

the

HHHART BEAT

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

Volume 29, No. 4

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

HHHART Fall Luncheon

Wednesday, September 7, 2016



The Bonwit Inn
1 Vanderbilt Parkway
Commack, NY

Time: 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Menu:

First Course: Greek Salad
Second Course: Penna Vodka
Main Course: Choice of: chicken, fish of the day, veal marsala, beef short ribs, eggplant rollentine
Dessert: Cake or fruit
Beverages: Soda, iced tea, coffee, tea

Cost \$32

(Call 631-499-2068 for directions)

Please reserve _____ (places)

Name(s) _____

Check for _____ enclosed (\$32 per person)

Check made out to Marilyn Kellman must be received by August 30th.

Send to: Marilyn Kellman, 114 Maytime Drive, Jericho, NY 11753

— *The President's Message* —

As we approach the end of the school year, there have been many happenings in the district and at the state level.

You have probably seen the news about the Common Core testing and the large numbers of students opting out of the tests. This has resulted in coalitions developing among parents, teachers, students, and state officials who have participated in a dialogue which pressured officials to look at changes. Most recently, test questions have been made available to educators to help develop a curriculum that will prepare students for the tests. The State Education Department and the new Board of Regents have joined in the dialogue.

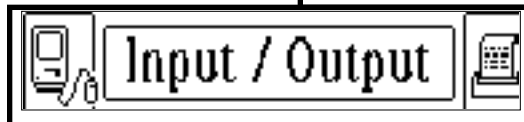


The school budget votes passed with only two exceptions in Suffolk County. Half Hollow's Board of Education and the Teachers' Association have been working together to keep the number of excessed teachers to a minimum. Presently only four are affected. The cutoff date for retiring was advanced to June 1st and, currently, there are sixteen who have applied. One of the problems with staffing is that the enrollment for Kindergartners is only 400 and we have 800 seniors graduating. That will cause reductions in sections for some time ahead. Rich Haase, TA President, has just completed negotiations for the Paras' new contract which seems to be an improvement over the old one.

A new State Education requirement may also affect Retirees. All teachers with permanent certification will have to register every five years beginning with the 2016 school year. Presently, the law requires all teachers to notify the State Education Department of their intentions in July and then register during their birth month every five years. There is no fee unless you fail to do this and then a fine of \$10 per month would be imposed. This would apply to any retiree who wants to maintain certification. There should be more details coming in July.

Plan to attend our Annual Luncheon on September 7th at the Bonwit Inn. (see our cover page) On October 6th, the NYSUT Regional Conference will be held at the Woodbury Country Club. A registration form will be sent to you. See you there! Enjoy the summer!

Joan Petroske -2-



This is an important political year, nationally and locally. Be sure you're registered to vote and BE SURE TO VOTE. In many of the articles in this newsletter, we have tried to provide as much information as we can on the issues which can have enormous impact on our lives.

We hope you have a relaxed, healthy, happy summer.

Sandy, Norma and Barbara



Teacher/Para Retirees 2016

Elementary

Signal Hill

Maryann Cipriano

Sunquam

Susan Julian

Vanderbilt

Camille Lynch

Districtwide

Rosalie Clements

Secondary

High School East

Karen Giordano

Christine Inglis

Gloria Mandell

High School West

Frances Arico

Donna Gross

Vincenza Napolitano

Joseph Toles

Candlewood

Diana Clark

Valery Levy

West Hollow

Norva Evelyn

Leona Handleman

Donna Hopkins

Meryl Porter

Eleni Yanakis



--- Keep In Touch ---



I continue to thrive in retirement. My marriage partner, Gary Garland, joined me as a retiree last year. We've since enjoyed trips to Ghana (tribal villages and rituals on a 2000-mile journey around the country); Turkey (Greek/Roman/Byzantine antiquities and the charms of Cappadocia); Botswana (bush camping, phenomenal African wildlife and re-visiting Victoria Falls); and Norway (round trip Bergen to the Russian border in the Arctic at Kirkenes via coastal cargo/passenger ferry).

