



FEBRUARY 2008

RETIREES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

ISSUE 72



General meetings  
**BRENTWOOD  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
2 Avenue & 4th Street  
Phone: 273-7883  
Meetings at 10 AM.

**MARCH 7, 2008**

The Games We Play  
Book/CD swap

**APRIL 4**

Brentwood's 150th  
Anniversary  
Book/CD swap

**MAY 2**

History Video  
Election of ROBS Officers-  
Book/CD swap

**JUNE 6**

SPRING LUNCHEON

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## "WRESTLING GUY" HONORED BY BRENTWOOD

Under the headline, "WELCOME MATS," the January 10 issue of Newsday, highlighted Brentwood by focusing on "our wrestling guy," Joe Campo. To quote:

"Brentwood's storied program makes it one intimidating and exciting site to watch wrestling. Though the old gym is slightly smaller than some of the more modern ones, the bleachers allow spectators to feel as if they're right on top of the mats. The Indians, two time defending Suffolk League 1 champions, always draw a crowd. — a mixture of exuberant alumni, current students and regular fans. The school, which boasts 10 state champions and 28 county and league championship banners, plans to rename the gym the Joe "Gov" Campo Gymnasium, after the former Hall of Fame coach, on January 18th."

Steve Rochester, who retired from Ross in 2004 reports from the event: "On January 18th the gym in the Ross building was named in honor of Joe Campo. There was an overflow crowd, including

**Honoring Joe Campo**



*Venerable Brentwood wrestling coach Joe "Gov" Campo shakes hands with current Brentwood coach Ralph Napolitano. Campo coached the school from 1966-85 and amassed 252 victories. Campo is considered one of the greatest school wrestling coaches in state history!*

about 100 of Joe's former wrestlers and football players who came from all over the country to honor him.

"Joe was in rare form. He worked out with the present wrestling team (who, by the way, are undefeated and ranked #1 in Suffolk and #2 in New York).

"Along with Joe, his children, Mike, Jose (Joey). Mary, Ricky and Manny were all present. All attended Brentwood schools. Many former teachers and coaches were also there. This was the most moving and wonderful experience in

my 41 years of being associated with Brentwood sports."

Joe is in both the Long Island and New York State Hall of Fame, as well as the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. And like his father, Jose is also there: a father-son duo.

In April 2006, this newsletter ran a letter written by Ray Flores to a North Carolina newspaper, in which he lauded Joe for changing his life. That article brought a first place win for this Newsletter in the NYSUT Journalism contest that year.

**WAY TO GO, JOE!**

### FLORIDIANS & SNOWBIRDS WANTED!

Robs Florida contingent is having its annual luncheon on Thursday, March 6 at Padrino's from 12 noon to 3 PM. The cost is \$19 per person for an all you can eat buffet lunch, including a soft drink, coffee, tea, your choice of dessert, tax and tip. It's on Glades Road and 441 (State Rd. 7) NW corner in Mission Bay Plaza in Boca Raton. As always, guests are invited back to Marilyn DePlaza's house nearby to view or borrow John Sherin's History of Brentwood tapes, interviews with former colleagues ...a true trip down Memory Lane! Send check made out to Marilyn before March 4: 10609 Mendocino Lane, Boca Raton, FL 33428; 561-488-1267; cell: 561-716-6068

# PHYLL'S FORUM

Phyllis Goodwin, President – (631-673-2971)



Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year To All. I am very proud to announce that our ROBS web site is up and running. Congratulations are in order to **Gloria Hannemann** who will be our Web Master. She has put in countless hours making this ready for you. I am most impressed with the number of items our members will have to choose from and review.

Of course, you will still be able to communicate with me the old fashioned way - snail mail or phone. Please feel free to contact us with any information that you might want to see in print. Photos, announcements and copies of Newsletter will be shown. You may contact Gloria or me through the website.

The most important information is the address. <http://www.robsny.org>. I hope you will enjoy this as much as I do.

For our March, April and May meetings, we will continue the practice of book and video swapping. This is a great way of keeping good books and movies in circulation. Along this same vein, New Orleans is desperate for student books K-12.

