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Council of School Administrators and Supervisors
of New York City

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MESSAGE From Lois Turetzky, Ed.D Unit Leader



IN THIS ISSUE:



**Unit
Leader's
Message**
Lois Turetzky, Ed.D

**School Funding and Inequities
in the Era of Covid-19**
Lois Turetzky, Ed.D

Funding school budgets has always been challenging but this year in particular, due to Covid, it has been significantly more difficult. With the loss of state tax revenues due to the cost of pandemic related issues, shortfalls in corporate, sales and personal income tax, legislatures have been finding it difficult to balance their budgets and meet the needs of all of their funding constituencies. School budgets have been hit extremely hard. According to the Council of Chief State School Officers and the American Federation of Teachers, it could cost between \$295-370 billion dollars more to make schools "whole". Funding is needed to prevent budget cuts, teacher layoffs, provide a safe school learning environment with all Covid preventative measures and resources to secure remote/distant learning systems and food services for low income and underprivileged students.

There have always been inequalities in schools and this year's pandemic particularly highlights this issue. Schools serving low-income students are seeing low attendance rates and high levels of student disengagement. Many of these students particularly in rural

areas do not have access to the Internet or lack proper equipment. While schools and some large corporations have tried to deliver Wi-Fi hotspots and equipment to many of these students, it is still not enough. It is difficult to reach homeless and other needy populations. The digital divide is quite evident. Pew Research Center reports that approximately 43% of students have to do their schoolwork on a cell phone and 36% do not have access to a computer at home and have to use the public library in order to access both computers and Wi-Fi.

Much of remote learning requires parental support. In low-income households, many of the parents work outside the home. Some do not speak English and others do not have the technical knowledge to support their children. It is also difficult in many home situations to provide a learning environment free from distractions. According to Dr. Maria Sheppard, "there is a direct correlation between the economic gap and the digital inclusion gap, and this leads to lower engagement rates for students of lower socioeconomic statuses"

Nineteen prominent educational organizations have urged Congress to provide as much as \$225 billion dollars for education. They have asked for:

\$175 billion for K-12 education, \$13 billion for federally funded programs that address Individuals with Disabilities, \$12 billion for

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Title 1 funds for “at risk” students and \$12 billion dollars to increase access to the Internet and the devices that many students lack. This funding will help states and local school districts meet budgetary shortfalls in the short term. The CARES Act passed in March of 2020 provided \$13.2 billion to K-12 Education but that is only a pittance of what is actually needed. As of this writing, Congress has not passed another stimulus bill which will help alleviate some of the budget pressure schools are experiencing. Hopefully an agreement will be reached soon. In this divided America, we must support politicians that address civil servants interests and issues. Those in the Congress and the Senate that do not want to fund states and cities suffering under these difficult unforeseen times put civil service jobs, pensions and benefits at risk, all of which we worked hard to obtain. Let’s hope that the government steps up to support those in need and the educational services schools lack and the benefits we earned.

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Some Thoughts on the Importance of Voting By Donald Singer

The November CSA Retiree page had two articles that I read with interest and with agreement.

Gayle Lockett's column "Lots to Be Grateful For" noted that "we need to be vigilant and advocate for protecting what we have." ... "CSA's Political Action Committees will continue to support candidates who support labor and union rights."

We should be active on all levels to accomplish this goal ... from School Board, Town Council, Mayor, State Senators and Assembly, to Federal Senators and Congress members and U.S. Presidents and Vice-Presidents. SUPPORT YOUR SUPPORTERS!

Ron Imundi's article "CSA Retirees ZOOM All Across the Nation" writes "for the first time, the Retiree Chapter's Political liaisons have united to share thoughts and insights across the country. Each unit has a liaison who keeps the unit members informed of the current state of political affairs in their geographic region."

He goes on to say that "we focus on getting the vote out and coordinating with the Florida Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans." I'm proud of the relationship that FLARA and the CSA South Florida Chapter has developed led by Lois Turetzky, Jim Mehlman, Morton Kugel, and me, working with the NYC Retirees living in Florida and being members of unions (including CSA) associated with the CLC. Working with a coalition of NYC unions has increased the vote for the Biden-Harris team in Florida. (We've already seen that the President-Elect will develop a pro-union agenda).

AFSA President Ernest Logan has participated in the PAC meetings and has noted that coordination with local, state and national AFL-CIO affiliates is essential as we look forward to a new national administration.

CSA retirees' membership allows you to be a member of the AFL-CIO, AFSA, ARA, etc. Get involved with the respective locals of these organizations; most organizations have state and local chapters.

I encourage you to follow Ernie, Gayle and Ron's advice and volunteer your time and talent to the organizations to which we belong.

Attend meetings, write letters-to-editors, help sympathetic candidates, join civic groups, run for office and VOTE. Remember, the next election cycle will begin next month.

