



THE UNION SOUND

THE VOICE OF A SOUND UNION



May/June 2025

Rondout Valley Federation of Teachers and School-Related Professionals

Volume 49, Issue 5

Relaxation and Renewal for RVF Retirees



The rain didn't stop the festivities on Saturday, May 31, as retirees Dawn Delamater, Kevin Mutz, Ginger Long, Toni Cincotta, and Chris Wynkoop attended the RVF Retirement Gathering at Stone House Tavern in Accord.



IN THIS ISSUE:

Relaxation and Renewal for RVF Retirees Photo by Robert McDonough	1
Intermediate/Junior High Retirees by Various Contributors	2-5
High School Retirees by Various Contributors	6
Marbletown Retirees by Various Contributors	7
Kerhonkson Retiree by Cathy Turner	8
District Office Retiree by Nanette Simione and Peter Costello	8
Financial Update by David Bonington	9

The Union Sound

Editor-in-Chief:

Robyn McDonough

Assistant Editors:

Jennifer Slauson,

Tara Thibault-Edmonds

President:

Robert McDonough

Contributors:

Kristin Baker, Patricia Bennett,
David Bonington,
Colleen Bordeman, Ali Bradley,
Jayden Brodhead-Milton, Katie Chase,
Peter Costello, Lee Cutler, Kristine Dorrian,
Kim Gomey, Alice Guillon,
Rachel Hermance, Sarah Hornbeck,
Lora Kishel, Erica Knapp-Gagnon,
Rebecca Litchfield, Kim Mahoskey,
Rob McDonough, Robyn McDonough,
Shannon Moysey, Kelley O'Connor,
James Ortnier, Stephanie Peacock,
Deb Ricci, Nanette Simione, Jenn Slauson,
John Soi, Jaquelyn Swisher, Cathy Turner,
Colleen Vitti

Intermediate/Junior High Retirees

DAVID COOK

It seems like a lifetime ago that I first met David Cook in 2005 when I began teaching at the high school. This was back in the day when we had to share classrooms because our student population was so high, and I was assigned to be the roommate of his former wife, Cathy Arra. Dave would regularly stop in our classroom to exchange pleasant banter.

During this time, I also have many memories of him wearing biking gear, and I was thoroughly impressed by his energy and willingness to ride his bike both to and from school. However, as I have gotten to know Dave better over the years, it's not his biking abilities that impress me as much as his ability to make historical connections between the past and present and everywhere in between. There's no doubt about it: the man knows his history. I have always enjoyed my conversations with him. Dave is a lifelong learner, and I know he will make good use of his retirement to add to his encyclopedic mind—and whoop his opponents in chess. I wish you the absolute best, Dave. Happy retirement!

~ Colleen Vitti

My first year at Rondout, I shared a room with Dave Cook. It was a different time—hallways packed with students, classrooms in short supply, smartphones weren't a thing (thankfully). I only taught one class in that room; the rest of the day I was a nomad, rolling a cart full of supplies between three different classrooms in two separate wings, dodging teenagers like an obstacle course or a real-life *Frogger* game.

From day one, Dave made me feel welcome. He introduced me to the building secretaries (and reminded me they're the ones who really run the place). He gave me a tour—showed me the teachers' lounge, the AP's office, and pointed out people I should know, including our union president, Mickey Hasslan. Any time I had a question—where to find something, how to deal with the kid that just walked out of my room, how to clear paper jams—Dave was there to point me in the right direction.

I had prep during his ninth-grade Global class, and from my little desk in the back corner, I'd listen as he wove stories into his lessons—about the different places he'd lived, the people he'd met, the adventures he'd had. His students loved it. It made boring-old-history a lot more bearable for the average fifteen-year-old. Later, when we were both free, he'd share even more details: stories from a divided Berlin, working in Lesotho, diving away from bulls

in Pamplona, long hot days on a kibbutz. Over the years, he's shared so many of those memories with all of us. He also taught me the basics of chess—and a few German phrases I should probably never repeat out loud.

