

the

HHHART BEAT

Newsletter of the Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers
Spring, 2014

Volume 27, No. 3

Annual Meeting

Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers

Wednesday, June 18th

Half Hollow Hills Library, the Dix Hills Branch
9:30 – 11:45 AM



You are cordially invited to join your executive board. We have so much to share with you, important information that affects all retired teachers. Joan Petroske, our president, has prepared an enjoyable, informative morning. Guest speakers will be Richard Haase, Richard Lee and Ginny Pisciotta.

- Richard Haase, the HHHTA president will share news about the active teachers.
- Dick Lee will address the Health Care Advocacy Program, Medicare, Pension and Social Security.
- Ginny Pisciotta works in the Adult Reference office for the Half Hollow Hills Library and is our program speaker for the day. She will share her expertise on “Memory Fitness.”

The hospitality committee has some raffles planned with a chance to win a seat at our Fall Luncheon.

This is a great opportunity to gather information, socialize with colleagues, and meet your new Executive Board.

Come have your morning coffee with us!

Half Hollow Hills Active Retired Teachers

--- The President's Message ---

I attended the NYSUT Representative Assembly in NYC from April 4th to April 6th as a delegate of RC 20. It began with a rather raucous gathering of almost 3000 delegates in an excited state. This was apparently caused by the first elections challenge in many years. The host local, UFT, along with some other city locals, had presented a slate to contest the elections of the present state officers, the 76-seat NYSUT Board of Directors, and the AFT delegates. The election was not to be held until Saturday evening.

Before then, President Dick Iannuzzi presided over the proceedings and announced that we would not see the State Education Commissioner, Dr. John King, or the Board of Regents, since they had not been invited due to their failure to address the concerns of parents and educators about the Common Core. Later a resolution that declared "no confidence" in the policies of Dr. King and called for his immediate removal, was presented and passed unanimously.

Several awards were given and the highest honor, the Albert Shanker Award for Distinguished Service, was presented to NYSUT's President Emeritus, Thomas Hobart. He, together with Al Shanker, forged an alliance with the UFT, which became NYSUT. "Tom dedicated his life to ensuring all students the right to a sound, basic education" said President Iannuzzi. There were two Retiree Member-of-the-Year awards presented — one to Louisa Johnston of the UFT and the other to David Keefe, former President of the Hempstead Classroom Teachers Association, and the Retired Teacher member of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System Board.

We heard speeches from many prominent union officials, Senator Charles Schumer, and New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, who are all strong supporters of teachers. Mr. DiNapoli said that the state has \$12 billion in unclaimed funds and urged members to search under their names at www.osc.state.ny.us to see if they might claim one of them. He closed his remarks by saying that, as long as he is Comptroller, our pensions would be safe. It's no secret that Governor Cuomo would like to get at teacher pensions and Mr. DiNapoli stands in his way. We were urged to encourage our memberships to get out the vote for the midterm elections and vote for Comptroller DiNapoli.

All delegates are assigned to a committee to discuss and vote on the many resolutions submitted from around the state. I attended the Pension/Retirement Committee. The results from the committees are sent to the general assembly and voted on by the entire body. These become action items.

Joan Petroske



Input / Output



Through the years, we have been getting wonderful feedback from you, the readers of *The HHHART Beat*. Those of you who have contributed to our columns are surely the most significant reason for this positive response. We want to have more of you participate – so we wish to remind you of our categories, so that you will find a niche for what it is you would like to share.

Keep in Touch: is a catchall for anything that you wish to tell us about what is going on in your life.

For Your Information: contains info from us received from Half Hollow Hills Teachers, NYSUT, HHHART members, etc.

On the Road: provides you with a space to inform us of a trip – long or short – that you enjoyed, and that you think we might enjoy reading about and/or replicating.

Reflections: gives you an opportunity to discuss just about anything .

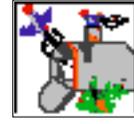
Where Are They Now: recently added when one of our member's suggested that we share correspondences with former students.

Some of you have contributed many times and we want you to continue to do that. Those of you who have never submitted anything, please consider doing that. Don't think that it needs to be something earth-shattering. Whatever you tell us is important.

Sandy, Barbara & Norma



--- *Keep In Touch* ---



Will be traveling July 5 to July 13 to Tokyo and Okinawa with eight fellow martial artists to participate in karate demonstrations and working seminars with Okinawan masters. Can't wait. Okinawa is the world center for martial arts, especially Shorin-Ryu which is the style in which I participate. We are pleased that the Okinawans want to train with us. While there, I plan to visit many of the World War II battle sites. There also is the cemetery there dedicated to the thousands of Marines who were killed in the battles and buried there.

Lou DiBlasi

Since retiring in 1995, my wife and I have made several trips to Europe and the US West I continue to teach on Nassau Community's adjunct faculty and winter in Naples Florida.

