



General Information

General Meetings are held at the Brentwood Public Library, 2nd Avenue & Third Street, at 10 a.m. on the first **Friday** of the month.

Calendar

April 3rd, 2009 - Library
10 a.m. in the lower level.

May 1st, 2009 - Library
10 a.m. in the lower level,
presentation of the **History Video**.

June 12th, 2009 - TBA
End of the Year Luncheon
Please note this is a change in date.

ROBS WEB ADDRESS

www.robsny.org

Newsletter Contributors

Carmela Criscione
Adrienne Eastman
Phyllis Goodwin
Paula Moore
Steve Rochester
John Sherin
Nick Siciliano



President's Message

Happy New Year to All. By now, all of the membership should have received their Directory for 2009-2010. We hope that this information is helpful to everyone. Please let me know if there are any changes or corrections to be made.

In this fiscal year of "gloom and doom", ROBS has had a very difficult time. With the rising costs of printing and postage, and lower membership numbers, we have found it necessary to increase our dues by \$5 as of July 1, 2009. Last year I made reference to the membership fees of the local chapters of RC21. Our organization had the second lowest dues structure, with other locals paying as much as \$75-100. At our May 1st General Meeting, a motion will be put forth to the membership to raise our dues. We hope that you will make an effort to put this date on your calendar and attend the meeting.

On a more pleasant note, Congress has passed the following bill on 12/11/08, and it was signed into law on 12/23/08, also known as H.R.7327, or the "Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008." The Required Minimum Distribution will not be required for calendar 2009. In other words, RMDs which are based on 12/31/08 plan balances and are normally required

to be made by 12/31/09 (or by 4/1/10 for those attaining age 70 1/2 in 2009) will not have to be made.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our last two newsletters. We hope that more of you will find time to put your thoughts to paper and send them to Carmela. We will have one more newsletter going out in June. Given the talent and intellect of this group, we should be able to put Newsday to shame.

Project Hope was a very successful venture this year. We adopted 15 people and had a considerable amount left over. Continuing the trend to supplement the lives of children, the ROBS Executive Board will donate money to the After School Tutoring Program for Suburban Children. Peter Vercillo has agreed to meet with the Director to establish the needs of the program. Thank you so much for your kind generosity. A special thanks to shoppers Kris Dougherty and Lynn Tiscione and wrappers Kay Dillon, Charleen Keely and Frank Roessner.

As much as I love snow, I am ready for Spring. How about you? The fact that Daylight Savings Time has started makes that much more anticipatory.

In Harmony

Phyllis Goodwin



Officers

Phyllis Goodwin - President
Harriet Pepine - Vice President
Lucille Fink - Secretary
Marge Kirchner - Treasurer
Dot Zuckerman - President Emerita

Executive Board

Ruth McCalla - Program
Chris Veech - Newsletter
John Sherin - History Project
Peter Vercillo - Project Hope
Marty Hochheiser - BTA/RC21
Adrienne Eastman - BCA Liaison
Carmela Criscione - ROBS Cares
Kris Dougherty, Lynn Prass,
and Lynn Tiscione -
At-Large Delegates
Gloria Hanneman - Web
Coordinator
Nick Siciliano - Web Editor

Author, Author

Letty and Sheila Sustrin will be presenting the third book in their **Teacher Who Wouldn't Retire** series. It is titled "**The Teacher Who Wouldn't Retire Discovers A Planet**". Letty and Sheila will be at our **April 3rd** meeting, and there will be copies for us to purchase and have autographed. See you there.

Get Well Wishes

We send our get well wishes for speedy recoveries to Frank Mauro (Superintendent) recovering from surgery and John Galaris (Principal Northwest Center) recently hospitalized.

We are happy to report that Bernie Heller is out of the hospital and recovering at home. Ann Hutnick's husband Bill is also on the mend as is Marty Hochheiser's wife, Marcia.

Both Shirley Walker-Lloyd and her husband Bob have had recent health concerns as has Bob Merz.

Congratulations

Spring is in the air and so is romance.

Adrienne Eastman's grandson, Philip, recently tied the knot with Jennifer.

Eileen Kelly's grandson Ryan Talley will be walking down the aisle soon as well.

It's News To Us

If you have any news you would like to share please contact Phyllis or Carmela.

Sadly...

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to June Dawson and Mary Pat Lyons on the loss of their mothers and to Joanne and Richard Carta-Kaufman on the loss of their son.

Joyce Turner (Assistant Principal at South JHS in the 1980's) recently lost her husband, an early Civil Rights activist.

We also note the passing of Warren Dolbeer and Rich Berry (Foreman at Buildings and Grounds) in January and Charles Herman in early March.

Who Said That?

1. We are always the same age inside.
2. You want a friend in Washington? Get a dog.
3. Line up alphabetically by height.
4. I used to be snow white but then I drifted.
5. Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?
6. Old soldiers never die, they just fade away.
7. Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.
8. If you have to ask what jazz is, you'll never know.



NYSUT NOTES

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WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

If you had to make major cuts in your household budget, what would your priorities be? As a result of the Wall Street disasters, Governor Paterson has called for drastic measures to overcome a potential \$15 billion deficit in the state's budget. While sacrifices must inevitably be made, too many of the projected cuts are focused on all areas of public education – from Pre K through grade 12 school programs to higher education.

- School districts will be faced with cuts from 3% to 13%
- The neediest students will be severely affected if the Foundation Aid Formula is reduced by 12% (Campaign for Fiscal Equality lawsuit)
- Funds for Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs will be frozen at present levels
- Teacher centers and the Mentor Teacher-Internship Program will be eliminated
- School districts will be required to pick up 15% of the cost for preschool special education programs
- Aid to community colleges will be cut by 10%; undergraduate tuition will be raised to 15% at CUNY and 14% at SUNY schools
- SUNY hospitals will lose \$24 million
- Proposals are ready to open contracts, force wage freezes and stagger paychecks

In his inaugural address, President Obama emphasized responsibility – responsibility of government and of its citizens. Investment in public education is one of the greatest responsibilities we must continue to uphold – it is a major investment in the future of our children, our state and our country. The challenge of our time is to continue to develop creative minds, encourage educational progress and close the achievement gap. We cannot afford to lose a generation of students who will soon be called upon to lead our country and to help grow the state economy.

Make your voice heard now, loud and often – phone, write, fax or email your state legislators. Let them know how urgent it is to preserve the public education achievements we have worked so many years to accomplish. Tell your New York State senators and congressional representatives that it is urgent and essential that they support the federal economic-stimulus package. Federal education aid could inject over \$5 billion – a major boost to help reduce the state deficits and the threatened losses.

The enthusiasm of these historic inauguration days is still with us. We must keep that glow of hope and opportunity alive. We must join together to continue to fulfill the promise of the future we all worked so hard to achieve.

