

the

HHHART BEAT

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

Volume 28, No. 3

HHHART Annual Meeting

Half Hollow Hills Active Retired
Teachers

Thursday, May 28th

Half Hollow Hills Community Library
510 Sweet Hollow Road
Melville, NY 11747
631-421-4535

10:00 – 12:00 a.m.



You are all invited to our Annual Meeting for an enjoyable, informative get-together. The HHHART Executive Board has many things to share with you which concern all retirees.

Those on the slate for our general election are unopposed and will be installed:

President	Joan Petroske
Vice President:	Eileen Lohrey
Treasurer:	Fred Seiden
Secretary	Malinda Dobrins

We are looking forward to welcoming a representative of the John W. Engeman Theatre in Northport as one of our two interesting, outside speakers. She will tell us about the exciting upcoming (2015-16) season. and will have descriptive brochures for us. She will inform us of the promotion for season subscribers. Our second speaker will be the NYSUT Retiree Service Consultant for Suffolk County, Joan Perrini.

This meeting has always been an entertaining time to socialize with former friends and colleagues as well as to catch up on the latest information about what is going on in education.

Come have your morning coffee with us! You might win one of our raffle prizes.

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



There will be no *President's Message* column this issue. Joan was in a car accident with some serious injuries. She was a passenger in her daughter's car when two young girls lost control of their car and spun into Susan's car. Joan is now home after spending time in the Peconic Bay Medical and Rehab Center. It is doubtful that Joan will be at our General Meeting on May 28th. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

For Your
Information



Gladys Pallmeyer turned 100 this year. Her milestone birthday was on February 13th. There was a weekend celebration with family and friends in Washington State starting with an exhibit of the artwork that she has created through the years. We all send her our congratulations.

If anyone would like to communicate with her, she would love it

Her new address is
Harbour Point Community
10-200 Harbour Place, Room 304
Mukilteo, Washington 98275

In the Friday, April 17th, edition of the *Newsday*, Bill Batcher's Haiku poetry was published as part of an article – *Long Island in 17 Syllables* – honoring National Haiku Poetry Day. It was chosen along with others as "some of the best".

Vets at Calverton
remember fallen friends and
Grumman planes they flew.

Bill has been busy giving readings/book signings for his book *Celebrations*.

Davis Vision has changed its name to Vision Works.

Dues are coming due. Watch for the letter in the mail.

Please be sure that you have Malinda's e-mail address – lotsofdimples@optonline.net – in your e-mail address list particularly if you use AOL. Sometimes e-mail will not be delivered because the computer thinks the newsletter is spam.

Input / Output

We would like to invite you to become more **Active** in the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers. HHHART needs help! We would like to form a membership committee. Could you find some time to help us? From June to September, the dues come in to the Teacher's Association. We do need a group of people to come once a week to the union office to review these forms, updating membership info as needed.

Please consider offering your services. You will find it rewarding, Please call/e-mail the TA if you can help. We need you!

Our Co-Editor, Norma Smith, was ill and hospitalized for many weeks. She went through rehabilitation and is now at home. We miss her and wish her a quick recuperation.

Sandy, Barbara & Norma

**Welfare Trust Benefits
Know Your Benefits
by Dick Lee, Trust Fund Administration**

Unclaimed Funds

We have been notified by the NYS Retirement System that the following past employees, within the Half Hollow Hills School District, have unclaimed contributions or other benefits held by the system.

If you know an individual on this list, please ask that person (or their representative or heir) to contact **NYSTRS at 800-348-7298, Ext 6090**, or in writing to 10 Corporate Woods Drive, Albany, NY 12211.

We would like to thank Mel Stern, the new President of Retiree Council 21, for bringing this information to our attention.

Abrams, Lisa Stucchio	Healy, Maureen P.
Anagnostakos, Theodora	Kissag, Nicole L.
Anderson, Pamela L.	Liebowitz, Alan J.
Baldwin, Kristen E.	Maslin, Stephanie L.
Bayerlein, Patricia C.	Mazzotta, Anne T.
Burke, Phyllis A.	McMahon, Kelly L.
Chacalos, Danielle M.	Miller, Francine G.
Delpillar, Theresa	Roumbos, Panagiota
Doherty, Kimberly A.	Simola, Alison
Eisenberg, Leigh A.	Trafford, Paul G.
Franklin, John W.	Tu, Joann S.

Veterans

The Northport VA Hospital Center at: 79 Middleville Rd, Northport, NY 11768 (1-800-533-3231), has notified us that they offer a multitude of medical, psychological, financial and other support services for any U.S. Veteran.

POLITICAL ACTION

by Mel Stern, Political Action Coordinator

Election Recap and More

I always attempt to put positive spins on post election results but this time it's really difficult. Although over 50% of NYSUT endorsed candidates were successful, some of our hardest fought races ended in defeat. Congressman Tim Bishop, a huge supporter of our issues and a consistent voice for quality education was defeated as were some of our candidates running for state senate and assembly. We are thankful, however, that some of our incumbents did survive. Our friend and constant supporter, Comptroller Tom DiNapoli easily won reelection as did Congressman Steve Israel and newly elected Kathleen Rice. Rice replaces our longtime friend, Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy, a breath of fresh air in a very divisive Congress. We wish both Mr. Bishop and Ms. McCarthy a happy and healthy retirement. Thank you, Tim and Carolyn for a job well done!

