

## Reclaim the Dream Long Island Regional Meeting



Kathleen Donahue, NYSUT Vice President, speaking on NYSUT's Disaster Relief Efforts.

### Special Long Island Retiree Regional Meeting

Pete Herron

On February 25, 2013, I attended the special retiree regional meeting at the Cradle of Aviation Museum, Uniondale, Long Island. This meeting had originally been scheduled for November but the Superstorm Sandy got in the way. The Retiree Councils 17-23 in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and RC39 participated. I hope that after reading this article you will see the value of attending NYSUT regional meetings. RC39 will pay a member's expenses, up to \$30 for attending a regional. See page 3.

**Kathleen Donahue**, NYSUT Vice-President, outlined NYSUT's Disaster Relief efforts on behalf of members impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Even at this late date there are many who have not been able to return to their homes, some will never be able to go back to the lives they were leading before Superstorm Sandy.

**David Keefe**, Trustee--NY State Teachers Retirement System, updated us on the current status and future projections for NYSTRS. David emphasized that NYSTRS pensions are as sound as anything on earth can be, provided the state constitution is not amended. This could happen if there is a constitutional convention. David told us that there are 244 NYSTRS pensioners 99 years old or older.

**Melinda Person**, NYSUT Assistant Director of Legislation, discussed NYSUT's Legislative agenda considering the most current issues at both the state and federal levels. She spoke about NYSUT's **Member Action Center**. Simply go to the NYSUT website, [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org), and click on the Member Action Center so that you will be well informed of the latest issues affecting you and all NYSUT members and actions you can take to protect your rights.

Continues on page 3.

**Throw  
out the  
lifeline!**



**Donate to NYSUT's  
Disaster Relief Fund**



Representing more than 600,000  
professionals in education and health care.

[www.nysut.org/disasterrelief](http://www.nysut.org/disasterrelief)

### NYSUT Disaster Relief

NYSUT has launched "Throw Out the Lifeline," a union-wide campaign to raise \$250,000 in 25 days - Feb. 4-28 - for the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund, which benefits victims of Superstorm Sandy and other natural disasters. The kickoff coincides with school counseling week to highlight the invaluable support mental health professionals provide to students, NYSUT members and the community during life-changing events like Superstorm Sandy. Even now, many months later, thousands of NYSUT members continue to struggle without power, water, homes and comforts in the wake of Sandy.

The initiative encourages local unions to host local fundraising events for disaster relief. Members can access program resources, including online and print materials such as downloadable paper life-preserver sponsorship hangers - much like the angels "sold" at holiday times - fact-sheets, fliers and tips and ideas for local fundraising events by going to the NYSUT website, [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org).

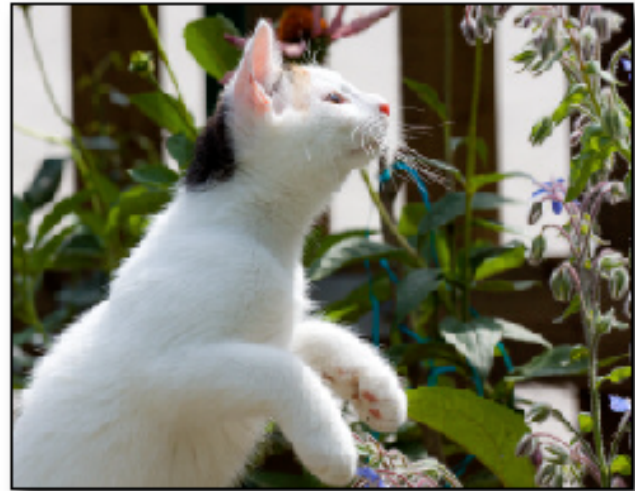
However, since Sandy was no ordinary storm, member need is ongoing. Please consider doing more- and, if you haven't yet donated, now is the time to get involved. The NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund depends on voluntary donations. Please send a check to NYSUT Headquarters, Attn: Jeff Lockwood, Accounting Department, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110 or make donations by going to the NYSUT website. NYSUT assumes 100 percent of the administrative costs associated with the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund.

## NYSUT members: *Is danger lurking in your home?*

We've just about made it through a particularly cold winter, and spring is finally upon us. With that means warmer weather and the opportunity to spend more time playing with our pets (both indoors and outdoors).

And while we always hear about the dangers of ticks and fleas that can come from the "Great Outdoors," what about those potential hazards lurking inside of our homes as well?

