

Western N.Y. NEWS & Views

Winter 2026

Reaching out to Retirees in Western New York Retiree Council 3—We are over 6,300 strong

nysut



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From the President's Desk by Veronica Cavan



With the holidays behind us, the winter seems to drag on. But I am always looking for signs of Spring, like when do the Yankee pitchers report for Spring Training?

I hope your New Year's Resolutions are still working for you. One of the things I have been thinking about is how active our retired teachers are in so many activities. Several volunteer at The Teachers Desk, helping to provide supplies for teachers in schools unable to give them more than the basics for their classroom. One of our Retiree Council presidents, Kathy Brown, is on the board of the Honor Flights, providing free trips to Washington DC for our veterans and their companions where they see many things, including monuments to them and their service to the country. Others volunteer at Children's Hospital, the Botanical Gardens, their faith communities, and on and on. I am inspired by them. How about you? In your retirement, have you found satisfying ways to give back to your communities that bring you joy? If not, remember this. Teachers have so much to give. And there are a lot of us. Maybe this time next year we can look back and say we found joy in giving. Wishing you the best.

Wishing you a great year ahead!
Veronica Cavan, President RC3

A Message from Our Coalition President, Lynn Mele

Dear Retirees,

It's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work!

Midterm election year is here. Ask yourself a few questions...

Are you satisfied with the COLA you receive in your NYS pension and Social Security?

Are you happy paying more for groceries, utilities and car insurance?

Are you paying less for gasoline?

Are you satisfied with the direction our country is taking?

No? Well it's time to activate what NYSUT has always called its Retirees ... "The Daytime Army." Many of us worked hard to gain the benefits we enjoy today. Let's work together to make sure that those who follow us enjoy the same. How? Decide to volunteer and participate in Political Action! Many local, county and state elected officials/positions are up for grabs this November. We have the power but more importantly, we have the time to make a difference. Let's Do It!

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



IN MEMORIUM

We recently lost a cherished Union Sister. Joanne McCartin (retired, Grand Island) passed away on January 5, 2026, at the age of 85. Joanne made countless significant contributions as a NYSUT leader over the years and was honored with the NYSUT Legends Award in 2023. She will be remembered for her dedication, leadership, and unwavering Commitment to our Union family.

Joanne served as president of the Grand Island Teachers Association for 19 years and oversaw contract negotiations for several subsequent contracts. Many of the benefits enjoyed by Grand Island teachers today can be directly linked to the work of Joanne. When Joanne retired, she didn't leave teaching and serving teachers behind. She became the director of the Tonawanda-Grand Island Teacher Center. And, then, during her post-teaching years, she was active with the NYSUT Retired Teachers, serving in various posts.

DON'T FORGET OUR JUNE BUS ADVENTURE

THE SPIRITS AND SPIRITS TOUR - \$149 per person WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026

**Stops at Lilydale, a camp and meeting place for Spiritualists and Freethinkers,
the popular *White Inn* in Fredonia for a buffet lunch, and
21 Brix Winery in Chautauqua for tasting and shopping.**

Refer to our Facebook Page and Website for more descriptions and information.

**Tour price includes general admission costs, lunch and driver gratuity.
Pickup points at the AAA Amherst branch or the AAA Orchard Park Branch.**

Private readings not included.

If you wish to reserve private readings be sure to schedule between 10am-11:30am.

Link to medium directory can be found on our website or Facebook page.

Or contact Frank Marchese (716) 698-8434

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY 18, 2026

Mail your checks with your name, address, phone number, and email to
WNYRC, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY.

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 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



BOOKS, BITES & BOOZE



MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

11AM-2PM

A GROWN-UP BOOK FAIR EXPERIENCE!

Reignite that feeling of a childhood "Book Fair," but with better snacks and beverages! Join the NYSUT Retirees of Western New York for an afternoon of literary indulgence, great company, and tasty treats.

- **SHOP:** Merit Badge Books of Hamburg (www.meritbadgebooks.com) will be on-site with a curated selection of titles across various genres. Find your next favorite read or a perfect gift!
- **SIP & SAVOR:** Enjoy a delicious spread of food and a selection of beverages.
- **WIN:** Keep an eye out for **prizes and surprises** throughout the event.

Get ready to browse, bite, and enjoy! See you there!

Where: NYSUT Regional Office
270 Essjay Rd. Williamsville, NY 14221

FREE ENTRY!

Open to all retirees and their guests.

Sponsored by the NYSUT Retirees of Western New York

<https://rcwest.ny.aft.org/>

and

Merit Badge Books of Hamburg, NY

<https://www.meritbadgebooks.com/>

Scan the QR Code below



Or type this link for registration instructions.

<https://forms.office.com/r/fCj2ede5HC>



**PLEASE
REGISTER BY
APRIL 17.**

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

Working to Benefit You