Carl Peterson

Dzanc Publishers will publish three of my books as e-books in June: The : Tretralogy, Down to a Sunless Sea, and This Mobius Strip of IKS. All three books are favorably reviewed on Amazon.

Muthias Freese

Having fun painting and traveling. Just exhibited in Roslyn and Martin Viette shows. Last trip was Moscow and St. Petersburg – very exciting! Jerry still accounting and cutting back. Went to one of HHH's finest students wedding. Danced and hugged all the guests (former students). It was amazing! Teaching was a wonderful career and life-changing experience.

Arlene Dorfman

Hi everyone! In August will be taking my entire family – children and grandchildren to Italy – land of my parents. After a tour of Italy, we will end up in the town where my mother and father were born. This is my gift to my family. Will let you know how it turns out.

Fran Kranz

All is well. Enjoying my retirement with my family and four grandchildren. Volunteering at North Shore LIJ, teaching mah-jongg, knitting for Cancer Care Linus fund. Wintering in Florida and playing golf. Traveling whenever we can. Hope all my Half Hollow Hills family is well and enjoying their retirement.

Bonita Sebel

Hi everyone. Became a grandma again. Caleb Joseph (C.J.) and he is a robust six-month old. Grace (four years) loves being a big sister. I love being "Grammie". Still volunteering (as a RN) at a free clinic.

Linda Julia

Dear Joan, Dick, Mel, Cathy, Karen, and all, Thank you for all the hard work and great things you do for all of us. I really appreciate and am grateful to you all. Love,

Eileen Harrington

Don and I have moved to Manhattan where both daughters live. Leah just graduated with an MS from NYU and will be a registered dietitian once she passes the boards. She is also expecting our first grandchild in November. Mallory is working in finance at Zürich. She is working on her MBA at Fordham. Mallory has run a number of marathons around the globe but is only doing shorter races this year. However, she has passed the baton to me as I will be running my first marathon in November in NYC

Barbara Fratta

Enjoying retirement at "The Landings on Skidaway Island". Playing golf and tennis as well as boating. Still painting watercolors. Best wishes to all my fellow retirees.

Denny Thompson

To Brian Becker and Jack Gestri:

It was brought to our attention that we mixed up your *Keep In Touch* comments in our last issue.. The comments from our members come to us in many different ways and,unfortunately, yours became entangled.

We are sorry. *HHHART Beat* editors

In the last issue of the *HHHART Beat*, we attributed the *Keep in Touch* article about someone still doing her thing while on chemo for pancreatic cancer (for more than 2 1/2 years) to Francis Magat. She asked us to let our members know that she was Fran Schaeffer, Spanish teacher from High School West and West Hollow Middle School.

Please notify Alice Langholz, aelang@optonline.net, if you wish to be added to our e-mail list. We will continue to keep you informed.

**Welfare Trust Benefits
Know Your Benefits
by Dick Lee, Trust Fund Administration**

Third Party Administrator Change

Since November 1, 2013, the HHHTA Welfare Trust has changed the third party administrator for our union benefits from Newman Co. to **Administrative Services Only (ASO)**. As of April 1st, any claims and/or inquires to Newman Co. will be **DENIED** and not forwarded to us for processing.

All benefit inquires and/or claims should be made to:

ASO (Life Insurance
Medical/Vision Care)
303 Merrick Rd. Suite 300
Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563
(516) 394-9477

ASO (COBRA Dental)
PO Box 9005, Dept. 153
Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563
(516) 396-5500

First Rehab (Excess Major
600 Northern Blvd. Suite 310
Great Neck, N.Y. 11021
(800) 365-4999

Why Do You Get a Check from the School District Twice a Year?

NYSHIP (New York State Health Insurance Program) requires ALL enrollees who are retired and attain age 65 to enroll in Medicare Part B. \$104.90 is deducted from your Social Security benefit, each month, to pay for this coverage which involves doctor/surgeon charges. Since it is a requirement to have Part B, the school district reimburses participants, twice a year, for this coverage. This is done, automatically, if you have notified the district (Barry Corbett – 631-592-3094) of your and /or your spouse's eligibility for Medicare.

For Participants whose individual income is over \$84,000 per year or \$170,000 per year as a family, there is a surcharge added to your Part B coverage cost. This extra amount is reimbursable as long as you send a copy of your SSA 1099 form to Barry Corbett to verify that you were assessed a surcharge. This verification must be provided **every year you pay a surcharge** for Part B coverage. You get a SSA 1099 form from the Social Security Administration each January.

