



PORT OF CALL

The newsletter that keeps Port's retirees connected and informed.

**PWTA RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER
PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK
Fall 2018 VOL.28 NO.3**

NYSUT NO. 19 080R Visit our website at: www.pwta.info/PWRE AFT NO. 9591-R

SUPREME COURT TRIES TO DESTROY UNIONS

We thought it would happen, and it did. The United States Supreme Court decided that unions could no longer collect agency fees from non-members. Until this decision unions could collect fees from those who chose not to join but who still benefited from all the work done to negotiate and enforce contracts and administer the union. This "agency fee," which was paid by non-members, did not include what the union spent for political action. Therefore, unions like the PWTA and chapters like the PWRE collect for VOTE-COPE separately from dues.

In preparation for this Court decision and expecting the worst, unions like NYSUT have tried to ensure continuing membership. For example PWTA members were asked to confirm their desire to maintain membership by completing new authorization cards. This effort began even before the Janus decision came down because it offered the opportunity to speak to members individually and learn their concerns while explaining the value of the union. Unions across the state did this and the results have been very positive.

While unions have been working to maintain their memberships, the billionaires behind the Janus case have been trying to get members to abandon their union. Of course, unions cannot sustain their efforts without funds. The goal of the Koch brothers, the Mercers, and other anti-worker groups is to bankrupt unions. They have been willing to spend millions in this effort. They have visited, called, and emailed members trying to get them to drop their memberships.

While the Janus decision does not directly affect us as retirees because the PWRE is not a bargaining unit, we did greatly benefit from being members of the PWTA. Its actions affected and continue to affect what we pay for health care and the health care we have. It affected our pensions. It affects the quality of education, something that we care about deeply.

Unions must have dues money if they are to continue to work for their members and their retirees. Without resources, unions cannot fight the on-going battles necessary to protect the professional interests and economic security of its members and retirees.

So far teachers have stuck with their unions. As retirees we must support them and explain to others why unions are so important. Unfortunately, given the recent Supreme Court appointments, we cannot expect any positive decisions from the Supreme Court.

Reminders - Hope To See You There



During the month of October Seth Ehrlich, who for years has been making jewelry boxes, is having a show at the PW Library. The library usually exhibits items that hang on the walls so Seth had to design and create pedestals for the 43 boxes that are on display. Seth has stated that, "I am primarily interested in form, with function following conveniently in some cases, less so in others. My hope is that I can eventually get them into a museum of modern art and design somewhere."

Please join us for a celebration in honor of

CHRISTINE VASILEV

Past President, Port Washington Teachers Association

Thursday, October 25, 2018

at 5:30 p.m.

Chateau Briand, 440 Old Country Road, Carle Place, NY

\$110 includes open bar, dinner, dessert and gift

**Please make checks payable to: Manorhaven Social Committee
Kindly respond by October 10th to: Stacey Drucker
Manorhaven School, 12 Morewood Oaks, Port Washington, NY 11050**

Name: _____

_____ I can attend. Enclosed is my check for \$110.

_____ I cannot attend. Enclosed is \$ _____ to contribute toward her gift.

FRIENDSHIP/ REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE



Norma Ziegel



Come to the P.W.R.E. Book Club

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the host.

Date: November 14th at 11:30
Book: Educated By Tara Westover
Host: Marilyn Gilbert

Please check our website for future book club meetings

http://www.pwta.info/PWRE/pwre_news/news_book_club.shtml

Get Well Wishes Were Sent To:

Ronnie Jones

Condolences Were Sent To:

Family of Dorathea (Dot) Bernstein
Family of Eileen Cimperman Farley
Family of Charles Jennings
Family of Barbara Schacker
Family of George Williams

A \$100 contributions was sent to the PWRE Scholarship Fund in memory of

Dorathea Bernstein
Eileen Cimperman Farley
Charles Jennings
Barbara Schacker
George Williams

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Making Strides - Bonnie Utzig and Pat Lynch

The annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer drive is underway for the PWTA and PWRE. This is NYSUT'S biggest event every year, and we usually have an excellent response. At the Not Going Back to School Breakfast last week, \$1,370 was donated by our retired staff members. Last year's total from the PWRE was \$2,100. Each year we try to at least match the previous year's total, but usually surpass it. If you would like to help us reach that goal, **please send a check payable to AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY** to either of the following addresses before October 26th.

