

Volume 1 | Issue 1
Fall 2017



CSA Retiree Chapter
Queens Regional Unit

*When you stop living at
work and start working at
living – Retirement*

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From the Queens Unit Leader

Colleagues,

I hope each of you had a healthy, happy and enjoyable summer. Now that it's over we have begun preparations once again for the many activities that makes our Unit so special. On Tuesday, October 17, 2017, we will be holding our annual luncheon meeting at *Terrace On The Park* in Flushing Meadows Park. Each of you receiving a flier in the mail with all of the details. It is very important to send in the tear-off with your check as soon as possible because like last year there will be assigned seating. Our guest speakers are – Mark Cannizzaro our new President, Thomas Suozzi, United States Congressman, Alicia Hyndman, New York State Assemblywoman. Additionally, Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President with drop by to greet our members during the cocktail hour along with Council Member Barry Grodenchik. The afternoon will begin with a reception and hors d'oeuvres followed by a full sit-down luncheon with wine and soda. There will also be a cash bar. This is your opportunity to see former colleagues and to "catch up" not only with one another but also with CSA.

Last year we had numerous luncheons, trips, two membership meetings, one of which was a luncheon meeting, along with our first Health Seminar. This is in addition to sending out two newsletters, having regularly scheduled Book Club, Bridge Club and Dining Club meetings. We also began a Movie Club. We are one of the few Units that has an up and running website with up to date information on all of our activities as well as timely information of interest. Our web address is: www.csaqueens.org. Check it periodically because new information is always being added. This year we anticipate even more planned events.

Finally, remember to renew your membership in the Queens Regional Unit. The membership year runs from January 1st until December 31st each year. The fee is \$15.00. The Enrollment/Renewal Form which will be mailed to you, is also on our website. It is important to support and stay connected to your union during your retirement even if your participation is limited.

I hope to see and greet you at our many events in the future!

Fraternally,

Len

Leonard B. Sterman

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Deborah King
Fannie Smiths

Activities
Dee Dee Goidel - c
Joseph D. Rosenberg

c = coordinator

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Beware of a New York State Constitutional Convention! by Dee-Dee Goidel

On Election Day in 2017 voters in New York State will be asked an important question, “Should there be a convention to revise the New York State Constitution and amend the same?” Your answer to this referendum is critical. It is of the utmost importance not to ignore the question! You should vote **NO**. I will explain why **NO** will be your best answer. Please consider the following facts:

- Every 20 years each generation is given a choice to decide the above mandatory question.
- The last time was 1997 and most citizens casting ballots ignored the question and did not vote either way.
- *Change NYS* is an organization that recently was formed to educate communities about voting for a constitutional convention. They are asking: “If you could fix Albany would you?”
- This message in 2017, due to the wave of Albany’s dysfunction and examples of corruption may resonate with voters who are angry enough to vote overwhelmingly YES.
- Remember, I began this article’s title with the word **beware**.
- Presently our NYS constitution safeguards our fundamental rights to:
 1. Guaranteed pension benefits
 2. Permanent Cola
 3. The right to unionize
 4. Free public education
- A constitutional convention can be a devastating tool used to modify or abolish any or all safeguards we have gained over the years.
- Governor Cuomo has announced support for a convention including setting up a \$1 million preparatory commission.
- The convention if held would be extremely costly, a waste of taxpayer’s money when our infrastructure, roads and schools need that money.
- The polls claim the public is 69% in favor of a convention.
- A two-sided public conversation is needed to properly educate NYS voters.
- Union members both retired and those working in the public sector must understand what is at stake.
- Be aware that in some states workers in the public sector must choose between a pension or social security. They cannot collect both.
- The general public, due to community tax burdens are hostile to unions and those receiving pensions.

Now you know why we should vote NO!



NoNewYorkConvention.org

From our Membership Chairperson



The CSA Queens Retiree Unit welcomes you back for another exciting year of events!