Books may be sent to Troy Peloquin, Volunteer Coordinator @ 1641 Poland Avenue New Orleans LA 70117.

Contributors are responsible for all postage. For more information contact Mary Keane AFT Public Affairs Department or at <http://www.mkeane@aft.org>.

In May, we will have our election of officers. We don't have absentee ballots so you must be in attendance in order to nominate a candidate from the floor and or vote. A copy of the sample ballot which will be used can be found below. Our nominated slate of officers are:

**Phyllis Goodwin - President**  
**Harriet Pepine - Vice President**  
**Lucille Fink - Secretary**  
**Marge Kirchner Treasurer**

Many thanks to our Nominating Committee: Lynn Prass, Kris Dougherty, Lynn Tiscione, and Adrienne Eastman.

In Harmony,  
 Phyllis Goodwin

## RETIRES OF BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

#### SAMPLE BALLOT

May 2, 2008

OFFICE	X	NOMINEE	X	OTHER
PRESIDENT		PHYLLIS GOODWIN		
VICE PRESIDENT		HARRIET PEPINE		
SECRETARY		LUCILLE FINK		
TREASURER		MARGE KIRCHNER		

1. The election shall be by secret ballot.
2. Only members in good standing may vote.
3. Additional nominations can be made from the floor.
4. The Secretary shall preserve all election records, including ballot for a period Of one (1) year.

## ROBS NEWSLETTER

CONTENT EDITOR: Christin Veech  
 (chrisveech@aol.com)

COORD. COMM.: Phyllis Goodwin  
 (pbgoodwin@msn.com)

### ROBS OFFICERS

PRES. Phyllis Goodwin  
 V. PRES. Harriet Pepine  
 SEC'Y. Lucille Fink  
 TREAS. Marge Kirchner

A 1st grade teacher gave her charges the first half of a well known proverb, which is underlined. They finished them off. Pretty astute. Here's a few:

No news is impossible.

Don't change horses until they stop running.

A penny saved is not much.

When the blind lead the blind get out of the way.



### ROBS Newsletter Editorial Board:

Carmela Criscione  
 Adrienne Eastman  
 Phyllis Goodwin  
 Marge Kirchner

## THE M-T CORNER

"Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it."

Mark Twain

**NYSUT NOTES**

Dorothy Zuckerman, NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant  
631-273-8822; e-mail: dzuckerm@nysutmall.org

**A Health Care New Year**

Among the many issues being discussed this election year, health care reform continues to demand attention and promise. In this great country there are 47 million Americans who have no insurance. Those of us who have guaranteed health insurance coverage are among the rarified few. We have all heard the stories from relatives, friends and acquaintances who have had to postpone or to rethink a treatment because insurance didn't cover the procedure or the cost was too high or, worst of all, there was no insurance protection.

Congress made attempts this year to provide health care for millions of uninsured children only to have their efforts vetoed by President Bush. Early preventive health care can not only protect from and prevent serious health complications but can bring down the costs of treating these illnesses in the future.

A study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that people between the ages of 55 and 65 who had no health insurance experienced greater health decline, developed more complications and died at an earlier age than those in that age group who had coverage. By the time they would be eligible for Medicare at age 65, this group's health care costs would be greater than if they had been insured before age 65. Instead of encouraging the expansion of benefits for all retirees, thus improving the quality of health for all retirees, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission recently announced a regulation that would allow employers to provide health benefits "only to those retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare" while also stating that retiree health benefits could be "altered, reduced or eliminated" for those 65 or older receiving Medicare. At the same time the Bush administration has been making forceful attempts to undermine traditional Medicare, the most successful government health program, in an effort to provide health care through private providers.

Rapidly rising health care costs continue to have disastrous effects on working families. Good private coverage is unaffordable and often unavailable. More employers are dropping their coverage and putting the cost responsibility on the workers. Retirees on fixed and/or eroding pensions are especially being hurt by this reversal of health care while premiums rise.