As Rondout says goodbye to Dave Cook, I know he will be out there having many more incredible adventures and I wish him well—maybe someday in the future we will share stories again.

~ Jennifer Slauson

LISA GRASSI

When I first started working at Rosendale Elementary, I was young and scraping by. One day, after work, I went outside to go home, but my old car wouldn't start—the battery had died. Lisa was fully prepared, helping me with cables and getting a jump.



The next day, when I came into work, she gifted me with an emergency car kit so that I would never be unprepared again! I still carry this kit in my car today—about twenty years or so later. The zipper around the pouch has stopped working, but I hold it together with a bungee cord and always think lovingly of Lisa when I rummage around in my trunk and come across it: Lisa, taking care of me and all of the others throughout the years, always with her gorgeous smile, her generous heart, and her mom-like practicality. Lisa was one of the first people ever to welcome me during what felt like an overwhelming time in my young career, and I will be forever grateful for that. She was a treasure for this school—someone I knew I could rely on and trust—and she is greatly missed.

~ Stephanie Peacock

Lisa Grassi. I can't say enough kind words about her. I first met her as Virginia Ferry's secretary back in 2003 at Rosendale Elementary School when we moved to the Hudson Valley. She was one of the many faces of that beloved elementary school that we all miss so much. When I later worked with her at the JHS, she was always willing to help in any way, remaining calm and patient even in frustrating situations. She always had time for a chat, and over the years there were lots of them—we shared joys and sorrows. She retired in August, and her presence is missed. I am so happy that she now has the time she deserves to spend with her beautiful family—her lifeline.

~ Colleen Vitti

BARBARA DAVENPORT

After years of unwavering dedication and heartfelt service, we celebrate the retirement of a truly inspiring friend and colleague who has left an indelible mark on the Rondout Valley community. Barb's career as both a Health and a Home and Careers teacher has been quite the journey, and I truly don't know how she has managed to juggle it all with such grit and grace. Her passion for teaching life skills and life lessons, nurturing students' independence, and guiding them with both compassion and wisdom has touched countless lives. Whether it was teaching a teenager to cook their first meal or helping them navigate the challenges of growing up, her classroom has always been a place of warmth, encouragement, and growth.

Barb, you have not only educated and opened minds, but you've also shaped futures, and your legacy will live on in every student you've empowered. I can't imagine being on this teaching journey without you across the hall to share stories with, laugh and cry with, dance in the hallways with, or to sit in our cars side by side upon our morning arrival, rolling down our windows and belting out whatever random song was on the radio together (my favorite being the Captain and Tennille classic, "Love Will Keep us Together").

Your boundless enthusiasm and words of wisdom on all aspects of life will continue to be a beacon of light and strength for me and so many others. Gratitude abounds for the beautiful gift you are, Barb. We are all better humans having had your light in our orbit.

Wishing you joy, rest, and new grand adventures in this well-earned next chapter—you will be deeply missed. Enough said!

~ Kim Gorney

KEVIN MUTZ

I can't picture any interaction with Kevin Mutz that doesn't involve humor that leads to deep laughter, loooooooooong stories, genuine care, and an unwavering connection to this Valley. Born and raised a Gander, Kevin eagerly returned home to teach and mentor the future generations of Rondout Valley students.



Kevin is a diligent, dedicated, and passionate coach, teacher, colleague, and community member. He exemplifies everything we hope for in a role model for our youth. His

retirement will be deeply felt throughout the Middle School community. Students actively seek Kevin out—he's a trusted adult, a safe haven, especially for kinesthetic learners who thrive in his presence. His strong moral compass and deeply rooted values are seamlessly woven into every conversation, teaching moment, and coaching session.

Humor is Kevin's superpower. He uses it not only to entertain, but also to connect—to build trust, lift spirits, and create a work environment that is genuinely fun for students and staff alike. It's common to hear belly laughs coming from the gym when Kevin is around. Many students choose Mr. Mutz as their check-in/check-out person, and they beg to be "helpers" during study hall just to spend more time with him.

