



WINTER 2010-2011

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the chapter stands at 610. Thank you for your membership and for your support for the RTC and the NTA. We stand together as we face very challenging times ahead.

NYSUT RETIREE COUNCILS

Congratulations on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the councils. Former NTA President Frank Colone served on the task force which led to their establishment within NYSUT. The retiree councils were established in order to provide a pathway to NYSUT membership for those retirees not eligible for membership in their prior locals.

“BOUNCED” CHECKS POLICY

The Executive Committee of the RTC established a policy regarding members' checks that cannot be cashed due to insufficient funds. The policy was made necessary because of financial penalties assessed on the NTA by the banks which the NTA planned on passing on to the RTC. Under the policy, it is the responsibility of the member to pay any penalty that may be assessed on either the NTA or RTC.

ADMINISTRATIVE FEE

As previously reported, the NTA has begun to assess the RTC an “administrative fee”. The RTC was concerned that the fee was simply being deducted from our account without proper invoice and voucher. We believe that the matter has been rectified. The administrative fee is designed to help the NTA manage its business expenses. The amount of the fee for the current school year is \$900.00.



VOTING ISSUE

Since we last reported, there has been no progress in our attempt to amicably resolve the voting issue. We have asked the NTA and NYSUT to provide us with specific, constitutional references to support their position. It is the NTA's position that retirees vote for their NYSUT representatives via the retiree councils. We believe that we are represented through the local, and we have provided both the NTA and NYSUT with specific constitutional references to support our claim. To date, we have not received any response from the NTA or NYSUT. We also offered to meet with the NTA president in order to resolve the matter. To date, there has been no response to our offer to meet. We believe that this matter could be resolved easily. It is important that this matter is finally resolved—sooner rather than later—as we must be united to meet the obstacles which lie ahead for both in-service teachers and retirees.

STATE NEWS

As a new governor and legislature take office on January 1, 2011, the huge state deficit and ongoing budget problems will dominate the session. It certainly appears that some type of tax cap will be adopted that will attempt to provide some degree of local property tax relief. With state tax increases pretty much off the table, it will be a huge fight to save public education from deep budget cuts. Of course, those cuts will have a direct effect on all of us as contract negotiations begin in February.

SPRING MEETING

Our next meeting/social will be held on **May 18, 2011**. We will mail a formal notice and invitation in April

