

Affiliated with NYSUT,
AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO,
COUNCIL 43 OFFICERS

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Change Your Address?
Contact NYSUT Member Records
Ph: 1-800-342-9810
memberec@nvsutmail.org



From The Desk of RC 43 President Felicia Bruce

It is not often that we can give credit where credit is due....but as President of RC 43 I saw an opportunity and seized it. At each Representative Assembly awards are distributed for outstanding contributions in a variety of categories. One of those categories is COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD. It is given to a local that has exceeded the high standards set by NYSUT of giving back (or paying it forward, depending on your perspective). I nominated RC 43 because I know that each of our units contributes GREATLY to the wellbeing of our adopted home. Individually and collectively we give A LOT and get little or no credit. To remedy that, I nominated YOU....The deadline was in January. As our newsletter goes to print it is March. The RA is not until May. I have no way of knowing until then if NYSUT sees you as I do: deserving of this award. This is the essence of my nomination. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO. You are winners whether NYSUT bestows the award or not.

Community: In The Villages, members have collected thousands of donations for hygiene care, backpacks, school supplies and essential items for local students who have no permanent domicile.

Charity: In Sarasota/Manatee members have contributed thousands of dollars and many volunteer hours to a local charity (FELT: Feeding Empty Little Tummies); enough to provide weekend meals for 1750 students of Manatee County each week throughout 2023.

Service: Ongoing projects in the Treasure Coast and Southeast units include collecting books for local schools, donating time and talent to local school programs, mentoring, registering new voters, serving as poll watchers, and circulating petitions to get ballot initiatives on the 2024 election ballots.

Sponsorship: On the west coast of Florida, units like Clearwater and Nature Coast have ongoing relationships with the County Sheriffs Associations to sponsor and help the adolescents of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches.

Conclusion: RC 43 is unique in many ways but like all our union brothers and sisters we have made an outsized contribution to our adopted home which demonstrates our ongoing commitment to exemplify the very best of union values: selfless service. We are PROOF that activists never retire!

We welcome our new RC 43 Treasurer, Carole Campbell.

We thank her for volunteering to take the post made vacant by the passing of our former Treasurer and friend, Marsha Friedman.

Best of luck in your new position, Carole!



VISIT US ON LINE

RC 43 Website:

<http://rc43.ny.aft.org/>

RC 43 Facebook Page:

[New-York-State-United-Teacher-Retirees-In-Florida](#)

RC 43 Tidbits



Egan Cottage Kids enjoy their new shoes

Clearwater Unit: This Unit is very active and thriving. In September they had their opening luncheon, with guests Lisa and John Evans, who are “cottage parents” for the Unit’s charitable project at the Sheriff’s Youth Ranch in Safety harbor. Members have been contributing for the past 15 years to help make the lives of the youngsters at Egan Cottage brighter with opportunities for trips and excursions. In October, Clearwater went on a docent-led museum tour of the Safford House in Tarpon Springs. In November, member Ross Stonefield spoke about the importance of donating to VOTE/COPE through pension deduction. The Unit collected donations for the Egan Cottage Holiday Gift Fund to purchase gifts, such as

new shoes, for the children at the Cottage and give them a pizza party. Contact President Cathy Lanza for more information: lanzac@verizon.net



Shoes donated to the kids

Greater Naples Unit: The Greater Naples Unit meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 AM through April at Longshore Lake Clubhouse on Valewood Drive, Naples, Florida. Lunch follows each meeting. All are welcome. For more information, please call Robert Lomicka at 239-514-7234 or Paul Murphy at 239-593-7738. At our December meeting we donated new sneakers and a cash contribution to Laces of Love for needy children in our community. In January we had our annual holiday dinner. We are seeing “Comedy of Tenors” in Fort Myers on Saturday March 2 at 2 PM.



Pat Barber presented at the January meeting

Sarasota/Manatee: The Sarasota/Manatee chapter of RC 43 met Jan. 10 at Anna Maria Oyster Bar, located 6906 14th St. Tamiami Trail, Bradenton. Our Speaker was Pat Barber from Manatee Teachers Union. Pat spoke of the plight of Teacher Unions and student education in the state of Florida. For our February meeting of the Sarasota /Manatee RC 43 TRIF, 17 retired teachers gathered at the Myakka Elephant Ranch for an Educational Program about Elephants. The ranch has 2 Asian Elephants, Carol and Patty. After the Educational Experience, we were able to feel the soft skin of their trunks as we had our photographs taken with Carol and Patty. The group adjourned to Miller’s Ale House for Lunch. Due to low water the scheduled Myakka River Cruise in March had to be canceled. Instead the March meeting /luncheon will be Thursday March 7, 11 AM at Der Dutchman Restaurant, 3713 Bahia Vista St. The Buffet lunch ,including pie, will cost \$20.00 (all inclusive). Der Dutchman requires groups to make one payment for our lunch. Please send checks payable to: RC/43 Sarasota, to Glenn Simpson, 4212 Copenhagen St. Sarasota,

34234. I need a count for the restaurant, so please call, text or email if you plan to attend. 585-746-1406. We meet one Wednesday per month, usually at 11 AM at various venues.

Southeast Unit: meets the second Tuesday of the month from October through April at the South County Civic Center on Jog Road in Delray Beach., unless we have a trip planned. In February we had a very informative lecture given by Jeff Kashdan, from the League of Women Voters on “Civics, Civility, and Critical Thinking”. On March 15, we plan to visit the Boca Museum of Art. On April 9, Stephan Coles, Investment Adviser from Voya Financial will inform us about current and future trends for our retirement investments.