Kevin has served as a role model far beyond the classroom. The hours he has spent coaching youth in the community and serving as a first responder with the Kerhonkson Fire Department are immeasurable. He and his wife Dena have raised two incredible children, and his dedication to family, service, and education stands as an example to all.

Kevin has always expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work at Rondout, and he's been a proud supporter of the programs that enrich students' lives. Whether chaperoning the NYC Fireboat field trip (always with a smile and the best stories), or jumping in wherever help was needed, Kevin brought joy and heart to everything he touched.

I am so happy for Kevin as he embarks on this next chapter. There's no doubt he'll continue to volunteer, connect, and inspire everyone lucky enough to cross his path. Congratulations, Kevin! You have given the students of Rondout Valley the gift of your wisdom, humor, and heart—and you've earned every moment of a long, rich life of well-deserved leisure.

~ Kelley O'Connor

GINGER LONG

I will truly miss you as my roommate, coworker, and buddy—it's hard to imagine school without you. Our daily chats, whether about work or life, always brought laughter and excitement to my day. Your sense of humor made even the busiest days feel lighter, and I'll especially miss the way you could make me laugh when I needed it most. I'll also miss our lunches and the support we shared. Your retirement is well deserved, but saying goodbye to someone who's been such a big part of my routine this past school year is not easy. Wishing you joy, relaxation, and all the adventures you've been waiting for in this next chapter! With appreciation and love,

~ Kim Mahoskey

GINGER LONG (continued)

What a delight it's been to share this past year with you in our co-taught seventh grade ELA classes. Your calm presence, thoughtful kindness, and quiet creativity brought such a bright light to each day. Your deep commitment to our students—their growth, voices, and well-being—made a lasting impact on our classroom and on me.

I'm truly grateful for the chance to teach with you. Wishing you all the best as you step into retirement. May your days be filled with peaceful gardening, time in nature, the loyal company of your pup, and the joy and excitement of travel and creating art! Wishing you all the best, you will be missed!

~ Ali Bradley

DAWN DELAMATER

In her thirty-five years of service to the Rondout Valley Central School District and community, Dawn has demonstrated her unwavering dedication to the academic success of hundreds of students and their families. Dawn's passion for her craft and her commitment to providing students with outstanding educational experiences has left an enduring mark on not only the district and her colleagues, but also the students and families who are lucky enough to have gotten to know her.



Dawn has served as an educator for the Rondout Valley Central School District for the entirety of her teaching career, and it is tremendous to think about the hundreds of students she has made an impact on over the course of decades. As a native of Stone Ridge, she is known for her commitment to the community and her unwavering dedication to this district. She also was a student at this very district, providing a unique perspective as someone who has such extensive knowledge of the history of our district and area.

Dawn has proven to be extremely passionate about teaching, utilizing her natural ability and skills to keep students interested and motivated as learners. Her talent for teaching in a way that supports students of all skill levels demonstrates her flexibility and capability as an instructor. Dawn has also demonstrated her care for

students as a club advisor for various clubs over the years, including Poetry Club, Colorful Creations Club, and the Intermediate School Gander Gazette newspaper. She's also served as a director and advisor for various school plays over the years, supporting students' development in the creative arts.

As a colleague, Dawn quickly distinguished herself as a devoted and thoughtful team member and confidante. Dawn has such a caring and kind personality, and her kindness and authentic friendliness has provided so many of her peers with support, friendship, guidance, and strength. Dawn embodies the qualities that make an educator truly outstanding, and she does so in an effortless way. The district will truly feel the loss of her warmth, her compassion, and her expertise, but will forever be impacted by her efforts as a teacher, advisor, advocate, and so many other roles. Wishing you all the best in retirement.

