

Hearing Education Services

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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UFT Delegates: Amy Cohen and Donna Kafka

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER LEADER:

Cecilia Cortez

We are coming to the end of the year. It has been a trying year for all of us in the schools, from the damage wrought by Hurricane Sandy to the strike by school bus drivers to the testing of our students on new Common Core standards. I hope you are making it through alright. In the face of these challenges, I want to mention our win on SESIS as a big victory for all of us. Everyone is getting paid for the work done after school hours. It proves we all have to be strong and continue the fight.

The next consultation meeting is May 22 with Ms. Kaufman. Please send your questions and concerns to ccortez@uft.org.

We are having our Professional Development Day on Thursday, June 6 at the UFT Brooklyn Borough office. In bringing all HES professionals together, we will have a great opportunity to exchange information and ideas.

Things You Should Know About Retirement Planning

The UFT offers many pension services to members. If you need more information about your pension plan or do not understand any correspondence or materials from the TRS or BERS, the UFT has a myriad of services to help you. They include:

General pension questions and borough office consultations for in-service members

You can get answers to questions by phoning one of our borough offices any weekday afternoon, excluding holidays. If you call during the school day you can leave a message and you will get a call back. The phone numbers are below and you can find the office addresses on our website: <http://www.uft.org/boroughs>.

Preliminary consultations

If you have several questions about your pension or are planning a career change, resignation or retirement, you should make an appointment for a preliminary consultation at any borough office listed below. This private conference will give you an estimate of your retirement allowance and answer your many questions about retirement benefits. We advise that every member have a minimum of one preliminary borough consultation before their final consultation. You may have more than one preliminary consultation during your career.

Borough offices:

- Bronx: 718-379-6200
- Brooklyn: 718-852-4900
- Manhattan: 212-598-6800
- Queens: 718-275-4400
- Staten Island: 718-605-1400

UFT Publications on retirement

- A regular column in the *New York Teacher* – “Secure Your Future” (<http://www.uft.org/news/ny-teacher/secure-your-future>)
- A pension newsletter: *PensioNews* (<http://www.uft.org/our-benefits/pension-news>)



Workshops and Pension Clinics

Workshops and pension clinics are generally held at UFT offices. Exact times and locations for the current series of workshops are here (<http://www.uft.org/our-benefits/pension-clinics>). The offerings include:

- Timely boroughwide meetings on pension and retirement developments. Check exact times and locations in the *New York Teacher*.
- Ready-Or-Not pre-retirement planning program, which helps to prepare you for the many aspects of retirement. Registration information can be found in the *New York Teacher*.
- Speakers for chapter meetings or faculty conferences. Ask your chapter leader to call the borough office to arrange for a speaker.

Final Consultation

In the fall of the school year you plan to retire, you should schedule an appointment for a final consultation. You are entitled to only one final consultation during your career. To make an appointment, call 212-598-6866, -6867, or 212-777-7500 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Meetings are scheduled in the borough office most convenient to you. It is advisable that if you are married, your spouse accompany you. A single person could be accompanied by a trusted confidant. At this consultation, you will:

- Get an estimate of your retirement allowance
- Learn about using the Teachers' Retirement System as a means for protecting heirs and beneficiaries
- Learn about removing contributions, where permissible, from the system at retirement
- Get help in completing the retirement application
- Learn about health and welfare fund benefits
- Receive answers to your other retirement questions.

For Retirees

Your questions can be answered by calling our retiree pension department at 212-598-9536 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily. Consultants are there to answer your post-retirement questions about your pension, including your Tax-Deferred Annuity accumulations.

Recent Values of Variable Annuity Funds

Diversified Equity Fund (A)	65.582	67.617
Stable-Value Fund (B)	18.943	18.904
International Equity Fund (C)	9.546	9.636
Inflation Protection Fund (D)	11.661	11.621
Socially Responsive Equity Fund (E)	11.706	12.109

*Unit value historical data can be found at:
(<http://www.uft.org/our-benefits/unit-values>)*