

MID HUDSON BRIDGES

Representing **Columbia Dutchess Greene Sullivan Ulster Counties**

Volume XXXII Fall/Membership Issue NYSUT RC 13

Dec./Jan. 2023/24



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



Dear Colleagues,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and healthy!

I want to thank everyone who attended the NYSUT Fall Conference this past October at the Wiltwyck Golf Club in Kingston. Our retiree consultant, Sheryl Baker-Delano put together a jam-packed day of information and activities, which all our participants appreciated. Plan now to attend the spring luncheon in May with further information to be available on the RC#13 website and in a future newsletter.

The Board of Directors honored former NYSUT Board of Director, Ulster BOCES TO President, & former RC #13 Board member Kathy Taylor, with the NYSUT Legacy Award. Sheryl Baker-Delano, our consultant, & former NYSUT Political Action Coordinator, as well as the in-service President of the Rondout Valley FT & SRP, was also awarded the NYSUT Legacy Award. Sheryl and Kathy

continue to contribute & exemplify Union for Life. Two more deserving recipients would be hard to find!

We are well into Fall, and nearing the Holiday Season. This is a time for gathering with family, friends and former co-workers in a variety of social activities. It can and should be a joyous time of the year for all. However, it can also be a difficult time for those who have lost a loved one or are suffering from a health issue or other problems that can lead to a feeling of isolation and loneliness. The holiday season offers the opportunity for all of us to add to the true meaning of the season.

When you are planning social events over the next few weeks, try and think of someone you may know, a relative, former co-worker or a friend from your past who may be in a difficult situation. Try to include them in some way in an activity or a get

together during this Holiday Season. By doing so, you could make someone's Holiday so much brighter. You also will feel better for doing so.

Lastly, I continue to remind you to check out the RC13 website: **www.retireecouncil13.com** for news and upcoming events. Our various committees will be busy throughout the winter months planning activities (webinars, future social engagements, local trips, etc.) for your education & enjoyment. Make it a point to regularly visit our website.

**Have a safe and healthy
HOLIDAY SEASON,
and all the best in 2024!**

In solidarity,
Patrick McCarthy

**WE ARE MEMBERS
FOR LIFE!**

SCAN ME



retireecouncil13.com

ATTENTION - All Florida Snowbirds and Soon-to-be Florida Residents:



**RC 43
TRIF
Teacher
Retirees
In Florida**

RC 43 - the only NYSUT-sanctioned out-of-state retiree council is waiting to welcome you to the Sunshine State. We have an active, dedicated group of New York State retirees who would love for you to join a local Florida unit.

All units sponsor social activities, meetings with guest speakers, community projects that benefit children, and engagement in non-partisan politics in conjunction with Florida unions.

If you are interested in becoming involved with retired colleagues, even on a seasonal basis, please contact Miriam Hanan, NYSUT Retirees Services Consultant at 516-236-0276 or miriam.hanan@nysut.org who will connect you with your local unit representative.

Once again - WELCOME to FLORIDA!



Recap- RC 13 Regional Conference

by Sandy Myers

See Pict.

The NYSUT Retiree Council #13 Regional Conference took place this fall on Thursday, October 19th at the Wiltwyck Golf Club in Kingston. Attendees were thrilled with the fall-themed atmosphere of the event.

Ron Gross, NYSUT Vice President, spoke of the benefits of collaboration with retirees (the 260,000 in NYS) & how they are needed now more than ever. He stressed the need to address problems with Tier 6. Ron believes retirees need to look out for the next generation of teachers and to “spread the word” about our love for the teaching profession and how we need to stay involved.

There was a brief presentation by Yessenia Raposo regarding the **Retiree Member Benefits**. These save money & are great resources for our members. Some of the mentioned benefits were: insurance, legal assistance, peer support, EPIC Hearing Services and Buyer’s Edge Inc.

Meg Boyce from the Alzheimer's Association presented the **10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s**. Meg spoke of how early diagnosis is critical. She explained that there is now a 24-Hour Help Line to connect care consultants, support groups, educators, programs and social events to patients and family members of patients with Alzheimer’s.

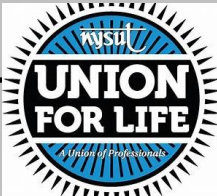
Steve Kramer, NYSUT-endorsed Elder Law Attorney, offered a presentation on **“Protecting Retiree Assets”**. He emphasized the importance of keeping legal information & documents updated. He advised the attendees of a new form that came out in June of 2021 for Power of Attorney. His office offers a Legal Plan through Member Benefits for \$55/year or \$50/year (if through pension deduction). Once enrolled, retirees can have: a free form will, power of attorney & Health Care Proxy. His presentation included discussion on trusts, retirement accounts & homecare.