~ Shannon Moysey, Lora Kishel, Sarah Hornbeck,
Kristin Baker, Patricia Bennett, James Ortnier,
Rachel Hermance, & Lee Cutler

MARCELLE DUGAN

It is with great admiration and deep gratitude that we recognize Marcelle Dugan for her outstanding years of service as a teaching assistant in the Rondout Valley Central School District. Her unwavering dedication, compassion, and creativity have left a lasting impact on every student, colleague, and family she has touched.

Throughout her tenure, Marcelle has been a steady and nurturing presence, providing unconditional love and support to all her students. Her unique ability to bring joy and understanding into the classroom has helped create a safe and inspiring learning environment where every child feels seen, valued, and respected. Marcelle always knew how to make both children and adults feel safe and included. She made a point to learn what their interests were and used that knowledge to create meaningful activities. Each student had a bin in Ms. Dugan's corner, filled with materials to help them grow in their learning, materials that were connected to their interests. Even when it was hard, Marcelle knew how to make it fun!

Her creativity was evident in the way she approached each day—whether through inventive learning activities, personalized support strategies, or simply finding new ways to bring a smile to her students' faces. But even more impactful was her deep compassion. Marcelle not only supported her students academically and emotionally, but she also became a powerful advocate for their needs—especially for those whose voices were the hardest to hear. She spoke up with empathy, acted with conviction, and

ensured that every student received the dignity and opportunities they deserved.

Marcelle's work has extended far beyond the walls of the classroom. Her commitment to inclusion, her tireless advocacy, and her belief in every child's potential are a testament to the kind of educator and human being she is. She has not only shaped young minds, but also helped shape a culture of empathy and excellence in our school community.

I had the honor of spending thirteen years working with Marcelle. She was an incredible support and partner throughout the years of us working together.

Marcelle is so much more than a teaching assistant—she has been the steady hand that kept me organized, a compassionate listener when life outside of school became heavy, and a mentor who helped shape me as a young

teacher. Her wealth of knowledge, calm presence, and thoughtful insight have made a lasting impact on me, on our students, and on our school community.

Whether it was talking through a challenging situation or simply offering a kind word on a tough day, her presence made all the difference. We were an amazing team, and I always knew I could count on her—not just for the tasks of the day, but for genuine support, empathy, and wisdom.

It's hard to imagine this school district without Marcelle. Her legacy here will be felt for years to come not just in the systems she helped keep running, but also in the hearts of those who had the privilege to work alongside her.

Thank you for everything, Marcelle. Wishing you a retirement filled with joy, relaxation, and all the good things you so deeply deserve.

~ Katie Chase



Your Blueprint for a Successful Retirement:

An online planning guide

wysut
A Union of Professionals

High School Retirees

TONI CINCOTTA

After thirty remarkable years of service to the Rondout Valley Central School District, Antonetta “Toni” Cincotta is retiring this June, leaving behind a legacy as a passionate, creative, and student-centered educator. Known for her boundless energy and enthusiasm for history, Toni made every moment in the classroom an opportunity for students to step into the past, engage deeply with complex topics, and grow into thoughtful, curious citizens.



Toni’s impact stretches far beyond textbooks. Whether she was transforming her classroom into Ellis Island—complete with ship personnel costumes and passport checks—or orchestrating an international food fair that allowed students to explore cultures through taste and tradition, she brought history alive in ways that were as unforgettable as they were educational.

Over the years, Toni also helped organize countless field trips, giving students the chance to experience history firsthand. From the FDR Library to courtroom galleries, Toni’s students didn’t just learn about history—they lived it.

Even in her final years of teaching, Toni took on new challenges with characteristic gusto. After decades at the junior high level, she transitioned to teaching Global I, Global II, and Government/Economics at the high school. Reinventing her curriculum, she continued to innovate, designing interactive lessons that included everything from roleplaying historical figures to dressing as the Grim Reaper to guide students through the “graves” of French Revolution leaders.

Toni has been a leader, a mentor, and a tireless advocate for students. Her classroom has always been a welcoming space where curiosity is encouraged, and every student has the opportunity to shine. She leaves behind a long trail of inspired learners and grateful coworkers.

