

## RC39 Will Have Its First General Membership Meeting, May 4, 2022, Noon Eastern Daylight Savings Time

Save the date. Make sure we have your email address so you can participate in this historic meeting. RC39 in its sixteen years of existence has never been able to have a general membership meeting. As a state-wide retiree council, it was impossible to physically get members together. It still is impossible to get members physically together, but by using Zoom we can have a virtual meeting.

### Let's Connect on May 4<sup>th</sup>

I hope you "saved the date."

On Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, RC39 will have its first Zoom general membership meeting at noon, Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

As a state-wide retiree council there isn't really an easy way to get together. But now on May 4<sup>th</sup>, with Zoom, we can meet, engage, and share our concerns. In addition, we will be discussing the proposed amendments to the RC 39 Constitution. You can get a copy of the proposed amended RC 39 Constitution at RC 39's home page <http://rc39.ny.aft.org/>.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we don't have everyone's email addresses. So please complete and mail the membership form at the end of the newsletter, or email Pete Herron your name and email address: [rc39pete@optonline.net](mailto:rc39pete@optonline.net). This is the best way for us to connect. I can assure you we do not share any personal data with any outside entities.

Another important date for NYSUT members is Tuesday, May 17. School budget votes and school board elections will occur throughout New York. Many districts are facing extreme challenges from some who want to micromanage their district and possibly elect antiunion board members. Public education needs our support.

No matter what town you live in, please consider contacting your district's local union and ask how you can help. Any help is greatly appreciated and will go a long way to preserving public education and our union values.

I look forward to seeing you on May 4. So please send us your contact information so we can have an inclusive meeting.

Stay safe, stay well.

Regards,  
Kevin Peterman, President RC 39  
[Kevinp50@aol.com](mailto:Kevinp50@aol.com)

### How Can I Participate in the May 4<sup>th</sup> RC 39 Zoom Meeting?

If you have already participated in a Zoom meeting you know how easy it is. For those who have yet to participate in a Zoom meeting, here is all you need to know.

1. You need a device that has email and internet connection.
2. RC39 has your email address so the Zoom meeting information can be emailed to you.
3. Check your email a few days before May 4, 2022. We will email all RC39 members for whom we have an email address the Zoom meeting information. This email will have the meeting link.
4. A few minutes before noon, May 4<sup>th</sup> tap the link on the email we sent you and within a minute you will be connected to the RC39 Zoom meeting.

### How do I know if RC39 has my email address? If not, how can I give my email address to RC39?

If you have been receiving RC39 emails with a digital copy of RC39 newsletters we have your address. If not, we most likely do not have your email address. In that case, email your name and email address to [rc39pete@optonline.net](mailto:rc39pete@optonline.net).

### What's on the May 4<sup>th</sup> Agenda?

Introduction to the officers of RC39.

A short presentation of NYSUT retiree councils and how RC39 is a unique retiree council dedicated to community college retirees.

Discussion of the Proposed Amended RC39 Constitution. See page 2 for details on how to obtain a copy of the current constitution and the proposed amended constitution.

Discussion of how RC39 can better serve its members.  
Discussion of items suggested by members.

### Do You have a Suggested Agenda Item for the May 4th Zoom Meeting?

In order to have the most successful May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting as possible, we need member input. If you have something you think should be on the agenda, please email your suggestion to RC39 President Kevin Peterman at [kevinp50@aol.com](mailto:kevinp50@aol.com).

**See page 2 for the May 4th, 2022 Membership Zoom Meeting Information**

**Retiree Council 39 Board of Directors**

President, First NYSUT and AFT Delegate, **Kevin Peterman**  
Vice President, NYSUT and AFT Delegate, **Judy Wood**  
Secretary, NYSUT and AFT Delegate, **Charles Clarke**  
Treasurer, NYSUT and AFT Alternate Delegate, **Joyce Gabriele**  
Directors-at-large, **Joan Prymas and Gerald Speal**  
Immediate past President, **Peter Herron**

**RC39 Newsletter Addresses**

98 Rocky Point Landing Road., Rocky Point, NY 11778, email: [rc39pete@optonline.net](mailto:rc39pete@optonline.net).

**RC39 Newsletter Committee**

Newsletter Editor, **Peter Herron:**

Editorial Members, **Charles Clarke, Ann Fey, Joyce Gabriele, Frances Hilliard, , Sivia Kaye, Richard Macy, Kevin Peterman, Joan Prymas, Ann Smallen, Gerald Speal, Patti Tana, Judy Wood**

**RC39 Website**

Webmaster, **Peter Herron:**

Website address: <http://rc39.ny.aft.org/>.

