



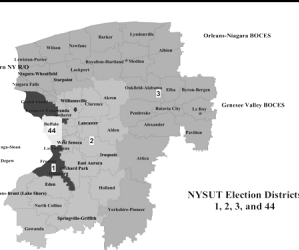
# BUFFALO RETIREE



December 2025 Vol. 13 Issue 1

*Retiree Council No. 44*

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



## FALL LUNCHEON RECOGNIZES NEW RETIREES AND CELEBRATES NYSUT RETIREE RECOGNITION DAY

The Columns Banquet facility was the setting for the annual Fall Luncheon which was held on Monday, October 20, 2025. This event recognized new retirees and celebrated the second annual NYSUT Retiree Recognition Day which is held on the third Monday of October.

We welcomed and recognized the new members of Retiree Council #44 who were in attendance. They are *Matthew Boyle, Rosary Cancilla, Marilyn Diina, Ann Marie Lange, Jennifer Panzica, and Karen Ransom.*

In honor of NYSUT Retiree Recognition Day, Deputy County Executive Lisa Chimera attended the luncheon and read an Executive Proclamation celebrating Retiree Recognition Day. The proclamation *hereby proclaims October 20, 2025 as NYSUT Retiree Recognition Day in Erie County, and extend our deepest gratitude to the more than 260,000 retiree members of NYSUT for their years of dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of our communities.* Jeff Or-lowski, president of Kenmore Teachers Association, spoke to the retirees about their legacy to their students and the union movement.

Retirees who volunteer at The Teacher's Desk were honored at the luncheon for sharing their time and talents each week from September through May to support teachers and their students. Their dedication and commitment is exemplary and deserves recognition. Retiree Council #44 received a NYSUT Local Leadership Award honoring these volunteers. Those recognized were *Lynn Diagostino, Teri DiPasquale Mahar, Sharon Fretthold, Roslynn Gaumer, Stephanie Geyer, Stephanie Hall, Rose Ann Heilemann, Kerry Hunter, Debbie Hurley, Claudia Kania, Connie Kudrna, Julie LoCicero, Shirley MacKinnon, Cheryl Malzan, Eva Mroczka, Eileen Mullaney, Carol Murphy, Maria Pacheco, Lydia Perry, Becky Pordum, Sara Rodland, Charlotte Ross, Barbara Russo, Pat Spasiano, Meg Villa, Paul Webster, Diane Whiddon, Jill Wilkie and Bob Zaffram.*

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Editor: Sara Rodland



- COUNTY OF ERIE - STATE OF NEW YORK -  
- OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE -  
- EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION -

## CELEBRATING NYSUT RETIREE RECOGNITION DAY 2025

WHEREAS, the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) represents a proud and dedicated community of educators and school-related professionals who have devoted their careers to shaping minds, strengthening communities, and advancing the cause of public education across New York State; and

WHEREAS, the more than 260,000 retiree members of NYSUT continue to make meaningful contributions to our communities through volunteerism, civic engagement, and advocacy for quality education and social justice; and

WHEREAS, these retirees have spent their lives fostering learning, nurturing the next generation, and ensuring that every student—regardless of background—has access to the tools, support, and opportunities necessary to succeed; and

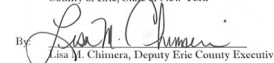
WHEREAS, their lifelong commitment to education and public service has helped lay the foundation for a more informed, compassionate, and equitable society; and

WHEREAS, Erie County joins NYSUT in recognizing the invaluable impact of its retiree members and in celebrating their lasting legacy of excellence in education and community leadership;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, LISA M. CHIMERA, Deputy Erie County Executive, on behalf of the people of Erie County, do hereby proclaim **October 20, 2025 as NYSUT Retiree Recognition Day** in Erie County, and extend our deepest gratitude to the more than 260,000 retiree members of NYSUT for their years of dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of our communities.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the County of Erie, State of New York in the City of Buffalo this twentieth day of October in the year two thousand and twenty-five.

County of Erie, State of New York

By   
Lisa M. Chimera, Deputy Erie County Executive

### Retiree Council #44 Voluntary 2025-2026 Participation Fee Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle your affiliation

BTF BEST TAB SUB

Please check the amount of  
your Participation Fee:

\$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Retirement \_\_\_\_\_

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

Lynn Garcia—RC #44 Treasurer c/o NYSUT 270 Essjay Road Williamsville, NY 14221

## REMEMBERING TOM GIORDANO

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Tom Giordano, a former president of the Buffalo Teacher's Federation. Tom began his career in the Buffalo Public Schools as a Math and Science Teacher at Schools #77 and #40. He also worked as an Attendance Teacher, Assistant Principal at East High School and Southside Junior High School and as the Director of Attendance. He served as BTF President for a one year term from 1967-1968. During his tenure, Tom negotiated one of the most significant contracts in BTF history. We remember Tom for his place in the history of the Buffalo Teachers Federation and all he did for Buffalo teachers. Rest in peace, Tom.



## FIX TIER 6 RALLY

Join NYSUT members from around the state for the biggest action yet to FIX Tier 6. We will fill the arena with 10,000 NYSUT members and other union advocates!

