

SPOTLIGHT on RC 45

Volume 3, Issue 1

NYSUT Retiree Council 45 Newsletter

Jan./Feb. 2014

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SPOTLIGHT Editor

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From your President:

I hope you all had a good start to the New Year and are able to keep warm!

The NYSUT Government Relations staff have provided a preliminary preview of Governor Cuomo's 2014 tax proposal, which if approved, will cost the state 2.2 billion dollars in tax revenue. Businesses, property taxpayers and estate owners would benefit from this residential property tax relief proposal. New York State ERS (Employees Retirement System) and TRS (Teachers Retirement System) retirees need to consider during the debate that what is saved on property taxes could reduce revenue earmarked for already financially strapped schools and retiree health and pensions benefits.

The Governor is proposing that the 2% tax cap remain in place, once again shortchanging students, programs and educational employees. Over 70 percent of New York state schools are still at or below the 2008-2009 spending levels. Programs for students and educational jobs have been cut over the past several years. Under the Governor's proposed plan funding for higher education would continue to remain flat. Providing increased tax cuts to businesses and corporations will do nothing to restore programs and services to our members and students.

The Governor further proposes a 2 year freeze on property taxes. Rebates and other incentives would be available only to those living in jurisdictions that stay within the tax cap limits. In the first year of the proposal, only homeowners who vote to limit increases to 2 percent or less would receive tax rebates. In year two, homeowners would receive a tax rebate if they vote to implement shared services or an administrative consolidation agreement plan and stay within the 2 percent tax limit.

During the second year of the "freeze", refundable tax credits are being proposed for those earning an income of up to \$200,000. A renter's tax credit that increases with family size and earnings of up to \$100,000 would be provided. The threshold for estate taxes would be increased as well as a cut in business taxes. Real property tax credits for manufacturers, elimination of the tax rate on upstate manufacturers, the

elimination of the temporary utility assessment levied on commercial industrial customers, and a simplification of the tax code have also been proposed. These reductions/incentives will create benefits for businesses, residential property owners and estate owners but could hurt our schools and their current and retired employees. At this time the impact on Medicare, social security, retiree benefits and other benefits is yet to be determined.

We soon will be heading into an election year. It is imperative that we come together as a Union to help elect those who have our best interest at heart. If you have not already done so, please consider supporting VOTE/COPE!

RC45 WILL HOLD ELECTIONS: Elections will be held at the July 16, 2014 membership meeting for the positions of all Executive Officers, Directors, as well as the election of two NYSUT RA Delegates and three Alternate NYSUT Delegates will take place. Nominations will be accepted at the meeting from the floor. Persons nominated from the floor must be present or have submitted written confirmation of their willingness to serve. Voting will be by secret ballot of all members present at the meeting.



Happy New Year!!

Looking ahead to a great year in 2014



The NYSUT Representative Assembly 2014

will be held from Friday, April 04th to Sunday, April 06th, 2014.

Location: Hilton Hotel and Towers, New York City

Members make their voices heard by electing local delegates who represent them at NYSUT's annual convention, the Representative Assembly. RC 45 President, Bill Ninness, and our two local delegates, Max Cleveland and Rick Brooks, will be attending.

Advance notice for Annual NYSUT Regional Conference for RC 45 and RC 11, **Wednesday, May 28th, 2014**, at Traditions at the Glen in Johnson City. The invited speakers are Tom DiNapoli, NYS Comptroller and Kathleen M. Donahue, NYSUT VP. Mark your calendar now ... This promises to be a beneficial day !!

*Important information on upcoming **Retiree Council 45 election** to take place at our July 16th General Membership Meeting ...*

We have our Nomination/ Elections committee; **Thank you** to the following for agreeing to serve:

Chris Frare, Chairperson, (Homer)
Beth Kanalley (McGraw)
Kathy Fox (Groton)

Anne Doyle (Cortland)
Clay Benedict (Homer)

Please contact Chris Frare, (11 Rosewood Ave., Cortland, NY 13045, 607-753-6610, cfrare@twcny.rr.com), if you wish to make a nomination for the positions of Executive Officers (President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and/ or Treasurer), Directors, as well as the election of two NYSUT RA Delegates and three Alternate NYSUT Delegates.

**Mark your calendar NOW for RC 45's Spring General Membership Meeting
On Wednesday, July 16th, 2014**

This Luncheon meeting will be held at the CNY Living History Center in Homer, NY We have a full program planned including two great speakers (David Keefe, NYSTRS BOD VP. and local author Katie Aldridge) and the election of officers and directors. Keep your eye on future newsletters and our website for updates !

Looking ahead to the RC 45 **Fall General Membership Luncheon Meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 9, 2014 at Briggs Manor in Homer, NY !! If you have any suggestions for guest speaker(s) or possible agenda topics that you would like to see addressed ... PLEASE let us know using our email address - retireecouncil45@gmail.com.