Over the next months, the insurance and drug companies will hurl their campaigns of misinformation and confusion at us in an attempt to stall health care reform once again. We must stay alert to the propaganda and find the arguments to turn it around. We must continue to demand that our chosen candidates, our leaders, our representatives in New York and Washington make a commitment and a promise to provide guaranteed health insurance coverage for all Americans.

**IT'S UP TO US NOW! THE MOMENT WILL COME IN NOVEMBER!**

**AFT JOINS AFL-CIO'S MASSIVE ONLINE HEALTHCARE SURVEY**

AFT members are invited to participate in the AFL-CIO's largest-ever online survey to capture Americans' real experiences with our broken healthcare system.

Survey responses will be given to the presidential candidates, every U.S. senator and representative, every candidate for Congress, and state and local officials in every state in our country.

Many thousands of responses are expected, says the AFL-CIO, which will make this survey one the largest data sets available on individuals' and families' healthcare experiences.

**SPEAK UP AND GIVE YOUR OPINION!**

[www.aflcio.org/issues/healthcare/survey/?source=nationals](http://www.aflcio.org/issues/healthcare/survey/?source=nationals)

**LOVE TO SEE YOU !****ROBS MARCH MEETING**

**March 7, 2007 ROBS meeting**  
**"GAMES WE PLAY."**  
**10 AM**

Bring your friends and come for an hour and a half of fun. Indulge in Bridge, Mah Jongg, Mexican Trains, Scrabble, Phase 10, even Gin Rummy.

Get out of your Winter Doldrums, put on your smiley face and come to the Brentwood Library for a great way to welcome Spring.

We'll continue the Book/CD swap in March, and April and May too, a great way of keeping good books and movies in circulation!

**JOIN US !**

**SERENDIPITY**

by Joseph Purcell, ROBS Writers Group

**JOE PURCELL**

I had a sociology Prof. who looked, and acted, like Joe E. Brown, the big mouthed comic of "Some Like it Hot" fame. His favorite mantra, as it were, was for a successful life one must "prepare for the worst, hope for the best, and take what comes." Stoic stuff, but it had already become part of my fiber through my heritage. An article in today's Times rather reinforced it by indicating a very high death rate among people who can't seem to shake the fear in them generated by 9/11. But before I get round-shouldered patting myself on the back for my own even temperedness, I recall that I have been quite fortunate, thanks to modern medicine, to be here at all. My own father's physiology which stood him in such great stead, even to the cusp of world class sprinting speed, failed him in that there was and is no cure for heredity early onset baldness which seems to have little effect until one's early fifties and then the hereditary narrow blood vessels, combined with a propensity to become inflexible and clot, combine for a very sharp physical decline to an early death. Early high blood pressure combined with a grossly enlarged heart afflicted male members of both sides of my mother's family but seemed to have been successfully addressed by drug companies specifically for me.

Basically you shouldn't worry about things you can't control, but since we control very little including our own habits and desires it is not only a waste of time but it is downright inimical to health. All those stress hormones constantly surging through one's body are probably worse for you than anything you could do with marijuana, alcohol, sugar bingeing, and unbridled lust. And it's not nearly as much fun.

Medical tests have shown that some people release stress hormones on an almost continuous basis ( they also suffer from the negative consequences – mentally and physically) and others release adrenaline very reluctantly (some scientists say that the entire difference in male and female life expectancy can be explained by the adrenaline cycle).

Serendipity is just another word for "go with the flow" and we all must learn to do that more. Whether it's a Christian Retreat, a non-denominational EST program, a guru in India, or a Zen session in Japan, they are all designed to give us a respite from our normal angst driven activities. But perhaps my guide in Beijing said it best when he said of his American girlfriend: "Why does she need physical space? Why doesn't she do what I do? When I am stressed, I just withdraw into myself for a while". In China people around you would respect your obvious internalization, but in America some misguided psychologist would declare that he had found a new mental illness.

**PROJECT HOPE**

Dear Project Hope Supporter:

Due to the generosity of people like you, Project Hope successfully continues its tradition of assisting families that are part of the Brentwood School District. Close to \$2,000 was raised to help spread Thanksgiving and Christmas cheer. The retirees of Brentwood Schools have once again shown that their commitment to the community is still strong.