**Get on the RC39 Email List**

In order to receive RC39 notices and early colored RC39 newsletters, email your name, the community college from which you retired, your email address, mailing address, and phone number to [rc39pete@optonline.net](mailto:rc39pete@optonline.net).

**Address Change**

Do not let a new address keep you from receiving NYSUT RC39 newsletters. There are four 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, NY 12110, or e-mail changes to [memberec@nysutmail.org](mailto:memberec@nysutmail.org). or go to: <https://www.nysut.org/members/retirees/mailling-list>. If you are a snowbird, give Member Records a few weeks notice to change its address records each way.

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

RC39 will pay a member's expenses, up to \$40, for attending a NYSUT in-person regional retiree conference. Check the RC39 website for details.

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**You need to be on the RC39 email address list to be informed.**

The RC39 newsletter is usually published only five times annually, so timely warnings to members of imminent problems is not possible. On very rare occasions, we have emailed members about a topic of immediate importance, such as the recent notice on Medicare Enhancement plans threat to retirees' health insurance. If you have not received RC39 email warnings, email your name and email address (mailing address, phone number and college retired from are optional) to [rc39pete@optonline.net](mailto:rc39pete@optonline.net).



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**Discussion of the Proposed Amended RC39 Constitution at the May 4 Zoom meeting.**

The current RC39 Constitution was ratified October 2006. A copy can be obtained by scrolling down the RC39 website Home page, <http://rc39.ny.aft.org/>. Clearly this constitution is very much outdated. The officers and directors have been working hard, in coordination with NYSUT Headquarters, to amend the RC39 Constitution in ways that will incorporate technology that did not exist sixteen years ago. The RC39 constitution must include these new ways of holding meetings and communicating.

RC39 is the retiree council for all NYSUT community college retirees. Most other NYSUT retiree councils are defined by local school districts, making it easier to have general, in-person, membership meetings. Because RC39 is defined state wide, having a general membership, in-person meeting has always been impossible. In the past, RC39 Board of Directors met at NYSUT meetings in Albany, never with all board of directors present. With such programs as Zoom, the Board of Directors have had several meetings. With the use of Zoom, a general membership meeting is being planned for May 4. At this meeting the proposed amended constitution will be on the agenda. After this Zoom membership meeting, NYSUT Headquarters will mail you a copy of the proposed amended RC39 Constitution for your consideration to ratify. You can get a copy of the proposed amended RC39 Constitution at the Home page of the RC39 website <http://rc39.ny.aft.org/>. The parts being removed are in blue with a strike through them. The new parts are in red.

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**RC39 General Membership Zoom Meeting, May 4, 2022, 12:00 PM, Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://nysut.zoom.us/j/92354414787>

Meeting ID: 923 5441 4787

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,92354414787# US (New York)

+13126266799,,92354414787# US (Chicago)

## YOUR HEALTH CONNECTION

By Frances S. Hilliard, RN, MS

Professor Emerita, Nassau Community College

*What are Clinical Trials?* These are medical research studies addressing specific health issues and seeking to find new treatments. For example, clinical trials can investigate whether or not a new drug or medical device is safe and effective for patients to use; look for different ways to implement known treatments in order to make them more effective; learn if a treatment can be applied to a different population (such as children). These trials can be sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, federal agencies (such as the National Institutes of Health [NIH] or the Department of Veterans Affairs), educational or medical institutions, or sometimes individual practitioners/health care providers. The actual trials are most often conducted at major universities or health care institutions.