We drove cross-country in January to spend the month with long-time friends in Tucson and ended up buying a beautiful house on the Sonoran Desert. We still have our home on the New River Gorge in southern West Virginia, where we have multiple booths at an antique mall to sell vintage books, paper and collectibles. We also continue to set up at trade shows to sell antique postcards. Centerport, Long Island remains our primary home, but Tucson will call to us for the winter. Life is very good. I remain grateful to Half Hollow Hills for my career and the lifestyle I'm able to have.

Paul Kreyling

Enjoying retirement with good weather and fine people. A big fan of the UTEP Miner's in football (Sun Bowl) and basketball (Cat Haskins Center). Have many new friends at the gym. Enjoy family of four sisters and extended family. Anne and I are proud great-grandparents of Nolon Laurence Rudolph, carrier of the family surname

Jim Rudolf

I retired from Half Hollow Hills in 2004. I was a districtwide psychologist, spending time at Forest Park, Vanderbilt, West Hollow, Paumanok, and Candlewood. I was in private clinical practice in Northport Village for many years and closed my office recently. I have continued to read the HHHART Newsletter and must compliment the staff....I can certainly see why awards have been garnered for the articles that have been written. My novel, *AN IMPORTANT DAY*, was launched this April on Amazon.com. I am having fun with my two grandsons, spending more time reading, fishing, and getting to Broadway. Thanks for all that you do!

John J. Siefring

HHHART dues are due July 1st.
Payment will be accepted no later
than September 30th.

We have put our beautiful home up for sale in a developed new area of Orlando. (our children wanted us back on L.I.) I'm still imagineering, creating, writing, reading, crafting, sewing, painting and teaching. We are enjoying the family including our four great-grandkids: two here and two in Tennessee.

Carol Koster Huffman

I finally came back to L.I. for a visit with many friends. I stayed with Al Ladasky and hosted a mini reunion of former Burr's Lane teachers and students. Attending were Jack Kennedy, Dennis Vanek, Bob McCrudden, Marc Steinman, Al Ladasky, Lou Spiegel, Lori Emert Steck, Louise Meier DeTurris, Jeff Otto, Ray Vlacancich and his wife Valerie Flerx, Mike Mercurio, Kenny DeCanio, Doug Gerbino, Carlene Auriemma, and Darren Helgesen. We had a great time reminiscing about old times at Burr's. I will have to do this again with even more students. It's wonderful to see what they've done with their lives.

I also was able to reunite with Diane and Phil Kordula and Jean and Kevin Ryniker. A fringe benefit for me was to see my beautiful nieces and my great-nephew, Dylan.

I wish I had more time to spend on L.I., but I had already been away for three weeks. My L.I. visit followed my Florida vacation to see my college roommate.

After I got home, Jill and Bruce Benedict stopped overnight for a visit. This happened to coincide with my birthday, so we had a fantastic time.

I also reconnected with Rod Penny, who is now 92 and living with his daughter in upstate N.Y. Through Facebook, I was able to convince former Burr's Laners to reach out to him in his twilight years. He was so happy and thrilled with all the blessings that were sent his way. He is a wonderful man and deserves all the accolades. I feel so fulfilled after this amazing summer. (2015) I hope all of you are happy and enjoying life.

Dottie Leelike

When sending an e-mail to either Barbara or Sandy, be sure to put in the subject FOR THE HHHART BEAT. If your e-mail address is unknown, we do not open it.

Welfare Trust Fund Benefits

Dick Lee, Administrator HHHTA Trust Fund

Traveler's Assistance Update

A few years ago we notified our members of a free NYSUT Travel and Medical Assistance Benefit underwritten by MEDEX. NYSUT Benefit Trust is **NO LONGER** affiliated with this service. They have replaced it with a new program called **EUROP ASSISTANCE** from Chub Travel Assist. This is an enhancement to your no-cost-to-you Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance you are automatically enrolled in as a NYSUT member.