Your family and our unions will thank you

My family wishes your family a HAPPY CHANAKUH, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Donald Singer

Attend meetings, write letter-to-editors, help sympathetic candidates' campaigns, join civic groups, run for office, and VOTE

**CSA LIAISON &
OUTREACH COORDINATOR
TO FLORIDA RETIREES**

Norm Sherman, Coordinator
Council of Supervisors & Administrators
Phone number: 561-638-6439
Email: nshermzie@aol.com

Informational Updates

Hello everyone! Hope all is well.

As your CSA Florida Liaison and Outreach Coordinator, one of my primary responsibilities is to keep you informed about your health & welfare benefits, scams, and any changes that impact them. The mediums that I use for this purpose are calls, presentations, and a newsletter that I call Informational Update.

If you haven't been receiving informational updates (I issue one every 4 to 6 weeks), it generally means one of three things: you changed your email address and never notified me, OR you never gave me your email address, OR I typed it incorrectly in my email grouping. Whatever the reason, contact me by either calling or sending me an email.

Medicare & COVID-19

Whether we like it or not, we are living through unprecedented and unwelcome times. As I write this column, it has been almost 9 months since the government shut down the country because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yes, things have improved and businesses have partially re-opened under phases 1 and 2. However, the pandemic is starting to spike again. In fact, there are almost 12 million people who have been infected with the virus and over ¼ million who have died from it. Moreover, the positivity rate of infection is now climbing at an alarming rate.

The pandemic has caused us to live in an alternate world where we wear masks and keep socially distant. We stay away from large gatherings and refrain from going to restaurants, gyms, places of worship, etc. We stay active by walking, working out at home and cycling. We fight boredom by watching involving ourselves in "projects." And, we continue to wonder whether we will ever go back to our "normal" life.

Well, the good news is that we are getting closer to having a vaccine that prevents the virus. Pfizer and Moderna, one giant and one upcoming drug company, respectively, claim they have produced a vaccine that they say has proven 95% effective. While we have no date when a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine will be ready for distribution, it is anticipated it could be early to mid-2021. In fact, some professionals are predicting it might be before the end of 2020.

Although there is no current vaccine, Medicare has stepped up to the plate to cover COVID-19 needs for Medicare-eligible people.

- ✦ Medicare covers COVID-19 testing. There is no out-of-pocket costs.
- ✦ Medicare covers FDA-authorized COVID-19 antibody tests.
- ✦ Medicare covers hospitalizations for Medicare-eligible people with COVID-19 who might otherwise have been discharged but need to stay in a hospital under quarantine.

Medicare will cover a vaccine for COVID-19 once it becomes available.

The coronavirus national emergency has brought out the scammers in full force as many people are distracted by the disease. If you are on Medicare, please guard your Medicare card and keep it in a safe place. Check Medicare claims summary forms. Contact Medicare if your card has been compromised or you have found errors in a claim form.

Projected Monetary Changes for 2021 Medicare
(begins Jan 1, 2021)

Medicare Part B premium rises to \$148.50 per month

Medicare Part B deductible rises to \$203

"High Income" thresholds for Medicare Part B & D income related monthly adjustment amount (IRMAA) premiums continue to rise; for an individual, it starts at \$88,000, for a couple, it starts at \$176,000

Have a wonderful & safe day!

Norm Sherman

CSARC Florida Liaison and Outreach Coordinator

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Marilyn Funes, Ph.D.— Membership Coordinator

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

I'm sure you're all as happy as I am to see 2020 come to an end and are looking forward to a better 2021. Let's all hope and pray that the covid virus will meet its match with the new vaccines that have been and are still being developed so we can say good bye to the current pandemic.

During this time remain alert to the warnings of the CDC. Wear a face mask whenever you go out or are near people not in your immediate household; practice social distancing; better yet, stay away from crowds (any gathering of 6 people or more).

Finally, maintain contact with your union so you are kept up to date on the latest information.

May you all have a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Funes, Membership Coordinator.



CSA Retiree Chapter of Southeast Florida regrets to announce the loss of the following members/ spouses/significant others during the 2020-2021 Program Year.

Melicent Ganem
Herbert M. Gold
Rose Lindner
Barry Mintzer
Barbara Panzer
Morton Panzer
Robert Rappaport
Stanley Weber
Margaret Wigiser
Alvin Yurman

Our Heartfelt condolences are extended to their loved ones.

Former Executive Board Member of the CSARC of Southeast Florida Passes

Laurel Greenspan Haber

It is with great sadness that I share the news of the passing of Edna D. Greenspan at 102 years of age. Mrs. Greenspan graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, Brooklyn, N.Y. and then received a BA degree from Brooklyn College in 1939.

After her husband Henry died unexpectedly in 1953 she decided to make teaching her career. She began as an elementary school teacher in P.S. 156, Laurelton, Queens, N.Y. teaching fifth through eighth grades while raising her eight year old daughter and three year old son.

