

Western N.Y. NEWS & Views

Edition 2 2026-2027

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



**NYSUT Retirees of WNY
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From the President's Desk by Tom Spengler

Hello all, I hope this finds you all doing well. I'd like to thank you all for your support. The NYSUT Retirees of WNY Board of Trustees would like to thank those participants in our "Fall New Retiree and Retiree Recognition Day Luncheon" at The Columns. We hope to see you at our Holiday Celebration Luncheon on December 8 at Salvatore's Italian Prime.



As the holiday season comes upon us, it is time to reflect on our family, community and what the future is that we are leaving for our future colleagues. We are known as the "Proud Daytime Union Army." This November, our vote is one of the most powerful tools we have. There will be decisions made at local, county and state levels that are going to affect us and our families. These include pensions, cost of living, healthcare, public education, as well as, the strength of our unions. Please get out and vote and encourage others to vote. Our future, our legacy is in our hands. Let's make a difference and get out and vote; together we are stronger.

Finally, wishing everyone and your families a wonderful and healthy year ahead of us. If you would like to join our RC 1 let me know. My contact information follows:

Tom Spengler cell: 716-867-9180; email: tjspengler3159@gmail.com.

Sincerely, Tom



A Message from Our Coalition President, Lynn Mele

It's Midterm Elections! I cannot stress the importance of your vote come November 3! Not here to tell you how to vote, just here to remind you that YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our annual Holiday Luncheon at Salvatore's on Tuesday, December 8. Our Basket Raffle will feature a handmade quilt. Our Share-the-Wealth sales will help fund our Mini-Grant Program for active teachers and we will be serenaded by the talented Lancaster Show Choir. Also, don't forget your non-perishable food items for *Feed More of WNY*.

As the end of the year approaches, take time to enjoy the simple pleasures of life....a good book, the company of family and friends, and the beauty of nature.

Happy Holidays,

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.

LEGENDS AWARD

The *Legends Award* honors an individual who has made a significant contribution to his/her local union or NYSUT in Western New York. It is our coalition's way of having retirees in our area recognized for their tireless efforts and advocating for the retiree movement. The individual chosen will be recognized at the Fall Retiree Recognition Luncheon. The first recipient of this award was Jane Kauffman, subsequently Joanne McCartin, Sara Rodland and Tracy Beatty were recognized. If you would like to nominate anyone for this award for 2026, please complete the nomination form below and mail it to the regional office at the address listed on the form. Additional information on the nomination procedures and criteria can be found on the Coalition website at <http://rcwest.ny.aft.org>.

NYSUT Retirees of WNY Legends Award Nomination Form Please print or type.

Name of individual being nominated: _____
Address: _____
Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____
Nominee's Personal email: _____
Retiree Council name: _____ Years of Service _____
District Retired from: _____ Former Occupation/job title: _____
Union position/involvement: _____

Attach a separate sheet with the following information. Typewritten preferred.

Reasons why this nominee should be recognized: Please include information that addresses each of the criteria previously listed and give specific examples, such as accomplishments, special attributes, service to local or retiree council, service to NYSUT, committee involvement, outstanding qualities and achievements.

Name of person submitting nomination: _____
Union position/office held: _____
Address: _____
Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____
Email address: _____
Signature of nominating person: _____ Date: _____

All Nomination Forms must be returned by December 31, 2026 to:

Janet Goddard
NYSUT Retirees Services Consultant
270 Essjay Road
Williamsville, NY 14221



Mark your Calendar

NYSUT Winter Leadership Conference – March 12-13, 2027, Niagara Falls Conv. Center
Books, Bites, and Booze Adult Book Fair – Monday, April 19, 2027, WNY Regional Office
WNY Retiree Regional Conference – May 18, 2027, Buffalo/Niagara Marriott

PARTICIPATION FEE FORM 2026-2027

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 _____ Years of Retirement _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Make your \$10 Contribution payable to: NYSUT Retirees of WNY

Mail this form to Lisa Byers, c/o NYSUT Retirees of WNY, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221



Let's Jingle and Mingle!



*Join other WNY NYSUT Retirees for a delicious luncheon at
Salvatore's beautifully holiday decorated banquet facility!*

***OPEN SEATING! *Guests Welcome! *Door prizes *Raffles!**

When: Tuesday, December 8, 2026

Doors open at 11:15 AM, lunch served at 12:15 PM

Where: Salvatore's Banquet Facility **BELLAMORE'** Room
6461 Transit Road, Buffalo, NY 14043

Bring: -Nonperishable food item for distribution to *FeedMore WNY*
-Old eyeglasses and/or hearing aids for donation to Lion's Club

Sign-up as soon as possible before November 19, 2026 (No Refunds)

Questions? Contact Lynn Mele @ 716-632-2975

Choose from one of the following entrees:

Lunch includes fresh garden salad, roasted potato medley, garlic green beans and dessert

- _____ Prime Rib (\$55) – 8 oz. boneless cut served w/au jus
- _____ Chicken Francaise (\$45)-seasoned chicken breast seared topped w/lemon
- _____ Fresh Salmon (\$45)- served with lemon herb sauce
- _____ Vegetable Napoleon (\$40) – Eggplant, roasted red peppers, zucchini
and yellow squash w/balsamic glaze

Please Cut Here

Your Name _____ Your Food Choice _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Guest's Name: _____ (* Indicate guest's food choice)

School District Retired From: _____

Make checks payable to: NYSUT Retirees of WNY, 270 Essjay Road,
Williamsville, NY 14221, ATTENTION: Holiday Luncheon

MINI-GRANT DONATION FORM FOR 2026-2027

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

Protect your independence with exclusive member savings

Your NYSUT membership allows you to preserve your independence with reduced pricing on important personal health and safety programs.

Home Care Plans: Affinity by True Freedom offers non-medical home care through a vast network of licensed and insured home care agencies. This benefit includes exclusive discounts not available to the general public with plans administered by Advisors Insurance Brokers/New York Long-Term Care Brokers, provider of our endorsed long-term care insurance plan.

Hearing Care Plan: Save thousands on out-of-pocket costs for quality prescription hearing aids from TruHearing, ranging from \$499 to \$1,799 per device. Access a nationwide network of over 8,850 providers that can perform hearing tests and offer personalized hearing aid solutions. All purchases come with a 60-day no-risk trial period and one-year of follow-up support.

Medical Alert Systems: Enjoy up to a 40% discount on the monthly cost of a medical alert system from Connect America. At-home and on-the-go wearable safety devices are available with comprehensive coverage using landline, cellular, or GPS monitoring. All products include 4G LTE technology using the AT&T and Verizon cellular networks.

Preserve your independence with help from Member Benefits.

Scan the QR code, visit mb-nysut.org/lifecare, or call 800-626-8101.



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