Patients are usually referred for participation in a clinical trial because the standard medical interventions for their condition are not working or the patient has not been able to tolerate the treatment. Sometimes patients are accepted into trials because their specific condition is quite rare. All clinical trials have strict eligibility criteria and participants are required to follow the rules and terms set forth in the study protocol. The federal government requires that researchers obtain an extensive informed consent from participants, containing thorough and accurate information about what the clinical trial entails.

Prior to joining a clinical trial, it is essential that you learn as much as possible about the study. Write down any questions or concerns that you may have and discuss them with members of the study team. You should also discuss the trial with your regular health care providers, who will need to sign off on your participation in the trial.

The NIH maintains a database with constantly updated information about ongoing clinical trials, including those taking place at the NIH Clinical Center as well as elsewhere in the country: [ClinicalTrials.gov](http://ClinicalTrials.gov). More information can be found through the National Library of Medicine's MedlinePlus website: [medlineplus.gov](http://medlineplus.gov). Specific studies on pharmaceutical development are available through the FDA: [fda.gov/patients/learn-about-drug-and-device-approvals](http://fda.gov/patients/learn-about-drug-and-device-approvals).

*This column is not intended as a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. You are urged to seek the advice of a health care practitioner for any questions about your medical condition or treatment.*

## MUSINGS

### The Internet: A positive or negative addition to our lives?

Mention a new device and usually it is greeted with applause. Who amongst us doesn't love the delicious steaming baked potato smothered in melted butter? But we had to wait an hour for the treat to be served up by our conventional oven. Today, in 3 minutes it's ours to enjoy. *Most always, when queried, the public is thrilled with the Internet and the choices it offers. But - if we gave it some thought, we'd easily see what we lost.*

**BLIND DATES:** Most of us can recall the excitement that surrounded that evening. We were in for a surprise: short or tall? Would he bail and leave us at the bar wondering if he would show up at all? Are there questions about appearances that we would have liked to ask our date beforehand?

In contrast, today we would never fly blind again. Before we'd say YES to a blind date, we'd snoop around online. This is surely a contemporary safety measure. *But what have we lost in the new style blind date?* For one thing, the excitement of first impressions can no longer take place in the back of a candlelit restaurant. The vast majority of factors that go into first impressions are ruled out with the emphasis remaining on how skilled people are with their verbal manipulation in handling on-line dating services. *In arranging today's blind dates we are the sum of our digital selves.*



The direct benefit of the Internet is that we now hook up for an evening with someone whom we know beforehand will prove a satisfactory date. But although we have attained personal safety, we have lost much as well. So many factors are being ruled out when we rely only on the verbal skills of the person who placed the ad on the dating website. Subtle facial and body cues are not included in this new dating universe. A good relationship can be thwarted before it has begun just because the verbal skills of the potential date are not top notch.

**BIRTHDAY CARDS:** From my earliest years, my parents had me write birthday cards and thank you notes personally. They had nothing against Hallmark, but said a personalized note was so much more thoughtful than a bought card. With a hand-written note, I learned you could mention the special gift that you received, and how that fit into your collection of dolls, or guns, or Dick Tracy books. Hallmark does NOT do that for you. There were always folks who mailed Hallmark cards, but at least it took some thought to go to the store and choose one from amongst hundreds.

By contrast, the Internet can send on your behalf an E-card: these are automated, free, and cause the recipient to click through several slow-to-load screens before he might arrive at a personal message. This leaves him not feeling tended to or especially remembered on his birthday. The only benefit I can see to this "innovation" is that you don't have to send a thank you card.

The next **MUSINGS** column will deal with several more "Marvels" that the Internet has brought our way. We will see how much pleasure has been stolen from us as a result of our digital progress.



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 Retiree Council 39, along with this completed form to:  
 Ms. Joyce Gabriele, RC39 Treasurer, 492 Everdell Avenue, West Islip, NY. 11795-4222

Your Member I.D. is on your NYSUT Membership Card. Lost your card? Don't know your I.D. number? Call NYSUT Membership during business hours at 1-800-342-9810.