



# NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 39 NEWSLETTER

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January/February 2013



*A Union of Professionals*

**Dedicated to the Preservation and Enhancement of the Retiree Benefits of  
New York State Community College Retirees**

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## **Your RC39 Website has a New Look**

Thanks to AFT, NYSUT RC39 website, <http://rc39.ny.aft.org/>, has a new look. The simple, clear design enables viewers to easily go to the five main website pages. Place your cursor over any page title on the banner and you will have a drop down menu. On the “HOME” page you will be able to retrieve recent copies of the RC39 newsletter in color. Also on the “HOME” page are articles on current issues important to AFT/NYSUT members. The “ABOUT US” page has a short AFT mission statement. The drop down menu “CONTACT US” page lists all RC39 officers and an e-mail address for easy communication with RC39 officers. This drop down menu provides easy access to the NYSUT and AFT websites.

The “News” page is another place for getting recent newsletters and viewing more articles on AFT activities. Being a member of NYSUT automatically makes you members of AFT and eligible to share in the AFT Plus Benefits program. The “Membership” page gives you the opportunity to investigate the many AFT Plus Member Benefits available to you. The “Action & Events” page is where you can visit the AFT’s Legislative Action Center. This is a convenient way of letting your federal and state representatives know your position on issues affecting working families and retirees every day.

We need member feedback to make this website and the RC39 newsletter serve its members in the best way possible. Our e-mail address is on the “Contact Us” page. Looking forward to hearing from you.

## **RC39 Encourages its Members to Attend Regional Conferences**

Throughout the year NYSUT sponsors regional conferences. Attending one of these conferences is one of the best ways to keep informed and to learn how to get involved in protecting our retirement rights. In order to encourage RC39 members to participate in NYSUT activities, RC39 will pay a member’s expenses, up to \$30 for attending a regional retiree conference. To learn about the dates, location, and agenda of conferences in your region, contact the retiree service consultant for your region. To determine who this person is you must know your NYSUT election district (ED). At NYSUT website, <http://www.nysut.org/cps/rde/xchg/nysut/hs.xsl/edmap.htm>, is a state map of all local election districts. There is also a NYSUT phone number where you can obtain contact information of your local retiree service consultant.

After attending a regional conference send copies of a short description of the sessions you attended, an official registration form detailing the cost and copies of any other expenses totaling a maximum of \$30 to Ms. Joan Prymas, RC39 Treasurer, 141 Montgomery Street, Ilion, NY 13357.

## **What’s Involved in Becoming an Active RC39 Member**

Since we live all over the country, the board of directors deliberations are conducted by e-mail, submitting articles and proofreading of the newsletter are done by e-mail. This means individual commitment is minimal but one is expected to check his/her e-mail often and respond in a timely manner. Only delegates and alternate delegates attend NYSUT and AFT conferences. There is an annual ED meeting every fall at the NYSUT headquarters. Travel expenses for this meeting are paid for by NYSUT. Because of expenses, RC39 has not sent any representatives to any national AFT meetings. Since its inception, RC39 officers have had only two meetings. Most officers can effectively serve RC39 without traveling.

RC39 can use a new newsletter editor or coeditor. RC39 has an AFT sponsored website at <http://ny.aft.org/rc39/>. The webmaster activities are surprisingly easy. Only RC39 information needs posting by the webmaster and it all can be done from a member’s computer. One need not be a computer geek. To learn more e-mail to Peter Herron at [rc39pete@optonline.net](mailto:rc39pete@optonline.net) or mail to 98 Rocky Point Landing Road, Rocky Point, NY 11778.

## Legal & financial plans available to NYSUT members!

NYSUT members can get quality legal and financial assistance for themselves and their families by purchasing the Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan or Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Financial Counseling Program.

### Legal assistance when you need it!

For an annual fee, the Legal Service Plan -- provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning.

With the base plan, you'll get access to unlimited, toll-free legal advice from plan attorneys. In addition, when you enroll in the plan, you'll receive two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney.

The plan also provides for one Simple Will or update at no charge each year, along with a Durable Power of Attorney, Living Will and Health Care Proxy -- important documents to have in place before the need for them arises.

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.

Participating locals can also take advantage of further savings through payroll or pension deduction.

*\*\*Please note that 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.*

### Financial expertise customized for your situation

The Financial Counseling Program -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation.

Through the program, you'll learn how to properly invest your assets to build a college savings or retirement fund; what to look for when purchasing or financing a home; and tips for getting your credit under control.



This full-service program provides you with up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.

In-person consultations are available at least once

per calendar year at each NYSUT Regional Office as well as at Stacey Braun's New York City office. The program also includes access to Stacey Braun's password-protected website and a 24-hour email helpdesk for basic financial questions.

NYSUT members can purchase the Financial Counseling Program for an annual fee of \$260. A 403(b) Limited Plan is also available for an annual fee of \$185.

Participating locals can also take advantage of further savings through payroll or pension deduction.

Learn more about either of these endorsed programs by contacting Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** or visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://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.

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## Address Change

Do not let a new address keep you from receiving NYSUT RC39 newsletters. There are three ways to update your address. Contact NYSUT Member Records at 1-800-342-9810 ext. 6224. Send written changes to: NYSUT Member Records, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY12110 or e-mail changes to [memberec@nysutmail.org](mailto:memberec@nysutmail.org). If you are a snowbird, give Member Records a few weeks notice to change its address records each way.

