

Western N.Y. NEWS & Views

AUGUST 2025

Reaching out to Retirees in five Western New York Counties—We are over 12,000 strong—A Coalition of Councils 1, 2 & 3



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From the President’s Desk by Lynn Mele

CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES to the new NYSUT Retirees - Class of 2025! New adventures await you as you begin a well deserved retirement!



Just a little introduction to our newsletter which is published four times a year. The Participation Fee is \$10 per year. This helps us in planning and providing programs, workshops and events such as the Fall Luncheon and Holiday Celebration at Salvatore’s. Complete the registration forms on Pages 2 and 3 for each event, enclose your check, and drop in the mail.

Our mini-grant donations are used to help fund special projects submitted by in-service teachers that their school budget cannot support. This program is open to all public school teachers, elementary through high school, in districts encompassed by our Coalition. Grants will cover up to \$500. We have awarded over \$27,000 in mini-grants since 2012.



Unfortunately, in the current economic climate, NYSUT has to tighten its belt. This is the last printed newsletter that over 20,000 of you will receive in the mail! Our newsletter will be available digitally online going forward. **If you wish to receive a paper edition at your home, you MUST send in the form below or call NYSUT at 518-801-9199 or email NYSUT at retiree.services@nysut.org.** Our newsletters, events, and other valuable retirement information is also accessible on our website and Facebook page.

Looking forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming events.

Yours in Solidarity,
Lynn Mele, President

If you’re mailing your choice, use this form to select your preference and mail to NYSUT Retiree Services, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110

☐ I want to receive RC newsletters by mail

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Local Name _____ Your email _____

YOU ONLY NEED TO SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION ONE TIME. IF YOU’VE ALREADY SUBMITTED YOUR PREFERENCES, YOUR REQUEST HAS BEEN PROCESSED AND YOU DO NOT NEED TO SUBMIT IT AGAIN.



For up-to-date information on RC’s 1, 2 & 3, visit our website at <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

Established in 2019 by the NYSUT Retirees of WNY, the Legends Award honors an individual who has throughout their career provided significant service and leadership to their local and state affiliates as well as advocating for the retirement movement. The individual who is selected will be recognized at our annual Fall Retiree Luncheon and also at the NYSUT WNY Leadership Awards Program. The first recipient of this award was Jane Kauffman from Williamsville and the latest recipient was Sara Rodland from Buffalo. If you know someone you would like to nominate for this award for 2025, please complete the nomination form below and mail it with additional supporting documentation to the *WNY NYSUT Regional Office, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221. Attention: Ed Haley.* Nominations will be accepted from September 1 through December 31, 2025. Additional information on the nomination procedure and selection criteria can be found on the NYSUT Retirees of WNY website at <http://rcwest.ny.aft.org>.

NOMINATION FORM (Please print or type)

Name of individual being nominated: _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Personal Email: _____
Retiree Council Name: _____
District Retired From: _____
Former Occupation/Job Title: _____
Union Position/Involvement: _____

Attach a separate sheet of paper to address the following: 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: _____



SAVE THE DATE—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 9, 2025
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 items for distribution to FeedMore WNY
and old eyeglasses and/or hearing aids for donation to Lion's Club

Sign-up as soon as possible before November 25, 2025 (No Refunds)
Questions? Contact Lynn Mele @716-623-2975 or Kathy Stewart @ 716-998-4483

CHOOSE FROM ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ENTREES

_____ PRIME RIB \$50 _____ CHICKEN FRANCAISE \$40 _____ FRESH SALMON \$40
_____ VEGETABLE NAPOLEON \$35 - Eggplant, roasted red peppers, zucchini, yellow squash, balsamic glaze

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Please cut and return with payment.

Your Name _____
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 Att: Holiday Luncheon



**NYSUT RETIREES FALL LUNCHEON
HONORING NEW RETIREES**

**Join your fellow retirees and meet
new ones as we get together for our
Fall Luncheon and
NYSUT Retiree Recognition Day**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025
DOORS OPEN AT 11:00 AM**

BUFFET LUNCH AT 12:00 NOON

The Columns, 2221 Transit Road Elma, NY 14059

There will be open seating for this event.



**PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING TOILETRIES TO DONATE TO A LOCAL WOMEN’S SHELTER.
There will also be a BASKET RAFFLE and a SHARE THE WEALTH DRAWING to benefit the
NYSUT Retiree Coalition Mini-Grant Program.**

Questions? Please contact Amy Schaffstall (716) 435-5013 or Jill Wilkie (716) 984-3674

Please complete the form below and return by October 3, 2025.

This form may be copied. Use only one registration per form.

No registration will be accepted after October 3.

No refunds will be issued.

Checks should be payable to **NYSUT Retirees of WNY** and mailed to:
Amy Schaffstall, c/o NYSUT, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

.....
Please cut and return with payment.

2025 FALL LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

Name _____
District from which you retired _____
Address _____
Town/City _____ **Zip:** _____
EMAIL: _____
Phone Number: _____ **Are you a 2025 Retiree? Yes** ____ **No** ____
COST: New Retiree \$20 _____ **Current Retiree and/or Guest \$42** _____

2024-2025 MINI-GRANTS

Mini-Grants are specially funded projects sponsored by our coalition for current in-service classroom teachers. This year we awarded \$6,434 to 15 WNY teachers. Some of their unique projects included painting a wall mural on the Waterfront Elementary School in Buffalo; acquiring sensory tools for kindergarten students; purchasing specialized puzzles, paint sticks, beading material, etc. for pre-K autistic art students; and procuring unified sports equipment for high school students. Kudos to the teachers for their creative projects! The recipients were:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Claudia Andes, Wilson CSD | Ashley Loncar, Grand Island SD |
| Amy Coppins, Buffalo SD | Pam Lunetta, Tonawanda SD |
| Laura Darling, Hamburg SD | Karen McIntyre, Lancaster SD |
| Jackie Galas, Lancaster SD | Emma Peirick, Buffalo SD |
| Paul Gleico, West Seneca SD | Jim Weiss, Iroquois SD |
| Tara Hudson, Buffalo SD | Mindy Wolf, Frontier SD |
| Jennifer Kibler, East Aurora SD | Dorene Yates, Alden SD |
| David Brawn, Springville Griffith Institute CSD | |

If you are interested in helping to fund our Mini-Grants for the coming year, please see the back of this newsletter for the “Mini Grant Donation Form.”

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 _____

Please 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

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 offer five more mini-grant awards to local teachers for a total of \$7,000.
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