

R-UTN Newsletter

www.retiredteachersofnorthport.org

December 2023

Happy Holidays 2023

Warmest Wishes for 2024



Starting Off the Season Right!

A wonderful group of our colleagues gathered at Napper Tandy's in Northport to raise a glass and toast the holidays. Greater in numbers than last time, but hopefully smaller than the next "meeting"! Come join us next time and make the group even bigger! Thank you to all who were there!

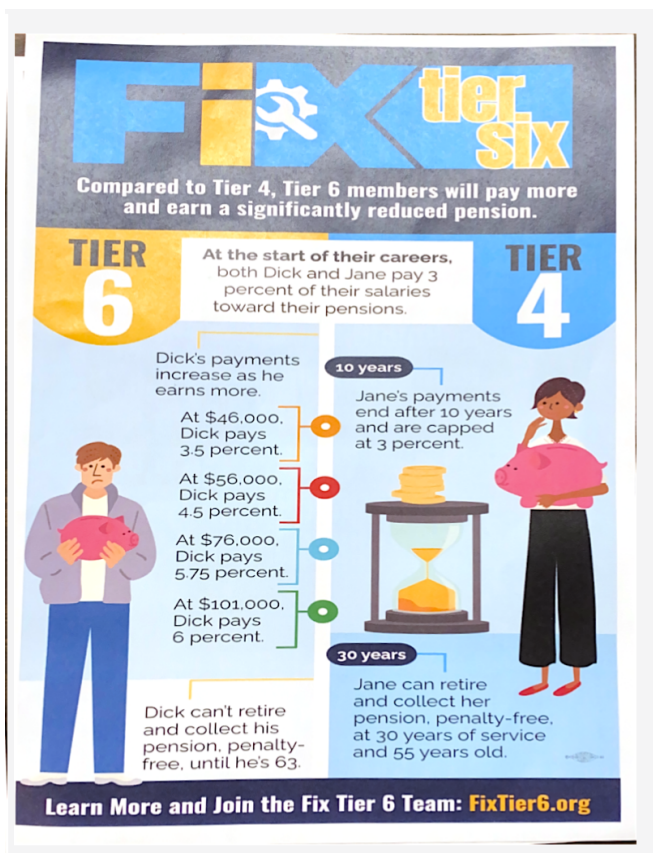
Keeping Up with R-UTN

****Please make it a habit to check out our website**

retiredteachersofnorthport.org

for up-to-date information on all our goings-on!**

...In September, we had our annual picnic at the Vanderbilt.



...In October, members attended the RC-23 business meeting at Captain Bill's. Fixing Tier 6 will help keep good people in our profession.

...In November, we had a great discussion at our Board of Directors meeting. The R-UTN is very proud of our scholarship donations and other philanthropic endeavors.



We honor members past and present as we help deserving Northport students who will continue on our tradition of giving back as teachers.

With your support, we hope to keep on giving.



What's New With You??

Please send any photos, short blurbs, or anything you'd like to share to

denise.lardi@gmail.com



Coming Up...

Watch for news of another Happy Hour at Napper Tandy's!

Our Spring Meeting/Luncheon will be announced soon!

Political action in the spring- Watch for news of Board and Budget elections



In Memoriam (Please see our website for full details)

The RUTN mourns the loss of Anita Nygren,
Nancy Connor, Bernice Drescher, and Danielle DePonte

A “Living Eulogy”

Long time member Paul Fazio’s birthday falls around the time of our annual picnic in September. This year he was honored with a living eulogy- the chance to say all the things you want to say while the person is still with us.

Cheers, Paul!

Paul Fazio’s Living Eulogy on his 100th Birthday September 22, 2023

We’re all teachers here, some of us administrators as well. I’d like to say a few words about someone who’s both.

This person’s first administrative experience was as president of his HS class.

College did not follow high school for him. Instead, he flew a B-27 bomber during the war and received admission to SUNY Cortland thereafter.

Changed majors from Phys Ed to Health when hit in head by a baseball.

His second administrative experience was president of his class of 1st graduating Health majors.

His third administrative job was being the first elected president of NY Health Educators.

He became a guidance counselor, then his fourth administrative role as Npt HS’s single AP.

Only this man could succeed in those two roles. He was always supportive of students and ready to listen to them. His discipline was “strong, but not harsh.” He understood what was best for kids.

Soon he was given duties of a principal, including observing teachers. As AP, he instituted teacher aids and remembers Jackie Frederickson fondly.

This school disciplinarian was honored with a yearbook dedication, not once but twice, in ’61 and ’64.

Time came for a third jr. high school to open in our district, since the baby boomers were becoming teenagers.

Superintendent Bernie Schneider selected this proven and valuable professional to be Middleville's principal, his 5th administrative position. He was sent around the country to observe its top schools in preparation. Any administrative course would pale in comparison.

