



Chris Pendergast A Life Well Lived

With great sadness, we announce the passing of CHRISTOPHER PENDERGAST, R-UTN member and founder of the ALS Ride for Life, after a 28-year battle with ALS. Chris died at home, surrounded by his family, and his death is mourned by the entire Northport – East Northport Schools community.

Chris founded ALS Ride for Life in 1997. Although a quadriplegic on a ventilator and using an eye-gaze computer to communicate, in his final days, Chris continued to remain active with the Ride. Through his tireless leadership and activism, more than \$10 million has been raised for research, patient services, and education about this dreadful disease.

Chris touched the lives of many of our members, and we are pleased to share some of the members' memories. Please see the website for more of his colleagues testimonials.

JOANNE KROON wrote, Let's remember an outstanding colleague who taught a whole school community to believe that any challenge can be an opportunity for growth and vision. He was a man with a mission on a "Ride for Life." Thanks for sharing the "Ride" with so many. Let's celebrate and believe that his legacy of love and inspiration will endure.

ELLEN MARKEL wrote, I have many fond memories from my long friendship with Chris. It began during the years that Chris and I taught fifth grade at Pulaski Road School and continued on after Chris moved to another school and I retired.

Not only was Chris a wealth of knowledge in all areas but he was a wonderful resource for science trips to places that the students loved. Teaching was always an adventure with Chris. I will miss him.

Donations may be made in Chris's memory to the
ALS Ride for Life and the Hope House Ministries.



The ALS Ride for Life was founded by Chris Pendergast. Each year the foundation holds an Honoree Recognition Benefit, and this year it was held virtu-

ally on April 28, what would have been Chris's 72nd birthday.

Chris built the organization on a solid foundation, knowing that they would need to continue without him one day. His wish was that his work continue,

providing much-needed services to patients, funding promising research initiatives, and raising awareness of the disease.

Each year the foundation holds an Honoree Recognition Benefit. This year's benefit honored Chris's life work against ALS, highlighting all he achieved in his relentless dedication to defeating this dread disease. As we have in the past, the R-UTN is one of the benefit's sponsors. Any of our members who would like to make a personal contribution are encouraged to do so. Please see the website for more information.

R-UTN WELCOMES 2021 RETIREES

Our Executive Board has had to make a few changes over the past difficult year. We canceled our annual luncheons and fall picnic, and our monthly meetings were held via Zoom. As you remember, our longtime, very devoted president, Frances LaDuca, passed away last August. As a result, the Executive Board decided to move forward without an election of new officers at the present time. We will continue to do our best to work for our more than 400 members.

Additionally, our Board involves volunteer members who work alongside the officers on various activities that keep our members informed and connected. Any current members and our 2021 retirees should feel free to attend the Zoom meetings. These take place once a month, in the late afternoon. To join us, please contact rutn@digitalquinn.com for the next one, and you will receive a link for that meeting.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR R-UTN OFFICERS

It is election time again. Members interested in serving as R-UTN President, Vice President, Treasurer or Recording Secretary need to contact Larry Ryan by May 25th. The term of office is for two years. The slate of candidates will be posted on our website and published in the Summer newsletter. The election will take place by mail. Ballots will be mailed with the membership forms in August and need to be returned by September 15th. The elected officers are supported by an active Executive Board of committee chairs and other volunteers.

If not ready for elected office, consider joining one of our committees – social, communications, OR newsletter. The Board meets approximately 10 times a year. For more information, contact Larry or any other member of the Executive Board.

Nominations committee chair, Larry Ryan, 631-543-2462 laryan@mac.com.



WELCOME BACK VICKIE NEWELL!

Welcome to our interim Recording Secretary, Victoria Newell. Victoria was a former Northport Middle School science teacher who started her career at the Northport Middle School.

Victoria went on to teach high school Chemistry, Earth Science and Forensics at another district where she remained for 20 years. She retired in June 2019 - just in time to miss online home schooling! Vickie couldn't wait to come back to be part of our unit as NMS always felt like home.

EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEES

In addition to the elected officers of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary, the following committee members serve on the R-UTN Executive Board.

Picnic Committee – select caterer, menu, date and arrange for location, set up and clean up.

Collect RSVPs and check in attendees.

Luncheon Committee – select dates, locations, arrange menu, arrange and supervise the raffle. Collect RSVP checks, make name tags, and check in attendees.

