

ROBS - RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

Since 1991 - Still Serving

Issue 4/2012-2013

July & August 2013

MEETINGS

General Meetings are held at the Brentwood Public Library, 2nd Ave., and Third St., at 10:00 a.m. on the **first** Friday of the month unless otherwise noted.

September 13 - Welcome New Retirees

**October 4 - Jennifer Gunn
Protecting Your
Wealth in Retirement**

November 1 - to be announced

ROBS CARES CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

Pronto, the community action group we support, is in need of dry and canned goods, paper products and toiletries. **Please** bring your contributions to **every** meeting. Thank you.

OFFICERS

Nick Siciliano - President
kpnici1@aol.com
Kathy Guleksen - 1st VP
Harriet Pepine - 2nd VP
Marge Kirchner - Treasurer
Dot Zuckerman & Phyllis Goodwin
Presidents Emeritas

AFFILIATIONS

ROBS is proudly affiliated with NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL/CIO, RC21 & NYSARA.

www.robsny.org



PRESENTING THE 2013

ROBS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES



left to right: Nimer Arturo Maldonado, Jeanette Byrnes, Edania Martinez, Daniel Costeira, Lucia Mejia and Kathy Guleksen

Once again **ROBS** was able to award a total of \$3,000 in scholarship money to five deserving Brentwood High School seniors.

The well-attended Scholarship Night was held on May 16, 2013 at the Brentwood High School and **ROBS** Vice President Kathleen Guleksen was there to present awards to the winners. Daniel Costeira received the \$1,000 Jack Zuckerman Award and Lucia Mejia received the \$500 Lilian Kelly Award. The three other scholarship recipients of \$500 **ROBS** awards were Nimer Arturo Maldonado, Edania Martinez and Jeanette Byrnes.

For the second consecutive year **ROBS** was able to increase the number of \$500 awards from three to four thanks to the generosity of **ROBS** members.

Thank you for your support.

Congratulations to our graduating students.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Carmela Criscione - ROBS Cares
Adrienne Eastman - BCA Liaison
Gloria Hannemann - Web Coord.
Barbara Mascaro - Archivist &
RC21 Liaison
Paula Moore - Photographer
Lynda Romano - Hospitality &
Programs
John Sherin - History Project
Nick Siciliano - Web Editor
Letty Sustrin - Project Hope
Sheila Sustrin - Project Hope
Ellen Edelstein, Paula Moore and
Jim Nanos - Delegates at Large

EDITORIAL BOARD

Carmela Criscione - Editor
tecnoquuen@aol.com
Ronda Brooks
Adrienne Eastman
Phyllis Goodwin
Miriam Massucci
Paula Moore
John Sherin
Nick Siciliano

TALK TO US

The phone numbers, home addresses
and e-mail addresses of all the
Officers and Executive Board
Members are in the Directory should
you wish to contact us.

Stories, ideas for stories or columns
and news items are always welcome.

www.robsny.org

Visit us today!



NICK'S NOTES by Nick Siciliano

Let me once again congratulate all of you for your generosity in contributing to our scholarship program. We were able to award five scholarships this year. The students who received those scholarships would also like to thank all of you.

Budget difficulties continue in Washington. As retirees we must be ever mindful of any changes that might be proposed in Social Security. There are discussions going on concerning the yearly cost of living increase (COLA) that we receive based on the inflation rate. Some are proposing that a new method be used to determine this rate. While we are being told that if the new rate is adopted there will be a slightly smaller increase in the cost of living each year. Over time this could be substantial. As you aware there are other proposals being put forth regarding the Social Security program that will keep it fully funded. All of us should pay particular attention to what is being proposed and its impact on retirees.

Active teachers are facing a number of difficulties, including a new curriculum (so-called Common Core Program) testing system to determine if teachers are effective. We have seen programs in schools being eliminated and teachers being excessed. We must continue to be informed of what is going on in the district and where possible, individually and collectively, help our in service colleagues. Even though the Brentwood school budget passed there have been severe cuts in the Music, Art and Social Worker areas.

The situation for retirees and in-service teachers may seem bleak but if we all become involved and take action, when necessary, with our national, state and local organizations we can make a difference.

You can make a difference.



