

the HHHART BEAT

Newsletter of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers
Fall, 2016

Volume 30, No. 1

HHH Teachers Association, 6268 Jericho Turnpike, Unit #10, Local 2701, NYSUT/AFT/AFL-CIO, Commack, NY 11725-2810

••••• *Reflections* •••••

Memories of the 1975 HHH Teachers Strike
by Fred Seiden

The strike was a watershed moment in the history of the TA. As a fledging teacher in his mid twenties, who was the Taukomas (now a BOCES school) building rep., I was an ideologue who aspired to elevate our profession to the level of dignity and respect that we teachers deserved. So, for me, the strike was filled with a sense of excitement and determination, and I was willing to make the necessary sacrifices.

My memories are filled with the daily picketing at my home school where a camaraderie grew among colleagues. Many parents, who kept their kids home, joined and supported us on the picket line. There were the scabs who crossed the picket line and aroused the wrath of some of the most angelic, if not prudish, teachers. Each day, the entire membership would converge in the ballroom of a local hotel for a “pep rally” to plan the next day’s strategies and energize our morale. Our president, Carol Roseman, a Taukomas colleague, was a savvy, outspoken, dynamic leader alla NYC’s Bella Abzug (Google the name). She inspired us.

Our quest for a fair contract reached beyond raises. In a time of plummeting enrollment, we achieved a masterful job security clause, which to this day stands as perhaps the only one in a Long Island school district. I am proud to say that I was part of the cause.



-----*The President's Message*-----



I hope you all will vote and attend the Phone Banks at the NYSUT Suffolk Office. **The dates for retirees are Tuesday October 18th and 25th as well as November 1st or any**

other times you are available. Scripts will be available and calls will be only to NYSUT members concerning local and state elections. It is so important that we all vote this year. We hope you will vote and, if you can, attend the phone banks some time between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. (Refreshments will be served!) Our pensions and health insurance are at stake if our Local and State Representatives who support education are not elected.

This is a very busy time of year. We started with our Annual Luncheon in September. It was well attended and our first speaker was TA President, Rich Haase. He told us about the exceptional new contract that he helped to secure for the Paras this year. There are now 400! It was easily approved by them. Mel Stern discussed the Delegates selected for endorsement for statewide positions and pointed out that they represented both Republicans and Democrats — the criteria being their support for Education.

I attended the CORTLI (Coalition of Retired Teachers on Long Island) Meeting in early September. CORTLI was the first organization on Long Island to organize all our Retired Teachers. I have been Treasurer for 20 years. In the last few years our membership grew smaller as a result of the establishment of the Retiree Councils by NYSUT. The early monthly meetings had reps from 50 Chapters attending. This number gradually fell to 9 this month. The problem was duplication of information received by reps who attended Local, Rep councils, area meetings, and regional conferences. A vote was taken at this last CORTLI meeting to disband. The remaining funds will be donated equally between the NYSUT Disaster Fund and the NYSUT Advisory Fund (which includes VOTE Cope and others).

HHHART is a member of Retiree Council #20 and was one of the founding chapters. A new chapter from Wyandanch was welcomed at the September 14th meeting, making a total of 11 in the Council. The date of RC 20's Annual

Luncheon is June 2nd at Captain Bill's in Bay Shore. Mark your calendar!

NYSUT's Regional Conference was held on October 6th at the Woodbury Country Club. About 350 attendees enjoyed breakfast and lunch with brief presentations by candidates running for the NY State Assembly and for Representatives for Congress from Long Island. During Lunch Tom Suozzi, Anna Thorne-Holst and DuWayne Gregory, candidates for Congress, addressed us. It was very informative. Six members of HHHART attended. Hopefully more of you will attend the NYSUT Regional Conference next time.

At our first Board Meeting of the year, members voted to make donations to the NYSUT Disaster Fund and the NYSUT Advocacy Fund which will help Vote Cope. This is a very important year to support Vote Cope. If you haven't contributed yet, or if you can increase your pledged amount, try to do it before Election Day! *Joan Petroske*



Input / Output



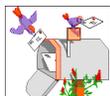
We are delighted to announce that Betty Volpe has agreed to assist in the publishing of *the HHHART Beat*. It is our pleasure to welcome her.

The significance of Election Day, November 8, 2016, is magnified by the fact that, in the past, the percentage of teachers who did not bother to vote was unbelievably large.

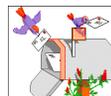
Although we are certain that Hall Hollow Hills retirees do vote, perhaps this can be an incentive for some of you to get involved in making phone calls to get out the vote.

We don't have to tell you how important this election is nationally and locally. It is obvious we have a lot at stake.

Sandy, Barbara & Betty



---Keep In Touch---



We are still spending our winter days near the ocean in beautiful Lauderdale by the Sea. There is so much to see and do in South Florida. My husband, Joe, recently got his Captain's license and transports sailboats along the East Coast. We love sailing on Long Island Sound in the summer. Thank you to the board members for your year round service for all of us.