Bonnie Utzig
1 Ann Place
Port Washington, NY 11050

Pat Lynch
16 Beechwood Ave.
Manhasset, NY 11030



If you are interested in participating in the Making Strides walk at Jones Beach, the date is Sunday, Oct. 21st with a rolling start beginning at 8:00 am. PWRE members are encouraged to wear their red PWTA shirts and/or something pink to support breast cancer awareness. Please be advised that Parking Lot 4 is generally full by 7:30 am! Car pooling is a good choice. Our meeting spot is in front of the NYSUT tent at 7:30 am. Thank you so much for your support.

Have you been getting emails from the PWRE on a regular basis?

Did you get a notice about a trip to Flushing in October? The email was sent September 29th.

PWRE Explores a "New Frontier"
Join us for a walking tour of Flushing, Queens
Led by Queens Borough Historian Jack Eichenbaum
October 12th 2018

Even if you live in a different state from New York, everyone was sent this notice. And no emails were bounced back to sender. Yet some of our members never received this notice. If you are not receiving emails from us, please check your Spam/Junk Box. For some reason some providers are sending our email blasts into junk mail. Some AOL accounts and GMAIL accounts have done this, and there may be other providers as well. So please check your spam/junk mail, and update your account if you want to hear from us in the future.

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Our Fifty Years at Sousa, 1968-2018

Mike Koenig and Andrea Mastro-Martone

In 1968 I was 23. After teaching for two years in Queens, I accepted a science position in Sousa JHS. I joined other new teachers that year: Gail Femmel - 20, Joe Caruso - 21, and Allen Tinkler. Judy Keller and Erlyn Madonia joined us a year later. Most of us were not much older than our ninth graders. We were welcomed and mentored by our colleagues, many of them from "the greatest generation." Met Tim Kelly the first day. Ever polite and respectful, he was a typical "ants in the pants" teenage boy. Science was probably his favorite subject, and his exuberance and enthusiasm had to be tempered to avoid losing control of the class. He is now Dr. Tim Kelly, EdD. I met Andrea Mastro-Martone as a leader among her classmates. She was a student and then briefly a colleague at Sousa in 1976 after graduating from University of Vermont. I worked with her mother Jean Mastro for over three decades. Jean was a permanent sub at both Sousa and then Schreiber, where I had moved in '85. I met Andrea's two daughters at Schreiber: Gina and Ali Martone. Andrea has two "Thai-Talian" grandchildren, and I now know 4 generations of her family. She resides in Sarasota, Florida. Had a wonderful career in the high school, but as my science chairperson, Marvin Shapiro said, "You will look back at your Sousa years as the "Golden Years."

Gail Femmel

It was the summer of '68, and I was in grad school upstate when I got a telegram asking me to come to Port Washington for an interview. The country was in the middle of a space race and math and science people were at a premium. I had a job offer from Kingston, where I had student taught. I was newly engaged, and the possibility of saving some money by living at home sounded like a good idea.

Being a city kid, I had no idea where Port even was so I took out a map, found it, and hit the LIE. I met with Leo Donohue and "Scotty" (Waldo Scott) and was offered a job teaching at SOUSA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. Little did I know how life-defining that day would be.

We didn't have a formal mentoring program then but I had the privilege of learning from the "Old Guard." Jim Girillo, Marv Shapiro, Kay Stewart and Audrey Minard set an example of what I wanted to be.

We had camaraderie at Sousa that can only be understood if you were part of it. Many of us "grew up" at Sousa. I had just turned twenty when I started. Sousa closed in '85, and we were dispersed throughout the district, but we still kept our Sousa connection. Most of us still have our green keys and can still recall that special kid that made us crazy, made us cry, or made our day when they said, "I get it now."

I have made wonderful new friends at Weber and treasure our time together but my Sousa friends and students will always hold a special place in my heart. Fifty years went by so fast.

Tim Kelly

I left Schreiber in the 11th grade and enlisted, got out in 75, then went to college in Ohio for a degree in Environmental Science. I moved back to NY and worked in the defense industry until it collapsed around 1990. I got hired by Dowling College. While working there I earned a BS, MS, and post masters certifications in education technology, and an EdD.

During that time I also attended New Horizons Computer Academy in Commack for tech industry certifications. I worked as the Blackboard System Administration, as a faculty technology coach, and as faculty in business and education. I was there until Dowling closed in 2016. I was recruited by Five Towns College in Dix Hills to teach business, education, and liberal arts courses. I have been working there for 2 years.