June Dawson & Ellen Edelstein



Phyllis Goodwin & Harriet Pepine



Carole Sobocinski, Pat Stuhler, & Kathy Guleksen



Anne Mygland & Adrienne Eastman

HIGH TEA AT THE BAYARD CUTTING ARBORETUM

by Kathy Guleksen

In spite of the pouring rain on May 7, the ladies of **ROBS** gathered amid the gorgeous gardens of the Bayard Cutting Arboretum in Oakdale for the second annual High Tea. This year the tea was held in the intimate setting of the annex which was built in 1890 and stands next to the main house which was built four years earlier.

Our table was elegantly set with table linens and fine china. Each lady had a place setting of a different fine china pattern, one more lovely than the next. The table was arranged so guests could serve themselves from the three-tiered dishes which were filled with scrumptious scones, clotted cream and strawberry jam on the top level. The second tier had many tasty finger sandwiches including triple-decker ham salad, scallions and cream cheese, egg salad and sprouts and turkey with cranberry mayo. The bottom tier was filled with irresistible desserts, such as mini-canoli, chocolate cream puffs and chocolate mousse.

The formal tea menu was presented and each lady selected her favorite flavor of tea, from a rather extensive list, which was then served in individual fine china tea pots. Everyone wanted refills to taste the different flavors.

Once again the ladies dressed for the occasion. Stylish hats were the order of the day. I wore another of my mother-in-law's hats that dated from the 1940's. Check out Adrienne's hat. She could be attending Ascot with the Queen.

It was a delicious afternoon filled with sweet treats and fun conversation. Phyllis Goodwin put together an outstanding event and we were grateful for such a lovely treat in a lovely setting.

The ladies: Phyllis Goodwin, Kathy Guleksen, Adrienne Eastman, Harriet Pepine, Ellen Edelstein, Carole Sobocinski, Pat Stuhler, Anne Mygland, June Dawson, Maria Canale and Carmela Criscione.



IT'S ALL ABOUT US by Carmela Criscione

Happy summer. Although we've had some freaky weather it seems we are now officially in summer and about time too. Many of you will be traveling to fun locations, and if so, safe travel and have fun and make sure to let us know all about it. We are always interested in our members activities, and you might find yourself highlighted in an issue of the newsletter.

Congratulations to **Rose Brousseau** on the birth of a new grandson, Landon Brousseau, born on January 12, 2013, to son Jeff and his wife, Neethi. **Barbara Mascaro** also has reason to glow. Her son and daughter-in-law welcomed William Reilly Mascaro on June 7th. Barbara had to miss the **ROBS** luncheon but we excuse her. Big brother Charlie will show William the ropes. Barbara says he's very cute, but all grandmas say that. Yes, they do and it's their right and privilege.

Get well wishes to **Edythe Welch** who is recovering from surgery. She was at the Luncheon and looked great. **Lucille Fink** sends regards from her new home. We wish her much happiness but miss her.

Although it rained buckets the afternoon of our Luncheon at the Irish Coffee Pub June 7 it did not dampen our spirits. **Lynda Romano** did a wonderful job organizing it and there were about 50 attendees. We had two honored guests attend. Joan Perrini, President of RC21, spoke and later presented **Gloria Hannemann** with her NYSUT Journalism award. Kevin Coyne, President of the Brentwood Teachers Association, was there and spoke briefly about the cuts in programs and other concerns.

Sadly we mention the passing of former State Senator Caesar Trunzo on May 29, 2013. Several years ago Mr. Trunzo was our guest at our New Year's Breakfast where we thanked him for all of his tireless efforts on behalf of the community and students of the Brentwood Schools. Mr. Trunzo lived in Brentwood and represented his community in the New York State Senate from 1973 to 2008. He will be missed.

Congratulations to **Paula Moore** who was just elected to the Brentwood Board of Education. She takes her seat in early July. Paula took on this task because she cares deeply about the children in the District. She is a resident and retired employee of the Brentwood Schools and will be an asset. Good luck!

Paula also attended Assemblyman Phil Ramos and Healthfirst's Children's Advocate Appreciation Breakfast which was held on May 2 at the Islandia Marriott. She was among 28 community activists being honored.

