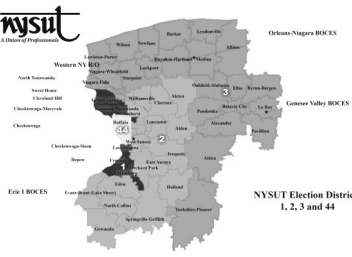


Western N.Y. NEWS & Views

Summer 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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GIVE TO VOTE-COPE

SUPPORT EDUCATORS
HELP OUR STUDENTS
PROTECT OUR RIGHTS
ADVANCE DEMOCRACY
UNITE OUR NATION

From the President’s Desk by Lynn Mele



Dear Retirees,

ATTENTION: READ, DECIDE, AND RESPOND

The following message regarding the distribution and receipt of our Coalitions’ newsletter is of utmost importance. Therefore, I am repeating it from our last issue.

Yours in solidarity, Lynn Mele

AN IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL RETIREES

The delivery of our newsletters is changing in the Fall of 2025. You will need to choose a delivery option for our Retiree Councils 1, 2, 3, & 44 newsletters that best meets your needs. ***The newsletters will not automatically be mailed to your home.***

If you would like a printed version of the newsletter mailed to you, you must contact NYSUT to receive it. If you wish to continue receiving paper versions of the newsletter, you must act to communicate your wish.

All Retiree Council Newsletters will be posted and can be viewed on the **"Retiree Council Newsletters" page** located on the NYSUT website at <https://www.nysut.org/members/retirees/retiree-council-newsletters>. New issues will be added immediately as they become available.

- There are several easy ways to select your preference:
1. Visit <https://www.nysut.org/rcnewsoptin> and use your NYSUT ID/Membership #.
 2. Contact NYSUT at [518-801-9199](tel:518-801-9199) or email [NYSUT retiree.services@nysut.org](mailto:retiree.services@nysut.org)
 3. Mail **NYSUT Retiree Services, 800Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110**
 4. Scan the QR Code at the right with your **smart phone camera** and follow the Instructions that appear.



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

☐ Access Online Only ☐ 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.

ON-LINE DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

Through the NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Defensive Driving Program, NYSUT members and their family members licensed in New York State can take this course online at the members-only price of \$23.95 per person—a savings of almost \$20 over the regular course fee!



If you are the principal operator of a vehicle, you will receive a minimum 10% reduction in the base rate of your auto liability and collision insurance premiums each year for three years. You may also receive a reduction of up to four points on your driving record. You can take the course as often as you wish, but only once every three years for insurance reduction benefits and once every 18 months for point reduction. This course is sponsored by the National Safety Council. To learn more, go to *NYSUT.org*, select *Member Benefits*, Search *Defensive Driving*.

BUFFALO-NIAGARA HONOR FLIGHT—ALL WOMEN FLIGHT!

October 11-12, 2025

This is a special-recognition overnight trip to Washington DC for Women Veterans who served in the US Armed Forces up to 1975. Priority will be given to females who served anywhere (US or abroad) up to 1975; or, if you know of a female veteran, please sign up by going to the website *buffaloniagarahonorflight.org* and refer to the section *Apply to Fly*. There is no cost to the veteran and one female guardian is allowed to accompany the veteran. Flight, meals, hotel, and sightseeing are all included. A small stipend may be requested from the guardian.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

It’s worth examining how we protect ourselves and our loved ones and vow to make some positive changes. This is some wise advice from Barbara McCarthy, RC 10 President.

- *Update your passwords* if you have been using easily identifiable information in those passwords or if you use similar passwords for websites you use most often. Also consider using an APP that generates and saves those passwords so you don’t have to remember those that are complicated. The more complicated it is, the less likely someone can guess it. Do not use the same or similar passwords for multiple sites.
- *Shred documents that contain personal information*. Some companies offer shredding days if you don’t have access to a shredder. **Do not throw them away!**
- *Checks have a lot of personal and identifiable information on them*. (Name, address, routing numbers, etc.) Think about who you are sending a check to and ask yourself if the recipient has a secure mailbox.
- *Take a moment to look at who sent an email that doesn’t feel right*. Often it will say it’s from someone with whom you are familiar but when you scroll over the email address, it’s an unknown sender. Delete and report as SPAM.

