

Having Fun, Socializing, and Discovering

The HHHART annual meeting was held at the Half Hollow Hills Library on Wednesday, June 18th. After a few minutes of snacking on fruit, cookies, danish, and coffee and catching up with friends and colleagues. the meeting started with an update from Richard Haase, current President of the Teachers Association.



This has been a year of challenges for the staff. He discussed many of them including the opt-out/picketing of the common core testing. The declining enrollment – 800 seniors graduating - 400 enrolling Kindergarteners = job losses – has resulted in the closing of two schools, Forest Park and Chestnut Hill. In addition, the Union is negotiating a new contract. He spoke about the many ongoing activities between the TA and the community. He also took questions from the audience.

Joan Petroske announced that once again we won the Abel Blattman Award for contributions to VOTE/COPE.

Malinda Dobrins introduced Ginny Pisciotta who works in the Adult Reference Office for the Library. She gave a background of the program, Memory Fitness, which is designed to assist people with memory problems. The collection includes adult jigsaw puzzles, pencil puzzles, tangrams, laptop games, and other thinking games.

Music and art are an important part of the program as well as fitness which includes Brain Boosters such as walking backwards or writing with your other hand. She discussed foods for the brain, socialization, and learning to speak Alzheimers.

Continued on page 3.

The Best of the Best

Each year the editors of *the HHHART Beat*, submit articles which have appeared in our newsletter the previous year, to be judged by NYSUT, in their Communications Competition (previously called "Journalism Competition"). Many of our entries have received awards, as has our Website.

This year, the Half Hollow Hills Retired Teachers Association, Rhoda Koenig, and *the HHHART Beat*, were the winners of the Ted Bleeker "Best of the Best", 2014 NYSUT Communications Awards for the entry, "Teaching with Teachers in Ethiopia". This article appeared in our Fall, 2013, Issue and was written by Rhoda Koenig.



The judges said: "The use of language here is extraordinary. In an article that is both well-written and well-illustrated with photographs, the author describes her experience teaching reading to teachers in Ethiopia. The author offers detail after detail about the country, the people, the problems, and this one about a classroom: "Mud walls practically bare but for the peeling blue/green paint, wall-to-wall crude picnic benches packed with youngsters attempting to share decrepit exercise books: a constant haze of dust amplified by a singular source of light entering through a narrow filmy window; and a lone, rough, loosely mounted slate, board." An excellent piece of work and a great reminder of what dedicated unionists (ed: teachers) are doing every day to make their world a better place "

Our organization received a check for \$250, and a plaque. Rhoda received a plaque.

Thank you Rhoda for your outstanding work.

Sandy Glickman

—The President's Message—

Another year is ending and, as in so many past ones, we look forward to the summer as the end of routines, meetings, and commitments. Enjoy!

If you missed our Annual Meeting I'm sorry, because it was especially enjoyable and informative. Please read the other articles in this issue about our speakers and the awards presented.

Many of you have already sent in your dues for 2014 with any new information and news. Thank You!!

It's really important that you notify us of your changes in addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses along with your dues. AND—Don't forget Vote Cope!

We will welcome the start of the new school year at our Annual Luncheon on September 18th at the Bonwit Inn. I hope to see many of you then. In Unity,

Joan Petroske



Teacher Retirees 2014

Elementary

Chestnut Hill

Debra Goldfarb
Jane Leslie
Debbie McDermott

Signal Hill

Susan Kleiner

Vanderbilt

Ellen Krapf

Secondary

Candlewood

Clare Katz

West Hollow

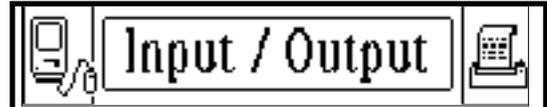
Linda Greenfield
Frances Kovel
Donna Lovell

High School East

Joseph Del Guidice
Beth Gordon
Helen Magnani

High School West

Susan Alexander
Susan Stevens



It seems that we frequently ask that more of you attend our functions, which occur just a few times a year.

We encourage you to participate, because those who do find these occasions to be very pleasant and rewarding. Try it, you'll like it!

We know that changes are coming across NY State for unionists, retired and inservice. Many changes are already with us. Please give generously to Vote/Cope.

Have a good summer. See you at our Fall Luncheon??

