

Vote/Cope is the Voice of Teachers in Education/Committee on Political Education, the non-partisan political action arm of the *New York State United Teachers*. V/C is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from members like you. The money is used by *NYSUT* to support candidates on the state and national level who favor a strong educational program. Included in this “program” is not just financial support for schools and students but also for the instructors who make it all happen – both active members and retired members like you. *NYSUT* remains vigilant over legislation regarding:

- Pensions- achieving a Permanent annual COLA in TRS & ERS pensions
- Retirement incentives
- Enhancements for Tier 3 & 4, such as elimination of 3% contribution after 10 years
- Equity of 12 for 10 (months) retirement credit for all SRPs
- Medicare reform
- Health care
- Privatization and or elimination of Social Security

*NYSUT* has a full time legislative department which regularly lobbies the legislative bodies and Vote/Cope helps fund the Committee of 100 (right now about 500) which visits all legislators during the calendar year.

Each year presents many difficult challenges for the education community especially considering the proposed cuts in recent Governors’ budgets. You can help by contributing to Vote/Cope.

Your local is eligible to receive up to 40% of its total drive in rebates from *NYSUT* to use in its **local** Political Action activities. These include efforts to pass the school budget and elect pro-education members to the Board of Education. Your local can also use these funds to help establish a positive image of the schools in the community.

You may donate through the local you retired from, or in response to a direct mailing from *NYSUT* either with a check or through Pension Deduction.

For further information contact your Retiree council, your local leaders or the regional Vote/Cope coordinator Ed Blake

[thevotecopeguy@yahoo.com](mailto:thevotecopeguy@yahoo.com)