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(According to the Web site, enrollees should have already received an announcement letter, which was mailed mid-March.) For more information go to www.cs.state.ny.us/nyshipeligibilityproject/index.cfm.



The Retiree ORGANIZER

A NEWSLETTER FOR NYSUT'S RETIREE LEADERS

April 2009

www.nysut.org

Vol. 22, No. 7

Retiree of the Year award winners honored

Richard Miller, who built his career in the United Federation of Teachers, and Arlene Hanley, a pioneering paraprofessional in Rochester,



Arlene Hanley

are co-recipients of the NYSUT Retiree of the Year award.

Both were honored at the NYSUT Representative Assembly April 3. Saluting all retirees in her RA speech, NYSUT Vice President

Kathleen Donahue said: "Political action by our daytime warriors, our retirees, helped stop the privatization of Social Security. Just imagine where we would all be if they had not acted."

In accepting his award, Miller paid tribute to his mentors. "I was fortunate to stand in the shadows of the great leaders of this union," Miller told the assembly as he accepted his award. "You couldn't help but be inspired by their



NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi and Vice President Kathleen Donahue congratulate Richard Miller, center.

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— Kathleen Donahue

the 1968 strike.

In retirement, he leads the Las Vegas Section of the UFT retirees.

Hanley retires this year as a NYSUT State Employees' Retirement System consultant in the Rochester regional office.

words and deeds."

Miller started teaching in New York City in 1958 and assumed growing leadership roles in the UFT. He helped desegregate the city's largest middle school and led the chapter of that school in

She is a beloved and longtime member of the Rochester Association of Paraprofessionals.

Her career stretches back more than four decades. She was president of RAP's predecessor organization, the Teacher Aides Association of Rochester, when the Rochester City School District first recog-

nized aides as a unit.

"For me, it was unionism — I just enjoyed every minute of it, especially grievances," said Hanley who was unable to attend the RA, but delivered a taped message to attendees.

She was a building rep, chair of the School-Related Professionals committee, and a delegate to the RA. She continues to conduct workshops for RAP and other school districts. She is also a member of the Genesee Valley School Boards School-Related Professionals Committee.

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Representing more than 600,000 professionals in education and health care. For more, see www.nysut.org.

2009 retiree Community Service Award winners

The following retirees were honored with Community Service Awards: Mary Canaris, RC 24; Carole Chambers, RC 13; Gloria Cohen, RC 20; Louise Colavito, RC 24; Paula Dodge, RC 23; Robert Doyle, RC 7; Susan Eckers, RC 17; Jean Eno, RC 21; Evelyn Gomer, RC 24; Arlene Hanley, RC 5; Sally Kane, RC 24; Jeanette Katz, RC 24; Madeline Maffetore, RC 18; Betty Miller, RC 9; Enid Moskowitz, RC 24; Kandy Palmeri, RC 2; Bill Randall, RC 8; Ellen Ratner, RC 24; Mildred Safar, RC 24; and Sheila Zachter, RC 24.

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Donlon 'Not For Ourselves Alone' winner

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More than 1,500 NYSUT members who watched Donlon receive NYSUT's highest honor for women leaders broke into affectionate laughter as Donlon recounted that she was late for her first meeting with the Syracuse Teachers Association.

"As everyone came out of the meeting, they all said, 'Congratulations, Loretta — you're our new union rep,'" Donlon said.

Donlon went on to serve as executive vice president and executive board member in the Syracuse Teachers Association. Now, she is director of Election District 51.

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Loretta Donlon

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The retirees' hard work also received accolades from NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue, who thanked them for advocating on behalf of in-service members as well as their retired sisters and brothers.

Retirees front and center at conference

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Donlon and Pietrantonio advised retirees to stay connected to their local, so they can mobilize against any threats to Medicare.

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mitment to protect the state pension plan in the face of carping from conservative sources that state workers' pensions are a source of fiscal instability.

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"We have to stand up for that plan, and stand together."

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Lorraine Rubin of Nassau BOCES RC 17 at the Committee of 100 meeting in February.

The Legislature has sent the governor the moratorium bill. Please call and encourage him to sign.

Help still needed to keep Tier 5 proposal out

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NYSUT and other public employee unions are strongly opposed to the plan, arguing it

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