Lois Rossbotham

Traveling, grandkids, golf, gardening keep Kevin and me quite busy these days. We had to attend five grandchildren's graduations in June-from Middle School to High School. Get to see HHH buddies often and I still meet with friends who I went to Elementary School with (in Half Hollow Hills). Rosemarie Sheetz and I have been friends since third grade- that's now sixty years YIKES!!

Alida McGuire

When I retired fifteen years ago, I decided I would try to learn something new each year. It started out with learning how to play golf, riding a motorcycle, and driving a 40 foot motorcoach. The last two years i have been learning to make pine needle baskets and playing the ukulele. The activities have gotten more sedate, but I am still enjoying the new challenges.

Ruth Elsner

I am the proud grandfather of six beautiful children-which includes two sets of twins. They are 11,7, 5 and 1. I teach at Nassau Community College, where I am a Full Professor , and I teach Biology at Suffolk Community College where I am an Associate Professor.

Vincent Sydlansky

Joe and I have moved to an independent living community in Miami, not too far from our son and family. It is a big change, but no cooking and no cleaning make it nice.

Adele Stein

Always happy to read news in Keep in Touch. I can't believe 16 years has passed since retirement. Two grandchildren are going to college-Hunter Jolicoeur to Chapel Hill and Carrie Chang to James Madison University to study Art. Busy getting things for college. I remember my going away and my kids going away-now my grandkids. I guess the beat goes on. Love to everyone

Merle Chang

It seems like the younger generation has less time to participate in community and civic NGO's than we had when we were young. I believe our free time makes it possible to fill the void our children and grandchildren now leave open because of the pressures of 21st century living. I enjoy traveling and snow-birding in my home in North Carolina, but I believe we owe the coming generations a valuable gift – more of our time participating (and leading) the effort to help save our planet and preserve it as a livable place in the future. So golf, travel, enjoy your grandchildren, but also think about the future and use your time for any and all worthwhile work to make our world and theirs better.... Just one man's thoughts.

Keith Bantz

Just a note of thanks to Joan Petroske. You are like the energizer bunny, constantly at work to make our lives at HHH better. Thank you for all the years past, present and wishing you a long healthy future.

Andrea Dankenbrink

Three of my five children married this past year. I am enjoying playing tennis, and my part time job as Long Island Admissions Rep. for The College of New Jersey.

John Macpherson

Life is good. Living near my grandkids and being "Grammy" is good. Grace is 7 , C.J. is 3, and sweet Sadie is 10 months old. I am also still nursing, volunteering at a free clinic in the Northern Georgia Mountains. Another Long Islander and I run the diabetic clinic. Very rewarding and a way to give back.

Linda Julia

FYI: A 9/11 memorial dedication took place on Sunday, September 11th, in the Plainview Old Bethpage Alma Crab Memorial Library Garden. A beautiful ten-foot steel sculpture by sculptor David Haussler and his associate sculptor, **Anthony Ingoglia** (H.S. West) features a piece of steel from the World Trade Center Towers to memorialize the fifteenth anniversary of 9/11. If you're in the Plainview area, do stop by the Library to see this fantastic work of art that rotates in the wind.

Joan Danacek

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8th
Be sure you're registered to vote.

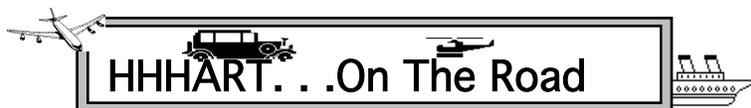
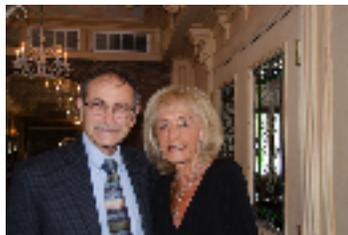
HHHART Fall Luncheon

As Joan reported in her Presidents Message, our Fall Luncheon was well attended with good food, lots of socializing, and information from Rich Haase on the state of our inservice teachers and the state of our political state from Mel Stern. Dick Lee provided written information on our insurances.

Three of our new retirees – Francis Arico, Susan Julian, Gloria Mandell – attended. **WELCOME**

As always, it was a pleasant and informative afternoon. We will post the many pictures that were taken in this issue and in future issues.

Barbara Arbuss



Hello my Half Hollow Hills colleagues:

I can't believe that I will be retired 20 years this month. Time does fly. The summer of 2015 was a very adventurous summer for us. My wife, Lana, and I decided to do a road trip around this great country of ours.

We left Florida on July 6th and flew into Denver. In our rented luxury car we drove 9000 miles in seven weeks and saw and experienced not only the wonders of our marvelous country but also the warmth and friendliness of our people around this nation. That included cities as well as boonies, where we would expect it. Many of us, including myself, consider travel to foreign lands before traveling here in the U.S.

If you haven't been across our country, you are truly missing, not only the majesty of mountains, but also the true miracles of nature and the foresight of our government to preserve these natural phenomena by creating national parks and national historic sites. If you haven't visited many of the sites, you are missing some of the wonders of this world.

