

UNITED FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

# Retired Teachers Chapter

52 BROADWAY • 17TH FLOOR • NEW YORK • NY • 10004

Phone: 212-780-0127 Fax: 212-510-6438 Email: [retirees@uft.org](mailto:retirees@uft.org)

Thomas V. Murphy  
CHAPTER LEADER

## THE DAYTIME UNION

Dear Retiree,

UFT President Michael Mulgrew has dubbed the retiree chapter “The Daytime Union”. Sometimes he calls us his “Daytime Army”. The Social Contract between this society and working men and women took many decades on the part of Organized Labor to set in place. The recent elections can be seen as a mounting threat to Public Employees like you and me. But there is no finality in politics. We have to build on Al Shanker’s dictum: ‘Support your friends and oppose your enemies’. We have to not only guard against a resurgence of those who would do us harm; we also have to hold our friends’ feet to the fire. Help preserve Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and assure that fair taxation where everyone, rich, middle class and poor, pay their fair share. And recent health coverage and enhanced drug benefits due to the Affordable Care Act must be strengthened.

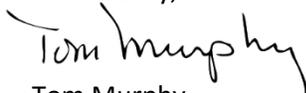
We retirees worked hard all our lives to earn the financial security and dignity that we have thus far been able to obtain, and when possible, advance. No doubt, during your in-service career you were able to witness what this union was able to accomplish through political activities. **COPE** played a vital role in achieving the benefits you can now more fully appreciate (when you have time in your newly busy social schedule to think about it.)

Well, you and I did not leave our social consciences hanging on a hook with our keys when we left the schoolhouse.

It was **COPE funds** that sent the buses rolling to Albany for pension enhancement and to City Hall to over ride an unfriendly mayor’s veto of full Medicare Part B reimbursement that you will receive after turning 65. **COPE funds** pay for phone banks, leafleting and rallies when the need arises to keep our voices strong in high places where decisions are made that affect our lives.

As UFT retirees number close to 67,000 members, we can better live out the notion: In Unity, there is strength. In-service **COPE** expired on retirement and a new **COPE deduction card** must now be submitted to contribute monthly. Please help us invest in your future and be as generous as your new status allows. The Presidential campaign of 2016 affords new opportunities to advance the cause of progressive labor. Let’s get ready for it!

In solidarity,



Tom Murphy  
Chapter Leader

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