

Western N.Y. NEWS & Views

2026-2027
Edition 1

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Reaching out to Retirees in Western New York Retiree Council 2—We are 7,800 strong

From the President's Desk by Eva Mroccka



Fall! September will always be the “new year” for me. I think about my students” and look forward to the yellow buses that go by. But after that nostalgic moment I swing back into the present and continue to enjoy my retirement. And so, I like to welcome our new 2026 retirees wishing them many healthy, happy and adventurous years in retirement.

We would like to officially welcome you to our NYSUT RETIREE RECOGNITION DAY luncheon on October 19th. Be sure to check out our website (rcwest.ny.aft.org) for future upcoming events.

The essence of democracy is participation. Our nation continues to struggle for a better future. So, stay active, stay informed and VOTE in the upcoming fall elections.

In solidarity,
Eva Mroccka, President of RC 2

A Message from Our Coalition President, Lynn Mele

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to two outstanding Board members. Kathy Brown and Veronica Cavan have served as Presidents of RC1 and RC3 for many years.



These women have been instrumental in helping make our Coalition more effective in the lives of our retirees. Both have given their time and energy to organize events, run activities and “rally the troops” to action. Although they are stepping down from their positions, they are not stepping away from our organization. Kathy and Veronica will continue to serve on the Board of Trustees for NYSUT’s Coalition of Retirees of Western New York. All of us on the Board thank you for your dedication to helping Retirees.

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.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO TRACY BEATTY—
2026 NYSUT RETIREES OF WNY LEGENDS AWARD WINNER**

Tracy began her teaching career in 1982. She was President of the Grand Island Teachers Union. In retirement she was an active board member of RC 1. She transitioned to Retiree Services Consultant for Retiree Councils 1, 2, 3, & 44, providing guidance for 7 years. Tracy has made many lasting contributions to her local and to NYSUT.

CONDOLENCES

GAIL ANN NIPARTS, (1952-2026) of Ellicottville, NY, formerly of East Amherst, passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease. She dedicated more than 37 years to teaching English at Lockport High School, where she became a beloved and highly respected educator. She was named *Teacher of the Year* on multiple occasions and was remembered by generations of students for her passion, and boundless energy. Gail served for many years in leadership roles with New York State United Teachers. She represented her fellow educators at conferences and meetings across New York, advocating on their behalf before school boards and state officials. She earned the deep respect of her colleagues for her dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to public education.



SAVE THE DATE

**RC 1, 2, 3 and 44 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
December 8, 2026**

Doors Open at 11:00 AM – Lunch at Noon

Salvatore's Italian Gardens, 6461 Genesee Street

**Information and details will be in our next Newsletter and on
the Coalition website.**



**Have you opted in to
receive our newsletter?
Be sure to select the
newsletter delivery
option that is best for**



**The Sprints and
Sprints Tour –
June 2026**



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



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 19, 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 11:00 am with BUFFET LUNCH AT 12:00 pm
The Columns at 2221 Transit Road, Elma, NY 14059

Please complete the form below and ***return by October 2, 2026. This form may be copied. Use one registration form per person.*** No registrations will be accepted after **October 2**. No refunds will be issued.

Your check should be **dated, signed** and payable to: ***NYSUT Retirees of WNY***

Please send mail to: **Jill Wilkie, c/o NYSUT, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221**

The cost of attendance is reduced this year! There will be open seating for this event.
New retirees will receive \$10 in NYSUT bonus bucks to be used on the day of the event.

**There will be a BASKET RAFFLE and SHARE THE WEALTH to benefit the
NYSUT Retiree Coalition Mini Grant Program.**

Please consider BRINGING TOILETRIES to benefit a local women's shelter.
Questions? Please contact Amy Schaffstall (716) 435-5013 or Jill Wilkie (716) 984-3674.

Please cut and return with payment.

Name: _____ District from which you retired: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Luncheon Fee: Please choose one option for your registration.

_____ I am a new retiree. I retired on or after September 1, 2025. I have enclosed a check for **\$20.**

_____ I retired before September 1, 2025. I have enclosed a check for **\$40.**

_____ I am a guest. I have enclosed a check for **\$40.**

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 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

How to maximize your NYSUT membership

Your NYSUT membership offers special advantages unavailable to the general public. Make sure you're utilizing all the savings opportunities below provided by NYSUT Member Benefits.

Member-Only Pricing: Protect your loved ones with various life insurances. Plan for the future with quality long-term care insurance plans. Select from multiple highly rated auto and home insurance carriers. Receive reimbursement for eligible pet care through Nationwide.

Unbiased Advice: Ensure your financial and legal affairs are in order. Receive expert guidance on personal legal matters with unlimited advice from attorneys through our legal service plan. Obtain unbiased, objective phone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor with our financial counseling program.

Travel Savings: Bundle and save on flights, cruises, vehicle rentals, and over 850,000 hotels and resorts for the optimal travel experience with MB Discounts & Deals. Enjoy reduced pricing on over 80 explorations across 100 countries with Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel, including new "Immersions" options for more active travelers.

Free Benefits: Check out our free benefits! All in-service and retiree members receive unlimited access to the popular Calm app and can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older). Whether you have a specific matter or simply need an empathetic voice, the Peer Support Line can help. Other benefits include: \$5,000 accidental death & dismemberment insurance, travel assistance services, financial learning center, and more.

Feel confident knowing you have a trusted advocate on your side if you ever need us.

Find out all that's available from Member Benefits. Scan the QR code, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, or call 800-626-8101.



MEMBER
BENEFITS
nysut
Working to Benefit You

September/October 2026