Special thanks must also be given to the many ROBS volunteers who shopped, donated, stored, wrapped, and distributed the hundreds of items that were amassed. This was a tremendous undertaking that took not only time, but great care as well. Their efforts made this drive go very smoothly.

Thanks you very much, and best wishes to all ROBS members for a prosperous 2008.

Sincerely,  
Peter Vercillo  
Project Hope Chairperson



# NEWS NOTES



We ROBS retirees are being pursued by *NEWSDAY* right & left. The latest to appear in ACT II is **Michel Lambert** (Ross '96) and his wife Alice, also a retired teacher. It was an article by Ellen Mitchell, "What they've Learned." **Mike's** learned what he calls one of the hardest lessons that "my children are adults and in many ways know a great deal more than I do. It's only lately that I've been able to ask them for advice and not feel slighted that they have not asked for mine. The couple also say they've learned to give each other space to accomplish separate goals. **WHO'S NEXT?**

And spotted on "Wheel of Fortune" on November 12, 2007 was **Diana Mallon** (SMS '04). "The show featured guest stars Neil Patrick Harris, Diane Neil, and with her Robert Johnson of "The Closer." Diana answered the first toss up for \$1,000, then had poor luck at the wheel. She was quite photogenic and articulated well. It was exciting to see a ROBS member on TV, her 30 minutes of fame!" Thanks to **Marty Hochheiser** (NMS '02) for his eagle TV eyes and his reporting.

The November/December 2007 issue of *CABIN LIFE* features an article on **Jim Watson's** (Sond. '95) lake house in Maine, titled: "Rustic Camp Reborn into 4 - Season Cottage." Pictures and all. Many Brentwood teachers have visited there, some helping in the restoration. There's a gazebo, and of course, the lake! **Jim** is back in the hospital in Phoenix again. Our circle of love is with him!



**Phyllis Baumann** (Sonderling '92) received the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Putnam County Humanitarian Award for Volunteerism in 2007. It was quite a surprise to her at their yearly luncheon. She, and husband **George**, use their time share several times a year, and have taken several cruises. On their most recent one, they ran into **Hoppy Harper**, who is enjoying retirement in Texas. **George** had a cornea transplant in 2007.



**Steve Krakehl** (Sond.Eng.) and wife Barbara divide their time between the East End and South Carolina now. They also travel the USPGA circuit by manning the souvenir shop. Their email is sbkrakehl@earthlink.net. And check them out at any PGA event. Golf is their passion!

**Donna Marie Ragonese** (Laurel Pk. '96) spent 3 1/2 weeks in November and December in Peru and Chile. She needed that trip after the rigors of politics in Kerhonkson. The good guys lost their bid for town council.

**Carole Bruno's** (Ross '97) son Alex has been promoted to Sales Manager at Sunrise Toyota. Mom & dad are very proud. And **Ida Donald's** (Ross '96) son Erick is a system analyst who credits **Chico Frankel** (HS guid. '05) for encouraging him to join the Computer Club. He now handles contracts for NYC Schools and BOCES.

**Gaetana Grobluski** (Admin/Trans. '05) is having a Photography Exhibit on the lower level of the Sachem library Feb. 1 - 29. Stop by and see the work of this talented lady. The library is on Holbrook Rd. Gae is still on chemo. Calls or letters to her would be welcome also. She's in Nesconset and the Directory.

**Marilyn DePlaza** and hubby Henry just returned from a Christmas holiday in Bogota, Columbia, where they go each year to connect with family in the Andes.



Opening day at the Canyons, near Park City, UT, and **Peter Hoegel** (Ross '01) is showing off. Lucky guy!

But he also reports that there's a shortage of snow this year in the Wasatch Mountains!

Can you tell who the real **Dean DePoy** (Multi '98) is?

He's the one in sunglasses who is very proud that his son, Erik, is an Equity Strategist for Alfa Bank and an expert in Russian markets and Wall Street. He's not the one in the mask!

But who's behind the mask then? Ah, **Marilyn DePlaza**, perhaps?