The program puts you in touch with a network of providers that can address the medical and legal needs of travelers. So if you, or a covered family member traveling with you, become seriously ill, need a prescription refilled, require a legal referral, or lose your passport when traveling, EUROP ASSISTANCE can help you. To ensure that you are well-prepared before your trip, the program provides access to essential information such as travel advisories and immunization requirements.

The following is a list of some of the services EUROP ASSISTANCE will provide to sick or injured travelers:

Medical Assistance Services

- Worldwide Medical and Dental Referrals
- Monitoring Treatment
- Facilitation of Hospital Payments
- Transfer of Insurance Information to Medical Providers
- Medication, Vaccine and Blood Transfers
- Dispatch of Doctors and Specialists
- Transfer of Medical Records
- Continuous Updates to Family, Employer and Home Physician
- Hotel Arrangements for Convalescence
- Replacement Corrective Lenses and Medical Devices

Travel Assistance Services

- Replacement of Lost or Stolen Travel Documents
- Emergency Travel Arrangements
- Transfer of Funds
- Legal Referrals
- Translation Services
- Message Transmittals

Travel Risk Intelligence

- Pre Travel Information
- Travel and Health Information
- Real-Time Security Intelligence

Coordinators are available 24/7 and may be contacted toll-free at **(1) 888-848-1041** from the U.S and Canada. From other international locations you may call collect: **(1) 240-330-1577**. EUROP ASSISTANCE is there to assist you with any type of travel problem, regardless of the severity. Please note that EUROP ASSISTANCE will provide coordination for any service, but **will not provide any payment**. For more detailed information about your NYSUT Membership's free Death and Dismemberment Policy with EUROP ASSISTANCE, visit NYSUT.org and click on "***Login to my NYSUT***" on the top of the homepage.

Clip and use the wallet card on page 8 whenever you travel:

Recently, my husband Bill and I had the opportunity to visit Cuba which had not been open to U.S. travel for more than 50 years. Since I live in Boca Raton Fl., this was a 36 minute flight from Miami.

We landed in Jose Marti airport in Havana, Cuba's colorful Capitol. On the way to our super modern Hotel Melia we saw Spanish Colonial architecture dating back to the 16th century, colorful American made cars (shiny and new looking) from the fifties, and musical groups in the streets.

We drove through the Malecon and Plaza De Revolution (a symbol of Cuba's struggle for independence). There were great statues of Che Guerara and Fidel Castro and Jose Marti. We toured Hemingway's home and The National Hotel (made famous by Hollywood stars in the 50's). We also saw many buildings among crumbling streets.

We traversed the country from Havana to Cienfuego to Trinidad. We saw houses built of pottery, tobacco farmers (who taught us how to roll cigars), rainforests, painted mountain peaks, rivers and caves

American dollars are not accepted in Cuba. There is no internet service or cell phone service that we could access.

This experience was enlightening and disabused us of many prejudices that we had.

Myra Reider

We had a European adventure to Madrid and Italy. While in Italy we visited Rome, Sicily and Reggiodi Calabria, where our son-in-law's family resides. Many beautiful memories of all the things we did there will be cherished forever.

Roberta Scheuerman

In August of 2015, I took a trip to the West Coast of Greenland and the Canadian High Arctic. (After having been to Antarctica, I felt I should go to the opposite end of the world.) There were 94 of us from all over the world along with 13 staff lecturers from six different countries. Of the five Greenland stops, the most northerly village was Qaanaaq and the most northerly Canadian High Arctic stop was at Ellesmere Island. We followed the 'footsteps' of British explorer. Sir John Franklin, who on his third expedition 1845-47, disappeared with 129 men in the search of the Arctic Northwest Passage.

