



BUFFALO RETIREE



March 2026 Vol. 13 Issue 2

Retiree Council No. 44

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

nysut



2026 NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL #44 NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

Positions open for RC #44 Election:

OFFICERS: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS: Seven Board Members to be elected: Four BTF retirees, Three retirees from BEST, TAB, SUB. Each local will have the opportunity to elect one representative to the Board of Directors.

DELEGATES and ALTERNATES to the NYSUT Representative Assembly: Two delegate positions and three alternate positions are to be elected.

ALTERNATE TO THE AFT CONVENTION: One alternate to be elected.

TERM OF OFFICE: All offices are for a three year term beginning July 1, 2026.

ELECTION COMMITTEE: An Elections Committee approved by the Board of Directors will be responsible for supervising the election. The Election Committee members must be RC #44 members in good standing. Members of the Election Committee are not eligible to be a candidate for any elective office.

NOMINATIONS:

- Any NYSUT Retiree Council #44 member in good standing is eligible to be nominated for one of the open positions.
- No member can be nominated for more than one position. Any officer or board member may be nominated as a delegate or alternate to the NYSUT RA. They cannot be nominated for both. Any officer or board nominee may be nominated as alternate to the AFT Convention.
- The President is the automatic delegate to the NYSUT RA and AFT Convention.
- Nomination forms will be printed in the March, 2026 issue of *Buffalo Retiree* that is mailed to all members.
- Nominations will be sent or hand delivered to the NYSUT Regional Office: NYSUT RC #44 Elections Committee, NYSUT Regional Office, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, New York 14221.
- Mailed or hand delivered nominations must be received at the NYSUT Office by 1 P.M. on May 22, 2026.
- Nominations will also be accepted from the floor of our annual meeting on May 19, 2026. The nominee must be present at the meeting to accept the nomination.

ELECTION:

- Election ballots will be mailed to the membership during the month of June if needed.
- Minimal funding may be available to RC #44 delegates and alternates to the NYSUT RA and the AFT Convention. Funding will depend upon the amount of funds available in the treasury. Neither NYSUT nor AFT provides funding.

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

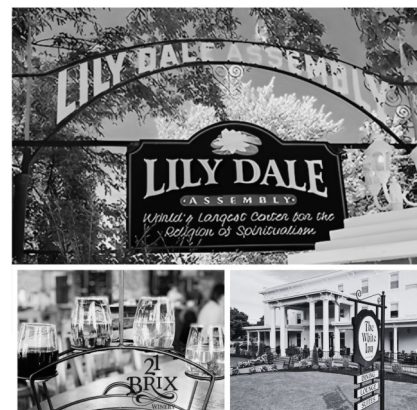
Retiree Services Consultant
Janet Goddard (716) 634-7132
janet.goddard@nysut.org

Editor: Sara Rodland

THE SPIRITS AND SPIRITS TOUR

Be sure to check out this field trip on June 24, 2026 to the Chautauqua Region and Lily Dale! Pickups at the AAA Office in Amherst and Orchard Park Branches. Register by May 18, 2026. Fee is \$149/person- includes round trip transportation, entry into Lily Dale, buffet luncheon at the White Inn, 6 wine tastings and shopping at 21 Brix Winery. Any participant(s) who wish to schedule a private meeting with a spiritualist should book an appointment between 10:00am and 11:30am, prior to the trip, at <https://www.lilydaleassembly.org/find-a-medium>.

More information and registration at <http://rcwest.ny.aft.org> (Click on MORE after the description and then on the image to open the full flyer.)



Retiree Council #44

Officer/Board Member

Nominating Petition

I hereby nominate _____ for the

following position: (Circle One) **President** **Vice President** **Secretary** **Treasurer** **Board Member (BTF Retiree)** **Board Member (BEST, TAB, SUB Retiree)**

RC #44 Member _____

Print Name

Signature

Acceptance of Nomination

I hereby accept the nomination as designated. _____

Print Name _____

Signature _____

-----tear here-----

Retiree Council #44

NYSUT Representative Assembly Delegate/Alternate Delegate

Nominating Petition

I hereby nominate _____ for the following position: (Circle One) **NYSUT RA Delegate** **NYSUT RA Alternate**

RC #44 Member _____

Print Name

Signature

Acceptance of Nomination

I hereby accept the nomination as designated. _____

Print Name _____

Signature _____

-----tear here-----

Retiree Council #44

AFT Convention/Alternate Delegate

Nominating Petition

I hereby nominate _____ for the position of **AFT Convention Alternate Delegate**.

RC #44 Member _____

Print Name

Signature

Acceptance of Nomination

I hereby accept the nomination as designated. _____

Print Name _____

Signature _____



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! 📖🍷

BOOKS, BITES & BOOZE

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

When: Monday,
April 20, 2026
11am-2pm

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.