“I Don’t Have To Go Back To School Breakfast”



Thank You, Sally Reinhardt



E Pluribus Unum

After I retired, I had a great gig through Eastern Suffolk BOCES, designed to improve the math skills of resource room and self-contained special education teachers in so-called “high needs” school districts here on Long Island. I worked with a team of math teachers and math education teachers (among them Port’s John Hinton). Over the five years or so we had our grant, we held semi-monthly seminars, by grade, to introduce the participants to the hands-on techniques and materials that were so vital to making math come alive for their (and other) students. The grant included giving participants the materials we’d presented in each session right before they left, enough for their groups to use the next day. This enabled the prompt roll out of their new information and techniques. This practice also eliminated requesting funds for the materials from their home districts, which even if they were successful in doing so, meant they probably would receive them long after their memories of what/how to use them had diminished. After every session, for the duration of the program, I would say to myself and the other presenters, “This is the best use of our tax dollars, ever.” Each math coach would follow up with classroom visits to the teachers, both to observe both them and the students, give feedback, if requested, answer questions, and do demonstration lessons. (We were, of course, given enthusiastic receptions from the students, who were eager to meet their teacher’s math coaches and provider of such wonderful materials.) We measured the results by the pre- and post-tests we administered, as well as by teacher and student feedback, and the results were excellent. Participating teachers responded that the seminars changed, for the better, the way they taught math.

My role in the workshops was to teach how to introduce drama into math and logic problem solving. One of the National Council Teacher of Math approved techniques I used was to act out the problems (starting with primary students), then show how to later transition to paper and pencil math to solve them. This presented an opportunity for teachers to see, in context, reading comprehension, as well since the students had to read (or be helped to read) the problems and decide what they knew and what they needed to find out by identifying the key words, etc. The problems themselves presented the chance for vocabulary development as the children discussed the elements of “who” and “what.”

In one my favorite primary logic problems, the task was to find out which animals matched to different amounts of money. This problem provided opportunity for teachers and students to discuss denominations of money, the symbols on the bills and coins, greater and less, as well as to model student responses to questions in whole sentences. My favorite phrase to discuss, of course, was “E Pluribus Unum.” I didn’t expect the students, or even the teachers to know Latin, but it is important as Americans to know the phrase (in English) and what it stands for.

The other day I heard a John Jay College law professor on NPR talking about cuts to college programs in prisons, of which she is an administrator. Of the prisoners, you cannot really talk about how such programs rehabilitate the inmates, because, as she said, so many of them had not been “habilitated” by their school districts to start with. Let us start early to habilitate, to level the playing field, or pay later perhaps in prison costs, but certainly in lost opportunity for educating all Americans who will contribute to society in positive ways. “Out of many, one.”

See more photos from our annual breakfast on our websites masthead.

July 2018 Alaskan Road Trip - Ute Johnson



Thanks to our travel agent “extraordinaire,” Barbara Jasnow, the Johnsons and Jasnows had a great Alaskan road trip. Meeting in Anchorage we travelled to Denali National Park and Preserve, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Palmerton, and Seward to Anchorage.

Along our route we hiked on a glacier, river rafted, and took in local sights to fill our 18-hour days. There were additional unscheduled events along the way, i.e. a close encounter with an anxious mama moose!



Most of our overnights were at local bed and breakfasts; which was a great way to get the inside scoop on the best hikes and eateries, and what it’s like to live in Alaska.

Let me leave you with tidbits about everyday life in Palmerton. Local sirens alert residents to volcanic eruptions in the area. That is a mnemonic to refrain from starting your car as airborne silica will wreck your engine. And remember to teach your youngsters how to deal with moose while waiting for the school bus. Just some everyday Alaskan problems, solved!



We Asked to Hear from You and We Did



Retired Weber buddies Trish Wright, Joey Tomassi, and Caryl Fazio get together for lunch at La Motta’s in Port Washington.



At 26 Degrees Brewing Co.
A great night! Patty and Michael Barnett



Port Washington Retired Educators Chapter

Meetings will be held on Thursdays at the Port Washington Library on the dates and times listed below, unless otherwise notified. Please check your email or the website for any meeting changes.

These meetings aren't just for the PWRE officers. All members are welcome to attend.

2018 Meeting Dates

November 8th 10:30 am

Please check our website for future meeting dates

<http://www.pwta.info/PWRE/index.shtml>

PLEASE NOTE: Checks for contributions to the PWRE Scholarship Fund should be made out to the PWRE. Put the name of the honoree on the memo line or in a note.

Please mail to:

PWTA

99 Campus Drive

Port Washington, New York 11050

PORT WASHINGTON
RETIRED EDUCATORS CHAPTER, PWTA
99 CAMPUS DRIVE
PORT WASHINGTON, NY 11050

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