Adrienne Eastman attended the Brentwood Historical Society Meeting held on June 17. **Ellen Edelstein** is the Historical Society President and is doing a great job. A presentation was made about the Sisters of St. Joseph who have been in Brentwood for over 100 years. The Historical Society welcomes newcomers who are interested in the history of Brentwood. Please consider membership. You can reach the Historical Society at its website: www.brentwoodhis.org.

WHY IT MATTERS

LIARA MEETING

May 10, 2013

by
Adrienne Eastman

Our understanding of New York's problems and what we can do about it matters. At the LIARA meeting Tom DiNapoli, N.Y.S. Comptroller, and Dennis Tracy, LIARA President spoke about the impact of the nation's economy and Hurricane Sandy had on New York State.

Mr. DiNapoli spoke about the 8.2% unemployment rate in the state with Long Island having 6.8% of it. While the economy is showing signs of recovery and New York City is doing better, there is a long way to go. There were 62,000 private sector jobs created but the Civil Service sector is still contracting.

While housing is up by 7% statewide there has been a 5.1% increase in Suffolk County alone of foreclosures. Hurricane Sandy has not impacted the economy as much as we feared.

While it's good news that the State budget again was on time this year, the issue of state aid is always an issue. The tax cap is problematic. School districts must pass their budgets with a 60% margin to override the cap. This is an improbability.

The New York State Teachers and Employee Retirement Systems are among the best funded in the nation. While we were hit hard by the recession of 2008, the funds have rebounded mostly due to increased contributions from employers. The good news is a double digit return on our fund investments is anticipated. Approximately 82% of benefits paid out in pensions comes from investments and **NOT** tax payer money.

About 80% of retirees stay in New York State. There are 46,000 state retirees on Long Island alone. There are 3.7 million seniors in New York State.

Dennis Tracy spoke about the need to have Medicaid preserved. He also spoke about the changes being brought about by the Affordable Care Act.

The sequester means automatic 50% cuts in both military and domestic programs. Programs such as the Older Americans Act and food stamps are being cut.

In the 2012 election President Obama lost the senior vote. Seniors voted for Tea Party candidates and the Paul Ryan budget. The Republican Party can think about how to attract youth, black and Latino voters but the Democratic Party has to think about how to win back alienated senior votes.

In short, there are lots of issues seniors have to think about. We cannot become complacent and always think that our benefits and programs we enjoy will always be there.

There are many ways you can make yourself heard. Participate in rallies, write your legislators, go out and vote, come to meetings and volunteer for activities.

MEMBERSHIP

IN

ROBS FOR 2013-2014

This issue contains the application form for **ROBS** membership 2013-2014.

As a member you know all the benefits of membership: a subscription to our award-winning newsletter, monthly meeting featuring guest speakers and/or demonstrations, notice of special events like the High Tea, Container Garden Creation, theatre outings, the fund drives for the gift season and the awarding of scholarships. All good and fun things.

We ask that you complete and return the application in a timely way. Too often we put it among our check book and papers and it gets put aside.

Also, consider a friend who is not a member. Reach out to them and suggest they join. You can also decide that membership can be a gift from you to them. It's a great way to support your organization and share what our organization is all about.

Think about it.

WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT MEDICARE

by
Marty Hochheiser

This is about sub-acute physical therapy under Medicare.

If you are on Medicare and need rehabilitation in a long term care facility, Medicare pays for the first **twenty** days. From day 21-100 there is a co-pay of about \$150 per day.

However, you can get a supplemental policy to cover the costs of the co-pay. Empire Blue Cross has a policy for \$188 per month, but it must start on the first of the month. State Farm also has a supplemental policy for about \$435 a month.

Marty brought this to our attention, and we can also report that under the Affordable Care Act, Part A of Medicare covers a 60 day stay in the hospital. An overnight is considered "observation status". You have to be "admitted" not just "observed" if you need to go into rehab or a care facility. Ed.

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

Remember that **September 13** is our first meeting of the new year. Even though we are retired we start our year in September.

The September meeting introduces the new retirees to the membership and the membership to the new retirees.

Make an effort to attend. Even better, attend and bring a friend. We will be having a surprise activity you won't want to miss.