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

PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 17

Scan the QR Code below



Or

Type the link below

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

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



L to R: Cathy Burgin & Sheila Mahone



L to R: Russ Gervase & Floyd Kruschke



L to R: Phil Rumore, Fred Yellen and Mike Marszalek



Dennis and Sue Hohl



Forrest Benson

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

Retiree Council #44 Voluntary 2025-2026 Participation Fee Form

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please circle your affiliation

BTF BEST TAB SUB

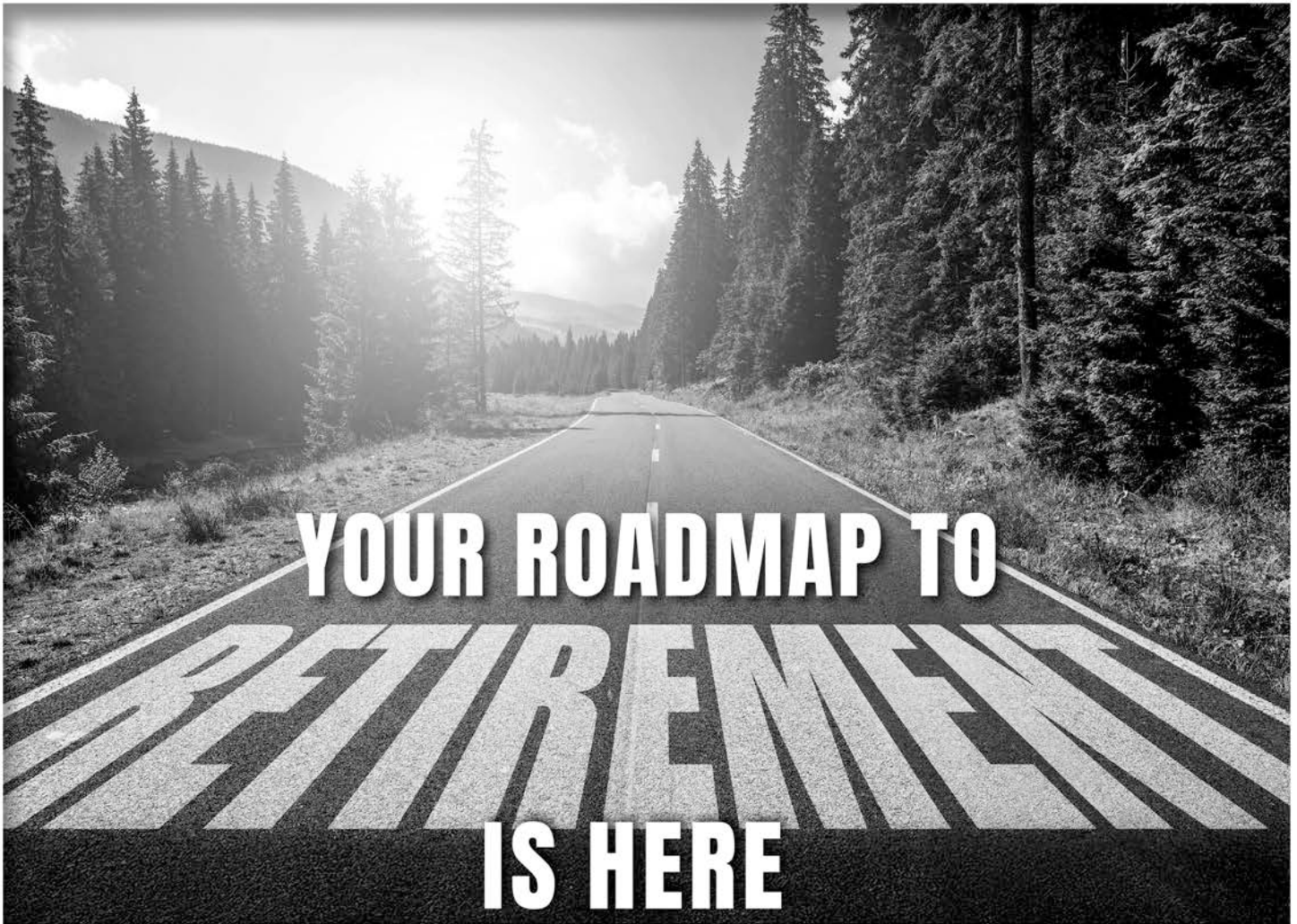
Please check the amount of your Participation Fee:

\$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



Retirement doesn't mean entering a world of unlimited tee times and champagne coolies. It's important to be properly prepared for the transition from in-service employment to retiree status.

Please note the following information if you are currently enrolled in one or more NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed program(s) or would like to do so in retirement:

■ **If Your Local has a Retiree Chapter:**

You are encouraged to maintain membership and pay chapter dues to that local (if necessary) to continue membership in NYSUT and our national affiliates, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and National Education Association (NEA).

■ **If Your Local does NOT have a Retiree Chapter:**

You will continue your membership with NYSUT, AFT, and NEA through the Retiree Council in your geographic area.

Member Benefits endorses a number of programs that can be purchased through the convenience of payroll or pension deduction – offering reduced premiums or the elimination of service fees in many instances. Approximately 88% of NYSUT members have payroll or pension deduction available to them.

You must have an active NYSUT membership to participate in payroll or pension deduction. If you're currently participating in one or more of our endorsed programs, you will want to look into switching to pension deduction after you enter retirement.

LEARN MORE

Learn more about continuing Member Benefits-endorsed programs by scanning the QR code, visiting mb-nysut.org/retireemembership, or calling 800-626-8101.

SCAN ME

