

the **HHHART BEAT**

Newsletter of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers
Fall, 2015

Volume 29, No. 1

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

POLITICAL ACTION

Mel Stern NYSUT Suffolk Political Action Coordinator

As the summer ends and the autumnal equinox looms ahead we can be confident that the political "games" surrounding us never seem to have a dull moment. To begin, with a positive note (for a change), the tide continues to turn for a complete overhaul of the common core curriculum coupled with the ludicrous overtesting of students and teacher evaluation plan that mandates that these test scores count for 50% of teachers' ratings- and continued employment.

In spite of the fact that this "system" has become law, due to legislative and Governor Cuomo's approval, it now appears that they are having second thoughts. The opt-out movement, sparked by parents and backed by NYSUT, has gained the support of school boards, administrators and many education activists in addition to many members of the Board of Regents. Even Cuomo, not one to acquiesce on anything, finally acknowledged that the common core is in need of revision and hopefully, with a push from the Regents and some of the more enlightened legislators, we will see meaningful, positive changes to this very flawed system. Let's keep up the battle by supporting OUR UNION and other advocates, for a fairer, more sensible approach to teaching, testing and accountability.

On another- also serious subject, with Labor Day just behind us, let us remember the accomplishments of unions in supporting the working men and women of this country. They constantly strive to improve salaries, working conditions, benefits and human rights. We continue to battle the forces committed to destroying all that we have gained.

Presidential candidates such as Scott Walker, Donald Trump, and Ted Cruz vow to basically eradicate our hard fought rights. We must stand UNITED as we strive to retain collective bargaining, job security, and, of course, our pensions. Never before have we faced such blatant anti-union rhetoric from so many. Our Supreme Court will soon decide whether or not our members must pay union dues. This decision, if it goes the wrong way, could greatly diminish our membership and our ability to stand up to the bullies that seek to destroy us!

I will continue to fight, as an advocate for public education and unions and I sincerely hope that you will ALL join me in this struggle to survive.

We are nearing the end of organizing and updating our membership database for a new retiree directory to be distributed to all our members. We hope to print and mail it this fall.

If you do NOT want your information published in the directory, please contact the Teachers Association asap. We use the directory to contact our members. If you are not listed, this may impact our ability to contact you.

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

Our Annual Luncheon, held on Wednesday, September 9th at the Bonwit Inn was attended by 44 members. It was a beautiful day and the menu selections were enjoyed by all. Helen Chipkin and her committee of Board members did a great job.



Our TA President, Rich Haase, told us that in spite of many districts having great difficulties with negotiating contracts this year, our team was successful in presenting one that was well accepted by the staff and continues until 2019. In spite of decreased enrollments in some areas, 20 new staff members were welcomed to HHH!



Mel Stern, our Political Action representative and Past TA President, spoke of the threat to our pensions and the loss of dues deductions for unions if the Constitutional Convention is voted for. Those items are protected in the existing Constitution. We must stand together and vote NO against amending the Constitution!

I recently received our Vote Cope report for 2014 from Albany and was pleased to see that HHHART's total contributions were \$9147. However that amount was given by only 238 or about 1/3rd of our 675 members. NYSUT has been involved in many legal actions and suits this year protecting the rights of all our teachers. And they will have many more in the fight to support those candidates who support education, our students, and our teachers in the upcoming elections. If you didn't contribute last year please try to help this year. The easiest way to do this is to make automatic deductions from your monthly Pension checks. Forms to do this are available from the NYSUT offices in Nassau and Suffolk and also from the HHH office. A few dollars a month from everyone will make a big difference. Thanks!

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3rd
Be sure you're registered to vote.

I hope you read the BLOG on our website, HHHART.net/blog, with the announcement of the 20th Anniversary Reunion of the 1995 classes of HHH East and West. It was held at the Hyatt Regency on Vanderbilt Parkway in Hauppauge on October 3rd at 8 p.m.

Did you know that A recent research study at the University of Iowa found that higher Social Security Benefits increase cognitive function.



Joan Detroske



Input / Output



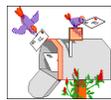
Thank you to all of you who responded so promptly to our S.O.S. for articles for our columns: *Keep In Touch, For Your Information, On The Road, Reflections, Where Are They Now.* Any time you wish to share, feel free to send your input to: barbuss@aol.com. Be sure to put *HHHART Newsletter* in the subject so it won't be deleted.

Our aim is to provide a forum for our fellow retirees to share. People always mention that they love hearing about their colleagues. We divide all the responses among the four issues of the *HHHARTBeat*. so each issue has some information from as many of our colleagues as possible.

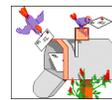
The day of our Fall Luncheon was beautiful. It was good to see so many of you there. As always, we all had a good time. Joan opened by reviewing some recent happenings that affect retirees.

We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to our fellow publisher/editor, Norma Smith, who fell, had a medical procedure, and is in ongoing rehab.

