



November 2011

Dear Retirees both old and new,

Welcome to new, well earned, ever increasing Retired Association of Freeport Teachers (RAFT). We congratulate and welcome our June 2011 FTA retirees:

Archer

Wanda Goldfarb

Atkinson

Mary Anne Rose
Jackie Cameron
Kathy Caldwell

Bayview

Fran Epstein
Christie De Cesare

Dodd

Sal Testa
Eileen Keegan

New Visions

Emilee Rosenbaum

Freeport High School

Bob Stirrat
Florence Bell
Ann Fleming
Martha Godoy
Norm Rosenbaum
Lois Picinich

As your FTA Retiree Representative , I have strongly encouraged each of you to become INVOLVED and EDUCATED about the issues and concerns that affect retirees now and in the future in order to protect yourself and your family.

I will be informing you of issues and actions that must be taken in order for your retirement to be a successful one. Please contact your members of Congress at the US Capitol toll free (866) 327-8670 when their votes will impact on you and your retirement.

You can also become involved and informed by attending RC#18 and CORTLI monthly meetings. At these meetings, important and informative information is disseminated. You should also be reading publications sent by NYSUT and AFT. Many issues (Social Security, Medicare, Health Insurance, etc.) are constantly being threatened. It is up to each of us to help in it's survival.

Joyce Fischer – FTA Retiree Representative
jrfisch@optonline.net



The following column appeared in the November 2011 NYSUT UNITED newspaper. Please read carefully and follow up accordingly:

RETIREEES, ARE YOU ANGRY YET?

By Dorothy Zuckerman

Brentwood Suffolk County NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant

Education is facing extraordinary challenges. Teachers are under attack because they're unable to cure all the ills of society brought into their classrooms. Public schools are labeled ineffectual and out-of date while essential funds are cut. Teachers unions are vilified as the enemy standing in the way of progress.

Where are you during these outrageous attacks on education? Are you passively reading and watching, saying "I'm glad I'm not there anymore?" Or are you angry enough about what's happening to our students, our teachers and schools take action? Here's what you can do:

- ***Let your in-service colleagues know that you support them.***
- ***Speak up at local community meetings or in e-mails to counteract the negative expressions and distortions.***
- ***Tell your local legislators how you feel about their budget cuts and tax caps – use www.nysut.org to send action letters and faxes.***
- ***Send letters to the editor of your local newspaper supporting our schools and teachers.***
- ***Get involved with your retiree council and chapter.***
- ***Make sure you are registered to vote! If you don't vote, don't complain-you're part of the problem.***



Here are some helpful websites:

<http://www.seniordiscounts.com/reallycurrent.htm>

GeriCareFinder.com – share and save info you find on Home Helpers, Retirement Homes, Advisors, Home Repair, Pet Services, etc.

ElderCareline.com – free referral service that can help you find everything from Home Care and Assisted Living to Financial Planning and Personal Emergency Responses

*** *Al Lissauer (FHS 6/05) and I attended the October 20th CORTLI luncheon. A presentation was made by a NYSUT representative from Latham informing the audience of the devastation caused and urgency needed as a result of the damage that Irene caused to communities and fellow teachers. As an aside, the presenter of this program was a graduate of the Freeport Schools. His name is Paul Webster (I was his second grade teacher) and he spoke glowingly to the audience about his years in the Freeport Schools.***

The audience responded to this tragedy by contributing over \$1000.00 to the NYSUT Disaster Relief and Scholarship Fund

Donations to NYSUT’s Disaster Relief and Scholarship Fund are urgently needed to provide direct assistance to members after the devastating floods that ravaged communities throughout New York State.

To make a tax deductible donation, go to www.nysut.org or send a check, payable to NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund, to: NYSUT Headquarters, Att: Jeff Lockwood, Accounting Dept. 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, New York 12110. Note "Storm Relief in the memo line.



The Vote/Cope Campaign will begin shortly. Vote/Cope contributions can be made through your Pension Deductions, or by check. It is of utmost importance for each of us to contribute to this campaign. Your contribution through Pension Deduction is easy, effective and taken out directly through your monthly Pension. By having a \$3 a pension check deduction, your total contribution is \$36 a year, a \$2 deduction, it is \$34 a year. So little, for so much.

With NYSUT's membership in the hundreds of thousands, we have been able to elect members of Congress and our State Senate and Assembly who support our goals regardless of their political affiliations. We have POWER through your contribution!

However you choose to contribute to VOTE/COPE, just do it!!!

Top 10 Reasons to Contribute to Vote/Cope

1. To protect public pensions by maintaining guaranteed benefits for life.
2. Legislation which enacted a Permanent Healthcare Moratorium.
3. To secure and increase health benefits.
4. To increase monthly COLA benefits.
5. To urge full cost of living increases in COLA benefits.
6. To fight for COLA legislation with no waiting period.
7. To make sure the NYSYS Constitution remains the same, guaranteeing that benefits NOT be diminished.
8. To ensure the safety of Social Security.
9. To change the flawed Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 and to eliminate Part B be diminished.
10. To repeal the prohibition against Medicare negotiations for drug prices.



RAFT

Are you keeping your family's best interests in mind?

The importance of having a will cannot be overstated – this crucial legal document protects your family during their time of grief and ensures that your wishes are honored.

