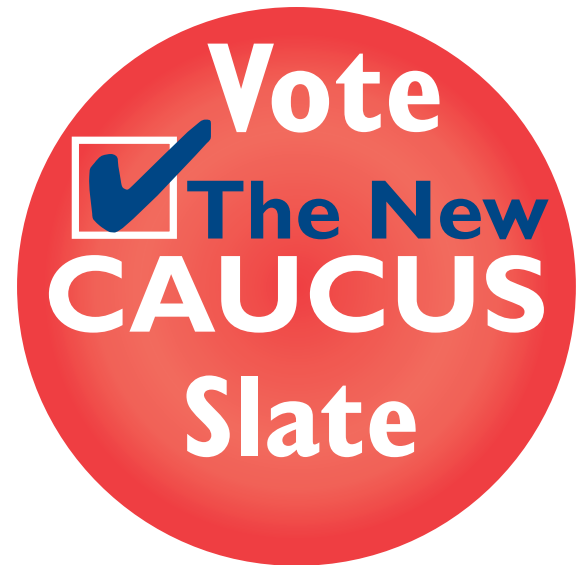


For Retiree Representatives On the PSC Executive Council

Vote Experience & Accomplishment:

Elect

Peter Jonas & Jim Perlstein



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

With two seats for retirees on the PSC Executive Council, we will, for the first time, have a voice and a vote in the union's strategic planning. The PSC amended its constitution thanks to the efforts of the Retiree Chapter and the New Caucus PSC leadership..

As current Retiree Chapter Executive Board members, we have played a central role in achieving this victory. In addition, we have campaigned actively for voting membership for retirees on the Board of the PSC Welfare Fund, a campaign that we expect to bear fruit in the immediate future. We have spoken out clearly and consistently for retiree interests, inside and outside the councils of the PSC.

Defending Retiree Interests

We ask for your vote in the upcoming union election. Indeed, we urge you to vote for the entire New Caucus slate as the most effective way to preserve and enhance retiree interests.

At a time when health care and drug costs are soaring, when unions across the country have bowed to pressure to cut or eliminate retiree benefits, when our own Welfare Fund is at risk from chronic under-funding and skyrocketing drug prices, when CUNY urges the union to cut retiree benefits; at such a time, we need strong advocates for the retirees within the PSC, at City Hall and in Albany. We are those advocates.

The retiree leadership has worked tirelessly with the New Caucus PSC leadership to maintain equal benefits for actives and retirees. We will not waiver. We oppose the prescription drug deductible limited only to retirees. Even though our efforts reduced the original proposal of \$100 to \$50 per family, we believe any deductible breaks the fundamental principle of equality of benefits for all members.

RE-ELECT NEW CAUCUS LEADERSHIP

.....Strength Through Union Democracy

www.newcaucus.org

Building a Stronger Union

Thanks to the mobilizing efforts of the Retiree Chapter, retirees have become a more visible, more potent and more respected presence in the union. We have reinforced the union's effort to improve CUNY's contributions to the Welfare Fund, contributions so vital to us all. And thanks to the insistence of retirees, the defense of Social Security and the need for comprehensive health care reform are now on the front burner.

As with our work to maintain Social Security and reform health care, we continue our long-term effort to improve the COLA for TRS members and to gain similar inflation protection for TIAA-CREF members. We commit ourselves to work for equity for retirees always.

We recognize that a successful fight for retiree rights is part of a larger fight to build the power of the PSC in a strong and vigorous labor movement. We commit ourselves to that fight.

Peter Jonas & Jim Perlstein



Peter Jonas

Peter Jonas has been an active leader in the PSC since its founding, and is now a leader in the Retiree Chapter. A retired Associate HEO from LaGuardia Community College, Peter currently represents retirees in the PSC Delegate Assembly and in our state affiliate, NYSUT. Peter is also an alternate delegate to the American Federation of Teachers, our national affiliate.

Within the AFT he has worked for improved services for the needy, improvements in Higher Education funding, and improved federal benefits for retirees, including maintenance of Social Security as we know it. In NYSUT, Peter has worked for improved funding for CUNY, for the COLA TRS retirees now enjoy, and improvements to the COLA. He has worked tirelessly to get similar TIAA-CREF "Inflation Protection" legislation for TIAA-CREF retirees. In Albany, he has lobbied legislators countless times.

Within the PSC Peter has been an active member of the Delegate Assembly, where he helped provide increased visibility to retirees. His work contributed to the representation we now have on the PSC Executive Committee. With other retiree leaders, he has participated in rallies in support of the next contract - which is of particular import to retirees because of the need to increase financial support for the Welfare Fund. An active Retiree Chapter Executive Committee member, Peter serves on numerous committees. He led the fight to gain timely rebates of Medicare Part B contributions for TIAA members. As part of the membership committee, he has poled retirees about our monthly meetings. He is currently working with another member to analyze the results of the recently conducted chapter survey on Welfare Fund optional insurance.



