

# SYOSSET RECORD

RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER, (REC)

SYOSSET TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
NYSUT #19-090R  
Affiliated with AFT—NEA—AFL-CIO

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 2024

## Presidents' Message

As of this writing summer is over and we hope that you all had an enjoyable, relaxing, and healthy one. We would like to thank Katherine Kovins for arranging our wonderful June luncheon at the Mill Pond House in Centerport. Everyone enjoyed the food, the great view and most of all catching up with our colleagues.

A big congratulations and welcome to REC/STA to all our retirees! We'd like to wish you the best in your next adventure. And we hope that you will include participation in our meetings and activities in your adventure.

### Annual Professional Performance Review

"After more than a decade long fight, the state is finally returning teacher and principal evaluations to local control" announced Melinda Person, NYSUT president. Governor Kathy Hochul signed the NYSUT endorsed bill to end New York's flawed Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) on June 28, 2024. Here are a few highlights of the new APPR law as presented in NYSUT United:

- Returns APPR to local control. Plans must be bargained collectively and the requirement to use student performance as a metric is eliminated.
- Eliminates the connection between APPR scores and the granting of tenure.
- Previously used HEDI rating bands - Highly Effective, Effective Developing, Ineffective – are replaced with a number system 1-4.
- Adding flexibility and respect for teachers'

experience, the law allows districts to set different observations/evaluation requirements for probationary and tenured teachers.

### Tier 6

Two benefit improvements for those retiring on Tier 6 are:

- Vesting period has dropped from 10 to 5 years.
- The final average salary (FAS) will be based on the last three salary years instead of five.

### Election Day

The political season is proceeding toward its finale, Election Day – November 5, 2024, with incredible speed. Your vote is critical in supporting those incumbents and challengers who advocate for strong public schools and colleges, retirees, health care issues, organized labor and working families. We also need to ensure that our elected representatives will continue to protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. We must choose our candidates wisely because more than ever a poor choice may cause damage from which we may not be able to recover.

It is important to remember that when we go out to vote this November, it is not only the line for the president that needs our attention. *(Cont'd on p. 2)*



## Presidents' Message

(cont'd from p. 1)

In New York, we have candidates to consider for federal level positions as well as for the New York State senate and assembly. NYSUT'S list of endorsed candidates can be found by going to [nysut.org](http://nysut.org).

Please make sure you are registered to vote and that all the members of your family and friends are registered to vote as well. Finally, cast your ballot and make your voice heard.

We should not let our discontent get the better of us. We must get out and vote. How will things ever change if we do not use the power off our vote? !

Looking forward to seeing you  
at our General Meeting on  
October 17, 2024, at 10:00 am

*Fritz and Matty*

## Vote to Approve Proposal 1 on the Ballot Election Day

This proposal amends Article 1, Section 11 of the New York Constitution. Section 111 now protects against unequal treatment based on race, color, creed, and religion. The proposal will amend the act to also protect against unequal treatment based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes, as well as reproductive healthcare and autonomy. The amendment allows laws to prevent or undo past discrimination.

Source: *New York State Board of Elections*



## Save These Dates

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024-** NYSUT Long Island Retiree Conference , *Long Island Retirees in Action* at the Marriott Melville. (Registration information was sent to you in August.) This is your chance to meet NYSUT's endorsed Congressional candidates, understand NYSUT's focus on the upcoming elections, and attend workshops on retiree activism, health and welfare.

**Thursday, October 17, 2024 – First REC/STA General Meeting** for the season at the NYSUT Nassau Regional Office (see address on p, 4) — Guest Speaker Felicia Weiss, STA President.

**Sunday, October 20, 2024** -American Cancer Society has scheduled this year's Making Strides walkathon at Jones Beach for Sunday, October 20, 2024 (rain or shine) starting at 7:30 am. Please make checks payable to *American Cancer Society* and mail donations to NYSUT Nassau Regional Office ATT: Debra Pucci , 1000 Woodbury Road, Woodbury, NY 11797.

**Monday, October 21, 2024 - Retiree Recognition Day** . At NYSUT's 2024 Representative Assembly, a resolution was passed creating **Retiree Recognition Day** to honor retirees for their all their efforts and involvement. It will be celebrated annually on the third Monday in October.