Edna also taught in York College, Queens, N.Y. as an adjunct lecturer as well as in Bank Street College in N.Y.C. where she gave graduate school courses in early childhood. In 1978, Edna was appointed District 16, Brooklyn, N.Y. supervisor of reading and language arts.

Upon retiring to West Palm Beach, Florida in 1985 she stayed actively involved in teaching by volunteering to teach English as a second language in a local school. Edna was also actively involved in her CSA chapter. She also had a passion for singing, dancing and acting and performed in many Hadassah shows.

Her family always embraced her and she was always the life of the party.

Her legacy lives on in her daughter, Laurel and son, Mitchell and their spouses, six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

IRMAA

For those members who have not completed their IRMAA form for 2019, you need three papers:

The New York City Office of Labor Relations Form (cover sheet) for 2019. Check the 2019 box. The form is on our unit website: www.csasoutheastflorida.com

The November 2018 letter from the Social Security Administration telling you what your Social Security will be for 2019.

Your 2019 Social Security 1099 Tax Form
Complete the cover sheet and attach the other two papers. Send it to:

Dr. Doug Hathaway
CSA Welfare Fund
40 Rector Street,
New York New York 10006

If you have any questions contact:
Norman Sherman
Tel: 561-638-6438 or Cell: 561-699-4235

How Lucky Can You Be! Jim Mehlman

Today the TRS will deposit my pension check into my bank account. It has arrived dutifully every month, every year for more years than I care to count. Through good times and bad, stock market ups and downs, depressions inflations, deflation conflagrations pandemonium and pandemics.

Those of us who have been retired for many years have seen our pensions increase because of COLA's and other factors. The pension and our welfare benefits have served not only to meet our needs (food, clothing, shelter) but also our wants (the things we enjoy).

My almost 40 years of service included work in the elementary and secondary schools as teacher and supervisor. I enjoyed the work I did and the people with whom I worked. I also remember the work I did to help establish the supervisors' union. From the beginning, there was general agreement that our mission was not only to serve our members in- service but also those who had retired.

Therefore, after many years of retirement I still recognize my responsibility to remain active in the Retiree Chapter and its area units. Political action is important, particularly in these extraordinary times. I make an annual donation to the CSA Retiree Chapter PAC (Political Action Fund) which serves as the financial foundation in the union's efforts to seek and encourage union support from local, state and federal representatives.

You can donate with a once-a year check or with a deduction from your pension. A \$100 donation makes you a member of the Presidents Club and provides not only satisfaction but other benefits. NOW IS THE TIME.

Write to:

Mark Brodsky, Director
CSA Retiree Chapter
[40 Rector Street 12th floor](#)
[New York, NY 10006](#)

How Lucky Can You Be! I can assure you; luck had nothing to do with it. Be a PAC Fund Contributor.

Fraternally,

Jim Mehlman,
Member



Be There for It

Life goes forward but it is not
Always as I had it arranged
Journey to a destination
You have never travelled before

Oh, so carefully you schedule
Your choices of selected sites
Then the airplane runs much too late
You miss your needed connection

Taking an unplanned, unknown route
You make a fabulous new friend
Continuing on your journey
You board a transatlantic ship

The ship then changes its old course
Due to sudden storms in the sea
The new port is interesting
A wonderful new place to be

Surprised to find an old friend there
One you thought you lost forever
You will eventually reach
The end of your lengthy journey

Do not end your trip and go home
Please wait and see what happens next
Do not waste your time complaining
About the changes in your trip

Enjoy every precious moment
Life goes on with or without you
So be there for it, all of it

You never know what is around
The very next bend in your life
I hope you will be there for it

I will be there to wait for you

By Lenore Kay

CSARC of Southeast Florida Dates to Remember

Due to Covid 19, all events that were planned for the 2020-2021 season had to be cancelled. However, we will hold our annual Health and Welfare Meeting on Zoom. Guests will include: Mark Brodsky, Gayle Lockett, Dr. Douglas Hathaway and if available Mark Cannizzaro. I hope that you can all attend. You can access Zoom from your computer, tablet/Ipad or smart phone providing you downloaded the Zoom Application on the device. I will be sending you an email a few days before the meeting with the information listed below. Keep track of the email date so that on the day of the conference, open the email and click on the Join the Meeting Link. If you cannot locate the email I sent you, refer to the information below and enter the Join Meeting Website Address on your zoom application.

Date: January 11, 2021

Time: 10:00AM-12:00PM

Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98122600668>

Meeting ID: 981 2260 0668

One tap mobile

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 981 2260 0668

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aene2ZLCmG>

Lois Turetzky, Ed.D

Please e-mail any letters, comments, or articles of information you would like to share with the Retiree Chapter of Southeast Florida. Write to me at Lenore Kay, 8440 Lake Cypress Road, Lake Worth, FL 33467. Email to lenore8nj@yahoo.com

Thank you,

Lenore Kay, Editor



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In Memoriam