As we celebrate Toni’s retirement, we thank her for her years of extraordinary service and wish her all the best in this new chapter. Her legacy will live on in every student

who discovered a love of learning through her creativity, commitment, and care. Congratulations, Toni!

~ Jayden Brodhead-Milton, Kristine Dorrian, Erica Knapp-Gagnon, Rob McDonough, Deb Ricci, Jenn Slauson, & John Soi

CHRISTINE WYNKOOP

In the spring of 1992, Christine Wynkoop joined the staff at Rondout Valley High School where she spent more than three decades serving the RV community with her entire heart and soul.

As a TA, she has worked in various programs throughout the high school, primarily helping special education students. Over the decades, she has advocated for the rights of others and made a difference in the lives of marginalized students and staff. Chris is one of the most compassionate and empathetic people I know.

I first met Christine Wynkoop in the fall of 1998 when I began working at Rondout Valley High School. At the time, she was a TA working in Tom Muollo’s special education class. We spent the summer of 1999 working summer school together and becoming fast friends. The following year, I was fortunate to have Chris as my TA in the Intensive Learning Program, and we worked together in that capacity for five years. It was during that time that our friendship was solidified into one that I consider life-long, and I am a better person for it.

Together, we were class advisors (I only did one stint—she did many). She served as a union representative, a union officer, and on the negotiations team for her unit. She led Rondout Valley’s GLSEN Club, named Synthesis, and the Diversity Club. Chris was recognized and awarded for her work to protect others at the Hudson Valley GLSEN Ally Awards in 2011. She is a 2014 recipient of Rondout Valley’s Thomas King Distinguished Service Award. Chris has been a support and advocate for countless students, staff, and community members, as well as her own family who she raised within the Rondout Valley community. Rondout Valley Central Schools had a dedicated and passionate employee in Christine Wynkoop for more than thirty years.

Christine Wynkoop is warm, generous, and kind. She is one of the hardest-working people I know. She is truly a beautiful person inside and out. Chris’s presence is already missed in the halls of Rondout Valley High School. Enjoy your retirement, dear Chrissy. You have earned rest and relaxation, peace and love.

~ Rebecca Litchfield

Marbletown Retirees

DIANNE MELVILLE

I speak for many hearts of Marbletown Elementary School when I say that a piece of our school will be missing when those eager little minds fill our hallways come September. When people hear the name Dianne Melville—her name is quickly associated with the pure magic of kindergarten.



I was lucky enough to work alongside Dianne both as her teaching assistant when I started my journey at Marbletown, and working alongside her on the kindergarten team for the past two years.

Dianne's pedagogy is based on a foundation of the strongest love and passion one could possibly imagine in a classroom setting. Not only is Dianne's love for children transparent with her colleagues, students, and families, but it is clearly reflected in her students' love and excitement for coming to school each day. Since working alongside her, my own teaching philosophy has changed: it's most importantly about first building love and trust among students. As so many little learners enter Dianne's classroom, their academic world unfolds with ease because they know they are loved, and therefore, are ready to learn. Her presence in our school goes beyond just being an amazing teacher, she is an irreplaceable and unforgettable friend and colleague. Making light of those rough days comes second nature to her, because she has experienced it all, the ups, the downs, and the inside outs of this incredible career. They say that no one ever forgets their kindergarten teacher—and the one and only Mrs. Melville is without a doubt, the most unforgettable asset to our school. Dianne, we all wish you a well-deserved, healthy, and very happy retirement!! We love you, and I will promise to forever keep the kindergarten magic that you instilled in me, very much alive!

~ Alice Guillon

You are the heart of kindergarten, Dianne! You have taught me the true essence of being a kindergarten teacher. Starting together during COVID, we wondered how co-teaching would work, yet it felt like we had been together forever—even finishing each other's sentences and seamlessly sharing the classroom. You weave the wonder and curiosity of childhood through the entire day, blending music and art with reading, science, math, and

social studies. While the day felt playful and fun, it never felt like a preschool class! In fact, it was quite the opposite—it was a magical time of purposeful learning. Children who came into your class left as incredible learners with a strong foundation.

