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SEVENTEEN SOUNDINGS

A NYSUT/AFT/NEA/AFL-CIO Affiliate Newsletter of Retiree Council 17 March 2024

YOU DID IT!

By Ken Ulric, RC 17 President

On February 13, Tom Suozzi, NYSUT's endorsed candidate to replace disgraced congressman George Santos, handily won the special election for New York's 3rd Congressional district, which contains most of the communities represented by our members. That victory wouldn't have happened without the very active participation of Long Island's organized labor community and, frankly, without the dedication and hard work of NYSUT members, particularly retirees. Our members made over 23,000 phone calls, knocked on over 7,000 doors and sent over 34,000 text messages. The hard work paid off as our candidate took over 54% of the votes. Special thanks go to the following members who took the time to make the calls:

 Edna Abdale, Ronnie Avnet Stoll, Pat Browne-Coleman, Larry D'Angelo, Erica Davis, Henry Dircks, Mike Dolber, Scott Gilbert, Dawn Heller, Susan Melnick, Maddy Minkoff, Edria Parks, Rokas Peggy, Steven Sacks, Laura Schulte, Susan Sherman-Tanzer, Donna Toman, Ken Ulric, and Sandy White. 

(Note: this list contains the names of reported phone callers. Please accept my apologies if your name was omitted.) Remember, we do not endorse candidates because of party affiliation. NYSUT's endorsements are based on candidates' policies, record, and, particularly, their stand on OUR issues, like organized labor, public education, Medicare, and Social Security. To all those who did the work, who carried the freight for everyone else, we extend a very sincere "Thank You!"

ELECTION DISTRICT 52 MEETING IN ALBANY UPDATE

Susan Carlough and Ken Ulric represented RC 17 at an Election District 52 meeting in Albany on March 5 th and 6 th . ED 52 is a coalition of retiree councils from throughout most of New York State. Its purpose is to discuss NYSUT's services to retirees and to bring items of retiree importance to our state organization. Items that were discussed centered primarily around health insurance coverage but also included discussion of retiree issues that will be on the agenda at the NYSUT convention in May. It was clear that NYSUT leadership is in the loop with the retirees, as shown by the fact that one of the things for which we have advocated, hiring a health insurance expert, has been realized. NYSUT now has on staff an expert whose job is to advise locals negotiating health insurance clauses, including protecting health insurance in negotiations.



New York State United Teachers is being nationally recognized as the number one organization across the country for its contributions to the American Cancer Society's 2023 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign. The statewide union had 174 teams from every corner of New York participating in Making Strides events this past year. Together, they raised \$612,787 to save lives and fund the future of cancer research, patient support and advocacy. Among the thousands of NYSUT members and staff who took part in the annual breast cancer movement, the top five local fundraising team come from NYSUT's Nassau regional staff office, Brooklyn, Staten Island, Buffalo and Westchester. "We are thrilled to surpass our ambitious goal and we know every dollar raised helps defeat this deadly disease," said J. Philippe Abraham, NYSUT secretary-treasurer, whose office coordinates the statewide union's social justice initiatives and who lost one of his sisters to the disease. "Our members' generosity and dedication to community service is part of the fabric of our union. NYSUT is proud to do our part in finding a cure for our educators, their students, families and communities who are impacted by breast cancer, " NYSUT is a flagship sponsor of the annual Making Strides events and has raised over \$17.5 million for the cause since 2002.

Premium Calm Service - Now Available to NYSUT Retiree Members!



NYSUT Member Benefits is pleased to offer the **premium Calm subscription** as a free benefit for all NYSUT in-service AND retiree members.

The premium Calm subscription provides members with unlimited access to the full library of content at **calm.com** and in the Calm app, which can be utilized via a desktop, laptop, tablet, or mobile device (iOS or Android). Calm is a multifaceted meditation, sleep and relaxation app featuring a wide variety of offerings that encourage everything from mindfulness to movement. Calm features meditations, stories, music, soundscapes and more, all meant to lead listeners to a new level of, well, calm.

Members can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older) to receive their own premium Calm subscription. Dependents can only be added through the **calm.com** site (not the Calm app); dependents will then receive their own premium Calm subscription.

Visit <https://www.calm.com/b2b/nysut-member-benefits/subscribe> to create your Calm account now (Note: This is a dedicated URL for NYSUT members).



Retiree Council 17 Spring General Membership Meeting

Monday, May 13

10 am

Farmingdale Public Library

Full Hot Breakfast

Agenda: Remarks by Joan Perrini, our representative on the NYSUT Board of Directors Join Us For Laughs as we host a Comedy Performance by Rob Bartlett, Broadway actor and Comedian

RSVP-Pat Browne-Coleman at brownecoleman@yahoo.com or call her @ (516) 642-8232

Leave a message with your name and a statement that you are responding for the RC 17 meeting.



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For an annual fee, the Legal Service Plan -- provided by the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. Plan participants receive unlimited access to toll-free advice weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) as well as a toll-free hotline for urgent legal assistance outside of these hours.

Meanwhile, the Financial Counseling Program -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone or virtual consultations with a Stacey Braun Certified Financial Planner. *



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For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

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Mar/Apr 2024