

MID HUDSON BRIDGES

Representing **Columbia Dutchess Greene Sullivan Ulster Counties**

HAPPY SUMMER!

Volume XXXII Summer Issue

NYSUT RC 13

June/July 2024



**From The Desk of
the President
Patrick McCarthy**



Dear Colleagues,

From your Board of Directors, & myself, it is our sincere wish that this newsletter finds you in good health & able to get outside to enjoy the last beautiful days of spring in the Mid-Hudson region.

The Board of Directors have participated in the Committee of 100 (NYSUT's annual lobbying effort in Albany), retiree and in-service election district meetings, and the 2024 NYSUT Representative Assembly. The RA sets the legislative priorities for the coming year for NYSUT. This year delegates from across NYS considered over 60 proposed resolutions in both committee meetings & on the floor during the RA General Sessions. Several of the resolutions being considered were "signed on" supported by RC #13. They address issues such as retiree health insurance, monitoring Medicare Advantage programs, & book banning. A complete list of resolutions can be found on the NYSUT website (www.nysut.org).

The Board thanks everyone who took the time to voice their support in this year's budget talks.

Your phone calls, attendance at rallies, & Committee of 100 meet

ings, letters and over 65,000 email actions from our Member Action Center (MAC) paid off! The final budget rejected the devastating proposed cuts through the elimination of save-harmless and restores most of the money that schools would have lost under the executive budget proposal. Your efforts resulted in over \$430 million more in funding which will go into our schools.

The plan to close SUNY Downstate Hospital was rejected. Over \$100 million more in operating aid and \$100 million more in capital aid for SUNY and CUNY was provided which is a step in the right direction for higher education in our state. We scored our biggest win for pension reform in 20 years by lowering the Final Average Salary calculation period from 5 to 3 years for **Tier 6** members. This will result, on average, in larger pension checks upon retirement which is about \$100,000 more in additional retirement earnings.

These accomplishments as well as many others, are a result of the "**collective**" voice of our members, demonstrating once again, "In unity there is strength." Together we can do so much! One of the best ways to demonstrate

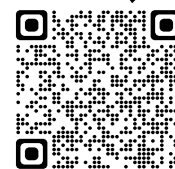
your support for all of our initiatives is to contribute to **VOTE-COPE**, our Union's voluntary political action fund. This will provide much needed dollars for pension, social security and Medicare protection and gives support to candidates who, regardless of political affiliation, share our ideals & advocate for public education.

In closing, I once again urge you to check RC #13's website (**scan QR code**) for updated information on events, webinars and other opportunities to engage with fellow retirees. Since many of the activities are seasonal venues, details are not finalized until they open. The Social Committee is looking to provide a variety of activities this summer & fall. Viewing our website will ensure you are not missing out on any of our events. I am confident you will find something to your liking.

In solidarity,
Patrick McCarthy

**WE ARE MEMBERS
FOR LIFE!**

SCAN ME



retireecouncil13.com

2024 Calendar - In Person - June - October @ Regional Office - Kingston

The RC#13 Board of Directors meet monthly, the 2nd Wednesday (**10:15 am-12:15pm**) (except July & August). If you would like to be a **GUEST** contact Patrick McCarthy (rc13president@retireecouncil13.com)

June

12 - Board/Liaisons meeting

September

11 - Board/Liaisons meeting

19 - New Retiree Reception, 10 am

October

9 - **ED 51-53 meeting, Albany**

16 - Board/Liaisons meeting

17 - **NYSUT/RC #13 Fall Conference,
Wiltwyck Golf Club, Kingston, NY
Registration - 8:30am**

Have You Moved?

Make sure you continue to receive the *Mid-Hudson Bridges*, the newsletter of RC #13. You can update your address by: **1.** Creating/updating your NYSUT account by clicking on the login icon on the **top right** corner of the **nysut.org** website.

2. Contact NYSUT Member Records at **1-800-342-9810** or email changes to: **memberec@nysut.org**

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS THIS SUMMER?

NYSUT Member Benefits offers a variety of endorsed programs & services that can help you enjoy today, while planning for tomorrow.



As a NYSUT member, you have access to participate in a number of programs and services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits. These products have been carefully cultivated to provide members with quality programs at competitive prices, including insurance programs to help you protect your family; legal and financial plans to help you plan for the future; and shopping, travel & personal services to help save you money.

Member Benefits also offers a number of benefits available free of charge to members such as the premium Calm service, Peer Support Line, Financial Learning Center, and more.

Participation in our endorsed programs features the added protection of having a trusted advocate on your side. Our staff take great pride in stepping in to support members with any questions, concerns, or issues that may arise.

No matter what your plans may be, NYSUT Member Benefits is a great place to start. Explore all that your union membership has to offer!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.

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



VOTE-COPE, our voluntary political action fund, calculates total contributions based on the calendar year. To get more information, or to contribute, you can go to (www.nysut.org), click on the TAKE ACTION Tab, & select VOTE-COPE. It can also be accessed directly from the RC#13's website www.retireecouncil13.com) under the VOTE-COPE TAB.