I am going to miss our laughter and heart to hearts. I am going to miss your beautiful voice singing "My Pretty Planet" and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." I will miss you wondering, "Why are you standing?" or cracking up over the silly things we hear: "Orange like my Grandma!"

Mit Melbill, you have left a lasting impression on students, families, and your colleagues—one that we will continue to carry on! I am so happy for you and your family as you enter the next season of your lives. Don't stop looking for hearts in the wild or possible pancakes!

With all of the love on our pretty planet, spinning through space...

~ Colleen Bordeman

KATHIE HIKADE

After years of dedicated service at Marbletown Elementary, Kathie Hikade is heading into a well-earned retirement, and to say she'll be missed is an understatement. Kathie has been the heart of our



school in so many ways—always smiling, always ready for a friendly chat, and always showing up with the kind of energy and positivity that made everyone's day better. She has a natural gift for connecting with students and staff alike, making each person feel seen and valued. Whether it was managing the busy lunchroom, overseeing recess, or helping in the daily chaos of parent pick-up and drop-off, Kathie did it all with care, confidence, and a sense of calm that kept everything running smoothly. Her work ethic and dedication are unmatched. We're so grateful for everything she's given to our school, and while we'll miss her deeply, we wish her all the joy and relaxation in this next chapter. Camp on, Kathie!

~ Jaquelyn Swisher

Kerhonkson Retiree

GREGG JONES

I have had the pleasure of working with Gregg Jones for the past twenty-six years. Watching him interact with our students is truly inspiring. He takes the time to get to know the students personally. He knows what they like and more importantly what they need. Whether it be a joke (“You dropped your pocket!”) or new sneakers that mysteriously show up in their lockers, he always has the best interests of our Kerhonkson students in mind. Gregg has mentored many students over the years. It’s not unusual to find him during his lunch shooting hoops with a student who needs a little extra attention.

Personally we have always had a slight rivalry going on. Which “special” is best—gym or library? I hate to admit it

but he has won that contest too often to count. It’s awfully hard to compete with someone whose entire class is made up of running, jumping, laughing, and having fun. I’ve done my best to give you a run for your money, but I officially surrender. After numerous years of debate, I hereby admit that database research skills don’t really compete with a rousing game of “Clean Up Your Yard.” It’s official: you win, Gregg!

Kerhonkson Elementary School won’t be the same without you. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement and enjoy those extra tee times.

~ Cathy Turner

District Office Retiree

BONNIE MARKLE

Bonnie started in the guidance office in the mid to late 1990s, after working in the building in other capacities as a sub. She immediately became a crucial member of the middle school staff, with teachers, counselors, administrators and others consulting with and relying on her to answer questions and solve problems. Her calm demeanor and ability to adjust to challenges—while getting along with staff and students alike—was her greatest strength.

Bonnie became a part of a team in the guidance office, working alongside the counselors and other secretaries, while always “holding down the fort.” We always said that Bonnie would make processes better, without us even

asking. She had a natural ability to see where changes could be made for the better and took the initiative to try new things, and make improvements.

On a personal level, Bonnie has a great sense of humor and could lighten the mood for all of us, bringing some comic relief to stressful times. She became our trusted colleague and friend for more than twenty years. We appreciate Bonnie and all that she has brought to the middle school and to our lives as a friend. We know that she will continue to live a fulfilling life in her retirement, with many travel plans ahead. We will miss her and hope to see Bonnie again, when she takes a break from all of her exciting new adventures.

~ Nanette Simione & Peter Costello



This year's 13 RVF Retirees have given a combined total of 312 years of service to the Rondout Valley CSD!

Financial Update

by David Bonington, CFP®

PACK LIGHT FOR VACATION!