# NEWS NOTES

Received a lovely Christmas card from **Mary Giammarco** (Ross '90), in which she wrote: "Please convey my gratitude to all those in your department who have shown concern and support."



Had a note from **Ruth Bernhardt** (NE, '78) who is in an assisted facility in California. "I have many happy memories of the dear friends I left behind in N. Y. I miss all of you! It is good to be here near my children but I truly miss my sister, Eleanor and her family. We keep in touch by phone but nothing takes the place of being able to see and hug each other. Time surely has a way of bringing changes in our lives. Give my regards to everyone. My warmest wishes..."

And **Bernie Heller** (Ross Guid. '90) writes: "Thank you all my Brentwood School Retirees for your many kind words about my loss of Amy to lung cancer. It is still difficult trying to comprehend such a tragic loss. Before she died she made sure I would be ready to cope with it and get on with the rest of my life. In that vein she was successful because I am doing what she wanted me to do. Support from family & friends like my Brentwood family makes the transition so much smoother. Thank you for your kind words and support in a difficult time of my life. With great love..."

## PASSINGS...



**Bob Leiterman** (Sond. '99) died on January 3, six weeks after being diagnosed with liver cancer. His death was very sudden. The funeral was in south Florida. Erin, his daughter, reports that her parents celebrated their 40th anniversary in December. Their address is: 8296 Genova Way, Lake Worth, FL 33467; 561-868-5949. Donations to Hospice of Palm Beach County. **Bob** who taught business, started, and ran, the Work Study Program at the high school.

In December, **Beverly Carpenter's** (SW '94) husband, John, died. John was a long time fighter for a single payer health plan, as well as many other progressive issues. And a dear, sweet man. His funeral was attended by former Assemblyman Paul Harenberg, and Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, among many other well known activists. **Beverly** can be reached at: 500 Mather Drive, BHC #213, South Setauket, NY 11721. Donations to: Physicians for National Health Plan, 29 East Madison Street, #602, Chicago, Ill. 60602.

**Morty Pitt**, who worked for many years at Loretta Park and retired in 1983, passed away on 9/11/07. His wife, Teddi, is at 1475 Vinery Avenue, Cummings, GA 30041. And **Sue Wayman** (North Middle) died in August 2007, after a five year battle with cancer. Her daughter, Carolyn May Wield is at 123 15th St., Apt. D-2, Garden City, NY 11530. The AP at North Middle, **Ed Polowcyck**, also passed away.

**Melenese Hamilton's** husband, Gene, died in December of cancer. **Mel** will be in Florida for the rest of the winter and would appreciate calls: 631-873-9088 (cell). The father of **June Cardenas** (WM '00) passed away in January.

**FOR MEMBER EDIFICATION:** From Marty Hochheiser

**THE VACCINATION FOR SHINGLES** is not covered by Medicare or Empire, (my claim was denied). A follow up phone call confirmed the non coverage!

## DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS:



**Beverly Carpenter's** new address: 500 Mather Drive, BHC #213, South Setauket, NY 11721

**Joan Lindquist's** email: [jlind237@optonline.net](mailto:jlind237@optonline.net)

**Gloria Hannemann's** email: [gloworm8@optonline.net](mailto:gloworm8@optonline.net)

## STATE OF THE UNION AND FY '09 BUDGET OFFERS SENIORS LITTLE

Only 159 words were devoted to health care in **President Bush's** State of the Union address Monday night, in which he asked Congress for new suggestions on Social Security and Medicare. With health care and prescription drug costs on the rise, the failure to offer any new ideas was seen as a missed opportunity. In addition, the President will propose significant cuts to Medicare in the budget he releases this Monday, February 4. *The New York Times* reports that Medicare will have \$6 billion less next year, and will be shorted \$91 billion from 2009 to 2013. These cuts do not include any changes the President will propose through new regulations, which do not have to be approved by Congress. The majority of cuts will be in payments to nursing homes, home care agencies, hospitals, hospices and ambulances. While the White House has typically cited the recommendations of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) - an independent federal panel - to defend past budgets, the Bush Administration explicitly ignored MedPAC's advice this year. "President Bush is attacking the most vulnerable - seniors who need Medicare to afford to see a doctor - while at the same time giving billions in subsidies to insurance companies to run privatized Medicare plans," said **Edward Coyle**, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans. "While many retirees continue to pay more for their prescriptions, the Administration bans Medicare from negotiating volume discounts with the big drug companies. Is this what Bush meant by being a 'compassionate conservative?'"

