

Western N.Y. NEWS & Views

December 2025-
January 2026

Reaching out to Retirees in Western New York Retiree Council 1—We are over 6,000 strong

nysut
New York State
Union of Teachers



NYSUT Retirees of WNY Officers RC 1

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716-870-7758

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716-830-9530

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716-691-5190

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Coalition Recording Secretary

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From the President's Desk by Kathy Brown



Dear Retirees,

Happy Holidays!

I hope your resolutions for 2026 include finding more time to relax, enjoy each day, and have some fun! Get Involved! We're looking for a few friendly faces to join our Board of Trustees—6 spots are open! It is a great way to stay connected, enjoy good company (and lunch!), and support retired and in-service educators.

Our 2026 meeting dates are: Mondays, 10:30 AM–1:30 PM at the NYSUT WNY Regional Office, 270 Essjay Rd., Williamsville, NY. Meeting dates: 2/9, 3/16, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 7/13, 8/10.

Interested? Call me at 716-870-7758 or just stop by! Recent Highlights: RC #1 joined RC 2, 3, and 44 for the NYSUT Retiree Recognition Day luncheon on Oct. 20—a wonderful event! We hope to see more new retirees join us next year; we awarded many Teacher Grants, with more applications now being reviewed. Erie County honored us with a proclamation recognizing our work as the “daytime Army” of NYSUT—what an honor!

Sincerely yours, Kathy Brown



A Message from Our Coalition President, Lynn Mele

Dear Retirees,

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2026! The holidays will soon be over and winter has arrived. One of the perks of retirement is that if the weather is really bad we don't have to go to work! Take some time to relax and recharge. Spring will be here before you know it!



NYSUT is continuing efforts to *Fix Tier 6*. There is a rally planned in Albany on March 8 and a bus will be provided by NYSUT from Buffalo to Albany on that day. (<https://fixtier6.org/events>) Join us! Please check our Website and or Facebook page for up-to-date information. The Committee of 100 will be meeting with legislators in Albany on March 9 and 10 to advocate for educational programs, pensions reform, and a better COLA. As always...be well, stay safe.

Yours in Solidarity,
Lynn Mele



**For up-to-date information on RC's 1, 2 & 3,
visit our website <http://rcwest.ny.aft.org>**

**SCAN the QR CODE to be taken to our Facebook Page!
Make a friend request; we are a private group.**



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are being accepted for officers/delegates (each officer is also a delegate per the RC constitution) and two alternates. Nominations shall be for the office of President, Vice President, Secretary /Treasurer, and two Alternates. All offices are for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2026.

Nominations must be signed by a retired NYSUT member from the nominee's Retiree Council (referred to as nominator) and by that nominee. The nominee may include a supporting statement of not more than 100 words.

Nominations should be mailed or hand delivered to the NYSUT Office. Send to RC Elections, NYSUT Office, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221, c/o Janet Goddard. Nominations must be received at the NYSUT office by 12 PM on January 30, 2026. It is suggested that any mailed nominations have a return receipt request.

RETIREE COUNCIL OFFICER NOMINATION

I Hereby Nominate _____

Retiree Council # _____ (fill in if you know your RC, otherwise we will fill it in)

Position (Check One) _____ President _____ Vice President _____ Secretary/Treasurer
_____ Delegate/Alternate to NYSUT RA & AFT Conventions

Name _____ Signature _____

District the Nominee Retired from _____

Acceptance of Nomination: I hereby accept the nomination as designated.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

District the NOMINEE Retired from _____

If desired, you can send a SHORT profile of the nominee.

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SAVE THE DATE – *BOOKS, BITES, AND BOOZE*

Join us for a Book Fair on April 20, 2026 at the NYSUT Office at 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville. Besides the opportunity to purchase from a wide selection of books provided by Merit Badge Books of Hamburg, NY, you'll be able to enjoy some delicious bites and soothing booze while browsing.

More information will follow in our next newsletter.

