



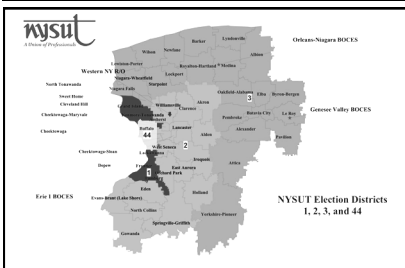
# BUFFALO RETIREE



June/July 2025 Vol. 12 Issue 3

Retiree Council No. 44

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



## Retiree Council # 44 Officers:

**President, Sara Rodland**

(716) 689-9561

sarasarasara2008@live.com

**Vice-President, Teri DiPasquale-Mahar**

(716) 913-7364

theresa811@aol.com

**Secretary, Lynn Diagostino**

(716) 998-3448

lmdiago@verizon.net

**Treasurer, Lynn Garcia**

(716) 481-4231

garcia61@aol.com

## Board of Directors:

Tom Gattie  
Pam Messina  
Christine Nowak  
Amelia Parrish  
Paula Prince  
Donna Stempniak

## Retiree Services Consultant

Janet Goddard (716) 634-7132

janet.goddard@nysut.org

Editor: Sara Rodland

## NYSUT RA 2025

Rochester, New York, the home of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, was the site for the NYSUT 2025 Representative Assembly. Held on May 2 and 3, the theme for this year's RA was **Equality, Progress and Play**. Christine Nowak, Sara Rodland and Stan Nowak represented RC #44 members as delegates.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE RA

### Becky Pringle, President of NEA

*You shine as an example of the power that is found in collaboration as we continue to fight to promote, protect and strengthen public education. This nation's students need your courage, your compassion and your commitment like never before.*

*You need an outstanding system of public education available to all. ... NYSUT, this is your moment. In the midst of these chaotic times, you seek common ground. In the midst of cruelty you seek community.*

### Randi Weingarten, President of AFT

*We have a fight on our hands.*

Weingarten highlighted the work AFT and NYSUT are doing to fight for public schools that are safe and welcoming for all; for academic freedom; for dignified retirements; for an economy that benefits all; and for equitable access to healthcare. She praised educators for the work they are doing in classrooms every day to teach reason, critical thinking, and honest history, and to build hope over fear.

*You are a critical part of our communities that fights to protect our kids, our schools and our democracy.*

### Tom DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller

*New York's pension plans have a diversified portfolio that's built for the long term. Retirement security will not be compromised. Not on my watch!*

## Awards

Retiree Council #44 was the recipient of the *Ken Kurzweil Social Justice Recognition Award* and the *Local Community Service Award*.

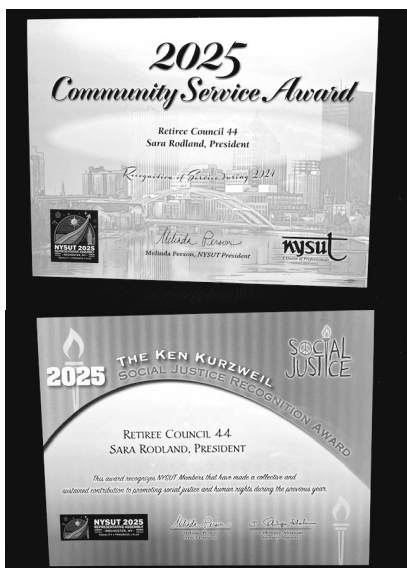
## Resolutions

Resolutions that were adopted included Calling for a Fairer Pension COLA for Retirees and Continuing VOTE-COPE in Retirement.



## RC #44 Delegates to NYSUT RA

L to R: Stan Nowak, Sara Rodland and Christine Nowak



RC # 44 EXPERIENCED • RESOURCEFUL • ENGAGED



**Fix Tier 6 Rally** (Pic to left)  
WNY Retirees Join RC #44 Members  
Front Row L to R: Jacquie Berger, Lynn Garcia (RC #44),  
Darcy Spengler and Frank Marchese Back Row L to R:  
Kathy Brown, Eva Mroczka, Tom Spengler and Sara  
Rodland (RC #44)



**Retiree Conference** L to R: Stan Martin,  
Erin Hickey and Stephanie Geyer



**NYSUT RA:** L to R: Phil Rumore,  
Sara Rodland and Chris Salamone



**RC #44 Members Attend Retiree Conference**  
Front Row L to R: Lynn Garcia, Cheryl Malzan and  
Lynn Diagostino Back Row: Teri DiPasquale-Mahar  
and Becky Pordum



**Retiree Conference** L to R: Paula Prince  
and Sophia Howard-Johnson

NYSUT MEMBER BENEFITS



Life is complicated, but NYSUT Member Benefits can help.

The Peer Support Line is a new service available through NYSUT Member Benefits offered at no cost to all NYSUT members and their families.

This confidential helpline, staffed by trained in-service and retired individuals who understand the unique professional and personal challenges of NYSUT members, can provide answers, referrals, and empathetic support when you need it.

For more information or to speak with someone at the Peer Support Line, call toll-free 844-444-0152.

Save the Date

Events not to be missed!

NYSUT Coalition of  
Retiree Councils #1, 2 3 and affiliate #44

Fall Luncheon to Welcome New Retirees  
October 20, 2025

The Columns - 2221 Transit Road Elma  
Basket Raffle & Share the Wealth Drawing

Holiday Luncheon  
December 9, 2025

Salvatore’s Italian Gardens - 6461 Genesee Street  
Basket Raffle - Share the Wealth Drawing  
Handmade Quilt Raffle

Doors open at 11am for both events!

GIVE TO  
VOTE-COPE

SUPPORT EDUCATORS

HELP OUR STUDENTS

PROTECT OUR RIGHTS

ADVANCE DEMOCRACY

UNITE OUR NATION

ADVOCACY • CONNECTING • VOLUNTEERING

Retiree Conference L to R:  
Cynthia Mehary and Margie Brockman



Retiree Conference L to R: Tom  
Giambra and Ginna Koon



Syrup and Slots Trip!

Front Row L to R: Cathy Fuchs  
and Joyce Marracino  
Back Row L to R: Becky Pordum  
and Gloria O'Neill



L to R: Mike Marzalek, Linda Parada,  
Steve Parada, Floyd Kruschke,  
Becky Pordum,  
Sara Rodland and Russ Gervase



The Teacher's Desk Volunteer Thank You Luncheon (Picture Left)  
L to R: Connie Kudrna, Bob Zaffram, Shirley MacKinnon, Carol Murphy, Eva Mroczka, Kerry Hunter,  
Charlotte Ross, Stephanie Geyer and Sara Rodland

Retiree Council #44 Voluntary 2024-2025 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 1805 Maple Road Apt 215  
Williamsville, NY 14221

BUFFALO RETIREE NEWSLETTER CHANGES

In the fall of 2025, retirees will no longer receive a paper copy of the newsletter delivered to them. Prior to this date, 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.

Contact NYSUT at 518-801-9199, email: retiree.services@nysut.org or scan the QR Code. 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>



# 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](https://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](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org), or calling 800-626-8101.