Jim Perlstein

A union activist since the days of the UFCT, Jim taught American and European history at CUNY for 43 years, the last 35 at BMCC.

Jim served the BMCC Chapter of the PSC in varying capacities: as a member of the Chapter Executive Board, editor of the chapter newsletter, and as a Delegate to the PSC Delegate Assembly. He served on the Steering Committee of *Weinbaum v. Cuomo, et. al.*, the lawsuit that sought to eliminate unequal funding for CUNY and SUNY based on race. In the seventies, while continuing to teach, he worked as a volunteer community organizer in the West Bronx, dealing with issues of crime, drugs and access to educational services

Since 2000, Jim has co-chaired the Solidarity Committee of the PSC, the committee charged with developing PSC relations with other unions, community organizations, advocacy groups and students. He has, in addition, been a member of the Grievance Policy Committee of the PSC. He is a regular lobbyist for the PSC agenda in Albany and at City Hall. He serves on the Board of the Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition. As a retiree since 2002, Jim has been active in the Retiree Chapter, as a member of the Executive Board, as an Alternate Delegate to the DA, and as a chapter representative to the NYC Alliance for Retired Americans. Jim played a key role in winning the constitutional changes that provide retirees with seats on the PSC Executive Council for the first time.

ENDORSEMENTS:

From Acting Retiree Chapter Chair Jack Judd:

We have the opportunity to choose two retirees who will join the PSC's Executive Council. Fortunately, we have Peter Jonas and Jim Perlstein running under the banner of the New Caucus. Both have amply demonstrated their attentiveness to our issues as members of the Executive Committee of the Retirees Chapter.

Peter Jonas, in addition to being a member of the Delegate Assembly, serves on the chapter's TIAA Committee, has planned our web site, and participates in a number of New York State United Teachers activities, such as lobbying, attending Retiree Council sessions and conventions.

Jim Perlstein keeps us abreast of local and nationwide activities by those seeking to attain universal health care. As a member of NYCARA (New York City Alliance for Retired Americans), Jim has made NYCARA aware of the Retiree Chapter's interest in better health care for all. In addition, Jim Perlstein's interest in local union activities has both strengthened and educated us to the relationships that we must nurture in order to make our voices heard.

I urge you to support Peter Jonas and Jim Perlstein for the two seats on the Executive Council of the PSC.

From Former Retiree Chapter Chair Larry Kaplan:

I have seen Jim Perlstein and Peter Jonas work tirelessly for Retirees and all PSC members, especially since they have served on the Retiree Executive Council. Among their gains for Retirees are the two new positions on the PSC Executive Council, to which they deserve to be elected.

Jim has represented us at the NYC Alliance for Retired Americans. He co-chairs the PSC Solidarity Committee which coordinates our relations with other unions, advocacy organizations, community groups and students. Jim serves as well on the PSC Grievance Policy Committee.

Peter has worked successfully to get timely reimbursement for Medicare Part B payments for TIAA retirees; collaborated with NYSUT to win an improved COLA for TRS retirees and an equivalent Inflation Protection for TIAA members, and worked with the AFT on Social Security Issues.

They are capable individuals worthy of our support. Join me in voting for them and their New Caucus colleagues on the April ballot.

From Former Retiree Chapter Chair Irwin Yellowitz:

For the first time in the history of the PSC, retirees will elect two members of the union's Executive Council. I strongly endorse Peter Jonas and Jim Perlstein for these seats, and I urge you to vote for them.

I believe the representatives of retirees on the Executive Council should have two major qualities. First, they should be familiar with the Retirees Chapter, and with your needs. Peter and Jim have been among the most able and active leaders of the Retirees Chapter. They know your interests, and how to go about representing you most effectively. In addition, both played crucial roles in achieving the amendment to the PSC constitution that created these two seats. Second, our representatives on the Executive Council should be familiar with the organizational terrain in which they will operate, both inside and outside the PSC. Peter and Jim can be most effective because they know what to do and how to do it. Peter has been very active in the PSC Delegate Assembly, and also has been a leader in representing PSC's retirees in the New York State United Teachers, our crucially important state affiliate. Jim has been active in several PSC activities, including the Solidarity Committee, which fosters ties between the PSC and other groups in organized labor. In addition, he has been a delegate to the New York City Alliance for Retired Americans.

I heartily endorse the candidacies of Peter Jonas and Jim Perlstein for the two new retiree seats on the PSC Executive Council. They will represent our needs fully and effectively. Please join me in voting for them.



New Caucus

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