Sandy, Barbara & Norma



---Keep In Touch---



Had open heart surgery at Cornell Medical Center, NY. Doing very well and so thankful that God has kept Pat and me together all these years – 67. Pat is 91 and I am 88. We spend six months in NY and six months in Florida. Love to all.

Carmela Basilice

I'll be 92 in September and am fairly healthy too. Life in Florida is good. I have been here for twenty-eight years. I will always miss life on Long Island. I still have memories of my eighteen years at HHH. I've become a Hot House flower now with remembrances of the best of both worlds. I have nineteen great-grandchildren. *Dorothy See*

On July 6th, I will be traveling to Japan and Okinawa with a group of eighteen Martial Artists to work out with the Karate Masters of Naha, Okinawa. We will also be visiting the Ancient Castles and Dojos of the 1300's and 1400's, where Karate was developed. *Lou Di Blasi*

Upon returning to my home from a trip, I learned that my soon to be 103 year old mom Betty Bezas, is deteriorating so I have placed myself "on call". Some of you may remember her. She began working in the late 1940's at the old, old Hills School when the principal was Mr. MacNiece. My mom, and three other ladies are responsible for the creation of the PTA in CSD#5. Long story short, she retired from HHH while employed as the cafeteria manager of High School East. High School West had not been constructed yet. Many of those she knew at East have long since passed, but some of you are still here (thankfully!) and may remember the days when HHH was family.

To all the retirees: Stay healthy, happy, productive. Nice to share with you,

Loretta Janeli

Thank you for updating our HHH news.

Eileen Harrington



We sold our home in Hauppauge and have moved to Jupiter. We are renting for several month while our home is being renovated. It is beautiful here and we are very excited to start a new chapter in our lives together.

Susan Stevens-Oillani

I'm doing well here in S.C. At 85 still playing golf and enjoy ushering school children's cultural programs at Clemson university *Jo Leibfried*. We were so happy to have spent last winter in Florida! Hope all our friends up North survived. John and I are planning to cruise the Danube this summer and the Panama Canal in the fall.

Kathy Greguski

Life is great in Athens , GA – living the good life with tennis daily – on four teams. I have gone to state competition in Savannah four years in a row with my over-fifty-five team. I am captaining an over-forty team. Bill is very involved in the university and tennis as well and we get the greatest pleasure from seeing and babysitting our four grandsons! We are off to Amsterdam soon for a great vacation. *Fran Hugunine*

My son, Judd, had a reading, signing and pontification (pontification will be suspended upon demand) at the Book Revue in Huntington on September 16th for his book *HiLo, The Boy Who Crashed To Earth*. *Barbara Winick*

Still spending most of my life in Eaton's Neck and wintering in Miami. I also enjoy traveling out of the country several times a year. When home, I am tending my pups and doing shows. I will be playing the role of Mr. Banks in *MARY POPPINS* right before Thanksgiving. Life is good. *Larry Boddy*

I cannot believe that I retired nine years ago. Don has retired as well and we are enjoying our summers on LI and our winters in Miami Beach. The children are doing well and the grandchildren are in their senior year of high school. College is just around the corner. Time sure flies by. Life is good!

Marilyn Stevenson

Know Your Benefits

Dick Lee, Welfare Trust Fund Administrator

NYSUT Social Services Benefits

NYSUT's Social Services has been serving Union members since 2001 and is committed to improving the professional and personal lives of its members. Their service is confidential and there is no fee.

If you find yourself or a family member in need of a referral for counseling, assistance in specialized services for a disabling condition, relationship issues, the location of a support group, assistance in planning for the care of your loved ones, information about retirement living options, advice and support in reference to an imminent hospitalization, they are as near as your telephone.

Their staff can offer preliminary guidance about health insurance issues, and direct you to experts versed in specific issues relating to eligibility and coverage.

Finally, they provide follow-up and reassurance through difficult times and periodic telephone contact for those in need.

Please give them a call at 1-800-342-9810, ext. 6206 if you need their help. No problem or question is unimportant to them. Or if you prefer, e-mail them at socsvcs@nysutmail.org

NYS Office for the Aging

This state organization offers retirees a myriad of services and guides designed to help seniors find the resources available to them from our state government. The following is a list of NYSOFA material available on their website www.aging.ny.gov.

- Comprehensive Senior Citizens Resource Guide
- Listing of Local Offices for the Aging
- Listing of Programs and Services – Eligibility, how to access
- Benefits Assistance through www.mybenefits.ny.gov
- Caregiver Resources
- Medicare Preventions and Screening Benefits
- HIICAP Contact List
- NY Connects and Comprehensive Searchable Database
- Livable NY Resources
- LTCOP Program Resources
- Consumer Protection Resources
- Disaster Preparedness Resources
- Veterans Benefits
- Employment and Volunteer Opportunities
- Taxes and Exemptions

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I have completed one of my "bucket list" items! Returned from Mackinac Island, Michigan after a lovely stay at The Grand Hotel. I learned something: the island is spelled M-a-c-k-i-n-a-c while the mainland is spelled M-a-c-k-i-n-a-w, both pronounced Mackinaw. The reason for this is that the post office didn't know if the address was on the island or the mainland, so the spelling of the name was changed! I assume this was done before the introduction of the zip code.

