



# WESTBURY RETIREES

## SPRING 2020

### *Message From Your Presidents*



Dear Westbury Retirees,

This has been an extraordinary time as our world faces historic challenges with the growing COVID-19 (CoronaVirus) pandemic. Amid the stress and uncertainty it is important to stay connected with one another, even as we practice social distancing to reduce transmission and keep each other healthy and safe.

We remain dedicated to keep you informed by email and our website, all of which is related to Westbury Schools Retirees.

We hope everyone remains healthy and safe.

*~Dorie and Grace*

We welcome **Mary Mayrick**, a new addition to our Executive Board, as our Recording Secretary.

We were excited to launch our new WSR Website thanks to our Co-Vice President, Diane Watson.

Our Fall Luncheon was held at EB Elliot's on the Nautical Mile in Freeport. Having lunch together was such a delight. A good time was had by all.

Our Holiday Luncheon was held at Westbury Manor in Westbury. There were many items donated for the Holiday Scholarship Raffle thanks to everyone's donations. Again this year, raffle tickets were sold and members placed their tickets by each gift of their choice.

If you have any changes for our directory, please forward them to Judy Bernstein: [WSRetirees@gmail.com](mailto:WSRetirees@gmail.com)



*Enjoy  
Retirement!*

### *Executive Board*

Grace Bryant &	
Dorie Ciulla.....	Co-Presidents
Marge Parente &	
Diane Watson.....	Co-Vice Presidents
Consuelo Champlin.....	Treasurer
Cathy Handy....	Corresponding Secretary
Mary Mayrick.....	Recording Secretary
Judy Bernstein.....	Communications
Camille Lupa.....	Scholarship
Carol Gardiner.....	Vote-Cope & WTA Liaison
Pat Frances.....	Breast Cancer Walk

# **Website Overview**

## **Diane Watson**

WSR is expanding further into the digital age! In an effort to give our members 24 hour access to any and all relevant information, we have created our own website! Currently, the website has 3 pages:

- Page 1: Home/About/Newsletter
- Page 2: Resources
- Page 3: Latest News!

Page 1 has information about us, links to teacher unions, time-sensitive information, and our newsletter link. Page 2 has information and links to Medicare, Social Security, retiree contacts, NYS budget, and a link to fun activities on Long Island. Page 3 has the latest news on our members and of interest to our members including pictures/news from our luncheons and conferences. Due to the website limitations, there are links, photos and information scattered throughout the website as well, so check out all 3 pages when you visit! If you have any news to share, we will do our best to put it on the website.

The WSR website address is:  
[www.westburyschoolsret.wixsite.com/  
website-1](http://www.westburyschoolsret.wixsite.com/website-1))

That is a complicated address, because it is free, so be sure to save it to your favorites for easy access. You can also find a link to our website on the WTA and NYSUT websites.

# **IRMAA REIMBURSEMENT**

IRMAA is an acronym for Medicare's Income Related Monthly Adjustment. This is a surcharge that high income people pay in addition to their Medicare Part B and Medicare Part D premiums.

Those eligible for IRMAA reimbursement are retirees who are receiving Medicare, WSR and NYSUT members who earn \$85,000, or as a couple, earning \$170,000. Please send the letter you received from Social Security in November or December, showing your payments for 2019 and a copy of your 1099 form that you received for your 2019 tax year. Those who do not receive social security, send your last Medicare bill that shows the new amount for the next year to:

MS. SIGNE FITZPATRICK  
BENEFITS DEPARTMENT  
WESTBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2 HITCHCOCK LANE  
OLD WESTBURY, NY 11568  
(516-874-1809)  
[sfitzpatrick@westburyschools.org](mailto:sfitzpatrick@westburyschools.org)

## **Members age 80-89**

Pay half the amount of the annual dues (\$10).

## **Over 90 Club**

has no membership fee! Just sign up and become a  
***Life Member!***

# WSR Minutes

## December 11, 2019

# Raising Awareness and Membership

Connie Champlin welcomed everyone to the Luncheon/Meeting.

We observed a moment of silence for those who have passed:

Ron Dobson  
Gladys Nielson  
Marilyn Sporty  
Barbara Hickey

We were asked to take the time to send get well wishes to Maureen Hocker who is not well.

Constitutional Changes - Motion and Vote

Revisions to our By-Laws:

### Article 4 - Section 1

Add officers positions to Executive Board of WSR.

- Vote Cope Representative
- Scholarship
- WTA Liaisons
- Communications

Motion made, seconded, unanimous vote.

### Section 4

Any retiree who was a WTA member and is a dues paying WSR member will be eligible to be an officer of the WSR

Motion made, seconded, unanimous vote.

*Respectfully submitted, Mary Mayrick*

The Board of WSR has been diligently working on behalf of all Westbury Retirees to ensure that upon retiring, they are informed of how to maintain the benefits they had while working as a NYSUT member. To this end, we have created a brochure to share with WTA members preparing to retire and already retired members who have yet to take advantage of the many benefits and resources available, through NYSUT, only IF you are a member of our retiree unit. The new WSR brochure will be available as a link to our website before the end of this school year. A hard copy will be mailed out to all members in August.

