



VOTING RIGHTS MOTION

At its scheduled business meeting held on December 3, 2009, the membership of the Retired Teachers' Chapter (RTC) voted to affirm a verbal agreement reached on July 17, 2009 between the chapter chairperson and the NTA president pertaining to voting rights by the chapter membership in NYSUT, AFT and NEA delegate/alternate elections. This motion protects our right to vote in future elections and does not affect the election which took place last May. The RTC motion also called upon the Board of Directors to affirm the July 17th agreement at its January meeting. The verbal agreement, once ratified by the NTA's Board of Directors, would resolve the last of the constitutional claims separating the RTC and the NTA.

CONTRACT TALKS INPUT

In a resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the RTC, the RTC offered the following recommendations regarding upcoming contract negotiations:

- A. **IN-SERVICE UNIT MEMBERS**—There should be no diminution or loss of benefits in any proposed agreement. For the current contract year, in-service unit members essentially funded the contract through a reduction in positions of the bargaining unit. The successor agreement should be funded by a different means.
- B. **RETIRED UNIT MEMBERS**—There should be **NO** changes in the benefits accorded to retired unit members that are provided for in the contract (fully funded health insurance, Medicare Part B reimbursement, the Empire Plan). These benefits were funded through the bargaining process over the years and should not be changed.

TIER 5

Under intense public pressure to make public employee pensions more affordable in future years, the NYS Legislature and the governor agreed to create a new Tier 5 pension plan. In essence, the new plan affects all new hires after January 1, 2010 and calls for new vesting periods (5 to 10 years), retirement at age 57 with 30 years of service to retire without penalty, and 3.5% payments for the duration of their employment. **Again, there is no change for current retirees!**

Included in the agreement that created the new Tier 5, lawmakers made permanent a previously temporary provision that protects retiree health insurance. The new permanent provision protects retiree health insurance from being diminished unless in-service members negotiate a reduction in their own health insurance as well.

As you know, in Newburgh, retirees are part of the NTA's bargaining unit and the court has affirmed our right to vote on the contract. This is not the case for retirees in general. Our right to vote is an important safeguard that our health insurance benefits will not be diminished in future

collective bargaining agreements. When you are mailed your ballot to vote on the new 2010 contract, it is very important that you exercise your right to vote.

THANK YOU

Thanks to Flip Gertler for his generous contribution to the Retired Teachers' Action Fund. It is greatly appreciated.

EMAIL

If you have any questions about information included in this posting or want additional information, you can contact me through the email address provided on this site.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS OF THE RETIRED TEACHERS' CHAPTER. WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR.