Delegate Election Deadline Fast Approaching

The three-month period for participating employers to elect delegates for the System's 2005 and 2006 annual meetings is nearing an end. Education Law mandates that elections be held between March 1 and June 1 in odd number years, and that the results of the election be conveyed to NYSTRS no later than July 1.

Each employer is responsible for providing a delegate(s) and an alternate(s) to represent its district or college for a two-year term. It is the school superintendent's or college president's responsibility to coordinate the election. Many employers assign the responsibility to the union representing its employees. The number of delegates a school district/college is entitled to is determined by the number of active NYSTRS members contractually employed there.

Delegates, who must have active NYSTRS memberships, have two duties: To elect a teacher member to the Retirement Board at the Annual Delegates Meeting, and, if they choose, to serve as a liaison between NYSTRS and the members in their school district.

An alternate, who also must have an active NYSTRS membership, may attend the Annual Meeting in the delegate's absence and have voting rights if the System is notified prior to the meeting. Should the delegate vacate his/her position for any reason, the alternate would be moved into the delegate position. A delegate and alternate may attend the same meeting, but only the delegate would have voting rights.

It is important to note that, as the result of a ruling by the New York State Comptroller, local school districts/colleges cannot pay Annual Meeting expenses for delegates and alternates. All costs are the responsibility of the delegate/alternate. However, in some cases, delegates are reimbursed by the union.

The next Delegates Meeting will be held Sunday, November 13 and Monday, November 14, 2005, at the Saratoga Springs City Center.

For more information, call NYSTRS at 800-356-3128, Ext. 4785.