Another preparation was recruiting staff members. He sought out teachers with energy and commitment, not only locally but from afar, like Massachusetts and Florida. He was building the best faculty possible.

Middleville became a vibrant place, with a leader who was demanding, honest, and supportive, expecting the best from teachers and students alike and giving his own best every day. The climate was not me vs. you, but we together working together toward common goals. This translated well into the classroom with our students. Faculty friendships and bonding grew, both inside and outside of school.

There was the Activity Program, a mid-day period where academics were paused briefly for anything fun and positive that students and teachers would enjoy together: mastering the frisbee, playing chess or rock 'n roll, starting a PA radio station, you name it.

Field trips extended the curricula, be it a Shakespeare movie playing locally, or an overnighter to Williamsburg or Boston for 8th graders studying American History.

Another innovation was the Time Out Room, maintaining the discipline for misbehavior that was strong, but not harsh.

Yet Middleville students performed quite well on standardized tests. The school carried the highest attendance record in the district for teachers and students. A New York accreditation committee visited, observed, and pronounced Middleville "One of the best in the state."

Obviously the man I'm speaking of did not accomplish all this alone. He assembled and nurtured a staff that made it happen together. He was not only an educator of teenagers, but an educator of teachers.

Eulogies are usually delivered at funerals and memorial services. Nice, but not very helpful to the departed. Why not say nice things to honor someone who's still with us? On his 100th birthday, Paul Fazio deserves this living eulogy and all the respect, affection, gratitude, and friendship we have for him.

Glenn Baldwin



Being ready for the holidays can mean a lot of different things:

- Gifts for your loved ones
- Appliances for your home
- Confirming travel plans
- Entertainment for the kids
- Food delivery in case of inclement weather
- Savings set aside for unexpected expenses

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs and services that could help make you as prepared as possible for whatever the holiday season may throw at you.

No matter what your plans may be this holiday season, NYSUT Member Benefits is a great place to start. With a number of shopping, travel and discount programs, you are certain to find something of interest that could benefit you or your loved ones.

Speaking of savings, the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to offer all NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) exclusive access to savings of up to 50% at 850,000 locations – including more than 21,200 New York State deals. If you have not already done so, head over to mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com to create your account with your NYSUT ID number, preferred email address, and password.

You'll then be eligible to save on restaurant dine-in or take-out, flowers and gift baskets, Bose products, clothing and shoes, oil changes and vehicle maintenance, sporting events, hotels and flights, car rentals, theme parks, movie tickets, and much more. Members are encouraged to download the MB Discounts & Deals mobile app for the best user experience with this program.

Member Benefits also endorses life insurance programs, auto & home insurance, dental & vision plans, legal & financial services, and other programs to help protect yourself and those you care about most.

Participating in Member Benefits-endorsed programs also offers the added protection of having a trusted advocate on their side. Member Benefits staff take great pride in stepping in to support members with any questions, concerns, or issues that may arise.

Explore all that your union membership has to offer!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

Nov./Dec. 2023

Information for you and your loved ones



When a Retired Member Passes Away

A family member, usually the beneficiary, should call NYSTRS at (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6140 to report the death. This will ensure the beneficiary(ies) receives any promised benefits in a timely manner.

When phoning the System, the family member will need to provide the following information:

- Name of the deceased
- Date of death
- Name, relationship, and phone number of the person making the notification

An original or certified copy of the retiree's death certificate then must be submitted to NYSTRS at 10 Corporate Woods Dr., Albany, NY 12211.

In addition to notifying NYSTRS, the family member should also contact:

- The retiree's former employer, which may have been providing health insurance.
- The retiree's union to collect on any life insurance policy(ies) that might be in effect. Here is the contact information for the possible applicable unions: New York State United Teachers at (800) 626-8101; United University Professionals at (800) 342-4206; or School Administrators Association of New York at (518) 782-0600.

Funeral directors typically report deaths to the Social Security Administration. However, next of kin should confirm with the funeral director that the death was reported. If it was not reported, it is the family's responsibility to notify Social Security at (800) 772-1213.



RETIRED TEACHERS OF NORTHPORT

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First Class Mail

TO



Retired - United Teachers of Northport

Dear NYSUT Member:

These unsettling times have shone a light on a fact that we have always known:
Public Schools Unite Us.

Educators, school-related professionals, and health care heroes have all come together to support our public schools and the students they serve. We need your help today to make sure our schools, colleges, and hospitals have the resources they need to navigate our future. Since no local dues dollars are used to support political parties, candidates or campaigns, your voluntary contribution to VOTE-COPE is the only way to ensure elected leaders in Albany and Washington DC stand up for public education, hear our voices and understand our needs.

You will soon receive a donation request letter in the mail – please respond to it!