Our meetings are informal, informative and gets everyone talks over bagels, cookies and coffee.

If you have an idea for a meeting program, please contact anyone on the Executive Board.

See you in September.



TELL US A STORY

LETTY & SHEILA
SUSTRIN

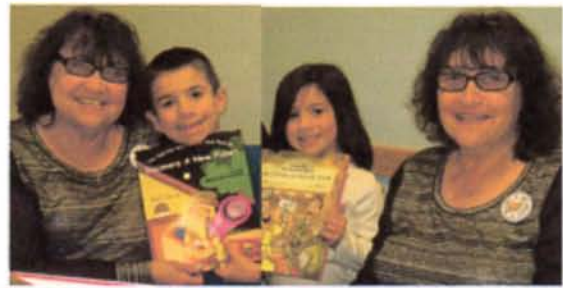
AT THE APRIL
ROBS MEETING

At the April ROBS Meeting Letty and Sheila Sustrin read their latest Mrs. Bell adventure, **The Teacher Who Would Not Retire Becomes A Movie Star.**

The audience once again participated with the Mrs. Bell chant which is a recurring theme throughout the book.

This reading was special because Kathy Guleksen's two grandchildren, Derek and Mia, were present. The kids were very well-behaved and totally into the story line. Letty and Sheila signed their copies.

The twins gave just a hint that another Mrs. Bell book was in the works but would not give details. We look forward to the new adventure and invite them back to read to us.



Sheila Sustrin, Derek, Mia and Letty Sustrin



I JUST DON'T GET IT

WHEN THINGS DON'T MEAN THE SAME ANYMORE

by Carmela Criscione

I just don't get it. I woke up one day, and as I had my breakfast, cut coupons from the newspapers and listened to the Sunday morning news programs, they started to talk about the "new world order". What "new world order"? What changed in the eight hours I was asleep?

The next blow was that Pluto had been demoted from a planet to a mere space rock. A space rock? Suddenly the solar system developed a gap. Were the other eight planets in jeopardy? Was nothing sacred?

Then I noticed the commercials. When did the Baby Boom generation become fodder for Life Alert (I've fallen and can't get up), yogurt, that when eaten three times a day, would put good bacteria into my gastrointestinal tract? Constipation was discussed openly, and knee or hip replacement became the in-thing. The sight of Pat Boone (with ill-fitting dentures) selling walk-in baths while wearing a red and white striped bath robe is harrowing. The Pepsi generation is now guzzling Ensure. Paul McCartney is seventy years old. How could this happen?

In addition to I Pads, I Pods, I Tablets, android phones and drones, we learn that if your dishwasher, television set or other electronics are hooked up to the Internet they might be spying on you. When I got DIRECT TV I was fascinated when the blue screen said "the satellite is looking for you". The satellite is looking for me? For me? Do they know I surf the shopping channels during commercials? Do they know I once downloaded a Justin Bieber song from I Tunes? I know, I'm deeply embarrassed.

When did Henry Winkler, the Fonz, start hawking reverse mortgages alongside Fred Thompson and Robert Wagner? After finally paying off the mortgage, why would I buy into what frankly sounds like a pipedream. They tell me it's "government backed". Isn't that reassuring? How can a mortgage be under water? Why on earth would a bank give you more money than your house is worth, especially if your income is too low to pay the monthly bill? Why are we 17 trillion dollars in debt? As my mother would say when I questioned her about esoteric subjects, **Y is a crooked letter.** Indeed.

When did we start using euphemisms such as pre-owned instead of used, vintage clothing instead of old clothes, previously occupied instead of re-sale homes? Will the dead become those previously alive? When did genocide become ethnic cleansing? Why is transparency so murky that even a ton of Windex won't make things clear?

Data mining brings to mind new employment opportunities for the seven dwarfs. While wearing sunglasses, trench coats, and singing Heigh Ho, they board black helicopters that will whisk them away to a secret secure facility in Utah to monitor my phone calls..oops, I mean phone number.

I no sooner got used to shrinking my carbon footprint that I now have to worry about my digital footprint. I take that to believe that Stop and Shop knows I buy Egg Beaters, Fresca and Scott toilet paper. I have a late-night assignation with Amazon and order too many books. How can there be too many books? Should I feel guilty that I don't Kindle or Nook? Have I destroyed countless trees in the rainforests of Brazil because I want to physically hold a book?

