



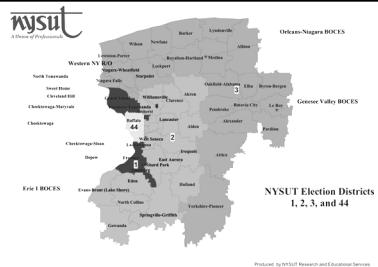
BUFFALO RETIREE



Retiree Council No. 44

August 2025 Vol. 12 Issue 4

Keeping you informed and connected. Published by Retiree Council # 44



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NEA 2025 Portland, Oregon

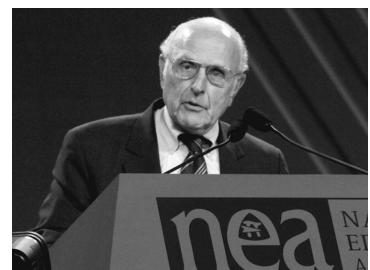
The **NEA Retired Annual Meeting** was held on July 29 and 30. Three hundred six delegates were in attendance, including Sara Rodland, the NYSUT Retired Delegate and Florence McCue, NYSUT At-Large Retiree Board Member. Mary Kusler, NEA Senior Director of Advocacy, shared the news of the passage of the Social Security Fairness Act which was signed into law on January 5, 2025. This law impacted many retirees and increased their Social Security benefits. NEA retirees have fought many years for this victory. Becky Pringle, president of NEA, addressed the retirees. ***You have not retired from your advocacy. I need you to LEAD. You are the NEA.***



The **2025 NEA-RA** was held from July 3-6. Seven thousand educators met to discuss, to debate and to set the course of the organization for the upcoming year. The theme of this year's RA was Resilience, Power and Respect.

Becky Pringle gave a powerful and inspiring speech. Given the present state of public education today, delegates were encouraged to take action. We must **EDUCATE, COMMUNICATE, ORGANIZE, MOBILIZE, LITIGATE, LEGISLATE, and ELECT. We must fight back and fight forward.**

- For the first time, *A Day of Teaching, Learning and Organizing* was held on the fourth day of the RA. Delegates attended workshops on a variety of topics.
- Josh Cowan, a professor of education at Michigan State University, an NEA member and a researcher, was the recipient of NEA's 2025 Friend of Education Award. He was recognized for his criticism of the school voucher movement.
- Bob Chanin, chief legal counsel for NEA for four decades, was remembered. Known as "the teacher's lawyer", Bob spearheaded collective bargaining laws for educators and was a champion for civil rights and racial and social justice. BTF retired members will remember Bob for his advocacy on our behalf, especially in regard to the back pay case. Bob passed away in May, 2025.



Bob Chanin, NEA General Counsel



NYSUT Delegates to NEA RA 2025



L to R: Mary Kusler, NEA Senior Director of Advocacy, Florence McCue and Sara Rodland at NEA Retired Meeting



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 at 2221 Transit Road, Elma, NY 14059

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

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

No registrations will be accepted after October 3. No refunds will be issued.



Checks should be payable to:

NYSUT Retirees of WNY

Please mail to:

Amy Schaffstall, c/o NYSUT, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

There will be open seating for this 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 FOR FALL LUNCHEON

Name _____

District from which you retired: _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Are you a 2025 Retiree? Yes _____ No _____

New Retiree \$20 _____ Current Retiree and/or Guest \$42 _____



Retiree Council #44 Voluntary 2025-2026 Participation Fee Form

Name _____

Please circle your affiliation

Street _____

BTF BEST TAB SUB

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please check the amount of
your Participation Fee:

\$10.00 _____ Other \$ _____

Send check payable to: NYSUT RC #44 and mail to:

**Lynn Garcia—RC #44 Treasurer 1805 Maple Road Apt 215
Williamsville, NY 14221**

Year of Retirement _____

Follow NYSUT Retiree Council #44 on Facebook & website <http://rcwest.ny.aft.org>



Let's Jingle and Mingle!

Join other WNY NYSUT Retirees for a delicious luncheon at Salvatore's!
OPEN SEATING! Guests Welcome! Door Prizes! Raffles!

Please join us **Tuesday, December 9, 2025** at Salvatore's Banquet Facility-Bellamore Room, 6461 Transit Road, Depew, New York 14043. Doors will open at 11:15 A.M with Lunch served at 12:15 P.M.

Sign-Up Deadline is November 25, 2025 [No Refunds].

For questions please contact Lynn Mele 716-623-2975 or Kathy Stewart 716-998-4483

Please bring Nonperishable food items for distribution to Feed More WNY and old glasses and/or hearing aids for donation to Lion's Club.

Cut Here

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
- \$_____ Check Total

Your Name_____

Phone Number_____ Email_____

Guest's Name_____ (Indicate guest's food choice)

School District Retired From: _____

Checks payable to: **NYSUT Retirees of WNY**, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221. **ATTENTION: Holiday Luncheon**

BUFFALO RETIREE NEWSLETTER CHANGES

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

This is the last paper issue of Buffalo Retiree that everyone will receive. Only those retirees who opt in for a paper copy will continue to receive it this way.

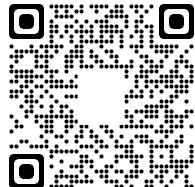
In September of 2025, retirees will no longer receive a paper copy of the newsletter delivered to them. If you have not done so already, you will need to choose a delivery option for your Retiree Council #44 newsletter that best meets your needs. If you prefer to receive a paper copy of the newsletter you must communicate your desire and opt-in to receive it. All Retiree Council newsletters can be viewed in the Retiree Council Newsletters page located on the NYSUT website. New issues will be added immediately as they become available.

There are several easy ways to select your preference.

Visit nysut.org/rcnewsoptin and use your NYSUT identification number.

Contact NYSUT at retiree.services@nysut.org

Scan the QR Code with your smart phone camera that will appear on this newsletter. ----->



If you're mailing your choice, use this form to select your preference and mail to NYSUT Retiree Services, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, New York 12210.

Access Online Only Receive RC newsletters by mail

Name_____ Phone_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip Code_____

Local: Retiree Council #44

Email Address_____



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.