It was an interesting trip and I enjoyed being taken about with the horse drawn carriages. You would think that the island would be, well, let's say messy with all the horses, but it was not. In fact, it was very clean and tidy as gentlemen are hired to clean up after the horses. This manure is used in the fertilization of the plants and the many blooms are evidence of a well organized environmental and gardening system.



Loretta Janeli

The summer has sped by with a lovely trip to Italy with my entire family: children and grandchildren. We did tours and ended our stay in the town where my mom and dad were born. I was happy that the kids could meet their cousins. Everyone was thrilled with the trip. Italy is so fabulous, so much to see. We'll have to go back. I have been playing some bridge and tennis tournaments. So very busy, well, and happy.

Fran Kranz

Winter of 2015 was a good year for ski trips out west and for having additional unplanned stays on both trips to Colorado thanks to the snow storms visiting our country ahead of my return flights. Lucky me arrived home from one of them 52 hours later (with a 4 1/2 hour wait in line for Customer Relations), but I always had a roof over my head and a comfortable bed to sleep in for each cancellation and rerouting. Mother Nature always makes life very interesting.

In May of this year my dear friends, Maren and Darrell Roelofs, and I went on a 15 day land tour and river cruise in France on the Rhone & Saone Rivers (Monte Carlo to Paris). We celebrated Darrell's 1 1/2 year recovery from colon cancer. The small ship was lovely and there were just 95 of us visiting towns along the way. Many were originally Roman settlements with 18 miles between each because this is what a Roman soldier could walk in a day. There are still Roman ruins (coliseums and theatres) in evidence and in present day use. Visited chateaux for wine tastings and lunches and tours of the residences. We even met a count and his wife whose chateau and vineyard has been in the family for hundred of years and he was trying hard to keep up the tradition. I was glad to visit Paris for the 3rd time as there are always somethings I had missed on previous visits.

Joan Vanecek



If a retiree has information for either "happy" or "sad" news for e-mail, please make sure all the information is correct as I cannot send corrections. Our e-mail data base contains 556 addresses and a number of our retirees do not live on Long Island. Thank you. *Malinda Dobrins, Secretary*

Please notify HHHART Secretary Malinda Dobrins, lotsofdimples@optonline.net, and/or Marlene Flanagan, spirals@optonline.net, when you change your e-mail address. This will keep you in the loop of the news concerning our retirement group. We don't want to lose you due to changes.

Gladys Pallmeyer's daughter, Linda, informed us that she passed away peacefully at 100 years old with her daughter and granddaughter holding her hand. Linda expressed how thrilled Gladys was to hear from her colleagues for her 100th birthday. She received several cards with good wishes and it made her day! Up until two weeks before her death she was crocheting and recently taught herself how to paint. No local services were held.

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3rd
Know where your polling place is.

Identity theft protection available for NYSUT members



TRUE IDENTITY PROTECTION™

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce that its newest endorsed program – ID Watchdog -- is now available to all NYSUT members & their families looking for protection against the growing threat of identity and credit theft.

What Do I Get When I Sign Up for ID Watchdog?

- Credit & Cyber Monitoring
- Credit Reports & Scores
- Monthly Credit Score Tracker
- High Risk Monitoring
- Individual, Individual/Spouse or Family Coverage Available

According to Javelin Strategy & Research, an estimated 13.1 million Americans fall victim to identity theft each year. These individuals are hit with approximately \$7,000 in fraudulent charges per person and spend about 330 hours each trying to recover from the effects of identity theft.

ID Watchdog (founded in 2005 as a theft protection service) uses proprietary monitoring technology that alerts members as soon as new or updated information associated with their identity is detected -- allowing them to catch fraudulent activity immediately.

**To learn more about ID Watchdog, call toll-free 866-513-0823
or visit memberbenefits.nysut.org.**

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

631-499-4240

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RC 20 Representative	Joan Petroske
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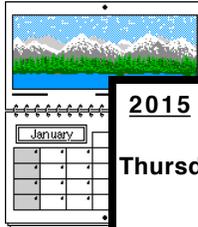
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HHHART Web Address <http://www.hhhart.net>

Mark Your Calendar



2015

Thursday, October 15th Cortli Luncheon
Woodbury C.C., Woodbury, NY

Tuesday, November 3rd Election Day

Thursday, November 19th
NYSUT Conference
The Watermill, Smithtown, NY

**Don't Forget
To
Vote!**



Fall Luncheon Pictures (More to follow in next issues.)



IN MEMORIAM

Max Klein
July, 2015
EE

Gladys Pallmeyer
August, 2015
PE

Mary Ann Sloan
August, 2015
EE

Myrna Wexler
September, 2015
EE