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: What kinds of 'news' would YOU like to see included in the Spotlight Newsletter ? If you :
: know of any local events of interest or member deserving of recognition, PLEASE send the :
: information along to us at our email address: retireecouncil45@gmail.com. :
:.....

Event planning in progress for this event ...



The first project of the newly formed RC 45 Social committee is to plan a bus or car pool trip to **Corning Museum of Glass** with lunch and other stops. Any interest or input is (as always) welcome via our email address - retireecouncil45@gmail.com.

Check out our website <http://rc45.ny.aft.org> and stay tuned for updates !!



Retiree Council 45 Calendar - 2014

January

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Jan 1 New Year's Day
 Jan 20 Martin Luther King Day
 Feb 12 Lincoln's Birthday
 Feb 14 Valentine's Day
 Feb 17 President' Day
 April 4-6 NYSUT Rep. Assembly
 May 11 Mother's Day

May 26 Memorial Day
May 28 NYSUT Regional Conf.
 June 15 Father's Day
 June 19 Juneteenth
 July 4 Independence Day
July 16 RC 45 Lunch Meeting
 Sep 1 Labor Day

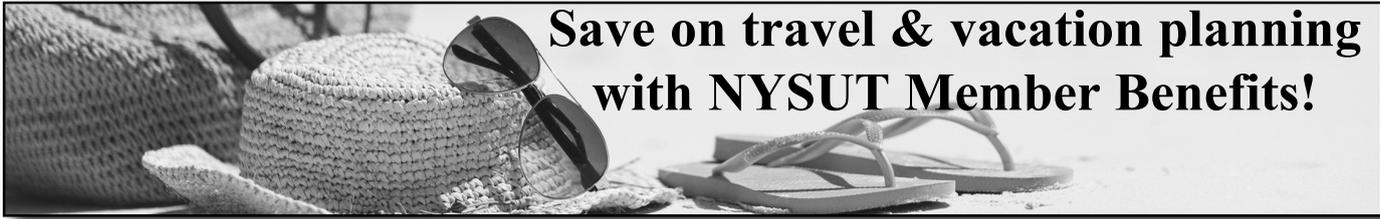
Oct 9 RC 45 Lunch Meeting
 Oct 13 Columbus Day
 Oct 31 Halloween
 Nov 4 Election Day
 Nov 11 Veterans Day
 Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day
 Dec 25 Happy Holidays !

WORDS OF WISDOM

And in the end it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years. --- Abraham Lincoln

The day after tomorrow is the third day of the rest of your life. --- George Carlin

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forward. --- Soren Kierkegaard



Save on travel & vacation planning with NYSUT Member Benefits!

Are you looking to book that incredible vacation you've always dreamed about, map out that important business trip you need to take or rent a vehicle for an upcoming excursion?

NYSUT Member Benefits offers a variety of endorsed discount travel programs that allow you to do each of these while saving money at the same time!

Travelzoo

Save up to 65% at top restaurants, luxury spas, museums, and other locations with one of the newest NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed programs -- Travelzoo.

Travelzoo also offers getaways that include stays at the finest inns, hotels and resorts across the U.S. combined with exclusive hotel perks and amenities to give guests an added bonus to complete their stay. Please note that many of these deals are offered for a limited period of time.

Grand Circle Corporation

One of our newest Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed programs is provided by Grand Circle Corporation, which offers a variety of group tour vacations designed specifically for American travelers over 50 years old.

Grand Circle Corporation -- which includes Grand Circle Travel, the award-winning Grand Circle Cruise Line, Overseas Adventure Travel, and Grand Circle Small Ship Cruises -- is committed to providing international travel, adventure and discovery opportunities that offer impactful and intercultural experiences.

NYSUT members & their family members can either save \$100 per person on their trip or travel for free if they gather at least 10 paying travelers for a group tour.

Wyndham Hotels & Endless Vacation Rentals

If you're on the hunt for savings, look no further than the NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed travel program offered by Wyndham Hotels & Endless Vacation Rentals.

NYSUT members enjoy savings of up to 20% at nearly 7,000 participating hotels among 17 hotel brands with Wyndham Worldwide and savings of 25% at more than 200,000 vacation rentals in 100 countries with Endless Vacation Rentals.

Wyndham Hotels has the right hotel for you at the right price -- whether it's an upscale hotel, all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective.

With Endless Vacation Rentals, NYSUT members can save on beautiful resort condos, villas, homes, and cottages that provide space and flexibility ideal for families and groups of friends traveling together.

Car & Truck Rentals

Do you need to rent a vehicle as part of your next trip? NYSUT members can get discounted rates on passenger car rentals with the following companies: Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, and National. You can also receive 20% off local or one-way truck rentals from Budget Truck Rental.

Learn more about these endorsed programs -- including how to access discounts, unique website codes and website links -- by contacting Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.



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.

Jan./Feb. '14