**Friday, November 15, 2024-** *Citizen Preparedness Corps* a program offered through NYS Homeland Security and National Guard at the Farmingdale Public Library. This is an outstanding opportunity to learn about emergency information for everyone. See information on mandatory registration at [www.prepare.ny.gov](http://www.prepare.ny.gov) > click on training calendar > scroll to Nov. 15, Farmingdale Public Library > register.

## At Our June Luncheon



## Welcome to Newly Retired Colleagues

Congratulations and welcome to our new REC/STA retirees. We look forward to meeting with you at our meetings and luncheons.

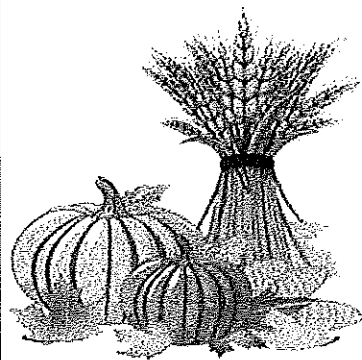
Maryann Abela-Tammaro - BH  
 Gila Bengio-Friedson- SG  
 Michael Callahan - SW  
 Sandra Chambers- HBT  
 John Collins - SHS  
 Donna Conlon -Baylis  
 Doreen D'Alessandro - HBT  
 Vicky Deletrain – Baylis  
 Christine DeStefanis - SHS  
 Paul Englehart -SHS  
 Marc Golden – SHS  
 Patricia Haddow - SHS  
 Megan Donovan-Halloran - BH  
 Chrysoula Highland—SHS  
 Rosemary Jones - SHS  
 Eva Kaplan - BH

Dr. Kathleen Kelly - Baylis  
 Leo Knox - HBT  
 Dr. Erika Koschei - Village  
 Julie Laisney - SW  
 Otto Marracello - RL  
 Deborah Pekoff - SHS  
 Linda Pizzarelli - Baylis  
 Viera Reisman - SHS  
 Stephen Rizzi - WW  
 Wendy Tepper - Village  
 Mario Vasco- SG

## Our Sympathy

We mourn the passing of our colleague **Shiela Rooney**. We also send condolences to **Karen Rosenthal** on the loss of her husband, Jerry.





**GENERAL MEETING**  
**October 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Speaker: Felicia Weiss,**  
**STA President**

NYSUT OFFICE -  
 1000 WOODBURY ROAD, SUITE 214  
 WOODBURY, NY 11797



**Protect Your Medicare and NYSHIP Benefits**

The commercials will be starting again encouraging you to consider Medicare Advantage Plans. You will have to ignore them from October 15 until December 7 during the period when they are permitted to solicit enrollment. Please do not change anything. **To protect your current coverage, you must stay on Medicare and NYSHIP.**

Curious about the difference between original Medicare and Medicare Advantage? Check it safely by consulting the information in *Medicare & You* (pages 11-12), the book sent to you directly from Medicare.



**REC/STA Membership**

NYSUT Member Benefits can provide discounts on insurance as well as other services, but we're only eligible for these if we maintain membership in our chapter — REC/STA.

Our membership form is enclosed with this issue Please return it with your **check payable to REC/STA** (we can't process checks made out to Pat Galaskas). As noted on the form, membership is free for the first year and for members who are 80 or older, but **it's important for everyone to return a membership form** so that we can keep contact information accurate. In addition please be sure to check off the small square next to "use approved" so that we have your permission to contact you by email.

**REC-STA Executive Board**

- Presidents** - Fritz Weinrich, Matty Wolfson
- Vice Pres.** - Carol Voelger
- Rec. Secretary** - Jody Bassuk
- Corr. Secretary** - Sue Devine, Joanne Gulotta
- Treasurer** - Debra Puccio
- Care Committee**— Mary Ann Marriott
- Health Insurance** -Barbara La Valle
- Legislation** - Pat Galaskas
- Membership** - Pat Galaskas
- Newsletter Editor** - Marcia Gould
- Programs & Special Events**— volunteer needed
- School/Community** - volunteer needed
- Social Wellness/Hospitality** - Katherine Kovins, Barbara LaValle
- Vote-Cope** - Jody Bassuk

**2024-2025 Meeting Dates**

Planning Board	General Meetings
Thurs., Sept. 26, 2024	Thurs., Oct. 17, 2024
Thurs., Nov. 7, 2024	Wed., Dec. 4-Luncheon
January—no meeting	Thurs., March 20, 2025
Thurs., Feb. 13, 2025	Thurs., May 15, 2025
Thurs., April 24, 2025	Wed., June 4 Luncheon