The Inuit of Qaanaaq, Greenland, still hunt for a living as they only get supplies from Denmark once a year and the Canadian Inuit on Grise Fjord, Ellesmere Island, only get supplies once a year. One is only allowed to play with sled dog pups which roam freely. If a full grown dog (usually tied up and kept far from walkways) bites a person, the dog must be killed and there goes the owner's livelihood.

We saw the monument to Matthew Perry and the graves of four men who died in search of Franklin (one man came from the Pacific passage and three came from the Atlantic passage) on Beechey Island; two glaciers; many icebergs (but not as many or as big as in Antarctica); Thule ruins from 500-800 years ago; many birds, polar bears (not up close), a walrus, and seals. I really enjoyed the expedition hikes, zodiac excursions, cultural demonstrations, interesting talks with visuals, but I was disappointed not to see any narwhals and musk ox. Well, there are still other places in the Arctic to visit in the future. Knock on wood.

Joan Vanecek



Where Are They Now?

Three of the four Petraco brothers became doctors. Douglas was featured in the Summer edition of the community newsletter of St. Charles Hospital (Port Jefferson 2015). As Director of the Orthopedics Department, he recently received the Theodore Roosevelt Award. Another one delivers babies at St. Charles The fourth brother is a successful businessman. *John A. Hewlett*

Vote
cope

The Vote drive continues.

Send your 2016 **VOTE/COPE** donation to the TA Office or enroll in the NYSUT automatic pension deduction plan. \$25 or more suggested.

(January, 2016, to December, 2016)

The HHHART Annual Meeting

What a wonderful informative meeting HHHART had today! Meeting at the NYSUT office, thirty plus retirees convened to enjoy friends, coffee and nosh, and to catch up on what is happening with the active teachers and on the issues facing the retiree.

Joan Petroske, HHHART President, and the Board presented an interesting agenda. Joan introduced our Board and the President of the active Teachers' Association, Richard Haase, who discussed the challenge of declining enrollment in HHH and the State Budget, remarking that this year has been good for State aid to the districts. (See Joan's message on page two for more information.) Of concern is the plight of the paraprofessionals who are members of our union. They are actually paying up to 40% of their health insurance and bringing home very little in their paychecks.

Joan introduced the Board and advised us of upcoming events. Malinda Dobrins, HHHART Secretary, asked for volunteers to help with the dues collection. She also explained the need for a person to take care of our e-mail correspondence. The Board is actively seeking help in this area.

Next on the agenda was Dick Lee who is our Welfare Trust Administrator. Dick stressed that we must be vigilant in keeping our union dues paid, as we risk losing NYSUT benefits and the HHH Excess Medical (if you are enrolled). He strongly suggests that we set up some sort of "Third Party System" whereby you have designated someone else to pay your dues in case you become unable to take care of your bills. On another topic, Dick mentioned a change in the Traveler's Assistance through NYSUT. The new program is called *Europ Assistance*. He provided those of us at the meeting with handouts on this program, Eldercare, and the Health Advocate.

Mel Stern, our Political Action Coordinator, got us up-to-date on what was going on in the State.

- He will be meeting with assemblymen to focus on fixing the APPR, the testing system, and insuring that the voucher bill doesn't take more from public schools,
- Mel stated that we were successful in getting change on the Board of Regents. Most of the current regents are against Common Core testing. A coalition of teachers, parents, regents, and higher education are at odds with Governor Cuomo.
- The State is putting some districts in "receivership" – meaning that the state can take over and make decisions for the school district. The Union is against this.
- There are bills going through the legislature to give districts more aid.
- The Friedrich's decision was discussed. The next Supreme Court Justice will have the opportunity to influence the future of this decision.
- NYSHIP buy back: Cuomo has proposed to eliminate buy back, which is the spousal rebate, if there is duplicate insurance.
- In November, 2017, there may be a proposition to open a Constitutional Convention. Free education K-12, more money to charter schools. teacher guarantees, retirement money can be changed. The dilemma is how to convince the public to vote against this.

