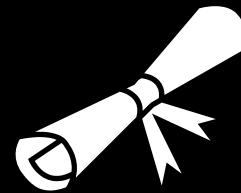


# Senior Class



Newsletter of Retiree Councils 15 & 16 Westchester/Putnam Retirees New York State United Teachers  
Volume 33, Number 1 [rc1516.ny.aft.org](http://rc1516.ny.aft.org) April/May/June 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Spring has arrived and I am looking forward to being together at our Annual Spring Luncheon on June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Harrison Meadows Country Club. Please see the invitation and note from Frank Orfei on the next page.

We have been very busy working to represent our members by attending virtual NYSUT meetings as well as in-person meetings in Albany. In March, the RC 15/16 Delegates traveled to Albany to attend the ED 52 meeting at which Retiree Council concerns were discussed.

We also participated in the Committee of 100 Lobby Day joining more than 750 NYSUT activists in Albany prior to the state budget vote to meet with NYS Assembly members and Senators regarding NYSUT's legislative agenda. Last year, we thanked the legislators for their efforts to fully fund Foundation Aid. This year, in her proposed budget, the Governor made changes to the Foundation Aid formula and school districts across the state, including many in Westchester and Putnam, stand to lose a significant amount of state aid. In meeting with the legislators, we asked that they restore the funding cuts to Foundation Aid proposed in the Governor's budget and were encouraged by their positive support. We are hopeful that at the time you are reading this newsletter the final NYS budget included the legislators' respective one house budgets with fully funded Foundation Aid. In our meetings, we also asked for increased funding for Teacher Centers, SUNY, CUNY and Community Colleges, and made it very clear that the legislators must **FIX TIER 6!** Following our meetings, approximately 600 NYSUT activists gathered on the Capitol Building's Million Dollar Staircase to rally in support to **FIX TIER 6!**

In May, RC 15/16 Delegates will attend NYSUT's annual convention, the 2024 Representative Assembly. They will consider proposed resolutions – both in committee and on the floor during the RA General Sessions. The Retiree Councils in ED 52 have prepared several resolutions to be brought to the RA including protecting members' health insurance, prohibiting book banning, and valuing and honoring arts education to name a few. Additional 2024 RA information can be found on NYSUT's website, NYSUT.org.

As you receive this newsletter, election season is in full swing – and yes, once again, the most important election of our lifetime! We are only a month or so away from the New York State Primary Elections. Primary elections are very important as their results put US Congressional candidates and NYS Legislative candidates on the November ballot. If there is a primary in your election district, check out the candidates and be sure to exercise your right to **VOTE – primary elections matter and every vote counts!**

This will be our final newsletter for this school year and we are busy planning for next year. The first event of the 2024-2025 school year will be the Annual Fall Luncheon, at which we will honor the 2024 retirees. In addition to programs, we are planning to offer local day outings to our membership. It is early in our planning process, and I welcome your input. Do you have any suggestions for programs or local outings? What interests you? Would you be willing to assist us in planning a program or a local outing? Do you have a special interest to share in a presentation? Would you like to join the program or trip committee? Please send me an email at [rc1516pres@aol.com](mailto:rc1516pres@aol.com) with your ideas or interests. I look forward to hearing from you!

I wish you all a wonderful spring and summer!

In solidarity,  
Roni

## The Rally to FIX TIER 6 on the Million Dollar Staircase at the State Capitol Building

RC 15/16 Retirees Kay Staplin, Florence McCue with Yonkers Federation of Teachers President, Samantha Rosado-Ciriello and NYSUT Officers Ron Gross, Second Vice President; Jamie Ciffone, Executive Vice President; and Phillippe Abraham, Secretary-Treasurer.



More than 600 NYSUT activists gathered on the Million Dollar Staircase at the State Capitol Building in a rally to FIX TIER 6.





***We hope you will join us...***

Our Spring Luncheon Committee has put together a very special afternoon for your enjoyment on Wednesday, June 12th. A delicious lunch will be served at the beautiful, newly opened and remodeled, Harrison Meadows Country Club. We are pleased that Ron Gross, the Second Vice President of NYSUT, will be our invited guest speaker. We are excited that once

again, the Westchester Women's Chorus will provide entertainment. They received rave reviews at our last Spring Luncheon and we are happy they accepted our invitation to entertain us at this luncheon. Please plan to join us for a fun-filled luncheon and afternoon with your fellow retirees.