The medicine commercials are the worst. I'd rather have the condition than suffer the side effects of some of the drugs. Why should an antidepressant bring on suicidal thoughts? For whatever ails you there is a law firm ready and willing to sue on your behalf. Can't find something to sue for. Don't worry, they will think of something.

Scandals are rocking Washington. This is nothing new. I'm sure George Washington got bad press too. If you are for the President's health program you are for the Affordable Health Act, if not, it's Obamacare. The House Oversight Committee should be renamed the House Overlook Committee because suddenly there are as many scandals in Washington as there are lobbyists and "low level rogue" miscreants. How can there be so many clueless people in one place?

If you are a whistle blower, you get reprimanded, audited by the IRS, and demoted but called a hero. If you leak classified information the world press interviews you in exotic locales in fancy hotels. You write a book and make millions while vacuous women proposition you on Facebook.

I no sooner get used to the "Web" when they hit us with the "Cloud". We can Twitter, Skype, and Facebook instead of picking up the phone or writing a letter. Even the Pope has a Facebook page. I can barely retrieve the messages on my answering machine.

When did I become Andy Rooney? I'd say "Beam me up Scotty" but the IRS already did that at their 2010 Anaheim Convention that cost 4 million dollars.

John Anderson was a third party presidential candidate about 30 years ago. He said something very profound and true. "Nostalgia is the rust of memory". It's not my memory at fault here. What we have now is just plain nuts.



Gloria Hannemann & Joan Perrini

DRUM ROLL PLEASE

NYSUT JOURNALISM AWARDS **2013**

It is with a great deal of pride that we announce that **ROBS** has been awarded First Place for the best website. Gloria Hannemann has a 4 out of 4 win with what the judges deemed "excellent, complete with interactive photos and links to other sites" with "solid content". A very "well done" indeed. Gloria puts in a lot of hard work, and it is reflected in a wonderful site. Visit it at www.robsny.org. Joan Perrini, President of RC21, presented Gloria with her award plaque at our June 7th luncheon.

Our Newsletter also received an Award of Distinction for the newsletter as a whole. The issue we submitted was the "Retiree Artists in **ROBS**", #3 2011-2012. We were cited for our good layout and informative articles.

Carmela Criscione, editor, was presented with our award at the annual RC21 Luncheon on June 18th for Best Publication.

We are very proud of our work, but we need you to supply news items and articles.

The newsletter is a cooperative effort and could not be possible without the creativity, dedication and hard work of the editorial board. Thank you.



Lynda Romano, Shirley Duschenchuk, Debbie Berkman, Kathy Guleksen, Pat Stuhler and Lynda's guest

GREEN THUMBS IN ACTION... **WITH A LITTLE HELP**

by
Carmela Criscione

It was a beautiful day in early June when the intrepid gardeners of **ROBS** met at the Bayport Flower House to create their container garden pots.

This is the third year that Kathy Guleksen organized our outing. We were met in the midst of wonderful blooming nursery grounds by Karl Auwaeler, owner of the Flower House and third generation horticulturist. The Flower House has been a family business for over 80 years.

Anne Mygland, Kathy Guleksen, Pat Stuhler, Lynda Romano, Shirley Dushenchuk, Deborah Berkman, Adrienne Eastman and Carmela Criscione watched as Karl prepared the large pots with a mixing of potting soil and natural nutrients. Once armed with gardening gloves he then let us loose in the greenhouse.

We could fill the pots with as many plants that would fit. We could make flower gardens, herb pots or mix them up as we wanted. There was laughter, suggestions and banter as we dug in and created individual expressions in our pots.

This is the third year that I participated. I do a flower pot which is on the edge of my front walk steps and an herb garden at the edge of the garage. All summer long, and into the early fall, I pluck a few cherry tomatoes and munch on them as I get my mail. The tomatoes never seem to get to the kitchen and into a salad. Even brushing against the pot brings forth the aroma of parsley, basil, mint and tomato.

CONGRATULATIONS
NEW RETIREES

We present the new retirees of the Brentwood Schools.