The Part B surcharge reimbursement, called IRMAA is, once again, eliminated from Governor Cuomo's State Budget Proposal. Last year, NYSUT members protested and had it restored. If you want to get involved in getting IRMAA (Part B surcharge reimbursement) restored to this year's budget, log on to the NYSUT member Action Center at: **MAC.NYSUT.org**. Click on "Resources and Links" and let your legislators know that you want IRMAA retained in the budget. This same website allows your voice to be heard on several issues affecting active and retired teachers.

Check Your Beneficiaries

In past articles we have advised you to check that your beneficiary for your life insurance policy is the correct designee. You may call ASO (516)394-9477) to check for this information. You should also check the beneficiary/beneficiaries for your **403b, IRA or tax shelter account**. These tax shelter accounts were often opened many years ago and your life situation might have changed since you initiated it. Call your tax shelter agent to verify that your intended beneficiary/beneficiaries are correct and current.

When you receive your life insurance invoice this year (June), **ASO** will enclose a new life insurance registration form. Please fill it out and return it to ASO to verify your desired beneficiary (ies).

Reunion – Class of '64

The Half Hollow Hills Class of '64 will be celebrating their 50th Reunion this year. The event will be held on Saturday night October 11th at Nocellos Restaurant in Northport.

They will kickoff the weekend with a tour of High School East on Friday night followed by entertainment with 60's music performed by one of their own, Jim Dorn. The weekend will close with a brunch at Nocellos on Sunday.

Any retiree who remembers this class and would like to attend or to send good wishes contact:

Malinda Lianza Dobrins 631-499-6989 or
lotsofdimples@optonline.net

HHHART will receive the Abel Blattman Award for 2013 Vote-Cope contributions at the Representative Assembly.

The 2014
continues.

Vote
COPE

drive

\$25 or more suggested.

Vote-Cope helps strengthen political action at all levels. The single largest expenditure is rebates to locals for their own communities for support with school budget votes and local campaigns. Funds also go toward political action expenses. NYSUT and **Vote-Cope** are non-partisan and intend to remain non-partisan providing funds to pro-education and pro-labor candidates of all parties. Issues matter, not party.

Please send a check made out to **Vote-Cope** to the TA Office or you may opt to use the convenient NYSUT automatic pension deduction. (Contact NYSUT if you are interested) The 2014 **Vote-Cope** drive began in January and ends in December.

Politics- Politics- and more Politics! So what else is New!

It seems that every year New York politics gets crazier and crazier but it does seem that in spite of some awful proposals – especially from the Republican Senate – we did end up with a fairly decent budget, thanks to intense lobbying by NYSUT and our political action team across the state. In brief summation these are some of our key wins: K-12 school aid increase of \$1.12 billion (5.4% increase – \$500 million above Cuomo's proposal), teacher center aid restored to \$14.25 million, universal Pre K funded at \$340 million – 300 million of that to NYC, common core assessments not to be counted for student records although still part of teacher evaluations (we are still working to fix this!), K-2 standardized tests eliminated (this was a major win due to our efforts).

We stopped a voucher bill from passing which would have diverted millions of dollars to private and parochial schools – another big win for us. We still continue to fight, through law suits, the ill-advised tax cap and the newly created tax freeze on government agencies which greatly impact school funding. As many issues remain to be rectified, our NYSUT PAC has begun the interview process to seek candidates for the Assembly and Senate who support our education goals. To help us with this, your contributions to Vote/Cope will be extremely helpful. PLEASE CONTRIBUTE! Mel Stern

Notable Passings

Jack Shaw, a former President of the Half Hollow Hills Teachers Association, passed away in December, 2013. He was President late in the 1960's and early '70's.

Peter Connors passed away in January. As many of you know, he was the Director of the Planetarium for 30 years and was an important part of everyone's teaching. The Planetarium at High School East is named in his honor.

Changes & additions for HHHART Directory

Grace Napoli mnapoli11@gmail.com
Elaine Schwartz elainesch3@gmail.com
Denise Simonetta dja7783@gmail.com

Coming Soon: New endorsed shopping program



NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the endorsement of the member shopping program powered by PayCheck Direct for roll-out this spring 2014.

This program – part of the national retail powerhouse Bluestem Brands, Inc. family, which also includes Fingerhut and *Gettington.com* – allows individuals to purchase what they want now and pay interest-free over 12 months.

Through PayCheck Direct, NYSUT members & their families will have access to more than 7,000 name-brand products such as appliances, televisions, computers, electronics, furniture, and much more.

Members would have the option of paying for any items they purchase interest-free over a 12-month period; bi-weekly payments would be made via automatic checking account withdrawals.

PayCheck Direct offers a 30-day in-home trial on many products; flexible return policy; no interest fees, credit checks, down payments, or

finance charges; and toll-free customer service representatives located in the U.S.

As part of this endorsement, PayCheck Direct will mail merchandise catalogs to the NYSUT membership four times per year.