The WSR is also working to tailor the offerings of this unit to the needs and interests of our membership and to new members as well. Moving forward there will be an ‘interest survey’ on the back of the membership form that gets filled out and sent with annual membership dues. Please take the time to give us your feedback and ideas as a way of further shaping this unit to greater serve your needs and wishes.

~ Mary Mayrick



# Nowsy Notes:

## **“They Said I Would Have Spare Time”** *(The Life of a Productive Retiree)*

Christmas 2019

Greetings:

Retirement has not brought much leisure time for me, but I am very happy to be active. I begin the day by going to the YMCA for a workout plus a class. A good part of my day is then devoted to my music and practice time. I have been performing professionally with a trio this year and really enjoy that. I still play violin in the NNO (Northern Neck Orchestra) which has now developed from a community orchestra to a semi-professional one. Musicians come in from Williamsburg, Fredericksburg, Richmond and Newport News. These musicians are really dedicated because they travel at least an hour each way for rehearsals. Our conductor, Michael Repper, is wonderful. He comes in from New York City where he directs the Youth Orchestra among other things. Luckily he loves the area, so we hope to keep him here before he moves on to bigger and better things.

I also play in the TIO (Tidewater Intergenerational Orchestra) in Williamsburg. We usually feature talented young musicians. I still like working with young people. I am now Secretary for the RMSC (Rappahannock Music Study Club). I take the minutes (not crazy about that!) but what I enjoy doing is giving out scholarships to high school graduating seniors who are planning to continue their studies of music in college and I then follow their progress.

Much of my playing is in churches, the usual weddings and funerals. What I have really been enjoying are the Celtic services that I have been doing. I recently took a course with John Newell with Heartbeat, a School of Celtic Spirituality. I particularly like the focus on nature. One of the parishioners in my church is a Franciscan monk and we have begun putting services together with the focus on Celtic thinking.

My grandson loves to act and took part in a summer program at our local theater - the Westmoreland Players. They did a modern production of *Snow White*. He had the role of a henchman and was a big ham. The fun part was that I was the accompanist for the production. So it was something that the two of us shared.

My granddaughter and I have shopping in common. We spend too much money but we have a great time except for the one time she needed to buy a dress for a special event at her school. That was pure torture for both of us!

In June I went to Cancun with a fellow musician. I was disappointed that the water was filled with seaweed, so swimming in the ocean was not an option, especially with an alligator sharing the space! Luckily there were several pools with lots of activities. I met some great people from Huntington who had me doing all the crazy pool games with them.

In August I had the best vacation ever. I rented a huge house with a pool on the Outer Banks and the whole family came. We were always on the go - climbing to the top of a lighthouse, touring among the wild horses on the beach, playing mini golf and a good part of the timing fishing. I could not believe that the boys were up as soon as it was light to go fishing. One day they rented a charter boat and came back with a huge batch of ribbon fish. I had never seen or heard of them before. Apparently they are a delicacy in Japan. They are long and thin, are silvery and have no scales and are very good eating.

In September I went to Santa Fe and fell in love with that great place - lots of art and good shopping! It does not get much better than that! It was very hot, but the landscape is beautiful. Visited the ranch of Georgia O'Keefe, took a trip to Taos and visited the old Pueblo. Then splurged with an afternoon at Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs which included a mud bath along with the various hot springs. Before leaving the area I experienced Meow Wolf, a rather unusual interactive art play space for all ages.

At my age everyone asks about the health of the other. So here goes. Last year I had a hip replacement and this year I had a cataract removed. I only needed one eye done! Life is good so I can't complain.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
with exciting new things to come and most of all, good health!

*Arlene Hinkson*



A few months ago I joined the Art League of Huntington and have had a couple of my paintings accepted into members' shows there. This one was in a previous show and the next picture I'll send is on exhibit now. Unfortunately the show had been closed for the time being but hopefully will reopen at some point!

*Robert Estrin*

**Westbury Schools Retirees (WSR)  
Affiliated with AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO,  
NYSUT  
Message from Co-President  
Grace Bryant**

WSR is the Westbury Schools Chapter of Retired Teachers. WSR also includes some administrators who at some time were a part of the Westbury Teachers' Union and have chosen to reaffiliate with the Westbury Retired Teachers. We are part of the Retiree Councils (RC 19) of NYSUT. RC 19 includes all the organized retiree chapters in Nassau County. It also includes some of the "Snow Birds" who previously resided in, and/or, were part of a Nassau County School, but, no longer reside in Nassau, but, have organized and are meeting together in their current locations. Only the school districts in Nassau County, which have an organized retiree chapter, are members of RC 19. Other areas of the State have different number designations for their Retiree Councils.