One of the districts our firm works with recently asked for an article about summer—and what's not to like about *that* topic? Downtime, fun, and vacation just ahead, with plenty of rest, relaxation, reconnection, and enjoyment—and maybe an extra hot dog or an ice cream sundae slipped in there once or twice. I can't wait!

But I better get to my topic before I spend 500 words talking about sun, sand, surf, picnics, and “secret ingredient” BBQ sauce.

Over now many years of work, the days leading up to a vacation always seemed to be some of the most hectic of the year. They still seem that way—and I know colleagues and family members who agree. I did some informal investigating, and a pattern emerged: just before vacations, some individuals have work habits and practices geared to putting in extra time and effort to address a large number of matters—not only work-related things, but all kinds of chores, tasks, and to-dos they don't want to have to “pack” with their vacation luggage or find waiting for them upon a return. They don't want to even think about these things on vacation, and they don't have to because before they leave the tasks are—a great four-letter word here—*DONE*. The goal of this intense and even frenzied activity is to head off on vacation leaving behind an empty Inbox and a To-Do List with all major items checked off or crossed out.

If you like the sound of this—and who wouldn't?—why not get a head start on your pre-vacation preparation now? Attend to things like that dental appointment, that insurance company call, and any other “that's” likely to become vacation dead weight in your mental suitcase. This applies especially to any financial matters.

If something causing stress or anxiety is your portfolio allocation in these uncertain times, some financial goal which is proving elusive, or even a unique financial “knot” you keep trying to untie, a Stacey Braun counselor should be able to help. Fresh eyes and a second set of hands may be just what is needed. A planner's information, suggestions, and ideas—which are never accompanied by pressure to buy anything—can set the stage for a more relaxing vacation.

Why not make an appointment today? Odds are good that a session before the end of June will allow you to “pack light” when it comes to vacation because any “heavy” financial questions will have been raised, discussed, and possibly resolved. See if Stacey Braun can “add lightness” to what you bring with you on this year's vacation. The only thing we will insist you bring is sunscreen!

A free, confidential session with a Stacey Braun planner can be arranged by calling 1-888-949-1925.

**No financial products are sold
and there is no sales pressure.**

Retiree Council #13

Retirement does not end your involvement in your union. In fact, retirees make up a significant and important group within the NYSUT family. They are represented at the annual NYSUT Representative Assembly, and participate in statewide initiatives and hold local events, too. All RVF Retirees are members of NYSUT Retiree Council #13. Connect with them today at <https://retireecouncil13.com>





LET MEMBER BENEFITS HELP YOU PLAN FOR RETIREMENT

If you recently retired or plan to do so in the near future, it's important to prepare for the transition from in-service work to retirement.

Maintaining NYSUT membership in retirement is crucial, especially if you're currently participating in a NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed program(s) and would like to continue doing so. This can be accomplished in one of two ways:

- 1** Continue membership within your local if retiree membership is offered. Contact your local to find out if any retiree membership requirements are in place. You must comply with these requirements to continue your membership in NYSUT along with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and National Education Association (NEA).
- 2** Continue as an at-large member of NYSUT through the Retiree Council in your region. Contact your local to ensure you will be reported as retired to NYSUT. This will provide you with membership in the Retiree Council in your region along with NYSUT, AFT, and NEA. If you have questions about maintaining NYSUT membership or would like more information about NYSUT retiree programs, you will want to contact the NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant serving your region. You can find this information at nysut.cc/retireeconsultants.

More than a dozen of the endorsed programs offered by Member Benefits can be purchased through either payroll or pension deduction. These convenient payment methods offer reduced premiums or the elimination of service fees in many instances. An active NYSUT membership is required to participate in payroll or pension deduction. If you're currently participating in one (or more) of our endorsed programs, we encourage you to look into switching to pension deduction after you enter retirement.

Learn more about continuing Member Benefits-endorsed programs or the pension deduction process by scanning the QR code, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.