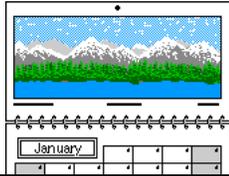
NYSUT members are encouraged to shop and compare prices before making a purchase with this program and consider it as an alternative to using their credit card.

We are excited to be launching this new program in spring 2014! Join our MAP (Member Alert Program) Alert email service to be among the first to learn more about this program (visit the Member Benefits website for sign-up instructions).

You can also visit memberbenefits.nysut.org in the coming weeks for details on how to use this service or call 800-626-8101 with any questions.

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.

Mark Your Calendar



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	Ellen Keuling
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
	Marlene Flanagan
E-mail Data Base	Alice Langholz
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RA Delegate	Joan Petroske
AFT Delegate	DickLee
Political Action Coordinator	Mel Stern
Newsletter Publisher /Co-Eds	Barbara Arbuss
	Sandra Glickman
	Norma Smith
HHHART Web Address	http://www.hhhart.net

2014	
Thursday, May 29th	NYSUT RC Council #20 Captain Bill's Restaurant
Wednesday, June 18th	HHHART General Meeting HHH Library 9:30 a.m. Ginny Pisciotta, Memory Fitness Instructor
July 1st	HHHART annual dues are due
TBA	HHHART Fall Luncheon
Thursday, October 16th	CORTLI Luncheon Crest Hollow Country Club

IN MEMORIAM

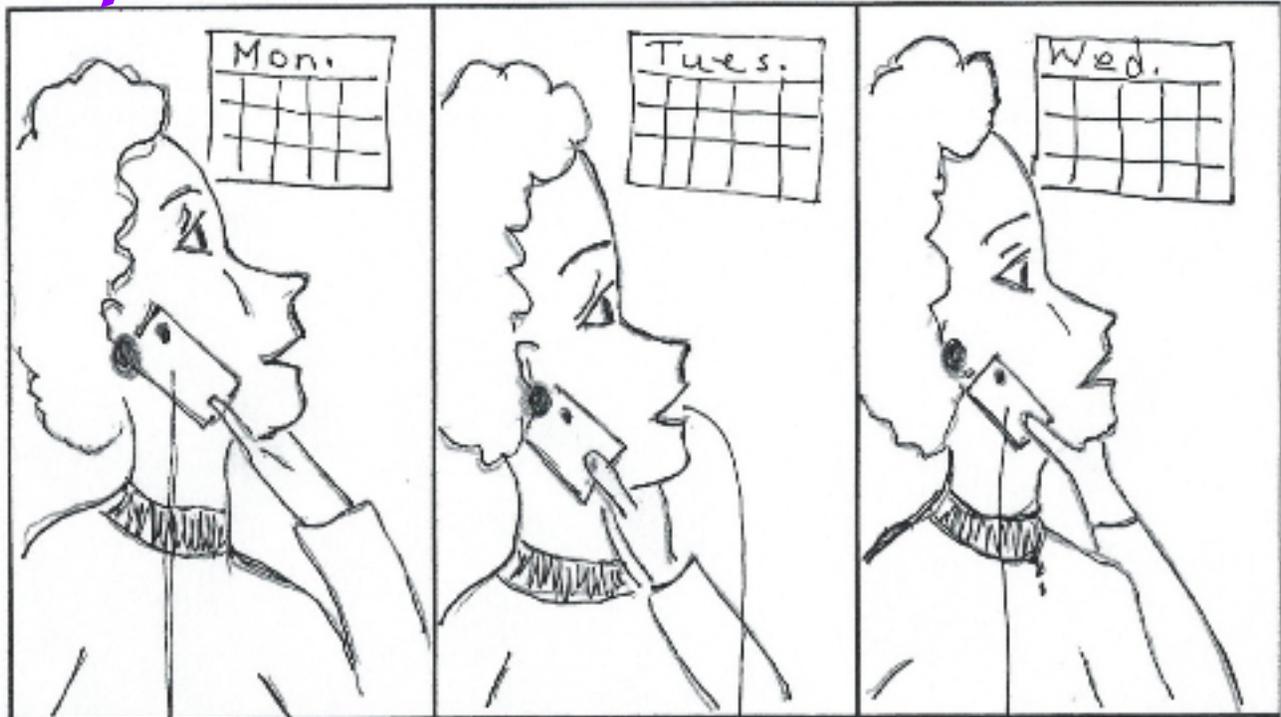
Jack Shaw
December, 2013
TH

Peter Connors
January, 2014
SI

HHHART dues are due July 1st. Payment will be accepted no later than September 30th.

Glimpses

by Norma



Hi, this is Jan. I'm off to Aspen.

Jan, we sent you to Colorado to go to the Univerity...not to go skiing.

Hi, this is Jan. I'm off to the library.