When: **Sunday, March 8, 2026 from 12 noon-2 P.M.**

Where: **MVP Arena, Albany, NY**

Why: **For retirement tier equity**

**Register to attend on the NYSUT website. Bus transportation will be available from WNY to this event.**

# Save the Date

*details to come*

**April 20, 2026: "Books, Bites & Booze" Event**

**May 19, 2026: WNY Retiree Conference**

**June 24, 2026: The Spirits and Spirits Tour**

# GIVE TO VOTE-COPE

SUPPORT EDUCATORS

HELP OUR STUDENTS

PROTECT OUR RIGHTS

ADVANCE DEMOCRACY

UNITE OUR NATION

## BUFFALO RETIREE NEWSLETTER CHANGES

As of September 2025, retirees now receive our newsletter in digital form unless they opted in to receive paper copies. If you prefer to receive a paper copy of the newsletter you must communicate your desire and opt-in. 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/rcnewsuptin](http://nysut.org/rcnewsuptin) and use your NYSUT identification number.

Scan the QR Code with your smart phone camera that will appear on this newsletter. You will need your NYSUT identification number.



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 \_\_\_\_\_

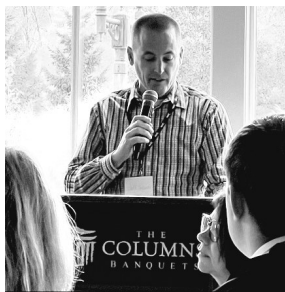
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Local: Retiree Council #44

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

# RC#44 EXPERIENCED • RESOURCEFUL • ENGAGED



*Jeff Orłowski, president of Kenmore Teachers Association, addresses retirees on Retiree Recognition Day*



*Teachers Desk Volunteers*



*Left to Right: Tom Gattie and Russ Gervase*



*Left to Right: Elaine Lydon and Lynn Garcia*

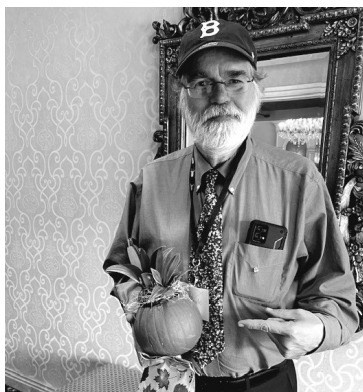
## FALL LUNCHEON



*Left to Right: Sue Surbonne, Beverly Wutz and Barbara Polizzi*



*Left to Right: Charlotte Ross, Connie Kudrna and Shirley MacKinnon*



*Congratulations to Matthew Boyle on his retirement!*



*Congratulations to our newest retirees! Left to Right: Karen Ransom, Rosary Cancilla, Jennifer Panzica and Marilyn Diina*



*Angie and Vince Piraino*

*Pic to Right: NYSUT Retiree Advisory Committee Meeting  
Left to Right: Bill Ninness, former treasurer of NEA-NY, Lynn Diagostino and Sara Rodland*

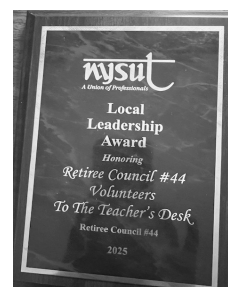
## VOLUNTEERING



*Christine Salamone is phone banking at the Buffalo Teachers Federation office for the school board election*



*Congratulations to The Teacher's Desk Volunteers! Sitting left to right: Shirley MacKinnon, Charlotte Ross and Cheryl Malzan Standing left to right: Becky Pordum, Barb Russo, Stephanie Hall, Lynn Diagostino, Maria Pacheco and Lydia Perry*



*Pat Spasiano is a weekly volunteer at The Teacher's Desk.*



# PACK YOUR BAGS AND SAVE!



## With Member Benefits

### Do the colder temperatures have you longing for a little getaway?

NYSUT Member Benefits endorses several programs that can help with all your travel plans, including MB Discounts & Deals, Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel, and Purchasing Power.

**MB Discounts & Deals** offers NYSUT members exclusive access to savings at over 850,000 popular hotels and resorts worldwide along with flights, vehicle rentals, theme parks and attractions, Broadway shows and museums, sporting events and concerts, movie tickets, ski tickets, restaurant dine-in or take-out, and so much more. If you have not already done so, you can create an account at [mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com](http://mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com) with a preferred email address, a password, and your seven-digit NYSUT ID number (which can be found at [nysut.org/memberid](http://nysut.org/memberid)).

Does your bucket list include taking an unforgettable excursion to Asia, the South Pacific, Mediterranean, Africa, Europe, or numerous other destinations? NYSUT members save at least \$150 per person on published

**Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel** tours along with the opportunity to save thousands per trip with additional discounts and savings. GCT & OAT provide the chance to become fully immersed in the culture of the region you are visiting, including lesser-known locations that most Americans never get to experience. Discovery opportunities, activities, and educational discussions are included with each trip.

With **Purchasing Power**, eligible NYSUT members can package their entire vacation together – including hotels, flights, attractions, vacation rentals, and cruises – while paying over 12 months through payroll deduction or Automated Clearing House (ACH) withdrawals. Purchasing Power is not a discount program, but offers no credit check and no down payments; it serves as an option over traditional financing options like high-interest credit cards.

SCAN ME



Explore all that is available to you from Member Benefits by scanning the QR code, visiting [mb-nysut.org/travelmb](http://mb-nysut.org/travelmb), or calling 800-626-8101.