

Western N.Y. NEWS & Views

Winter 2025

Reaching out to Retirees in five Western New York Counties—We are over 18,000 strong—A Coalition of Councils 1, 2 & 3



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From the President's Desk by Lynn Mele



Dear Retirees,

Hard to believe but "the most wonderful time of the year" is right around the corner. Now it's the rush to shop, bake, decorate and run what amounts to endless errands. Take some time to enjoy the simple pleasures, a warm fire, a good book, sharing time with an old friend, or just sitting quietly, watching the snow fall.

We hope to see many of you at our Annual Holiday Party at Salvatore's on Tuesday, December 9. Please remember to bring non-perishable food items for *FeedMore WNY*. Come, enjoy good food, great friends, and the many chances to win some marvelous prizes! So get those reservations in ASAP.

Please check our Website and Facebook pages for upcoming events, important articles concerning Medicare, various health issues, and topics of great concern to retirees. As a group we will continue to work on "Fix Tier 6," improve COLA, and keep working to improve educational standards across New York State.



Happy Holidays!

Yours in Solidarity, Lynne Mele



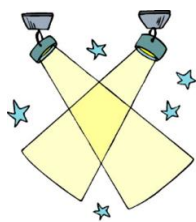
GET READY FOR HOLIDAY FUN!

There are several opportunities for family fun days this Holiday Season. Take time to check out these Western New York events on the internet and plan your outings. *Festival of Slice* at the Niagara Falls Convention Center, Nov. 21; Fatima Shrine Festival of Lights in Lewiston, Nov. 2025-Jan. 2026; Lewiston Christmas Walk, Dec. 5-7; Festival of Trees at the Niagara Power Vista, Month of December; Buffalo Botanical Gardens Poinsettia Display; Hamburg Fairgrounds; *Castle by Candlelight* tour, Old Fort Niagara, Dec. 6 and 13; The Buffalo Holiday Market at the Richardson Olmsted Campus; St. Greg's Christmas Craft Show, Nov. 28-29; East Aurora Winter Festival, Dec. 6-7; A *Christmas Carol* at Buffalo State Performing Arts Center; Light up Newfane Parade, Dec. 5; Christmas performances at Shea's Performing Arts Center, 710 Main, Smith Theatre, Irish Classical Theatre, Theatre of Youth, Road Less Traveled, Buffalo Philharmonic, plus many, many more. **Let the festivities begin!**



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 FacebookPage!
Make a friend request; we are a private group.



SPOTLIGHT ON..... MAXINE KNISLEY



Maxine currently sits on the NYSUT Retirees Board as a Representative From RC1. She graduated from Mount Mercy Academy in 1962. She went to Fredonia State to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. After graduating in 1966, she obtained her first teaching position as a 2nd grade teacher in California. Maxine returned to WNY and obtained a position as a 1st grade teacher in Orchard Park. By then she decided to become a Remedial Reading teacher. Maxine finished the program and graduated from UB in 1971. In pursuit of the forever Reading position, she taught Reading Methods at Rosary Hill College, while also traveling to Niagara Falls to her position as a Reading Consultant. In 1973 she started her long career at Frontier Central as a Remedial Reading Teacher and became active in the Union. Over the years she was VP of the Frontier Central Teachers Association as well as a Building Rep. In the 90's she also was Elementary Language Arts Coordinator.

Maxine retired in 1999 and moved to Sebastian, Florida. In Florida she joined the Space Coast Unit of RC 43. She served in various positions with Space Coast including President. Eventually she became Membership Chair and Webmaster for RC 43.

She returned to WNY in 2019 and became a Frontier Central Retiree member of WNYRC. Currently she is one of the webmasters for our Coalition. She is also a WNYRC rep to the WNY NYSARA chapter of which she is Secretary. Maxine lives in Hamburg with her family, which includes her Dachshund, Ernest.



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 in-service 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

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

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



Bring: Nonperishable food item for distribution to *FeedMore WNY*
-Old glasses 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 @716-632-2975 or Kathy Stewart @ 716-998-4483

Choose from one of the following entrees:

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

- _____ Prime Rib (\$50) – 8 oz. boneless cut served w/au jus
- _____ Chicken Francaise (\$40) – seasoned chicken breast seared topped w/lemon
- _____ Fresh Salmon (\$40) – served with lemon herb sauce
- _____ Vegetable Napoleon (\$35) – 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

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



MEMBER
BENEFITS

nysut
Working to Benefit You

**GET
FREE
ACCESS**

SCAN ME



Learn more about these along with several other free benefits by scanning the QR code, visiting mb-nysut.org/nocostbenefits, or calling 800-626-8101.

TO THE PREMIUM CALM APP, PEER SUPPORT LINE & MORE!

NYSUT Member Benefits understands the importance of providing support, resources, and tools to help NYSUT members with all aspects of their lives. In light of that, we have negotiated with our endorsed program providers to offer members several benefits free of charge.



Premium Calm Service –

All in-service and retiree members receive unlimited access to the full Calm library of sleep, meditation, and relaxation content. The popular Calm app includes specialized playlists dealing with stress and focus, mindful movement video and audio, nature scenes and sounds, children's content, and more. Members can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older) to receive their own premium Calm subscription. Note: You will need your NYSUT ID number (which can

be found at nysut.org/memberid) to create your Calm account.

Peer Support

Line – Life can throw lots of curveballs at us, and sometimes we don't readily know where to turn for help. The Peer Support Line is a confidential helpline that is available to all NYSUT members and their loved ones for answers, resources, and support when it's needed most. Chat, email, or call toll-free **844-444-0152** to connect with a peer today.



AD&D Insurance & Travel Assistance Services –

All in-service and retiree members are automatically provided with a \$5,000 accidental death & dismemberment insurance benefit, along with free travel assistance services.

New Member Life Insurance

– All new NYSUT members are eligible to receive a free term life insurance policy providing coverage for up to \$25,000 for one year, guaranteed renewable at the end of the year.