Each Retiree Council has officers who fulfill different roles and report at each Council meeting. We get legislative reports concerning candidates who are supportive of teacher, student, taxpayer and retiree issues. We hear about other areas of the state and country which might need our support thru letter writing, telephone calls, monetary support, etc. Currently

RC 19 and RC 17 are collaborating on explaining the importance of the Census. We have been coming to the NYSUT headquarters to make phone calls explaining and encouraging people to be counted. We also collaborate with RC 17 during any election season, getting people to register and then to vote for candidates who support our causes. We also get reports from NYSUT officers who work out of the local office.

Each Retiree Council member chapter works closely with that chapter's inservice unit officers (those members who are not yet retired). A member of the Retiree Chapter functions as a liaison with the inservice chapter. A typical RC 19 meeting has attendees from all the school districts which have organized retiree chapters. When pertinent, we have the opportunity to share what is going on in our school districts related to the students, the teachers, administrators, policies, relationships with parents, programs, etc., negotiations, hiring practices, etc. From these interactions we are finding opportunities to support children, parents and teachers in other school districts. We also share what other retiree chapter members are involved in socially, educationally, physically and how we can keep ourselves mentally alert and physically fit. We are reminded of all the services that are available to us through our NYSUT Membership



## GIVE TO VOTE COPE!

### What Is *Vote-Cope*?

*Vote-Cope* is the Committee on Political Education, the non-partisan political action arm of NYSUT and its affiliates. It supports union backed candidates and campaign committees that support education and labor.

Pension deduction is the easiest way to make a contribution to *Vote-Cope*. We suggest a contribution of fifty dollars a year spread out over each month's pension check, but any amount will be appreciated. Just complete the Pension Deduction Authorization Card, which can be found on our website and mail it to: Carol Gardiner, 178 Hopper St., Westbury, NY 11590.

You can also contribute with a check or cash. Checks should be payable to *Vote-Cope* and sent to my address. Our retiree unit has over 109 members who are eligible for payroll deduction. Please consider contributing through pension deduction. In addition we are eligible to receive back 20% of the amount we contribute.

(Contributions to *Vote-Cope* are not tax deductible.)

~ Carol Gardiner

You will find a link to our Website on  
WTA and NYSUT websites.

[www.westburyschoolsret.wixsite.com/website-1](http://www.westburyschoolsret.wixsite.com/website-1)



If you are using any NYSUT services, you must maintain your membership in WSR if you retired in 2004 or later.



Keep Current  
[www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org)

Familiarize yourself with the NYSUT website

Check out:

- Professional Center
- Member Services
- News
- Resources
- NYSUT Info. • NYSUT Trusts

NYSUT  
Head of Retirees Services  
for Nassau County:  
Claire Zatorski: 516-496-2035  
[czatorsk@nysutmail.org](mailto:czatorsk@nysutmail.org)





## WSR Scholarships

Each school year, WSR gives out scholarships to the most deserving Westbury High School Seniors.

Scholarship applications are delivered to the Guidance department in the high school. Each applicant must write an essay on the person who made the greatest impact on their life. Along with the essay, they must list extracurricular activities, any community service they have done and possibly the school/college they plan to attend and course of study. Also, a high school transcript must be attached as well as their guidance counselor's signature.

Once I receive all of the applications, a committee then meets and selects their top 5 or 6 students. The number of students who receive scholarships is dependent upon our scholarship fund. In the past, we have given out 6 scholarships to students, each receiving \$500.00.

We have raised \$414.00 from raffle tickets sold at the Holiday Luncheon and through scholarship donations, we have raised \$2,175 for a total of \$2,589. If you would like, you can still donate to this year's Scholarship Fund. Please send a check, payable to WSR, to Connie Champlin, 157 Rushmore Street, Westbury, NY. 11590

*Camille Lupa,*  
Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee

## In Memoriam

**Barbara Hickey** began her career in Westbury as a traveling reading teacher. She serviced the students attending such private schools as Friends, The Advent School and St. Brigid's. She also taught in Powells Lane, the Junior High (Middle School) and the High School. Barbara loved teaching her students and did so with much kindness and compassion. Her supportive style was evident to all those who knew her.

Barbara was raised in Queens and graduated from St. John's University. She and her husband, John, lived in various communities on Long Island. Her favorite residence, however, was Dr. Carle's historic mansion (circa 1816) located in Jericho next to the former Maine Maid Inn. Barbara proudly hosted luncheons and led tours of her home, to which the Junior High's reading department was privileged to attend.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. John Hickey, daughters Beth, an art teacher at Westbury High School and Kerry Ann, as well as four grandchildren.

**Marilyn Sporty** was a devoted Kindergarten teacher for many years. She was an active member of the Retirees Association and attended all of our luncheons until she was no longer able to travel. We enjoyed meeting her caregiver, Indy Singh, spending time chatting with her at the luncheons.

Marilyn was a very generous contributor to our scholarship fund. We will miss her and appreciate the time we had with her.

# Save the Date: December 9 for our Holiday Luncheon!

Now's a good time to start creating  
homemade raffle prizes to  
to be raffled off  
at the luncheon.



Proceeds from the raffle are used for  
scholarships to deserving  
Westbury Graduates