The glaciers are melting and are predicted to be gone in the lower 48 within the next 15 years. The Canadian Rockies Glaciers may be gone within the next 35 years. If you haven't seen or had the opportunity to canoe a Glacial Lake, you're missing an experience. Our trip ended in Chicago to visit with some friends and family. This visit was my first real experience in Chicago.

Irwin Becker

My husband and I recently visited Ireland. My daughter and son-in-law planned the trip and we invited my life long best friend to join us. What an exciting adventure we all had.

Last summer we visited southern Italy. Our son-in-law's family lives in Reggio de Calabria and he and our daughter planned that wonderful trip, as well as Madrid, Rome, and Sicily which were very memorable stops. But Reggio stole our hearts. Fred and I are wondering what our children are planning for next summer, as the adventures continue.

Roberta Scheurman

Know Your Benefits

Dick Lee, Welfare Trust Fund Administrator

Retiree Dental Coverage

Although we don't endorse any one specific dental plan for retirees, we do review plans that we believe may fit the objectives of our HHHART members. Some of our members are looking for a comprehensive plan, similar to the coverage they had as active members, while others are looking for a discount plan that participating providers give to retirees on a wide variety of dental procedures. Of course the cost of these plans increase with the type of coverage you desire.

One of the most important factors in any program is whether your dentist is a participating provider. To receive the most "bang for your buck" you should use a dentist who participates in the plan you select. Most plans will provide you with a website to find out the participating providers in your area.

The four optional dental plans we have found to be popular with some of our HHHART members are:

NYS Retired School Emp.	Dental Discount Program through CIGNA	www.cignaplussavings.com CODE: NYRS0710 1-877-521-0244
NYSUT Dental Plan	Through Met Life	800-342-9810
AFT Dental Plan	Through Careington Identify yourself as an AFT member	888-949-8184
EDP Dental (Discount Plan)	Identify yourself as an HHHART member	877-327-8376

With our review of our national affiliates (NEA) member benefits, we came across their dental plan. This comprehensive plan, in partnership with *Renaissance Dental*, is a fifth option you might want to explore. It features no waiting periods, implant and denture coverage and an annual maximum of \$1,200. The current cost of coverage is:

Individual - \$37.70 per month

Individual and one dependent - \$70.62 per month

Family - \$92.11 per month

To examine this plan more closely and locate participating providers visit www.neamb.com or call 855-865-2285

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8th
Know where your polling place is.

Financial advice shouldn't be a one-size-fits-all approach!

Are you looking for unbiased, objective advice *specifically designed* for you and your family? With the NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Financial Counseling Program, you've found it.

Stacey Braun Associates -- the program provider -- understands our members' benefits & retirement options and can work with you to address your specific financial needs.



Learn more by calling 800-626-8101
or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.

Get expert legal assistance today!

You can get legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters ranging from dealing with a traffic violation to handling real estate transactions with the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan.

Easy Online Enrollment!

The program offers:

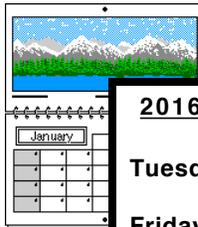
- Low annual cost of just \$85 (\$55 for retirees)
- Unlimited toll-free legal advice
- Includes Simple Will, Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy & Living Will
- Two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney

Learn more by calling 800-626-8101
or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.





Mark Your Calendar



2016-17

Tuesday, November 8th Election Day

Friday, June 2nd

RC #20 Luncheon
Captain Bill's

Don't Forget
To
Vote!

IN MEMORIAM

Elvira Hoops
June, 2016

The HHHART Newsletter is a publication of the
Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers

631-499-4240

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HHHART Web Address

<http://www.hhhart.net>

Notice to all NYSTRS Retirees (prior to May 31 2016) who are U.S. Military Veterans

The new law signed by Governor Cuomo now granting the use of previously non-eligible military service time toward pension calculation in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) is still only a halfhearted measure at veteran equalization within the TRS.

Problem with the law:

•This new law does indeed allow for **in-service teachers ONLY** (those who have not yet retired prior to May 31, 2016) to purchase back military service time toward their pension calculations regardless of when the service occurred (during peacetime or time of war or other conflict).

•The active military service must have been for at **least five years**, in order to purchase back a **maximum of three years**.

Only veteran/teachers who will retire **after May 31, 2016 are eligible**.

These three stipulations discriminate against older teacher/veterans who have already retired (prior to May 31, 2016), and furthermore it increases the number of active duty **military service to five years** in order to buy back just **three years toward pension calculations**.

•Therefore, we urge all NYSTRS members who believe that they fall into this category to contact their local and state representatives, in order to have this law amended/extended to include all veterans, regardless of when they retired, and who have at **least three years of active military service**.

If you are unsure about who to contact, or if you believe that you are eligible for the buyback under the most recent law, or how it should be amended to include retired NYSUT member/military veterans, please contact your local NYS Legislators.

Thank you, Dr. Lou D'Aquila, D.A., CFT, ET