



2018 NYSUT RETIREE CONTIGUOUS E.D. MEETING

REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS

STAFF

Teresa Swartz, Support Staff Specialist

Adriano Bongiorno, Legislative Relations Specialist

Peter Savage, Senior Legislative Representative

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NYSUT Headquarters
Latham, New York**

Resolution 1 - Submitted by RC 15-16

Retiree Integration

Whereas, retirees remain actively involved in all NYSUT initiatives, including political action, educational and health care issues and social justice; and

Whereas, retirees desire to be kept informed of the challenges encountered by in-service members and of the legislative mandates and threats to the professions of the members we represent; and

Whereas, retirees support their in-service brothers and sisters; and

Whereas, retirees assist in working to get endorsed candidates elected; and

Whereas, retirees assist with in-district and Committee of 100 legislative lobbying; and

Whereas, retirees have a relationship with the districts in which they taught, and with the communities in which they live; and

Whereas, retirees can help provide institutional and historical memory in their local, in their community, during lobbying meetings and at union gatherings; and

Whereas, the strength of our union will be enhanced when all constituencies work together and retirees are involved in the political, service and mobilization work of NYSUT and its locals; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT will encourage locals and EDs to invite and seek input, assistance and participation from their retirees when formulating plans and initiatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT will include Retiree Council Local Presidents with In-Service Local Presidents during Local Presidents meetings at the RA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT will encourage the integration of retirees into all aspects of future in-service as well as retiree political action and mobilization; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT will continue to increase its focus on retirees as an integral part of our entire union; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT consider developing a checklist to distribute to Local Presidents and relevant others, of specific activities designed to keep locals and retirees linked and working together; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT officers, Board of Directors and relevant others, in their official capacity and at official meetings and gatherings, continue to address the importance of locals and their retirees remaining linked and working together.

Resolution 2 - Submitted by RC 15-16

Combatting the SALT Tax Cuts

Whereas, the deductibility of state and local income and property tax will be limited to \$10,000.00 under the 2018 federal tax plan; and

Whereas, the 2017 deduction was unlimited but in 2018, filers will have to choose either individual income taxes or sales taxes to deduct; and

Whereas, many retirees are on a fixed income; and

Whereas, many retirees own their primary residences and pay property taxes; and

Whereas, retirees in many parts of New York State pay property taxes that are over the \$10,000 threshold for federal tax deductibility; and

Whereas, New York is one of the two states that will lose the most by the cap on SALT deductions; and

Whereas, when retirees are unable to deduct the full amount of their property taxes it creates a serious financial burden for them; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT will encourage legislators in New York to find legislative relief from the unfair burden of the cap on SALT deductions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT will work with our affiliates to find a Federal solution to the Cap on SALT deductions that inequitably burden retirees in New York.

Resolution 3 - Submitted by RC 21

Supporting a Strong Union Movement

Whereas, Unions work to protect the welfare of their members; and

Whereas, the work of Unions encompasses negotiation of working conditions, salaries, health benefits and retirement benefits of its members; and

Whereas, a 'rising tide should raise all boats,' and all workers should enjoy the benefits of Union protection; and

Whereas, Unions are the only option for workers to 'level the playing field' in negotiations with employers; and

Whereas, the Janus decision has undercut the power of public employee Unions to properly protect their members; and

Whereas, some state legislatures have passed 'right to work laws' to deter workers from forming Unions; and

Whereas, the recent spate of statewide strikes illustrates the power of united action; and

Whereas, these strikes highlighted how some states had sacrificed the needs of education in order to lower taxes; and

Whereas, these strikes enjoyed the support of the public because these job actions focused on funding for schools as well as employee benefits; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT promote the cause of Unionism among its members, all workers and the general public.

Resolution 4 - Submitted by RC 19

Medicare Premium Reimbursement: Part D

Whereas, some NYSUT retirees and other New York State public employees who participate in NYSHIP receive a reimbursement for Medicare Part B premiums and surcharges, which were successfully legislated; and

Whereas, recent changes to the federal tax code, specifically changes to State and Local Tax (SALT) deductions may negatively affect seniors; and

Whereas, the governor has repeatedly tried to reduce or eliminate that reimbursement; and

Whereas, there is no reimbursement for Medicare Part D, (prescription drugs); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT encourage the New York State public employee unions to negotiate for a Medicare Part D reimbursement, a permanent reimbursement for Medicare Part B and the surcharges for Parts B and D.