



**We want  
you to  
Volunteer  
& Vote**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there will be no holiday gathering and celebration this year. However, the Executive Board extends heartfelt wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a New Year of health and happiness for all. Be well, and stay safe.

## What's at Stake Nationally

The federal government's failed response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its disastrous impact on the economy – which has left millions out of work, facing eviction and increasingly vulnerable – is only the latest reason to make changes.

**Senior citizens and retirees are particularly vulnerable. Social Security and Medicare** remain under attack by the Senate and the White House, which intend to cut the earned benefit programs to help pay for tax cuts benefitting the wealthy.

Despite many failed efforts, the administration and the Senate are still trying to slice away at key components of the **Affordable Care Act** that will leave millions more Americans without health insurance.

It's no surprise our national affiliates are working for a change of tenants at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Two years ago, due in large part to the work of AFT and NEA, the House of Representatives turned from Republican to Democrat to provide a check on the GOP monopoly. But the House has been blocked at every turn as it attempted to restore support for public education, the ACA and retirement security.

Over the past four years, the White House and its followers in the U.S. Senate have done nothing to support public education and access to health care in this country.

Under Secretary Betsy DeVos, the **Department of Education** continues to aggressively push an anti-public, pro-charter and privatization agenda. This anti-union program aims to destroy public schools and public employee unions.

The Department also is trying to scale back **student loan rights**, making college less affordable, and seeking to promote private, for-profit post-secondary options, like the defunct Trump University.

## YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Please review the NYSUT endorsements and voting information included on our website. Our benefits are under attack at the national and state levels. For students, ourselves, and our colleagues in the classroom, it is necessary that we all **VOTE** in this election.

For local voting information, check out our webpage  
<https://www.retiredteachersofnorthport.org>

We must also support our Union, which works to protect **your benefits**. Vote-Cope letters from NYSUT will be in the mail soon and arriving at your home. If you have not signed up for pension deductions, you can do that by filling out a form. If you have pension deduction, it will continue. If you prefer, you may make a contribution to Vote-Cope directly to NYSUT. Information as to where to send contributions will be included in the letter. If you wish to mail a check now, here is the address for contributions:

Vote-Cope, PO Box 295, Canajoharie NY 13317-0295

## What's at Stake in New York

**Funding and Fairness:** The effects of the state legislative elections in November will have an enormous impact on the way New York responds to long simmering and new boiling threats to your retirement security, health care and public education.

NYSUT-endorsed candidates are committed to protecting pension systems for union members and support improved access to health care. They also value SUNY medical centers as public health institutions and training centers for the next generation of caregivers.

**Funding for education:** The state must provide more funding to stop the looming threats of layoffs and to guarantee a fair and equitable education for all students.

“The Foundation Aid formula that came out of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit 27 years ago was never fully implemented,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta. “So, the state has yet to provide the sound, basic education every student deserves under the state Constitution.”

With the COVID-19 pandemic pushing the economy over the brink into recession, this problem has grown exponentially. That's why NYSUT started litigation in an attempt to force the state to take legislative action.

We must work together to elect candidates who will support the union's position that the state has numerous ways to help close its budget gap – revenue-raising taxes on ultra-millionaires and billionaires, rainy day funds and cuts to less-essential budget lines in the state bureaucracy.

**Higher ed:** With COVID-19 steamrolling public higher education in real time, state funding – which has lagged for years – must be bolstered to ensure affordability, quality and accessibility.

## IN MEMORIAM

*Please see our website for more details*

**JOE FAZIO, Larkfield Elementary School teacher**, passed away on September 13 at the age of 94. Donations may be made in loving memory of Joseph to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005.

**ELLSWORTH WELCH, former principal of Ocean Avenue School and R-UTN member**, passed away on September 20. Ells, as he was always known, was a longtime resident of Northport and will be missed by all who knew him. Donations to the R-UTN Scholarship Fund in his memory for 2020 – 2021, may be sent to:

Mr. David Hosie  
19 Jay Court  
Northport, NY 11768  
*(Please put “E. Welch” on the memo line)*



**RETIRED TEACHERS OF NORTHPORT**

10 Ardenale Road  
East Northport, NY 11731  
[www.retiredteachersofnorthport.org](http://www.retiredteachersofnorthport.org)

[UTN-R@optonline.net](mailto:UTN-R@optonline.net)

First Class Mail

TO

**WE NEED  
YOU!**



**The R-UTN Executive Board needs your assistance to keep our vibrant organization functioning. You appreciate our efforts to communicate and keep us all connected, however, our leadership team needs a few new members.**

**If you are interested in helping in any way, contact Bobbi Scott at [utn-r@optonline.net](mailto:utn-r@optonline.net) and she will forward your name to the right person.**