## Career in Math Yields to Paris

Stephen Solosky first visited Paris when he was in his mid-40s—and promptly fell in love. In the past decade he has visited the City of Light more than 50 times. Paris is a city of discovery for me says Mr. Solosky, 55, "Every time I go I find a new corner. It never gets old."

When he retired in late 2010 from a 31-year career as a math professor at Nassau Community College in Garden City, N.Y., Mr. Solosky knew he wanted to build some type of part-time business around his passion for Paris. Over the years, he had taken meticulous notes on Parisian sights, restaurants, neighborhoods and museums. Stephen has turned those notes into a book, "The Traveling Professors Guide to Paris," published in 2009. Yet it wasn't until friends and readers of his book started asking if he would accompany them on trips to Paris that Mr. Solosky hit upon the idea of leading tours.

As soon as he retired he started Traveling Professor, a company that takes groups of as many as 12 people to Paris, Italy and Peru.

"I started with Paris because that's the city I know best. But people loved the tours and asked if I could do other countries, too," says Mr. Solosky, who is planning to add Spain this year. He runs about six trips a year, and recently signed up two other professors to help him expand the business.

Many of his clients have never traveled abroad before, and Mr. Solosky enjoys teaching them about the history and culture of the cities they visit, as well as introducing them to his local friends. He says, "Although I loved teaching, I love a productive retirement even more."

Mr. Solosky's second act is something of a surprise to him. He has lived his whole life on Long Island, but when he divorced 10 years ago, he felt compelled to start traveling the world. Most trips found him in Europe, but he has also traveled extensively in Peru and Bolivia where he's involved in a long-term volunteer mission to aid local communities.

Mr. Solosky makes one exception to this on-the-go lifestyle. He doesn't travel during the summer. He spends those months at his lake house in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

The tour business provides supplemental income, but Mr. Solosky says what really enabled him to "live his dream in retirement" was careful saving and a bit of luck. He started socking money away at age 18, lived frugally and receives a pension from his teaching job. He started planning his second career about 5 years before retiring from Nassau Community College.

"I want to start spending more of my time helping others," says Mr. Solosky, who says he will favor volunteering in overseas locales. "I just can't sit still." Stephen is currently writing another travel guide and runs his travel website.

Stephen C. Solosky

**Age:** 55

**Home:** Great Barrington, Massachusetts and New York

**Website:** [www.travelingprofessor.com](http://www.travelingprofessor.com)

**First/primary career:** Math professor

**Current path:** Travel writer and tour guide

**Why this path:** "I always planned to pursue another career when I retired from teaching. I like writing and doing tours to introduce people to travel they wouldn't normally do on their own."



### Tell NYSUT RC39 Members Your Story

Most retirees stay active. Retirees pursue new careers, start a business, become active in local organizations, travel to exotic places, author books, have new hobbies, join a sports team, and get politically involved. What's your retirement story? Are you a docent, hold an elected office, belong to a garden club, hospital or nursing home volunteer, local school volunteer tutor, or whatever? Your story can inspire others. Send your story to [rc39pete@optonline.net](mailto:rc39pete@optonline.net) or mail to 98 Rocky Point Landing Road, Rocky Point, NY 11778, and we will publish it in the newsletter.

**Retiree Council 39 Board of Directors**

**President, First NYSUT and AFT Delegate, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster:** Peter Herron  
**Vice President, NYSUT and AFT Delegate:** Ann Smullen  
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**Treasurer, NYSUT and AFT Alternate Delegate:** Joan Prymas  
**Director-at-large:** Frances Hilliard  
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**RC39 Newsletter is looking for comments, suggestions and articles from its members.**

Send your comments, suggestions or article to Peter Herron at rc39pete@optonline.net or mail to 98 Rocky Point Landing Road, Rocky Point, NY 11778. Your article will be published when space is available. RC39, NYSUT, and AFT news will be given priority.

**CUT YOUR LOSSES**



**NOW IS YOUR TIME TO START FRESH**

**+ Credit and Budget Counseling**  
 Free certified consumer credit counseling and discounted debt-management assistance are available 24 hours a day. Learn new money-management skills and save for the future.

**+ GET MORE FROM MEMBERSHIP**  
 + for more information about this and other savings:  
[aft.org/members](http://aft.org/members)



AFT + is your advocate. For information on all AFT + programs, call 800-238-1133, ext. 3643, or e-mail [aftplus@aft.org](mailto:aftplus@aft.org). The AFT has an expense reimbursement and/or endorsement arrangement for marketing this program. For more information, please contact AFT Financial Services at 800-238-1133, ext. 4493; send an e-mail to [disclosureinfo@aft.org](mailto:disclosureinfo@aft.org); or visit [www.aft.org/benefits/disclosure](http://www.aft.org/benefits/disclosure).

**It's that time of year to pay your voluntary RC39 contribution**

The beginning of the calendar year is a good time to send in your voluntary NYSUT RC39 annual contribution. Just send your check along with the form below to the RC39 treasurer. It is your contributions that enable RC39 officers and delegates to represent you at NYSUT conferences and meetings.

**Retiree Council 39 Voluntary 2013 Participation Fee form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
 College retired from \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Retirement \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please check amount of your voluntary participation fee: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Send your check, made out to NYSUT RC39, along with this completed form to:  
 Ms. Joan Prymas, RC39 Treasurer, 141 Montgomery Street, Ilion, NY 13357