Mel also reminded us of Verizon being on strike. (After our meeting, the strike was settled.)

We learned a great deal at this meeting.

Betty Volpe





Save with NYSUT Member Benefits

The NYSUT membership is made up of a variety of diverse professionals within the education and health care industries – joining together in support of those who depend on them. We salute these men and women for their dedication and the sacrifices they make on a daily basis to help improve the lives of others.

And we are proud to offer you -- the hard-working NYSUT member -- an opportunity to participate in the more than 40 endorsed programs & services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits.

Look to Member Benefits for crucial insurance programs such as auto, homeowners, life, disability, or long-term care insurance. Member Benefits also offers a variety of travel, entertainment & shopping options to help you with everything from daily purchases to those special once-in-a-lifetime excursions.

The following is just a sampling of the endorsed programs & services available to NYSUT members & their families:

- Homeowners Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Legal Service Plan
- Financial Counseling Program
- Life Insurance
- Vision Plan
- ID Watchdog
- PayCheck Direct
- Car & Truck Rentals
- Wyndham Hotels
- Endless Vacation Rentals
- Buyer's Edge, Inc.

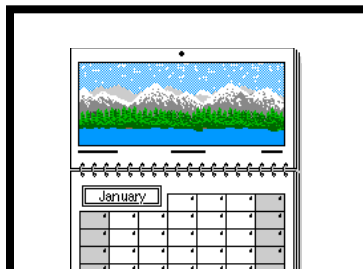


To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101**.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Mark Your Calendar



Welcome
Summer

2016

Friday, July 1st	HHHART annual dues are due
Wednesday, September 7th	HHHART Fall Luncheon Bonwit Inn
Thursday, October 6th	NYSUT Regional Conference Woodbury Country Club
TBA	CORTLI Luncheon

The HHHART Newsletter is a publication of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers 631-499-4240

President	Joan Petroske
Vice President	Eileen Lohrey
Treasurer	Fred Seiden
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Trust Fund Administrator	Dick Lee
Political Action Coordinator	Mel Stern
Newsletter Publisher /Co-Eds	Barbara Arbuss
	Sandra Glickma
HHHART Web Address	http://www.hhhart.net



Congratulations to Dick Lee

Once again, *the HHHART Beat* has received recognition from NYSUT's Communications Competition, this time for The Best Writing 2, Class R III, Award of Distinction which was presented for Dick Lee's column, *Know Your Benefits*, titled *Your Most Valuable Benefit Could Be In Danger*.

The Judges' commented: "A timely and important article on how a state constitutional convention could endanger entitlements including pension rights and civil service rights.... I have read so many essays about a constitutional convention, I did not think I could read another one. This writer proved me wrong. It is a skilled, persuasive essay that clearly spells out the issues and then also provides a specific strategy of supporting VOTE/COPE.

Sandy Glickman

IN MEMORIAM

Larry Genovese
May, 2016
LA


Barbara Samoske
May, 2016
NT

Stanley Francis Kowalski Jr.
June, 2016
PE

Summer hours for the Half Hollow Hills

Teachers Association:

Monday to Thursday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.
Closed Fridays and the last week of July and the first week of August.
Website: HHHTA.com

 **Travel and Medical Assistance**
Coordinator Available to help 24/7

NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS

Policyholder Name _____


9907-06-61

Policy Number _____

10/01/2011

Policy Effective Date _____

Call toll-free 888-848-1041 from the U.S. and Canada. From other international locations, call collect: 1-240-330-1577.



Travel Risk Intelligence Portal access:
www.chubb.com/travelhelp/ndm

For first-time activation, use the following codes for initial registration:

Group ID: N2CHUNDM
Activation Code: 20130503

In the event of a life-threatening emergency, please call the local emergency authorities to receive immediate assistance, and then contact Europ Assistance.