Norma, Barbara & Sandy



--- *Keep In Touch* ---



Having fun – involved in oil and water color painting, weight lifting, golf and church ministry. As always, I'm an avid reader.
Joseph Sefcsik

I am very busy and enjoying every moment of taking care of my three beautiful grandchildren-Colleen, Sophie, and Robert. Eileen Benzie

Loving life here in Hendersonville, TN—Legend Johnny Cash's home town. The museum honoring him opened recently and a new postage stamp was issued too. Ron Wright

John and I just love being snowbirds. Avoiding cold weather and super storms is priceless!
Kathryn Greguski

Come to Lake George, NY. Norman and I have two rentals with docks, during the summer months. Marie T. Jeannette Nadeau

Our oldest granddaughter has finished her first year of Vet School in Kansas. Another granddaughter has completed her postgraduate work in Dietetics. Another will complete her degree in Elementary Ed. Yet another will complete a degree in Art. Our youngest granddaughter will graduate from High School next year. My husband and I are still doing a bit of gardening. Both of us exercise – he goes to the pool and I go to Curves regularly.
Dorothy Lauer

Moved to Houston, Texas, to be close to our daughter and new grandson. Like the warmer weather but miss New York. Teaching Mathematics at Sam Houston State University. I continue to train and teach Hakkoryu Jujutsu at my home Dojo. Keeping busy doing what I love. Best wishes to all the HHH friends.
Joseph Adornato

Continued from the cover page:

There is a Brunch for Your Brain where attendees can socialize and use the equipment. All participation is voluntary and is open to people not living in Dix Hills as well. If you are interested in participating, call Ginny at the Dix Hills Library Ms Pisciotta provided us with many things to think about. It was an interesting, helpful talk.

Sandy Glickman introduced Rhoda Koenig who won first place in the Best Creative Writing category in the retiree division of the 2014 NYSUT Communications Awards and presented her with a plaque. (See accompanying article on cover.)

Joan introduced Dick Lee, who gave a short talk on health and welfare topics. He gave an update on estate planning particularly making sure that the status of your beneficiaries in your various policies are correct.

He also discussed the Health Advocate Program which is being used by more and more retirees. Dick informed us that the letter that was sent out by Barry Corbett did not go to everyone.

The meeting ended with raffling off the prizes which is always great fun.
Barbara Arbuss

Our thanks to Alice Langholz for the wonderful pictures from the HHHART General Meeting.



Mark your calendars the HHHART Fall Luncheon September 18th

Welfare Trust Fund Benefits
 Dick Lee, Trust Fund Administrator
UPDATED 2014.....

Excess Major Medical (EMM)/Eye Glass Coverage is available only to EMPIRE enrollees who were participants in the plan while they were actively employed in the District. If a HHHART member deceases, his or her spouse may continue this coverage as long as they continue their enrollment in the Empire Plan. The current EMM yearly rates, which are billed by **ASO** in **December**, are:

Individual - \$48.95 Family - \$113.15

The **2014 Survivor Benefit Rates:**

		<u>Empire</u>	<u>HIP</u>
Not on Medicare (under 65)	Individual	\$771.54/month	\$803.76/month
	Family	\$1,714.54/month	\$1,969.21/month
On Medicare (over 65)	Individual	\$303.87/month	

Survivors of former HHH employees, must contact the **Business Office (631- 592-3094) within **3 months** after the death of the employee in order to continue medical coverage (The survivor's coverage continues for three months, after the death of the union member, without any cost).

Our **Health Advocate** plan may also be continued by a spouse after the death of a HHHART member. The cost to continue this program is \$15.00 per year and is due by July 1st. Make your check payable to **HHHART** and mail to H.H.H.T.A. 6268 Jericho Turnpike Suite #10, Commack NY. 11725. Among the many service **Health Advocate** provides, it can also assist you with eldercare issues. Caring for an elderly loved one can be a daunting, multi-task affair. Personal Health Advocates can help you in the following ways:

- Locate in-home care, adult daycare, assisted living and long-term care
- Arrange transportation to services
- Arrange appointments with hard-to-reach specialists
- Arrange for transfer of x-rays and other records
- Schedule second opinions
- Interpret doctor's explanations and instructions
- Ease transactions between physicians and insurance company
- Find community supports services
- Coordinate care among providers

Health Advocate is available to you and your family, including your spouse, dependent children, parents and parents-in-law. So, when you have an issue, simply call the toll-free number and a Personal Health Advocate will answer your questions, do the search needed, and provide you with options and follow-up with you.

