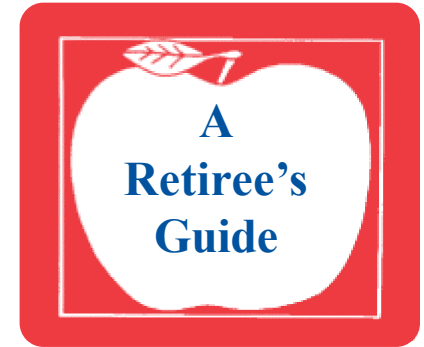
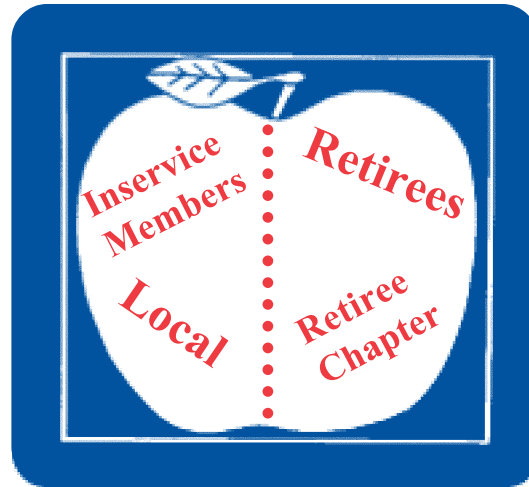


BENEFITS OF RETIREE CHAPTERS TO LOCALS

- Retirees can act as community ambassadors by effectively promoting the needs and positions of in-service members.
- Retirees are valued and respected members of the community and can be enlisted to speak, as needed, on educational issues.
- Political clout increases with more members, especially members who are more knowledgeable of educational issues.
- Retiree chapters help the local retain the link with experienced educators with union stewardship expertise.
- Increased VOTE/COPE contributions; the more retirees contribute to VOTE/COPE the more money the local can spend on political action programs.
- Help retiring colleagues remain a part of an organization that they were involved with for over 30 years.

A PARTNERSHIP OF EDUCATORS



ORGANIZING A RETIREE CHAPTER IN 3 EASY STEPS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Retiree Services
New York State United Teachers
800 Troy-Schenectady Road
Latham, NY 12110

Phone: 1-800-342-9810 x 6291
Fax: 518-213-6433

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NYSUT



1. 🏠 Start Up

A. Get the Support of Your Local

- ◆ An effective retiree chapter and their local achieve common goals by working together.
- ◆ The local can benefit from the efforts of retiree volunteers in political action, lobbying, community service and in day-to-day operations.

B. Build a Start Up Team

- ◆ Find other like-minded retirees.
- ◆ Match activities with the personalities of team members.
- ◆ Contact the NYSUT Retiree Office for a start-up kit at 1-800-342-9810 ext. 6291.
- ◆ Your local Retiree Council is an excellent resource. Tap this resource by contacting your Council president as listed in start-up kit.

C. Contact Potential Members

- ◆ Get a list of recent retirees from your local, district office, or NYSUT.
- ◆ A local newsletter is an excellent means of reaching fellow retirees.
- ◆ Understand that it will take more than one mailing to convince many former members to join a retiree chapter.
- ◆ Invite all members to suggest the names of other retirees to contact.

D. Hold Periodic Meetings

- ◆ Monthly meetings planned around summer and other vacations works well for many retirees.

- ◆ Invite speakers and local public officials
- ◆ Make a list of resources of speakers, services and publications of interest to members. Invite public officials and service providers to your meetings.
- ◆ Consider joint meetings or activities with neighboring chapters or councils.
- ◆ Keep meetings interesting by varying their format.
- ◆ Consider a trip or theater party a few times a year.

2. 🏠 Operational Phase

A. Communicate Regularly

- ◆ Start modestly...even a brief letter outlining chapter activities will do just fine, if sent regularly to members.
- ◆ A monthly or bimonthly newsletter is one of the best ways to keep in touch and informs retirees about chapter activities.
- ◆ Use email to communicate frequently with all members.
- ◆ Regular contact with members is the key to successful communication.

B. Form Committees

- ◆ Identify a few important activities to be done such as newsletter, political action and coordinating social events.
- ◆ Match these activities with a team member whose personality and interest is well suited for the activity.

3. 🏠 Formalizing the Chapter

A. Create a Constitution

- ◆ NYSUT and AFT can provide you with sample constitutions and bylaws to use as a model (included in Start-up kit).
- ◆ As a group, review the sample language and create a constitution for your retiree chapter.

B. Set Reasonable Dues

- ◆ Set a dues rate high enough to support the chapter's expenses; retiree chapters are not profit-making operations.
- ◆ Consider setting a dues differential in which dues would vary depending on retirement date or pension level.

C. Survey the Members

- ◆ Reach out to members for ideas by either a telephone or a mail survey.
- ◆ Request feedback on ways to recruit new members and encourage continuing interest among current members.
- ◆ Ask the members what types of speakers, presentations and activities interest them.

D. Hold Regular Meetings

- ◆ Pick a centrally located meeting place with adequate parking.
- ◆ Serve refreshments.
- ◆ Allow time for members to socialize.

E. Contact NYSUT

- ◆ Contact the NYSUT Retiree Office to be recognized as a formal Retiree Chapter.