

# Retiree Advocate UFT

Protecting retirees • Supporting working members  
Fighting for public education

## Standing Up for Retiree Healthcare...

- to stop being forced into *any* Medicare Advantage plan
- to fight for the promises made to us by the UFT and the City
- to keep the NYC health benefits we now have
- to allow RTC votes on issues of vital importance to retirees
- to continue SHIP, Si Beagle, and *all* RTC services
- to create a union chapter that gives its members a voice

Unity came for our healthcare. Can they be trusted with our pensions?

Check the box  for the **entire** *Retiree Advocate/UFT* slate



Website: [RetireeAdvocate.org](http://RetireeAdvocate.org)  
Visit Retiree Advocate/UFT on Facebook  
Email: [info@retireeadvocate.org](mailto:info@retireeadvocate.org)



## A Note from Bennett Fischer and the Retiree Advocate/UFT Team

*The job of the leadership is to protect our pension and our healthcare; Michael Mulgrew and Tom Murphy have not protected our healthcare.*

Retiree Advocate/UFT's slate of three hundred delegates has thousands of collective years of UFT experience. We are former chapter leaders, executive board members, and UFT Vice Presidents. We are educators of all titles who spent our careers in schools and classrooms, not in union offices. We have not lost sight of the responsibilities that our union owes to its retired members.

We spent our careers in the UFT and we pay our dues even in retirement. We lobby for the union, we canvass for the union, and we love the union. We raised union families, and we taught our children union values. We kept the union functioning in good times and in bad, and now more than ever we need a union that is responsive to us, a union that keeps its promises to us. The RTC Chapter Leader is supposed to represent us, not the city or the insurance companies.

The Unity leadership of the RTC has lost touch with union values, union democracy, and union reality. Retiree Advocate/UFT knows how to do the real work of Union. Like you, we depend on the important information and services that the UFT offers: Welfare Fund and SHIP benefits, the Member Assistance Program, the Retiree Legal Plan, social events, our Si Beagle activities, and the Retired Paraprofessionals Support Program. The Retiree Advocate team will continue to provide and improve all those offerings.

Our entire Retiree Slate will listen to and involve UFT retirees in the decisions we make as a chapter. We will challenge our union to defend *all* the benefits that we earned. And we will **fight like hell** to keep traditional Medicare and Senior Care, as well as our Medicare Part B, High Option Rider, and IRMAA reimbursements.

---

### The Retiree Advocate/UFT team of RTC officers: Decades of experience as UFT activists

#### Chapter Leader

**Bennett Fischer** - 29 years of service as teacher and UFT chapter leader at PS231K • RTC Healthcare Committee • UFT Department of Contract Empowerment 2019–2023

#### Vice Chair Leaders

**Michael Shulman** - Co-chair, New Action Caucus • 20-year chapter leader and delegate at Bushwick and Fort Hamilton HS • multiple-term UFT Executive Board member • UFT vice president for academic high schools, 1985–1987

**Gregory Di Stefano** - 55-year UFT member • 9 years, UFT Executive Board • UFT campaign activist

**Ellen Fox** - Veteran of many UFT political campaigns • 12 years, UFT Executive Board

**Arthur Goldstein** - 39 years teaching • 12-year chapter leader, Francis Lewis HS • champion of class size reduction and resources for ELL students • 6 years, UFT Executive Board • frequent editorial writer in New York press outlets • authored *NYC Educator* blog and currently *Union Matters* on Substack

#### **RA Executive Board Candidates**

Fred Arcoleo • Joel Berger • Novelette Foote • Daniel Harkavy • Doug Haynes • Prudence Hill • Bruce Markens • Dacio Quintana • Denise Rickles • Roque Ristorucci • Norm Scott • Alan Stein • Marian Swerdlow • Doris Wallace • Mary Therese Whelan

#### Secretary

**Gloria Brandman** - 45-year UFT member • UFT, NYSUT, and AFT member organizer • 8-year UFT chapter leader and delegate • leader of Retiree Advocate's campaign against Medicare Advantage

#### Treasurer

**Bobby Greenberg** - UFT member since 1966 • National AFT labor campaign activist for 50 years • UFT chapter leader, JHS22M • delegate, Bronx Regional HS • RTC Healthcare and RTC Election Committees.

#### Assistant Secretary

**Jonathan Halabi** - Math teacher • 20-year UFT chapter leader, HS of American Studies at Lehman College • 11 years, UFT Executive Board • author of education blog, *JD2718*.

#### Assistant Treasurer

**Michele Rayvid** - 20-year District 15 ELL educator • 14-year CUNY adjunct • RTC Healthcare Committee • Cross-union Retirees Organizing Committee

#### Corresponding Secretary

**Sheila Zukowsky** - Chapter leader, Harbor Heights Middle School • UFT delegate at PS61M • RTC Healthcare Committee

**Check your ballot ✓ for the entire Retiree Advocate/UFT slate. Mail it back as soon as you can.**