

CSA LI Retiree Unit

Unit Leader

Renee Shulman

Assistant Unit Leader

Candice Scott

Treasurer

Alan Lichtenstein

Corresponding Secretary

Ellen Mandel

Newsletter Editor

Melanie Johnson

Webmaster

Joyce E. Bush

Committee Chairs**Program**

Ronald Berkenblit

Legislative

Morton Kugal

Membership

Victor Ravens

Outreach

Myrna Walters

Photography & HospitalityRhenaye Hornsby
Karla Marrero**Special Activities**Jim Mehlman
Marvin Fisher**Social**

Dr. Candice Scott

**RENEE SHULMAN, UNIT LEADERSHIP****A NEW ASSISTANT UNIT LEADER**

Renee Shulman has advanced to the position of Unit Leader, as Victor, Ravens, our former Unit Leader is no longer performing those duties.



On November 6th, the Long Island Retiree Unit of CSA approved Renee Shulman's recommendation to appoint Candice Scott as the new Assistant Unit Leader. Dr. Candice Scott has served as the Unit's Secretary for 12 years, accurately recording the minutes of the monthly meetings. Dr. Scott led the Good and Welfare Committee sending out get well cards and setting up our general membership meetings. She has worked diligently for the Unit's Annual Luncheon Committee, welcoming members and guests to the Woodbury Country Club. She is also a member of the Executive Board of the Council of Supervisors and Administrators Retiree Chapter. Lobbying for CSA's issues, Dr. Scott has travelled to Albany for four years visiting State Senators and Assemblymen. Dr. Scott is the former principal of IS 126Q, The Albert Shanker School of Visual and Performing Arts. She served as the Principal of this middle school for 14 years. In addition, Dr. Scott was a Past President of the New York City Middle School Association. Her appointment to this office will serve to maintain the continuity of the Long Island CSA Retiree Unit's administration.

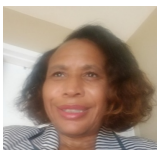
COMMITTEES in ACTION

Although many of our activities have been temporarily postponed due to the pandemic, our committee chairs are diligently working to provide virtual experiences for our members in the months ahead. You can look forward to new program experiences from these LI Retiree committees:

GOOD AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

Candice Scott, Committee Chair

The Good and Welfare Committee addresses the issues of member illness, death and congratulations. We send cards, flowers, and make phone calls to members. We also assist in setting up general meetings for the Long Island Unit. We check on members who have lost a partner or family member. Our goal is to make sure that we support all members of the Long Island Unit.



CSA LI RETIREES WEBSITE

Joyce E. Bush, Webmaster

As the webmaster, I maintain and update the website, csaliretirees.com to include dates of meetings, general health information, Social Security & Medicare updates, contact information for agencies & organizations that are helpful to our members, and information to settle affairs. I upload the unit newsletter that can be downloaded and available to our members. Scheduled social events are posted on the website and pictures of past activities can be viewed. There is a direct link to the CSA website and information on how to donate to the CSA scholarship fund. I would encourage members to visit the website to utilize the valuable information provided.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Rhenaye Hornsby, Committee Chair

The Hospitality Committee is responsible for arranging food and libation for all CSA LI Unit monthly Executive Board and General Membership Meetings. This Hospitality Committee hosts The Long Island Unit's Newly Retired Supervisors and Administrators Luncheon, which is an September annual event.



THE EMERITUS NEWSLETTER

Melanie Johnson, Editor

Our Unit is pleased to continue the tradition of the Emeritus Newsletter originally crafted by past Unit Leader, Victor Ravens, for many years, now as an electronic format publication. We endeavor to present timely information for our membership at regular intervals: September, December, March and June – to commensurate with the school year. We will endeavor to provide information reflective of our current needs and our profession. We welcome new members to join the Newsletter Committee.

ARE OUR PENSIONS SAFE?

Alan R. Lichtenstein, CSA Pension Consultant

As a CSA pension consultant, I've received many inquiries from retirees asking just that question. In these financially volatile times, it is understandable that retirees such as us have increased concern and anxiety that we will continue to receive our pensions, undiminished, as promised and will not suffer reductions as a consequence of the current financial volatility. The short answer to that question is a resounding "YES." Our retirement allowances are safe, and we'll continue to get them as promised in accordance with whatever choices we made when we retired.

While the simple answer to the question relieves anxiety surrounding the current circumstances, a level of understanding as to how our retirement allowances are funded is in order so as to preclude having the same question come up when some future volatility occurs. Basically, our retirement allowances are funded through something called a RESERVE. A reserve is an aggregate amount of capital that is used to pay for our retirement allowances over whatever our individual statistical life expectancies may be. That reserve is funded over our entire working careers from three sources:

- 1) Money we were required to contribute
- 2) Money the DOE was required to contribute
- 3) Compounded investment return that the above two produce over our entire working careers.

Our contributions (#1) are fixed by law; The DOE's contributions (#2) are money the actuaries determine each year. The investment return (#3) is what the invested contributions generate. The Law assumes they will generate at least 7% each year. Since this money is put in annually, the reserve is already on deposit with TRS by the time we retire, so the money to fund our pensions is just waiting for us to tap it. Our retirement allowances come from TRS; not the DOE. So, we're good to go. Rest easy and sleep well because your pensions are secure because the TRS is well-funded.

The above is a somewhat simplistic answer, but if you've been paying attention it brings up other questions. First, what happens if in any particular year, the investment return doesn't reach the 7%? That has, and does happen in years of weak financial growth. In that case, the DOE's annual contribution rises to make up the difference, because the actuarially determined amount has to be met. That's why you read, from time-to-time that school districts contributions' to the pension systems have to rise, with the concomitant outcry that public employee pensions are breaking the backs of the taxpayers. But in years when the investment return EXCEEDS the 7% actuarial threshold, as it has been doing for the past ten years, the DOE's contribution goes down, because the excess investment return provides the difference. You never read about that in the news, though. Regardless, as you can see, this is balanced out so the proper actuarially determined amount of the reserve is always met, and there is sufficient money to fund our retirement allowances. Forever. So, to conclude this brief explanation, I will leave everyone with a quote from Star Trek's Mr. Spock, to "live long and prosper," with the assurance that your retirement allowance will always be there to allow us to do so. Sleep well.

Family togetherness traditions

(<https://ideas.hallmark.com/articles/christmas-ideas/holiday-traditions-for-your-family/>)

The holidays mean a lot of excitement—sometimes a little too much. Here are some ways to slow things down and enjoy being a family.

1. Honor your family's history. Sit down together to tell your children about their ancestors. Start by telling them something about what your childhood was like, and then see how far you can go back. Do your children know their great-grandparents' names? Their great-great-grandparents? Talk, too, about the ancestors whose names you don't know and the places and lives they might have come from. Help your children understand their place in your family and your family's place in history.

2. Tell stories. Starting with the oldest member of your family and working your way to the youngest, have everyone tell a true story about themselves—as funny or as serious as they want. Or let everyone tell a fictional story—a favorite that they've heard or one they make up themselves.

3. Snuggle up for a family movie night. Gather around for a movie the whole family loves. Phones are forbidden—[popcorn](#) is pretty much mandatory.

4. Have a sing-along. Let everyone pick their favorite holiday carol, show tune or other song, then sing them all together as a family. (It doesn't matter if you can hold a