Drafting a will can help provide peace of mind for you today and prevent unnecessary stress for your family in the future. It also allows you to name a legal guardian if you have children under the age of 18. In addition, a will ensures that your estate will be distributed according to your desires.

A power-packed legal punch

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan – provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. – provides access to legal advice and assistance that is crucial when looking to create or update a will.

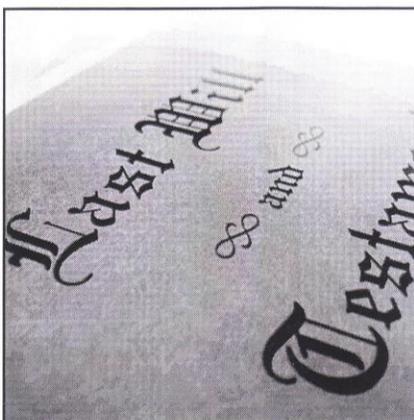
Each year, the plan provides for one simple will or update at no charge. A simple will provides for the proceeds of one's estate to be distributed to a specifically named beneficiary(ies), with an alternate distribution plan in the event that the primary beneficiary predeceases the writer of the will. With a simple will, proceeds are distributed outright with no conditions attached.

In addition to the simple will, you will receive a durable power of attorney, living will and health care proxy – all important documents to have in place before the need for them arises.

Discounted rates

NYSUT members can purchase the Legal Service Plan at the special cost of \$85 per year or \$55 per year for retirees; an Elder Law Rider and/or Business Protection Rider are available for an additional fee. Members eligible for payroll or pension deduction can take advantage of further savings.

Do you have other legal issues that you need assistance with, such as dealing with a speeding ticket or selling your home? The plan offers NYSUT members legal assistance for a variety of personal legal matters.



You will have access to unlimited, toll-free legal advice from plan attorneys; these attorneys will make phone calls and write third-party correspondence at no charge to resolve personal legal situations on your behalf before they become major problems. In

addition, when you enroll in this plan, you will receive two coupons for free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney.

How to get started

You can enroll in the voluntary plan online by visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or printing a descriptive brochure and enrollment form. Feel free to also contact NYSUT Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** with any questions about the plan.

Please note: if you belong to a local association that provides a group legal service plan through the local or its benefit fund, remember to take advantage of the plan's benefits.

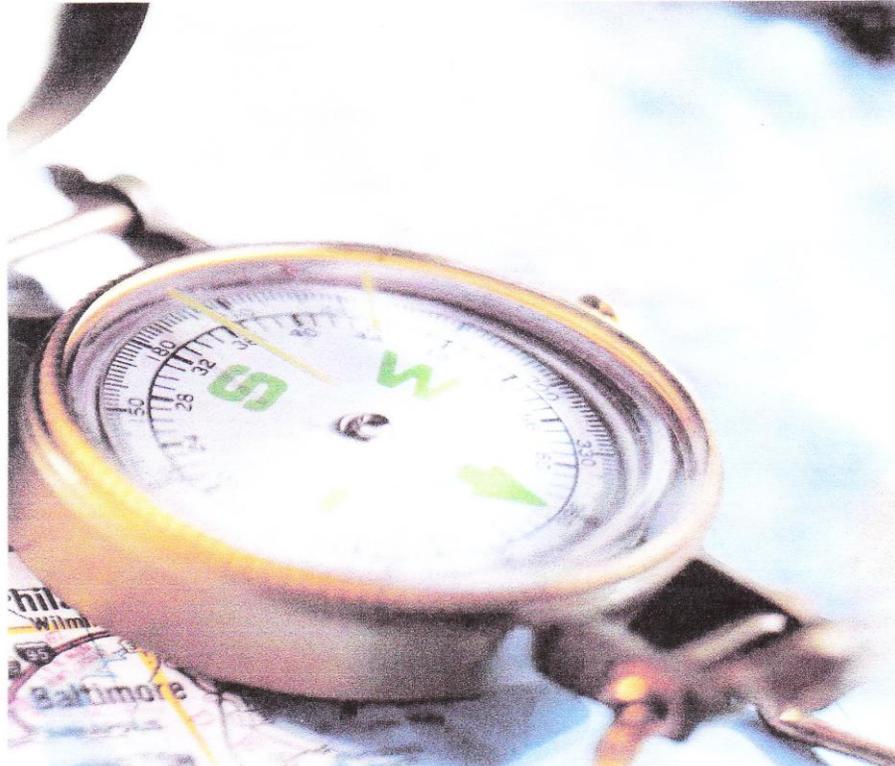
The Legal Service Plan provided through Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. is a NYSUT Member Benefits Trust (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 33.33% of annual participation fees received for this program. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.



Nov./Dec. '11



Looking for direction.... ?



One facet of the NYSUT mission statement is to improve the personal lives of its members and their families. NYSUT Social Services is a valuable benefit available to you. There is no charge, no limitation on usage and is completely confidential. We provide you and your family with a personal response to your unique issue.

Call NYSUT Social Services
1-800-342-9810, ext. 6206
socsvcs@nysutmail.org

Scott Hicks, LCSW
Ani Shahinian, LCSW-R

Problems come in many forms.
So does the help NYSUT provides.