The Villages/Ocala: We welcome all former New York educators with the common goal of improving education and enjoying our retirement. We meet at noon on the first Friday of the month from September through June at Hibiscus Recreation. Please contact Unit President Lynn Dodd at 716-308-5736 for more information.

Treasure Coast: meets in Port St Lucie. Contact Mary Brower 772-341-6486 for more information.

VOTE/COPE

VOTE/COPE is our Union’s way to support education and retirees. We lobby for issues our members care about, benefitting everyone from these efforts. Unions are massively outspent in political contributions by corporate interests, so your individual donations can make a major impact. Even if you have a pension deduction plan, please consider making an additional contribution. We are always in jeopardy from those who want to take away our hard-won benefits.

Please send checks made out to VOTE/COPE to:

Ross Stonefield
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NYSUT RC 43 Treasurers for Each Unit 2023-2024

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SPACE COAST, ORLANDO, and JUPITER

Reorganizing. Contact Miriam Hanan

Please send your Participation Fee to the Treasurer of the Unit that you wish to join. Choose the Unit that is closest to your location. Our membership year runs from September 1—August 31.

***** SAVE the DATE *****

NYSUT RC43 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

MONDAY, MAY 20, 8:30 AM to 3:15 PM

**The Florida Hotel & Conference Center
1500 Sand Lake Rd
Orlando, FL 32809**

Featuring members of our NYSUT Team from Albany: Member Benefits, Legislation, Steve Kramer on our Legal Plan: Florida Estate Planning, How to Avoid Probate, Trusts, Wills....

We're so excited about NYSUT President Melinda Person, flying down to Florida as one of our Guest Speakers!

For more information call Miriam Hanan, RC 43, RSC, 516 236-0276

RC 43 Resolutions Adopted at the 2023 ED 51-53 Meeting

The following Resolutions for the upcoming NYSUT Representative Assembly that were submitted by RC 43 were adopted at the recent meeting of ED 51-53. Florence McCue, at-large ED 51-53 director led the meeting.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BANNED BOOKS Resolution Submitted by RC 43

Whereas, censorship is on the rise in all forms; and Whereas, more than a dozen states and municipal governments have chosen to ban books in schools, classrooms and libraries; and

Whereas, Texas, Florida and Tennessee have banned, cumulatively, nearly 2000 books in just the past year (2023); and Whereas, this trend is anti-free speech, anti-freedom to read and learn, and ultimately anti-democracy; and

Whereas, such book suppression is the denial of the pursuit of knowledge, academic freedom, the development of critical thinking skills and the promotion of intellectual excellence; and

Whereas, the labeling of books with themes of tolerance, diversity, acceptance, race, equality, history, sexual orientation, and gender has fostered intolerance and ignorance which are detrimental to US as a nation; and Whereas, broad efforts to label some books as "harmful" and "explicit" have created an atmosphere of fear among the educational community; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT will use its lobbying efforts at the state level to support legislation that prohibits book banning and encourage AFT and NEA to do the same at the national level; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT will collect, share, and promote best practices around book selections with the goal of improving selection policies at the local, state and national levels.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED IMPROVED R.C. COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT Resolution Submitted by RC 43 Whereas, RC 43 is the only Retiree Council sanctioned to operate outside New York State; and

Whereas, RC 43 is the largest RC geographically and is a statewide council with a great potential for membership growth; and

Whereas, RC 43 has no 'home school' or campus from which to recruit new retirees; and

Whereas, RC 43 faces unique challenges in fulfilling its mission and growth potential because of the aforementioned descriptions; and Whereas, RC 43 requires unique, creative collaboration and cooperation between and among the other Retiree Councils as well as the NYSUT governing board to identify its Florida retirees; and

RESOLVED, that NYSUT will increase its efforts to efficiently identify its retired members residing in Florida; and be it further

RESOLVED, RESOLVED that NYSUT consider urging other RCs to support RC 43 in its efforts to promote membership in the Florida council, including those NYS retirees visiting, relocating, or becoming Snowbirds; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT will encourage the New York councils to educate retirees on the advantages of being part of RC 43 including but

Come Zoom with Us!

NYSUT Retiree Council 43 is having meetings on Zoom!

All NYSUT retirees who live or snowbird in Florida are welcome to join us.

Currently we are inviting all of our members and interested retirees to Zoom Meetings. Please send your email address to Miriam Hanan, miriam.hanan@nysut.org or phone her at 516-236-0276 to receive an email invitation to the next meeting.

VISIT US ON LINE

RC 43 Website:

<http://rc43.ny.aft.org/>

RC 43 Facebook Page:

[New-York-State-United-Teacher-Retirees-In-Florida](#)

RETIREE COUNCIL 43 & LOCAL UNIT PARTICIPATION FEE/MEMBERSHIP FORM - SEPTEMBER 2023-AUGUST 2024

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ CELL PHONE (____) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

DISTRICT FROM WHICH YOU RETIRED _____ YEAR OF RETIREMENT _____

TRIF UNIT YOU WISH TO JOIN _____

Suggestions? Topics of interest? _____

When you participate in your local unit, you are also participating in RC 43.

The membership year runs from September 1, 2023 - Aug. 31, 2024

Please check the amount of your participation fee: _____ \$30 (NYSUT Retiree) _____ \$20 (Assoc.)

Remit a check payable to "NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 43—TRIF UNIT'S NAME" by mail to the Treasurer of the RC Unit you wish to become part of (see page 3), or contact Miriam Hanan, Ph: 516-236-0276

miriam.hanan@nysut.org

***Participating in RC 43 is in addition to membership in your New York RC Unit. You are not transferring your membership to RC 43.