The \$15. annual membership fee entitles you to:

- Attend events and activities at discounted prices (Bridge Club, Book Club, Movie Club and monthly restaurant outings.)
- Socialize with former colleagues and become acquainted with new retirees
- Stay up to date on legislative issues that may affect your pension and health benefits
- Attend special events such as our Annual Membership Luncheon meeting and Health Seminar

If you haven't joined the Queens Regional Unit we urge you to do so ASAP to Remain Informed, Engaged and Active

CSA Conference

Join your colleagues at the CSA Conference on Saturday, November 4th at the NY Hilton Midtown. Remember retiree chapter members can attend at the subsidized price of \$95.00.

The Annual CSA and RC General Conference at the NY Hilton will honor Queens Regional Unit member Dee Dee Goidel on November 4th. CSA will also be honoring Randi Herman on the occasion of her retirement. Plan to be there to support our outstanding leaders of CSA!

Best Wishes to Ernie Logan on his retirement and **Congratulations** to Mark Cannizzaro, our new CSA President, Henry Rubio, our new CSA Executive Vice President and Rosemarie Sinclair, our new CSA First Vice President!

Unit Activities

Our First Health Seminar on April 4, 2017 was a huge success!



Upcoming Event

Our Annual Luncheon Meeting

**Terrace on the Park October 17th
12:00pm to 3:30pm.**

Guest Speakers

**New CSA President Mark Cannizzaro,
Thomas Suozzi, US Congressman
Alycia Hyndman, NYS Assemblywoman**

Check our website for more information.

Club Updates

The Dining Club



Neddy McMills, our dining expert, is always actively seeking unique dining experiences for our members. Our next experience will be at “Cara Mia” in Queens Village on September 26th at 12:30pm and at “New Lake Pavillion” a dim sum restaurant in Flushing on November 9th at 11 am. Check our website under *events* for details and discounted rates for Queens Regional Unit members.

The Book Club



Enthusiasm for good reads continues unabated among our members. Our Book Club now has a waiting list for membership. Should you want to join in from the sidelines here are the upcoming selections and dates:

**“Before the Fall” by Noah Hawley
“Hillbilly Elegy” by J.D. Vance**

October 30th, November 27th, December 18th

Check our website for any changes to the selections and for more Book Club news.

The Bridge Club



We invite you to join our Bridge Club. We play on Tuesdays, from 9:30 A.M. until 12:00 Noon. Lillian Garelick, a Life Bridge Master is usually on hand to assist us. The dates for the sessions are:

Oct 3rd, Oct 24th, Oct 31st, Nov 7th & Nov 28th

Information about playing bridge can be obtained from:
Florence Klein - (718) 279-4316 or fklein30@nyc.rr.com

The Movie Club



Our Movie Club meets the first Thursday of the month. Kim Adams makes arrangements for us to see interesting, current movies and art films at local theaters convenient to as many of us as possible. We choose venues that have ample parking nearby. If you are interested in joining us please look for the emails from the CSA Queens Retirees. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Kim Adams at: Kim2020@verizon.net.

Outreach Coordinator's Message

by Irwin Shanes

On Tuesday, April 4, 2017, we initiated our first new series of seminars. In an effort to make our members aware of their health benefits, the Queens Regional Unit held a Health Seminar. The program consisted of the following speakers: Dr. Joseph Halio, a geriatrician who specializes in senior care. In addition, Ms. Suzanne Paslucci, Licensed Clinical Social Worker who is a health care advocate and Dr. Douglas Hathaway, Administrator, CSA Health and Welfare Fund. Dr. Hathaway provided the audience with the latest benefits sheets and discussed the additional dental reimbursement schedule. We received a lot of positive feedback making such an event worthwhile for all.

Our outreach program is there to help you when you need it, just call Irwin Shanes at (718) 352-4687.

P. S. We anticipate that we will be able to improve our current chapter benefit from 15% to 20% supplementing the Welfare Fund reimbursement.

Stay current, check out our website!

CSA Queens Website

www.csaqueens.org



If you haven't renewed your membership in our Unit for 2017 please do so as soon as possible. We need your support to continue to offer retirees various programs. For a mere \$15.00 a year you are ensuring that you keep informed of current CSA Welfare Fund, Retiree Chapter, pension, Unit information and activities. To renew, complete the form that was recently mailed to you or go to our website and download the "Enrollment/Renewal Form."

