please consider doing so. To request a pension deduction form or direct contribution form for VOTE-COPE email Patrick McCarthy @ rc13president@retireecouncil13.com or call 845-701-1825 and provide your name, mailing address & the local you retired from.

2023 Calendar  
SEPT - DEC



**October**  
19 Thurs. NYSUT Regional **FALL CONFERENCE**

**November**  
7 Election Day  
8 Wed. - Board/Liaisons, (10:15 am-12 noon)  
21 SRP Recognition Day

**December**  
13 Wed. - Board/Liaisons, (10:15 am-12 noon)

January, Feb. & March are virtual - contact Patrick McCarthy & a link will be sent.

The RC#13 Board of Directors meet monthly, every second Wednesday (except July & August). If you would like to be a GUEST contact Patrick McCarthy (rc13president@retireecouncil13.com).

**PLEASE CHECK CORRECTED DATES!**

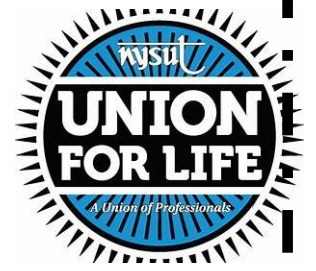
**October**  
11 Wed. - Board/Liaisons, (10:15 am-12 noon)



**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](mailto:ptaszekp@gmail.com)

**Co-editors are:** Mary Lou Davis at [maryloudavis125@gmail.com](mailto:maryloudavis125@gmail.com)

William Rule at [wvr12@aol.com](mailto:wvr12@aol.com)

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

**Next issue deadline: November 1st**

Visit our website for other useful information:

[retireecouncil13.com](http://retireecouncil13.com)