MINI-GRANT DONATION FORM FOR 2025-2026

NYSUT Retirees of WNY awards mini-grants up to \$500 to in-service teachers to supplement special projects. Grant monies are funded by our "*Share the Wealth*" drawings and retiree donations. This past year we were able to award five more mini-grants to local teachers for a total of \$7,000. Information on our mini-grants has been sent to the Union Presidents of each district in our Coalition. Check with your active teachers to see if they have been informed of this opportunity to apply. Our mini-grants help make a difference! Please consider donating to this worthwhile activity.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

DONATION AMOUNT \$ _____

Please send your donation payable to: **NYSUT Retirees of WNY** and mail to:

ATTN: Mark Shanahan
270 Essjay Road
Williamsville, NY 14221

WNYRC IN COOPERATION WITH AAA HORIZON CLUB TOURS

Presents

THE SPIRITS AND SPIRITS TOUR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026

\$149 per person

includes general admission costs, lunch and driver gratuity

based on a minimum of 30 passengers.

After pickups at the AAA Amherst Branch, 100 International Drive (8:30 AM), and the AAA Orchard Park Branch, 3775 Amelia Drive (9:00 AM), we will depart for *LILY DALE*. Lily Dale was incorporated in 1879 as a camp and meeting place for Spiritualists and Freethinkers. The purpose of Lily Dale is to further the science, philosophy, and religion of Spiritualism. You can visit on your own to the available events, or schedule a private reading at an additional cost.

After our visit to Lily Dale, we will depart for a buffet lunch at the *WHITE INN* in Fredonia which will include Caesar and Mediterranean salads, handheld sandwiches (chicken salad on mini croissants, mini roast beef on weck, veggie wrap) and pasta salad. Dessert will be mini lemon cakes and mini chocolate cakes. Coffee or tea is included.

Our next stop will be *21 BRIX WINERY* for tasting and shopping. This is a third-generation family farm, Olde Chautauqua Farms, which has been growing grapes since the 1950s and has been making award-winning wines with these grapes since opening in 2011. There are currently eighteen varieties of grapes grown on the farm including Riesling, Chardonnay, Cabernet, Sauvignon, Concord, and Vidal.

FOR MORE INDORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT FRANK MARCHESE (716) 698-8434

REGISTRATION – DEADLINE MAY 18, 2026

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ **Cell Phone** _____

Email _____

Please mail your check payable to “WNYRC” and registration slip to: WNYRC, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221. Deadline is May 18, 2026

PARTICIPATION FEE FORM (2025-2026)

If you have not already sent in your Participation Fee Form, we urge you to support our Retiree Councils by sending in your \$10 participation fee and by encouraging others to support the work we do for all of us. Thank you.

Name _____ **District you retired from** _____

Street Address _____ **Year of Retirement** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Make your \$10 contribution payable to: **NYSUT Retirees of WNY.**

Mail this form to: Eva Mroczka, c/o NYSUT Retirees of WNY, 270 Essjay Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221

PACK YOUR BAGS AND SAVE!



With Member Benefits

Do the colder temperatures have you longing for a little getaway?

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses several programs that can help with all your travel plans, including MB Discounts & Deals, Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel, and Purchasing Power.

MB Discounts & Deals offers NYSUT members exclusive access to savings at over 850,000 popular hotels and resorts worldwide along with flights, vehicle rentals, theme parks and attractions, Broadway shows and museums, sporting events and concerts, movie tickets, ski tickets, restaurant dine-in or take-out, and so much more. If you have not already done so, you can create an account at mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com with a preferred email address, a password, and your seven-digit NYSUT ID number (which can be found at nysut.org/memberid).

Does your bucket list include taking an unforgettable excursion to Asia, the South Pacific, Mediterranean, Africa, Europe, or numerous other destinations? NYSUT members save at least \$150 per person on published

Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel tours along with the opportunity to save thousands per trip with additional discounts and savings. GCT & OAT provide the chance to become fully immersed in the culture of the region you are visiting, including lesser-known locations that most Americans never get to experience. Discovery opportunities, activities, and educational discussions are included with each trip.

With **Purchasing Power**, eligible NYSUT members can package their entire vacation together – including hotels, flights, attractions, vacation rentals, and cruises – while paying over 12 months through payroll deduction or Automated Clearing House (ACH) withdrawals. Purchasing Power is not a discount program, but offers no credit check and no down payments; it serves as an option over traditional financing options like high-interest credit cards.

SCAN ME



Explore all that is available to you from Member Benefits by scanning the QR code, visiting mb-nysut.org/travelmb, or calling 800-626-8101.