Check out the following list from VPI Pet Insurance about the most common calls received by the Pet Poison Helpline:



### Top 5 Toxins & Poisons – Dogs

1. Chocolate
2. Insect bait stations
3. Mouse & rat poison
4. Fertilizers
5. Sugar-free gums & candies

### Top 5 Toxins & Poisons – Cats

1. Lilies
2. Topical flea & tick medicine for dogs
3. Household cleaners
4. Mouse & rat poison
5. Paints & varnishes

So have fun with your four-legged friends this spring, but be mindful of where your pet is roaming both inside and outside of your home.

If you suspect that your pet has ingested anything harmful, seek immediate veterinary advice. **The Pet Poison Helpline is also available for a fee 24/7 at 800-213-6680.**

Remember NYSUT members receive a 5% discount on VPI's base medical plan and up to a 15% discount if multiple pets are enrolled.

For more information, please visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) and click on "Discounts & Travel – Members" and then "VPI Pet Insurance" or call toll-free 866-838-3461.

## Insurance from A to Z...

While you're considering whether pet insurance is right for your pet, don't forget about the humans in your life as well. If you're looking to protect yourself or your family, make sure to check out the variety of insurance programs endorsed by Member Benefits.

The following programs are currently available: **Term Life & Level Term Life; WrapPlan® II Universal Life; Personal Property/Liability (auto, home, renters, boat, umbrella, etc.); Disability; Vision Plan; and Dental Plan.** Many of these programs are also available to cover spouses/domestic partners of members, dependent children, dependent parents, and grandparents.

Learn more about our 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.

Mar./Apr. '13

MEMBER  
BENEFITS  
**nysut**  
Working to Benefit You

## 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.

Continued from page 1. **Long Island Retiree Regional Meeting**

**Susan Klug**, NYSUT Assistant in Health Benefits, outlined the benefits retirees have through Medicare and the coordination of those benefits with Employer provided insurances including the NYSHIP Empire Plan. Is there a topic more important to retirees?

**Kim Haefelin**, NYSUT Member Benefits Coordinator, introduced new and popular benefits available through the Member Benefits Trust. The list of member benefits is too long to print here or for Kim to tell the meeting participants. On the home page of the NYSUT website, lower left side, you will be able to click Member Benefits Column and see for yourself what NYSUT offers its members.

**Dorothy Zuckerman**, NYSUT Retiree Service Consultant for the Suffolk Regional Office, **Kathleen Lyons**, NYSUT Retiree Service Consultant for the Nassau Regional Office, and **Joan Perrini**, NYSUT ED 52 Director, among others, were responsible for such an informative meeting.

**Floyd Cameron**, Retiree Services manager, and **Geralyn O'Reilly**, Retiree Services Specialist, came from NYSUT Headquarters to be part of this regional meeting.



David Keefe, NYTRS Trustee



Melinda Person, NYSUT Assistant Director of Legislation



Susan Klug, NYSUT Assistant in Health Benefits



Kim Haefelin, NYSUT Member Benefits Coordinator

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

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.

### **Visit the RC39 Website at <http://ny.aft.org/rc39/>.**

There you will find the latest news affecting teachers and retirees, recent RC39 newsletters, RC39 constitution, and a page for member comments, input and insights.

### **Protecting Privacy of Teachers' Pensions**

Albany, NY, Feb. 22, 2013

NYSUT hailed a unanimous appellate court ruling that affirms retired teachers have privacy rights that prevent their annual pensions from being published on websites and in newspapers.

**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.

**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 Smallen

**Secretary, NYSUT and AFT Delegate:** Corita Kong

**Treasurer, NYSUT and AFT Alternate Delegate:** Joan Prymas

**Director-at-large:** Frances Hilliard

**Director-at-large:** George Wybenga

HOME BUYING + REFINANCING

**Share your benefits with your family.**



**+ GET MORE FROM MEMBERSHIP**

**+ Mortgage**

Competitive mortgage rates and special union-member protections are also available to your children and parents.

**+ For more information about this and other savings:**

**aft.org/members**



AFT +  
Member Benefits

AFT + is your advocate. For information on all AFT + programs, call 800-238-1133, ext. 8643, or e-mail 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; or visit www.aft.org/benefits/disclosure.

**Have you paid your voluntary RC39 contribution for 2013?**

If you have not sent in your voluntary NYSUT RC39 annual contribution, now is as good a time as ever. 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