Frank Orfei, Luncheon Chairperson

***NYSUT Retirees Westchester/Putnam***

***Spring Luncheon***

*Guest Speaker*

***Ron Gross***

***NYSUT Second Vice President***

***Wednesday, June 12, 2024***

***Noon – 3:00 pm***

***Harrison Meadows Country Club***

*123 North Street*

*Harrison, NY 10528*

Complete served lunch. Cost is \$55

Raffle proceeds benefit *Feeding Westchester*

**RSVP by May 31, 2024**

Please adhere to the reservation deadline.

This is a prepared event and walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

Checks in the amount of \$55 per person payable to:

***NYSUT Retirees Westchester/Putnam***

Mail to: Frank Orfei

43 High Street

West Harrison, NY 10604-2823

Questions? Contact Frank at [forfei@msn.com](mailto:forfei@msn.com)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please list names of any guests included in this reservation.

**RC 15/16 Westchester/Putnam  
Executive Board**

President: Veronica O'Connor  
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Exec Vice President: Florence McCue  
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Linda Doerr	Marty Sommer
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Frank Orfei	Dolores Thompson
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NYSUT RC 15/16  
Retiree Services Consultant:  
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Newsletter Editor: Clare Gorman  
Webmaster: Lori Mollo

**Questions? Contact Roni at the  
NYSUT Office at 914-592-4411**

**How Important are the 2024 School Board Elections?**

Local school board elections are just around the corner and it continues to be ever so important to elect and re-elect board members who are pro-public education. We are all aware of the wealthy special interest anti-union and anti-educator groups threatening to take over our school boards by electing those with anti-union and anti-educator agendas.

**We cannot let them silence our voice!**

One way you can help elect and re-elect pro-public education members to your school board is by contributing to VOTE-COPE. Each local receives a percentage of its members' donations, including retiree donations, which can be used to defeat school board candidates who are attacking education and our union. **VOTE-COPE dollars at work in your own backyard!** I also encourage you to reach out to the President of your former local and/or the President of the local in the community in which you live. If they are supporting school board candidates, you can offer your assistance in making phone calls, addressing post cards or letters, or delivering lawn signs. It is critical that we stand up to protect the future of education!

**Please Note...**

We sent an email on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to remind you of our upcoming program on Scams, Fraud and Identity Theft. Please check your inbox and spam folder to see if you've received the email which was sent from **NYSUT Westchester/Putnam Retirees via ActionNetwork.org**. If you received the email, there is no need to do anything. If you did not receive the email and would like to receive reminders of programs and special events in between the issues of *Senior Class*, please send your personal email address to [rc1516database@gmail.com](mailto:rc1516database@gmail.com) to be added to the ever-growing RC 15/16 database.

***Come and join us for a scenic historical  
docent guided tour of  
Untermeyer Gardens***

945 North Broadway, Yonkers, NY

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 10:00 am.



Throughout the tour, you will learn about the rich history of Untermeyer Gardens, beginning with its origin in 1862. The tour will take you through the estate's three owners, emphasizing its world-famous heyday during the Untermeyer years, its decline after 1940, and the remarkable restoration efforts that have been ongoing since 2011 to the present day. The tour will highlight the remarkable architecture of the gardens and the Untermeyer's contributions to the gardens, which are regarded as some of the most beautiful and intricate in the world.

The knowledgeable docents will take you on a journey through time, where you will gain insight into the cultural and historical significance of the Untermeyer Park and Gardens. So, come join us for an educational and engaging tour that is sure to leave you with a newfound appreciation for this magnificent estate.

The 60-90 minute docent guided walking tours will take place in small groups. Please wear sturdy shoes.

To register, please complete the form below and mail it with a check in the amount of \$15 payable to NYSUT Retirees Westchester/Putnam to:

Dolores Thompson  
115 Dehaven Drive #208  
Yonkers, New York 10703

**DEADLINE: MAY 2, 2024** (Checks will not be cashed until after the deadline)

Clearly print the information below. Questions? Contact Dolores at [cookiecumb@aol.com](mailto:cookiecumb@aol.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