Communications Committee – assist Bobbi Scott and Linda Quinn with sending out email notices to members and maintaining the R-UTN website.

Newsletter Committee – assist Suzy Travis with production and layout of the quarterly newsletter.

Membership Committee – assist Judy Benson in maintaining membership records and mailing lists.

Chair people are also needed for our Political Action and Philanthropy committees.

FLORIDA RETIREE COUNCIL 43

The NYSUT retirees who have relocated from New York State to Florida, permanently or seasonally, may not be aware of NYSUT services available to them in their new location. Retiree Council 43 is an official arm of the New York State United Teachers union to accommodate members who reside in Florida. It consists of 10 units namely, Nature Coast, Jupiter, the Southeast, the Treasure Coast, Sarasota, Greater Naples, Clearwater, Orlando, and the Villages. RC 43 says it welcomes NYSUT members and friends “to the wonderful world of the Sunshine State and all the ‘Fun in the Sun’ opportunities for retirees. Whether you have relocated permanently or seasonally or are just here for a short visit, there are like minded colleagues waiting to meet you.”

NYSUT encourages its members in Florida to join the Florida Council, Retiree Council 43. It is important for them to hear about political and social events that are held regularly. They need to be aware that there are forces that continue to try to eliminate or reduce some of our retirees’ benefits. The Council meetings and the unit meetings can keep our members informed.

Right now many Florida retirees continue to maintain their affiliation with their former councils in New York. But we have news for you! You do not have to leave your affiliation in New York Council in order to join the Florida Council. You can be an associate member of the Florida council and receive information from both New York and Florida. The Council has at least 2 conferences a year with interesting guest speakers from Florida as well as NYSUT officers from New York. You can also attend the meetings held by local units. If you are a snowbird, you can attend Florida Council meetings even if you are not a member. In addition to political information, you will also find a number of social events that might interest you – such as book clubs, trips, and luncheons which can be fun.

We hope this information will encourage you to join RC 43.

Contact Felicia Bruce, President of RC 43 –
spmomtch1@aol.com

or Retiree Judy Kalb, Services Consultant, –
judy.kalb@nysut.org (telephone 561 389-9932) or
visit the website at <http://rc43.nyaft.org>

Joan Perrini, NYSUT Retiree Services
Consultant, Suffolk Regional Office

IN MEMORIAM

Please see our website for more details

- ◆ **STEVE ALMANZI, retired Northport High School science teacher**, passed away on December 10 at the age of 79 after a long illness.
- ◆ **SUSAN BEYER, retired Bellerose Avenue Elementary School art teacher**, passed away on October 1.
- ◆ **GEORGE KAST, retired Fifth Avenue physical Education teacher**, passed away on January 13 at the age of 78.
- ◆ **HANK KASVEN, retired elementary, middle school, and high school teacher**, passed away on May 26 after long illness. Hank served on the R-UTN Executive Board and as a UTN building rep for many years.
- ◆ **ALFRED LaFALCE, retired Northport Junior High School social studies teacher**, passed away on December 30 at the age of 83 after a long illness.
- ◆ **DORIS MAURY, R-UTN member and longtime school nurse at Ocean and Norwood Avenue Schools**, died in February at age 90.
- ◆ **HARRIET MIDDLEBROOK, retired Fifth Avenue School teacher**, passed away on April 11.
- ◆ **PETER STACHEKI, retired Northport High School social studies teacher**, passed away on May 22. Pete taught social studies at Middleville prior to teaching at the high school, where he also served as the ombudsman.
- ◆ **IRENE TAYLOR, retired Assistant Superintendent of Instruction**, passed away. She was a long-time resident of Northport and worked in the Northport – East Northport UFSD for 32 years as both a teacher and administrator.



RETIRED TEACHERS OF NORTHPORT

10 Ardendale Road
East Northport, NY 11731
www.retiredteachersofnorthport.org
UTN-R@optonline.net

First Class Mail

TO

In keeping with CDC Guidelines, the annual Spring Luncheon will not be held this year.

Have you contributed to Vote-Cope?

If you plan to mail your contribution to Vote-Cope, the address is:

VOTE-COPE
PO Box 295
Canajoharie, NY 13317-0295

Make checks out to Vote-Cope and mail to the above address.
Be sure to include your name and address.