So what can we do better in the future? We have to start by getting more of our active and retired teachers to vote! I do not comprehend how only about one third of our own NYSUT members voted- how can we abstain from one of our most cherished principles of democracy – the right to vote! By not voicing our opinions on Election Day we are basically saying: we don't care about 1) our students, 2) standards, 3) education funding, 4) tenure, 5) our pensions, etc., etc., etc. I remain perplexed as to why we educators teach our students the importance of expressing ideas and opinions and yet ignore our responsibilities by sitting out when it comes time to go the polls. We are helping our adversaries by voting against our own interests. How can we do this? It is self defeating!

I will continue, as your political action spokesperson, to advocate on our behalf. In the next few weeks, before the legislature adjourns for the summer break, I will be reaching out to members of the legislature- on both sides of the aisle- to explain our positions on issues that affect our students and our active and retired members.

In early March, I attended NYSUT'S Committee of 100, lobbying in Albany to further advocate regarding our issues, but as you undoubtedly know by now, although almost \$1.4 billion in additional state aid to education was added to the budget, the governor and the legislature, continue to pass legislation that is harmful to both our students and our teachers. Raising teacher evaluations to 50% of student test scores instead of the current 20%; attempting to reduce 3020A protections (the law that protects due process); the threats to further diminish funding our public schools by increasing charter schools and tuition voucher programs for private and parochial schools, and, in general, the constant denigrating of our profession must end! Keep helping us fight the good fight and have a safe and healthy spring!

In solidarity, Mel A. Stern
Retiree Council 20 President & NYSUT PAC member

The **2015** Vote drive continues. **COPE**

\$25 or more suggested.

Vote-Cope helps strengthen political action at all levels. The single largest expenditure is rebates to locals for their own communities for support with school budget votes and local campaigns. Funds also go toward political action expenses. NYSUT and **Vote-Cope** are non-partisan and intend to remain non-partisan providing funds to pro-education and pro-labor candidates of all parties. Issues matter, not party.

Please send a check made out to **Vote-Cope** to the TA Office or you may opt to use the convenient NYSUT automatic pension deduction. (Contact NYSUT if you are interested) The 2015 **Vote-Cope** drive began in January and ends in December.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to launch its newly created online Financial Planning Center to assist NYSUT members & their families with making a variety of important financial decisions.



Whether you have questions about retirement planning, saving for college or considering purchasing a home, the Financial Planning Center offers valuable tools & resources to assist you. Take the time to check out everything this new section of our website has to offer and remember to bookmark it as we will continue to offer new items on a regular basis.

This unique resource provides NYSUT members with free access to the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial calculators• An interactive planning module• Customized Kiplinger's retirement newsletter | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kiplinger's Annual Retirement Guide• 403(b) Field Guide• Preventive Law Guides• And more to come |
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To access the NYSUT Member Benefits Financial Planning Center, visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org and click on "Financial Planning Center."

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

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Vice President	Eileen Lohrey
Treasurer	Fred Seiden
Secretary	Malinda Dobrins
RC 20 Representative	Joan Petroske
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Political Action Coordinator	Mel Stern
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HHHART Web Address	http://www.hhhart.net

Mark Your Calendar



2015	
Thursday, May 28	HHHART Annual Meeting HHH Community Library Melville
Friday, June 1	NYSUT RC Council #20 Captain Bill's Restaurant
July 1	HHHART annual dues are due
Wednesday, September 9	HHHART Fall Luncheon Bonwit Inn
Thursday, October 15	CORTLI Luncheon Woodbury Country Club

IN MEMORIAM

Antoinette Brancaccio
December, 2014
GU

John Bilitsky
February, 2015
EE

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



Two thousand thirteen was another year that zipped by. I had two ski weeks In January (Maine and Colorado) and a race weekend in March in the Adirondacks with LI ski clubs. I didn't race – saving my bones and knees. In February I met nine of my sorority pledge class for our biennial reunion for a week in Florida. We had the use of a daughter's vacation house as our base for outings to Universal Studios, Celebration, and Winter Park where the Morse Museum has a comprehensive collection of Tiffany's works.

May found me in California for ten days visiting the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Hearst Castle and the Getty Museum. Going to a Sonoma Winery and staying at the Awahnee, in Yosemite, is always a treat to repeat. In June, I attended my fiftieth college reunion in Oneonta, NY. Yikes – *I'm that old already?* It was fun seeing everyone, but if you dropped me from a plane onto the campus, I would not have known where I was.

During August, I travelled all over Ireland for fifteen days. The locals were so happy to see us, helping their economy. They had a similar problem to ours, when people bought homes and condos and were unable to keep up their payments. It was a wonderful trip. We stayed at fantastic places, including an estate that had belonged to the Guinness family from the 1860's to early 1900. We also went to a castle where a bag piper greeted us when we got off a off a boat and led us over a moat. The staff was waiting for us, a la Downton Abbey. What a hoot!