Laura Alicastro
Ann Bass
Patricia Behrens
Josephine Bleinstein
Joanne Brown
James Caliendo
Ellen Cleary
Carol Comerford
Laurie Constantino
Jennie Court
Margaret Dineen
Elizabeth Dinger
Maureen Draper-Meehan
Mary Ann Edwards
John Fritz
Lauri Englert-Sacco
Cara Falk
Patricia Goetdel
Nancy Halvordson
Patricia Hilton
Mary Ann Inga
Virginia Keutmann
Eileen Kolano
Lucille Kutujian
Elizabeth Lablanc
Nadine LoFretto
Noreen McDonough
Cynthia McKeon
Alice Neidig
Patricia O'Brien
Rosalie Perrotta
Diane Pekrul
Robert Pisani
Margaret Puleio
Carmen Roldan
Roseanne Shifferman
Marion Simpson-Sears
Diana Spagnuolo
Barbara Springer
Rochelle Varga
Valerie Vismale
Gloria Withus

We look forward to seeing you at
ROBS meetings!

OH, WHAT A YEAR

1963

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...oh, I think someone already has used that line.

It was, 1963 and it changed so many things. The fashions, social mores, television programs, what we ate and what we talked about. Everything was new and there were opportunities that didn't seem to exist before. We had a young, vibrant president with a charming family, and we all had optimistic attitudes.

And then there was that terrible moment. It was mid-afternoon on November 22, 1963, when a sudden bulletin informed us that the president had been shot.

We all have that moment burned into our memory. Even fifty years after the fact we know where we were when we heard the news.

The Editorial Board asks that you take a moment and write just a brief paragraph and tell us where you were and how you felt and what you did that whole terrible weekend. Please send your comment to Carmela at tecnoquuen@aol.com.

If there is anything about 1963 that you want to mention and commemorate, please let us know.



You may not know, but John Sherin is a very talented musician. Here he is with the ensemble he has played with for fifty years. They play the standards with a smooth sound.



Retirees of Brentwood Schools

Nicholas Siciliano - President, Kathleen Guleksen - First Vice President, Harriet Pepine - Second Vice President
Lucille Fink- Secretary, Marge Kirchner - Treasurer

Welcome to ROBS. Dues for the 2013-2014 membership year will be \$25. Please make your check out to ROBS. It's a great bargain.

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY AND COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION. THANK YOU!

Please complete the form in its entirety as we will need **all** pertinent information for our Directory. Return the form by **10/31/13** so the Directory can be updated and mailed in a timely fashion. **Dues are required by 10/31/13 and no later than 12/31/13.** Any member forms received after the October date will not appear in the Directory.

Name _____

Address#1 _____

Street

City State Zip

Dates*

Phone #1 _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Retirement Year _____ Building Retired from _____

Your Birthday is: Month _____ Day _____

Many of you have second homes. If you do, please list the effective dates for each address.

Address#2 _____

City State Zip

Dates*

Phone #2 _____

() I **DO NOT** want to be included in the Directory.

() **If you have not filled out a Vote/Cope Pension deduction form**, we have included one for your use. **We will no longer accept checks for Vote/ Cope. It would be appreciated if you would make your contribution through pension deduction.** We don't get membership credit if you send a check to Vote Cope. Pension deduction will be the only option ROBS will offer. Send your deduction form to **Vote /Cope PO Box 5190 Albany NY 12205.** **If done incorrectly, your check will be sent back to you. Thank you for your cooperation.**

Your check made out to **ROBS, should not be stapled** to the membership form and sent to:

Marge Kirchner 666 Hawkins Road East

Coram NY 11727

RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS - ROBS MEMBERSHIP 2013-2014

Your dues for the year are used as follows:

NEWSLETTER: Whether you remain in the area or have relocated, you can stay in touch by receiving our award winning periodic newsletter that is filled with updates on member activities, topical issues as well as member written articles.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: You are welcome to attend our monthly general meetings where we collect can and dry foods for Pronto. Our meetings have covered topics such as Identity Theft, Hobbies, Home Repair for Seniors, Hospice Care and building education in Africa Refreshments are served and socializing is encouraged after the program. In addition, there are three social gatherings: the Holiday Luncheon, a New Year Breakfast and the End of the Year luncheon. There is a separate charge for these events.