PARTICIPATION FEE FORM (2024-2025)

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 _____

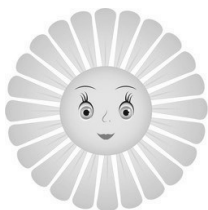
Street Address _____ Year of Retirement _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

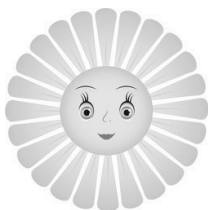
Make your \$10 contribution payable to: **NYSUT Retirees of WNY**.

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



SUMMERTIME

DAY-TRIPPING IN WESTERN NEW YORK



Nature & Outdoors

Letchworth State Park – Known as the “Grand Canyon of the East,” it has stunning waterfalls, hiking trails, and scenic views.

Niagara Falls State Park – Beyond the falls themselves, you can explore the Cave of the Winds, the Maid of the Mist boat ride, and nearby attractions.

Chautauqua Lake & Institution – Relax by the lake, rent a kayak, or explore the historic and cultural Chautauqua Institution during summer.

Allegany State Park – Great for hiking, picnicking, and spotting wildlife. The Red House and Quaker areas are especially scenic.

Eternal Flame Falls – A short hike leads to a waterfall with a small natural gas flame flickering behind it. Located in Chestnut Ridge Park.

History & Culture

Buffalo’s Architecture Tour – Explore works by Frank Lloyd Wright (like the Darwin Martin House), and historic buildings downtown.

Genesee Country Village & Museum – A large 19th-century living history museum in Mumford.

National Comedy Center (Jamestown) – A high-tech, interactive museum about the history of comedy.

Old Fort Niagara (Youngstown) – A well-preserved 18th-century fort at the mouth of the Niagara River.

Corning Museum of Glass – A bit further east, but worth the drive for live glassblowing and art exhibits.

Wine, Beer, & Food

Niagara Wine Trail – Explore local wineries, many with tastings and scenic views.

Ellicottville Brewing Company – Visit this charming ski town with a walkable downtown and great food/beer.

Buffalo Wing Trail – Taste-test your way through Buffalo’s best chicken wing spots, like Anchor Bar and Duff’s.

Lockport Locks & Erie Canal Cruise – Take a boat through the historic locks and learn about the canal’s history.

Quirky & Offbeat

Jell-O Gallery Museum (Le Roy) – Yes, a museum dedicated to Jell-O. Fun and weirdly fascinating.

Rolling Hills Asylum (East Bethany) – For those interested in ghost tours or haunted locations.

Kazoo Factory and Museum (Eden) –Learn about (and make!) your own kazoo.

SAVE THE DATES

FALL LUNCHEON TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS—THE COLUMNS—OCTOBER 20, 2025
HOLIDAY LUNCHEON—SALVATORES—DECEMBER 9, 2025

Details for each luncheon will be posted in upcoming newsletter issues.

MINI-GRANT DONATION FORM

NYSUT Retirees of WNY awards mini-grants up to \$500 to active teachers to supplement special projects.

Grant monies are funded by our “Share the Wealth” drawings and retiree donations.

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 Essay Road
Williamsville, NY 14221



LET MEMBER BENEFITS HELP YOU PLAN FOR RETIREMENT

If you recently retired or plan to do so in the near future, it's important to prepare for the transition from in-service work to retirement.

Maintaining NYSUT membership in retirement is crucial, especially if you're currently participating in a NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed program(s) and would like to continue doing so. This can be accomplished in one of two ways:

- 1** Continue membership within your local if retiree membership is offered. Contact your local to find out if any retiree membership requirements are in place. You must comply with these requirements to continue your membership in NYSUT along with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and National Education Association (NEA).
- 2** Continue as an at-large member of NYSUT through the Retiree Council in your region. Contact your local to ensure you will be reported as retired to NYSUT. This will provide you with membership in the Retiree Council in your region along with NYSUT, AFT, and NEA. If you have questions about maintaining NYSUT membership or would like more information about NYSUT retiree programs, you will want to contact the NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant serving your region. You can find this information at nysut.cc/retireeconsultants.

More than a dozen of the endorsed programs offered by Member Benefits can be purchased through either payroll or pension deduction. These convenient payment methods offer reduced premiums or the elimination of service fees in many instances. An active NYSUT membership is required to participate in payroll or pension deduction. If you're currently participating in one (or more) of our endorsed programs, we encourage you to look into switching to pension deduction after you enter retirement.

Learn more about continuing Member Benefits-endorsed programs or the pension deduction process by scanning the QR code, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.

