

R-UTN Newsletter

www.retiredteachersofnorthport.org

August 2020

Volume 31 Number 5



The Executive Board deeply mourns the death of our beloved president, **FRANCES LA DUCA**. Fran was the epitome of what a good president should be. She was committed to and articulate about educational issues as well as passionately concerned with the well-being of retirees, teachers in the classroom and students. Fran was extremely well organized; she was always busy planning for the next R-UTN event or message. Fran kept us all on task as advocates and compassionate community members.

Her unexpected death on August 17 came as a shock to all of us. We are including the letter she wrote for this issue of the newsletter. It includes all the information our members need to know to remain active members of our organization. We have posted the beautiful obituary prepared by her family on our website. Fran will be sorely missed.

The Executive Board Welcomes You to a New Year

Please join us in making this the best year yet!

R – UTN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS 2020 - 2021

President:

Vice President: **Joanne Kroon** jmkroon@optonline.net

Secretary: **Position Still Open**

Treasurer: **Dave Hosie** 631-754-3468

Membership Chair: **Judy Bensimon** jkbensimon@optonline.net

Email Coordinator: **Bobbi Scott** scotta@optonline.net

Webmaster: **Linda Quinn** lsquinn@digitalquinn.com

Newsletter Editor: **Suzy Travis** suzytravis@optonline.net

Social Committee: **Irene Eckert** hurreck@aol.com

Social Secretary: **Jane Flood** jcpflood@hotmail.com

UTN Liaison: **Teddy Emanuel** tenick2@optonline.net

Insurance Information: **Hank Kasven** hkasven@optonline.net

Past President: **Larry Ryan** laryan@mac.com

Come and join your colleagues, make or renew friendships, volunteer to work on a committee. Help to make our association more responsive to the needs of our members.

Contact any one of us with questions, suggestions or to volunteer.

**PICNIC -- Due to current circumstances,
we will not be holding our Annual Fall Picnic in September.**

This opportunity to meet with former colleagues will be sadly missed. Please take care to stay safe so we can meet again in the near future.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the late Frances LaDuca

Dear Colleague,

The start of a new membership year is here. It is time to update our records so that we can keep you informed of current R-UTN events and news of member activities.

Enclosed is your membership form for 2020-2021 (membership year September 1 to August 31).

Please fill it out, **make your dues check payable to R-UTN**, **mail check and entire membership form** to membership Chair Judy Bensimon no later than Oct. 1st.

Membership in the R-UTN entitles you to receive our newsletter which will be sent automatically to all members by email. If you must have a paper copy contact Judy 631-368-6287.

Members also have access to our website, Retired United Teachers of Northport, which posts information about current social events, member activities and issues effecting seniors in general.

Membership in the R-UTN is also required to maintain eligibility for participation in the many NYSUT member benefit programs.

Your generous donations to our scholarship fund have enabled us to present two \$2,000 awards to Northport High School graduates each year, and \$2,000 in awards to the children of in-service colleagues.

Unfortunately, current conditions made it necessary to cancel our Annual Fall Picnic. This opportunity to meet old friends and catch up on news will be sadly missed. Hopefully we can all meet again in the near future.

We value your privacy. We do not disclose member information to anyone.

Please stay safe.

Fran

Election Update 2020: Here is some important information for NY State

Please check your state website for pertinent information about voting in this most important election. On Thursday, August 20, 2020, Gov. Cuomo signed three laws to greatly expand absentee voting in New York State.

- ⇒ To allow voters to begin requesting absentee ballots immediately, rather than 30 days before Election Day.
- ⇒ Cite COVID-19 as a reason to obtain an absentee ballot.
- ⇒ To allow absentee ballots to be mailed as late as Election Day and still be counted.

2020 R-UTN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year, the R-UTN gives two scholarships of \$2,000 each to Northport seniors planning careers in Education. The High School Awards Committee selects the recipients based on academic achievement and need. We are able to do this because of the generous contributions of our members. This year's recipients are **Lena Mannix** and **Bessie Antunez-Castellon**. The Awards were presented by video this year.

In addition, we award four scholarships of \$500 to the graduating children of in-service UTN members **Ashley Durand of Port Jefferson, Victoria Gaudioso of Centerport, Aidan Fee of Northport and Allison Wine of Northport.**

Thanks again to all R-UTN members for your generosity.

IN MEMORIAM

Please see our website for more details

DONALD CORIE, teacher and guidance counselor at the Northport High School, passed away on April 15 at the age of 88. His legacy was a Model A Ford for each of his children. He was challenged recently by Parkinson's Disease but still looked forward to all his projects.

LOIS CRONIN, retired Bellerose Avenue teacher, passed away on Monday, July 13, after a long illness. Lois, 84, was predeceased by her husband Drew and is survived by her son Drew Cronin, Jr., three grandchildren, a brother and three sisters.

RUTH FLYNN, retired elementary teacher, passed away on Monday, March 23. Ruth taught 1st and 2nd grades at Dickinson Avenue School for twenty-nine years. Ruth's colleagues remember her fondly as a well-loved, innovative, and creative teacher. She loved her students, revered her colleagues, and was always ready to help and give guidance. She loved staff functions and her passion for the arts was inspirational.

CHARLES SCOTT, dedicated English teacher for the Northport School District for over 30 years, passed away due to complications of Covid-19 on April 1. Charles taught in total for 50 years, including working at Suffolk & Nassau Community Colleges as well as teaching English for several summers in China. Pam Uruburu, NHS English teacher, said of Charles, "He was the personification of Atticus Finch – such a man of integrity, intelligence, and kindness." In lieu of flowers, his family requests that everyone please stay home to stay well and flatten the curve.

MEMBER NEWS

Thank you **JOHN KOBEL** for all your work on the health issues surrounding Middleville. John had prepared an updated report on progress of the clean up activities. It is posted on our website (Retired United Teachers of Northport).

Amazing **CHRIS PENDERGAST** has written a memoir about his journey through life. Titled "*Blink Spoken Here*" it chronical his heroic struggle with ALS. In several of the early chapters he talks of his career in Northport and relates anecdotes about his colleagues and experiences in the gifted program at Dickinson.



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First Class Mail

TO

HOMEWORK:

Your 2020-2021
R-UTN application
is enclosed inside
this newsletter.