SCHOLARSHIPS: ROBS provides scholarships which includes the Jack Zuckerman, Lilian Kelly and two ROBS Awards for graduating seniors who are pursuing a career in education. Our newsletter is printed and collated by AHRC. This is another form of scholarship for the young people who work there.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: A biennial listing of all members, their addresses (including an alternate address) telephone and email address. On alternate years, an addendum will be provided.

ROBS WEBSITE: www.robsny.org. We have launched our wonderful website which gives you access to all things concerning the Brentwood School District. There are yearbooks, ROBS pictures, archival material, a calendar of events, historical information and links to the state, local and Brentwood organizations.

PROJECT HOPE: Each year ROBS adopts 3-5 families for the holiday season. We choose our applicants from a list supplied by Suburban Children. We will begin accepting donations at our November meeting.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: Associate membership is available to those members who retired before the BTA/BCA merger, administrators, operational supervisors, and confidential secretaries. These members will have all of the rights of ROBS membership with the exceptions of holding office and voting privileges.

RETIREE COUNCIL 21: \$7 of your dues entitles you to membership in RC21 and all of their activities. **You are required to belong to RC21 in order to keep your NYSUT benefits.**

RETIREE COUNCIL 43(TRIF): If you are a permanent resident of Florida and want to join Florida based RC43, you must be affiliated with ROBS. RC 43 is a NYSUT organization. **ROBS dues will be \$20.**

In addition to membership in ROBS, we urge you to consider a contribution to **VOTE/COPE**. Vote/Cope tackles problems and issues facing educators still working as well as those who are retired. Vote/Cope was instrumental in obtaining a permanent **COLA** added to the TRS and ERS pensions. We recommend minimum deduction of \$3 per pension check which will be \$36 a year but please feel free to contribute whatever you can. **We are no longer accepting Vote Cope checks. We are only offering the VOTE/Cope pension deduction option to make our bookkeeping easier.**

It is imperative that you return the forms promptly and fully completed.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MEMBER ID#: _____

LOCAL#: 21-010

*If there is no name and address listed above,
you may mail your form directly to:*

VOTE-COPE
P.O. Box 5190
Albany, NY 12205-0190

VOTE Pension Deduction Authorization Card

The undersigned authorizes the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) or the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) to deduct from each of my regular defined-benefit pension payments the sum of ☐\$5, ☐\$3 or ☐Other \$_____ (per month) and to forward that amount to VOTE-COPE, P.O. Box 5190, Albany, NY 12205-0190. I understand that this monthly amount will continue to be deducted until revoked by me in writing.

This authorization is made voluntarily and without fear of reprisal and with the understanding that the making of contributions to VOTE-COPE is not a condition of membership in any labor organization, will not impact the provision of my defined-benefit pension and that VOTE-COPE will use the money it receives to make political contributions and expenditures in connection with federal, state and local elections. This authorization shall remain in full force and effect for all purposes until revoked by me in writing.

I expressly acknowledge and understand that the deduction as specified above be withheld monthly and that NYSUT will transmit this authorization to the appropriate retirement system. I hereby certify to NYSTRS and NYSERS that I am a member of NYSUT, an employee organization entitled to receive union deduction payments as provided by law.

Name _____ Pension # _____

Phone # _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Local from which you retired: _____

VOTE-COPE is the New York State
United Teachers' political action fund.

VOTE-COPE solicits and accepts
only voluntary contributions.

Contributions or gifts to VOTE-COPE
are not tax deductible.

VOTE Pension Deduction Authorization Card

NAME: _____

MEMBER ID#: _____

ADDRESS: _____

LOCAL#: 21-010

☐ I belong to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS), or

☐ I belong to the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) and I hereby request monthly withholding of union deductions from my monthly benefit as permitted by Section 536 of the Education Law and Section 110-C of the Retirement Social Security Law.

NYSTRS or NYSERS is authorized to continue taking such deduction until NYSUT receives written notice from me to the contrary.

VOTE-COPE is the New York State United Teachers' political action fund.

VOTE-COPE solicits and accepts only voluntary contributions.

Contributions or gifts to VOTE-COPE are not tax deductible.

