

## **RPA LEGISLATIVE CORNER REPORT:**

### **Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations of New York – June 21, 2016 meeting:**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**      **New York State ASSEMBLYMAN JAMES TEDISCO (R)**

- **Assemblyman James Tedisco** discussed the dangers of a Constitutional Convention and how the Senate and Assembly can make amendments to the New York State Constitution, as an alternative means of addressing certain issues of importance. This alternative method requires a change to be made in the form of a bill that has to pass in both houses twice in order to become an amendment. Assemblyman Tedisco is attempting to launch a “ **Recall Revolution Petition Drive** “ to enable voters to have the same type of recall ability as (19) nineteen other states already have in place. This Voter Recall Ability would allow the voters to petition New York State for a special election to be held when and if the voters feel an elected official has breached the public’s trust or has remarkably failed their constituency. This Voter Recall Ability would give the voters the power to vote this public official out of their office during their term. Assemblyman Tedisco is the sponsor of a bill titled “ **Spirit of ’76 Bill** “ which would take any Legislative Bill, that has the sponsorship of 76 members of the Assembly and 32 members of the Senate, regardless of party affiliations, to bypass all committees and circumvent the unlimited power of the Senate Majority Leader and the Assembly Majority Leader to dictate the movement of bills in both houses. This Spirit of ’76 Bill would then allow said bill to be brought directly to the floor of both houses, debated and a mandatory vote must be taken on the bill. Another bill sponsored by Assemblyman Tedisco is the “ **Truth in Spending Bill** “ which would require member budgetary items, discretionary funds and so-called “ lump sum payments “ for all legislators, be made public, fully transparent within the New York State Budget, for the public and media to review on behalf of all New York State Legislators in the Assembly and the Senate. Assemblyman Tedesco was questioned with regards to his position of the following Alliance concerns and more;
  - **He supports our Health Care Protection bill**
  - **He supports our COLA bills**
  - **He supports our Veterans Supplementation bill**
  - **He supports term limits for all public officials in New York State**
  - **He supports complete transparency in New York State Government**
  - **He supports the repeal of the New York State SAFE ACT completely**
  - **He supports ending the practice of hiring outside consultants & using NYS employees instead**

In Assemblyman Tedisco’s closing remarks he announced that he is running this November, for the position of being the next New York State Senator to fill retiring Senator Hugh Farley’s seat in the 49<sup>th</sup> Senate District. Assemblyman Tedisco pledged his full support to all retirees.

### **Legislative Report:**

- No new Legislative action of any of our bills thus far and both the Assembly and Senate are in recess.
- FOIL request was made to the New York State and Local Retirement System for the 2015 Pension Contribution Stabilization numbers and I have received a written confirmation that our FOIL is being worked on and may take up to 60 days or longer to complete. As soon as I have those updated

numbers, all our spreadsheets will be updated and distributed to all our member organizations for them to disseminate to each individual organizations members. I do anticipate the 2015 numbers will be greater than previous year amounts. Data will be forwarded as soon as I receive it.

- **LOBBY DAY 2017** is already scheduled for April 18, 2017 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Terrace next to the elevators.
- **REQUEST FOR ALL RETIREES TO HELP US IN OUR QUEST TO GET OUR LEGISLATIVE AGENDA MOVED FORWARD IN 2017 AND HOPEFULLY SIGNED INTO LAW;**
  - **THE TASK OF GETTING THESE BILLS PASSED AND SIGNED INTO LAW IS MONUMENTAL. THE ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE ALLIANCE MEMBER UNITS WORK TIRELESSLY AT THIS TASK CONTINUALLY AND WE NEED ALL RETIREES TO HELP US WITH THIS TASK.**
  - **NOW THAT THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE ARE IN RECESS AND BACK AT THEIR RESPECTIVE LOCAL OFFICES IN THEIR DISTRICTS, THIS IS THE BEST TIME FOR YOU TO CALL THEM AND PUSH THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF OUR BILLS. Need their phone numbers or the bill numbers...please email me at [bm51@aol.com](mailto:bm51@aol.com) and I will advise you of this information.**
  - **IF EACH RETIREE WERE TO MAKE TWO TELEPHONE CALLS, ONE TO THEIR ASSEMBLYMAN AND ONE TO THEIR SENATOR, STRESSING HOW IMPORTANT THE ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA RETIREE BILLS ARE TO ALL RETIREEES ACROSS NEW YORK STATE, YOU WILL MOVE MOUNTAINS, SO TO SPEAK ! ( If the legislator won't talk to you then request his/her Chief of Staff to talk and request your legislator to call you back...remember they work for you )**
  - **STRESS TO YOUR LEGISLATORS THAT A LARGE AMOUNT OF THEM ARE COMING UP FOR RE-ELECTION AND RETIREEES ALWAYS DO FOLLOW POLITICS, RETIREEES ARE DISSATISFIED WITH NO ACTION ON RETIREE LEGISLATION BILLS FOR FAR TOO MANY YEARS NOW, THAT THE LEGISLATORS WORK FOR ALL CONSTITUENTS AND THAT RETIREEES COMPRISE THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF ACTIVE VOTERS AT THE POLLS IN EVERY ELECTION CYCLE. PLEASE ADVISE THEM THAT THEIR INACTION ON BEHALF OF RETIREEES CAN GET THEM VOTED OUT OF OFFICE !**
  - **ALSO LET YOUR LEGISLATORS KNOW THAT AS PART OF THE ALLIANCE, WHICH HAS A 1,400,000 MEMBER VOTER BASE, RETIREEES CAN AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT THE POLLS THIS TIME ! REMIND YOUR LEGISLATORS ABOUT PRIOR ELECTIONS WITH HIGH TURNOVERS DUE TO VOTER DISSATISFACTION WITH PRIOR ELECTED OFFICIALS. RETIREE VOTER TURNOUT IN FUTURE ELCTIONS CAN BE THE CATALYST TO RETIREEES FINALLY BEING TREATED FAIRLY !**
  - **THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EACH AND EVERY RETIREE IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP...**

***“ UNITED WE WILL PREVAIL --- DIVIDED WE WILL FAIL “***

***Legislative Report respectfully submitted by,***

***Bryant Kolner, RPA Legislative Representative & President of the Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations of New York***