For more information
 Call **1-866-695-8622** or visit **www.healthadvocate.com**

For Your Information continued:

The following information is an update for your estate planning, It is important that your heirs know who to contact upon the death of a HHHART member. Listed below are some important contacts you should share with your loved ones:

<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Contact Number</u>
1. N.Y.S. Teachers' Retirement System	(800) 356-3128, Ext. 6140
2. Social Security	(800) 772-1213
3. Medicare	(800) 633-4227
4. Barry Corbett at HHH Central Office	(631) 592-3094
5. Life Insurance (if maintained after retirement)	(631) 499-4240 – HHHTA office or (516) 394-9477 –ASO
6. Excess Major Medical/Eye Glass Coverage (if maintained after retirement)	(800) 365-4999 First Rehab
7. Health Advocate	(866) 695-8622
8. Tax Shelter	Call your Agent

If you have continued your union negotiated life insurance policy into retirement and are up-to-date with the yearly premiums, you should notify our office of any name, address, phone number, or beneficiary changes. Currently, our carrier is First Reliance and the **monthly** rates are \$.21 per \$1,000 of insurance. The yearly premium is billed to you in **June** and is due in **July** of each year. **ASO** is our third party administrator who does the billing.

In your June 2014 bill, ASO will send you a new life insurance form for you to fill out. We are doing this so that we may verify your beneficiary information with the information that was transferred to ASO from Newman Co.

The results of the NYSUT elections were announced in the Spring. The entire slate of incumbents was defeated by the overwhelming numbers of opposition delegates. The new President is Karen Magee (first woman to hold this office)

Executive Vice President is Andrew Palotta
(he had not run for this position with the incumbents)
First Vice President is Catalina Fortino
Second Vice President is Paul Pecorale
Secretary/Treasurer is Martin Messner

Just a reminder: you should have received in the mail your membership renewal application for July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. If you did not receive it, contact the Teachers Association.

Programs designed specifically for NYSUT members

Get expert legal assistance today!

The NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed Legal Service Plan -- provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters ranging from dealing with a speeding ticket to handling estate planning.

- Low annual cost of just \$85 (\$55 for retirees)
- Unlimited toll-free legal advice
- Free Simple Will
- Two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney

Don't wait to get the legal assistance you need. Learn more about the plan today!

***Please note that if you belong to a local association that provides a group legal service plan through the local or its benefit fund, remember to take advantage of the plan's benefits.*

**Easy
Online
Enrollment!**
See web address below

Time for an insurance check-up!

Find out what your insurance policies currently cover.

Keep your policies in a secure, fire-proof location.

Determine if you have enough coverage to meet your needs today and in the future.

We encourage you to check out the variety of quality, competitive insurance programs endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including Term & Level Term Life Insurance; Disability Insurance; and MetLife Auto & Home Insurance, among many others.

Learn more about these endorsed programs and many others by calling **800-626-8101** or visiting **memberbenefits.nysut.org**.

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.

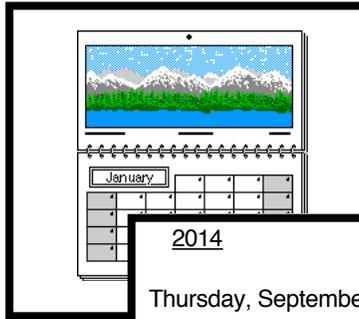
**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
nysut
Working to Benefit You

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
Secretary	Malinda Dobrins
RC 20 Representative	Joan Petroske
Programs/Social/Hospitality	Rowena Book
	Helen Chipkin
	Marlene Flanagan
	Honey Kellman
	Alice Langholz
	Gloria Montesano

E-mail Correspondence	Malinda Dobrins
Data Base	Alice Langholz
Webmaster	Betty Volpe
RA Delegate	Joan Petroske
AFT Delegate	Dick Lee
Political Action Coordinator	Mel Stern
Newsletter Publisher /Co-Eds	Barbara Arbuss
	Sandra Glickman
	Norma Smith
HHHART Web Address	http://www.hhhart.net

Mark Your Calendar



Welcome
Summer

2014

Thursday, September 18th	HHHART Fall Luncheon Bonwit Inn, Commack
TBA	CORTLI Luncheon

IN MEMORIAM

William Martens
May, 2014
SS

Richard Ritter
May, 2014
EE

Elizabeth Tremaine
June, 2014
MU

Kay Zutt
May, 2014
EE

We were notified that Ethel Abbott died in June. Her husband Ralph was a past president of HHHART and both were very active in union activities.



The **Vote** drive continues.
COPE

Send your 2014 **VOTE/COPE** donation to the TA Office or enroll in the NYSUT automatic pension deduction plan. \$25 or more suggested.
(January, 2014, to December, 2014)

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