FIX TIER VI - YOU can help: Contribute to VOTE-COPE - Join the Tier VI Team! [Fix Tier6.org](http://FixTier6.org)

OUR
SOCIAL
SIDE

Hudson River Fall Foliage Tour

For full details & cancellation policy see our website:
(www.retireecouncil13.com) and click on **EVENTS**.



TUESDAY, October 22ND, 2:00 pm, the **Rip Van Winkle** will take us for a scenic 90 minute cruise of the Hudson at the peak of fall foliage. Cost is \$30 per person. Payment due to reserve spot is July 15th. Hudson River Boat Tours, 40 Rondout Lane, Kingston, NY 12401. If you have any questions please contact Laurie Silver @ 845-626-3468.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **NYSUT, RC #13**

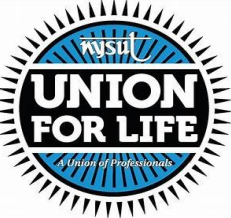
Send to: **NYSUT/MHRO**

201 Stockade Drive, Kingston, New York 12401

List event on memo line (ie, Hudson River Fall Foliage Tour)

PLEASE INCLUDE CONTACT INFORMATION (CELL #, EMAIL) WITH YOUR CHECK

Please contact the venue at (845) 340-4700 to check for cancellation due to extreme weather on the trip date.



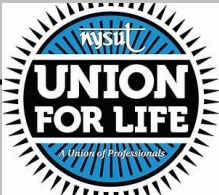
PLEASE NOTE:

Many retirees receive mailings from an organization called Retired Educators of New York (RENY).

THIS IS NOT OUR UNION!

It is an independent organization that offers some benefits and membership at a Cost. We are **NEWYORKSTATE UNITED TEACHERS (NYSUT)** and you are a member for **LIFE!**

Retiree Council #13				DIRECTORS:		
OFFICERS:				Susan Grybas	Chatham	(518) 755-9431
President:	Patrick McCarthy	Sullivan BOCES	(845) 701-1825	Paula Ptaszek	Chatham	(518) 929-8641
1VP:	William Rule	Walkill	(845) 687-0849	Sharon Carloni	Coxsackie-Athens	(518) 339-6619
2VP:	Laurie Silver	Sullivan BOCES	(845) 626-3468	Nancy Sharoff	Ellenville	(845) 798-5925
Secretary:	Susan Eagan	Marlboro	(845) 889-4416	Sue Huggler	Liberty	(845) 701-5668
Treasurer:	Mary Lou Davis	Spackenkill	(845) 223-5544	Sandra Breitenberger	Kingston	(845) 657-2164
NYSUT/ AFT DELEGATES:				Irene Romano	Red Hook	(876) 758-0333
Patrick McCarthy, Donna Matthews, Caren Levant				Janis Bianco	Rondout Valley	(845) 338-0215
Alternates: Paula Ptaszek, William Rule				Donna Mathews	Ulster BOCES	(845) 706-6973
Presidents Emeritus:				Caren Levant	White Plains CSD	(914) 479-8774
Marvin Eisenberg, Matt Ostoyich, Janice Scriber, Victoria Schulte				Cliff Foley	Wappingers	(845) 297-1875



RC#13

NYSUT

MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION FORM NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL #13

Representing: Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties

January 1 – December 31, 2024

UNION

FOR LIFE

Name: _____ Preferred Phone: _____

Mailing Address (Street, City, Zip Code) **PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY**

Email: _____ (For RC13/NYSUT Use Only)

School District Retired From: _____

\$10.00 yearly recommended contribution

Made out to: NYSUT RC # 13

Mail form to: NYSUT RC #13 TREASURER

201 Stockade Drive, Kingston, NY 12401

I would be willing to work in the areas of: Newsletter _____ Social Events _____ Political Action _____

RC# 13 meetings are open to all NYSUT retirees & are held at the above address.

ICE CREAM DAY

VANILLA

ICE CREAM DAY

JULY 23

NATIONAL S'MORES DAY



AUGUST 10

SAVE THE DATE: Oct 17th

NYSUT FALL CONFERENCE

Wiltwyck Golf Club

Kingston, NY

I'M STICKING WITH OUR

UNION

PROUD UNION RETIREE

Strong Union

Active Retirees!

About Retiree Council #13

PROUD

UNION

SRP

Essential to Education

Mid-Hudson Bridges, is a quarterly publication of the

Mid-Hudson Retiree Council 13, serving: Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Ulster, & Sullivan Counties.

Email articles to: Paula Ptaszek, Editor of Mid-Hudson Bridges, at ptaszekp@gmail.com

Co-editors are: Mary Lou Davis at maryloudavis125@gmail.com

William Rule at wvr12@aol.com

Electronic files are appreciated attached as a Word document or embedded as text of an email.

Next issue deadline: July1st

Visit the NEW RC#13 website for other useful information:

www.retireecouncil13.com



RESPECT

PUBLIC EDUCATION

It works!

NYSUT