## BITS & PIECES:

### SAVE WITH POWELL'S BOOKSTORE



Check out Powell's--the highly acclaimed online bookstore (and the largest unionized bookstore in the country). Browse and securely purchase Powell's extensive selection of new & used books right from your computer through AFT's special Web link [www.aft.org/aftplus/discounts/books.htm](http://www.aft.org/aftplus/discounts/books.htm).

Powell's features an outstanding selection of new & used bestsellers, textbooks, kids' books, technical books, e-books, even rare and collectibles. A portion of every sale made through the AFT + link goes to the AFT Disaster Relief Fund. Orders totaling \$50 or more receive free economy shipping.

### APPLY TODAY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Applications now available for the  
2008 Robert G. Porter Scholars Program.

AFT members—and their children who will be graduating from high school in 2008—are eligible to participate in the competition, which awards four \$8,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors and \$1,000 grants to AFT members who are continuing their education.

There are three easy ways to apply:

- Download the application from the AFT Web site at [www.aft.org/aftplus/scholarships](http://www.aft.org/aftplus/scholarships).
- E-mail an application request to [porterscholars@aft.org](mailto:porterscholars@aft.org).
- Send a request to  
American Federation of Teachers  
Robert G. Porter Scholars Program  
555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2008

### NYSTRS INFO:

- When calling NYSTRS, the Retirement System, you should have your EmplID (Employer Identification Number), handy. This 7 digit number can be found on your Retired Member Profile, 1099 tax form and in most correspondence you receive from the System. It is NOT your SS number!
- You can obtain your personal NYSTRS benefit statement 24/7 at [www.nystrs.org](http://www.nystrs.org). Currently, the Secure Area provides more than 25,000 registered users instant access to their personal Retirement System information. Approximately 10 members a day have become registered users. Take a tour first. Visit the site, select the Secure Area tab near the top left of the page and choose the retired member demonstration.

## Are You Using The MAP?

Approximately 2,000 NYSUT members have joined MAP, the Member Assistance Program through NYSUT Member Benefits Trust. Each week, more members sign up as they hear about the benefits.

MAP is a quick, painless, unobtrusive e-mail program that provides reminders about the more than 40 endorsed insurance, financial, legal and discount plans available to you as a NYSUT member.

MAP e-mails are sent every three weeks or so. You can open them at your convenience and no trees are killed in the process! You have the option of reading the brief text message or viewing it in html format in your browser, complete with eye-pleasing colors and graphics.

Very often, "MAP Alerts" include the opportunity to win valuable prizes donated by providers of endorsed programs. MAPers have received such prizes as a Bose Wave® Music System, tickets to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, OfficeMax gift cards and 100 free gallons of heating oil.

In addition, new MAP enrollees and existing MAPers are automatically entered into quarterly raffles; prizes to date have included digital cameras and an iPod nano.

What kind of information do you receive? The message may be an advance notice of a change in an existing plan, a new endorsement or simply a reminder about a program. Sometimes you will be asked your

opinions on programs under consideration for future endorsement, including which features are most important to you.

Most MAP messages are sent from Member Benefits. Occasionally a provider of an endorsed program will send one. Member Benefits oversees the content and frequency of messages. Your e-mail address will not be shared with outside parties other than endorsed program providers and then only under controlled circumstances. Once a program provider receives approval to send you an offer or information, the vendor is required to destroy the e-mail listing after sending the MAP Alert.

If you haven't yet joined, simply complete a brief sign-up form on the Member Benefits Web site, [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org), and within three weeks, you'll start to receive MAP Alerts.

For information about this program or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please call NYSUT Member Benefits Trust at (800) 626-8101, e-mail [benefits@nysutmail.org](mailto:benefits@nysutmail.org), visit [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org), or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed programs.