A presentation by Wayne White, NYSUT Director of Social Justice, centered on **“Many Threads One Fabric”**. He spoke about understanding the basics of social justice & how there exist benefits for everyone to have equality. The goal is to increase workshop opportunities to educate people on strategies to combat stereotypes of bias. He is also seeking retirees to head leadership workshops and to provide mentorship to others. Presenters will be trained and compensated for this leadership role. Anyone interested in mentoring should visit the social justice page @nysut.org.

Sheryl Baker Delano, NYSUT Retiree Service Consultant, spoke to attendees regarding the importance of having our voices heard. She stressed how next year will be a big voting year and that NYSUT will need participation by retirees to accomplish their goals. She reiterated the unfairness of **Tier 6** and spoke about how retirees can “pay it forward” and fight for teachers in Tier 6 which, right now, makes age 63 the earliest retirement age, **without a penalty**. NYSUT remains committed to fix this!

Special guest speaker, NYS Senator Michelle Hinchey (41st Senate District), provided thoughts on enhancing access to Pre-K in NYS & how she has been fighting for free school meals & is committed to increasing the presence of fresh food in schools. She also supports change/reform to Tier 6.

Retiree Council #13			DIRECTORS:		
OFFICERS:					
President:	Patrick McCarthy	Sullivan BOCES	(845) 701-1825	Susan Grybas	Chatham (518) 755-9431
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				Cliff Foley	Wappingers (845) 297-1875
				Sue Huggler	Liberty (845)-701-5668



NYSUT LEGACY AWARDS



(LT) Ron Gross, Kathy Taylor, Pat McCarthy

(RT) Ron Gross, Sheryl Baker-Delano, Pat McCarthy



Raffle Winners!

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.



The Top Reasons to Contribute to VOTE-COPE
(Originally authored by Ruth Berthman, Naomi Feldheim)

- 1. To fight against Tier 6!
- 2. To protect public pensions by maintaining constitutionally guaranteed benefits for life.
- 3. To secure and increase health benefits.
- 4. To increase monthly COLA benefits.
- 5. To urge full cost of living increase in COLA benefits.
- 6. To fight for COLA legislation with no waiting period.
- 7. To be sure the NYS Constitution remains the same, guaranteeing that benefits (pension) NOT be diminished.
- 8. To ensure the safety of Social Security.
- 9. To change the flawed Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 and to eliminate Part B premiums now linked to income.
- 10. To repeal the prohibition against Medicare negotiation for drug prices.
- 11. To oppose taxing employer provided health insurance benefits.
- 12. To publicly respond to recent attacks on public employees, retirees, and unions (very expensive).

When you contribute you are essentially taking a trip to Albany and Washington without leaving the comfort of your home. With over 600,000 members of NYSUT we have been able to elect members of Congress & our NYS Senate and Assembly who support our goals and advocate for our rights regardless of political affiliation.



2023/24 Calendar December - March

The RC#13 Board of Directors meet monthly, the 2nd Wednesday (10:15 am-12:15pm) (except July & August).
If you would like to be a GUEST contact Patrick McCarthy (rc13president@retireecouncil13.com)

PLEASE CHECK CORRECTED DATES

VIRTUAL MEETINGS: (10:15 am-12:15pm)
Wed. - Dec. - 13
Wed. - Jan. - 10
Wed. - Feb. - 14
Wed. - March - 13

Contact Patrick McCarthy & a link will be sent.

November
21 SRP Recognition Day
January
1-New Year's Day
15-Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday observance
February
19-President's Day
March
31-Easter

**MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION FORM NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL #13**

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

January 1 – December 31, 2024



Name: _____ **Preferred Phone:** _____

Mailing Address (Street, City, Zip Code) PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Email: _____ (For RC13/NYSUT Use Only)

School District Retired From: _____

\$10.00 yearly recommended contribution

Made out to: **NYSUT RC # 13**

Mail form to: **NYSUT RC #13 TREASURER**

201 Stockade Drive, Kingston, NY 12401

I would be willing to work in the areas of: Newsletter _____ Social Events _____ Political Action _____

RC# 13 meetings are open to all NYSUT retirees & are held at the above address.



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

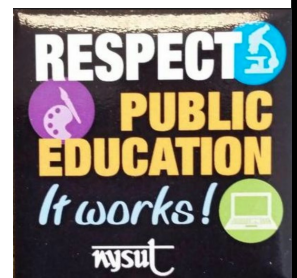
Co-editors are: Mary Lou Davis at maryloudavis125@gmail.com

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: March 1st

Visit the *NEW* RC#13 website for other useful information:
www.retireecouncil13.com



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