



# BUFFALO RETIREE



November 2026 Vol. 14 Issue 2

*Retiree Council No. 44*

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

**nysut**  
A Union of Professionals



## What It Means to be a NYSUT Retiree

Congratulations and welcome to our new retirees! As you join NYSUT Retiree Council #44, you may be wondering what it means to be a member of a retiree council. You are now part of a group of 270,000 fellow NYSUT retirees. NYSUT retirees make up one-third of NYSUT membership.

### **Retiree Council # 44 Officers:**

**President, Sara Rodland**

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

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[lmdiago@verizon.net](mailto:lmdiago@verizon.net)

**Treasurer, Rebecca Pordum**

(716) 982-8450

[rpordum@aol.com](mailto:rpordum@aol.com)

### **Board of Directors:**

Pending

### **Retiree Services Consultant**

Janet Goddard (716) 634-7132

[janet.goddard@nysut.org](mailto:janet.goddard@nysut.org)



Editor: Sara Rodland

### **There are a number of benefits that come with being a NYSUT Retiree.**

- ◆ You are still a NYSUT and AFT member.
- ◆ You are still able to enjoy the Member Benefits programs from NYSUT and AFT.
- ◆ You are a member of the Alliance of Retired Americans.
- ◆ You are able to utilize the NYSUT Social Services including the Peer Support Line.
- ◆ You have membership in Retiree Council #44. We publish a newsletter, *Buffalo Retiree*, four times a year. You will receive it digitally unless you opt in for paper. You can also follow us on Facebook and on our website.
- ◆ You will receive an annual NYSUT Pocket Calendar.
- ◆ You have a voice in NYSUT and AFT. Each Retiree Council can elect three delegates to attend the NYSUT RA and one delegate to attend the AFT Convention.
- ◆ You have the opportunity to keep in contact with colleagues through retiree council sponsored luncheons, social activities and our yearly conference day.
- ◆ You can stay involved through participation in the Political Action Committee and the Women's Committee. You can join us at the Making Strides Walk each October.
- ◆ You can volunteer at The Teacher's Desk on Tuesdays or Wednesdays during the school year.
- ◆ You are UNION FOR LIFE!



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

### **Retiree Council #44 Voluntary 2026-2027 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Rebecca Pordum—RC #44 Treasurer c/o NYSUT 270 Essjay Road Williamsville, NY 14221**

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

## THE TEACHER'S DESK

Retiree Council #44 members have been volunteering at The Teacher's Desk since 2011. The Teacher's Desk provides teachers who teach children in need with free materials for their students and classrooms. On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from September through May, you will find our members engaged in various activities that support teachers and students. Our volunteers assisted in packing PanchoPacks which are backpacks filled with school supplies. This year The Teacher's Desk distributed 26,000 PanchoPacks to schoolchildren in Western New York and beyond. Please consider joining us! If you are interested in participating, contact Sara Rodland ([sarasarasara2008@live.com](mailto:sarasarasara2008@live.com)). Thank you to our recent volunteers pictured below.



*L to R: Teri DiPasquale-Mahar, Paul Webster and Stephanie Geyer*



*L to R: Carolyn Flynn, Maria Pacheco, Debbie Hurley, Becky Pordum, Shirley MacKinnon and Bob Zaffram*



*Pat Spasiano*

## RC#44 EXPERIENCED • RESOURCEFUL • ENGAGED



*Retirees Jacqui Berger and Sara Rodland assisted with the back to school backpack giveaway. L to R: J. Philippe Abraham, Shonda Bradbury, Luke Silliman, Jacqui Berger and Sara Rodland*



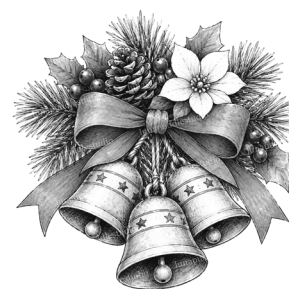
*NYSUT retirees marched in the annual Labor Day Parade. L to R: Becky Pordum, Sara Rodland, Eva Mroczka, and Paula Prince*



## LET'S JINGLE AND MINGLE!

*Join other WNY NYSUT Retirees for a delicious luncheon at Salvatore's beautifully decorated holiday banquet facility!*

**\*OPEN SEATING! \*Guests Welcome! \*Door prizes \*Raffles!**



When: Tuesday, December 8, 2026

Doors open at 11:15 AM, lunch served at 12:15 PM

Where: Salvatore's Banquet Facility BELLAMORE Room - 6461 Transit Road, Buffalo, NY 14043

Bring: -Nonperishable food items for distribution to **FeedMore WNY**

-Old eyeglasses and/or hearing aids for donation to Lion's Club

**Sign-up** as soon as possible, the deadline is **November 19, 2026**. (No Refunds)

**Questions?** Contact Lynn Mele 716-632-2975

### Choose from one of the following entrees:

Lunch includes fresh garden salad, roasted potato medley, garlic green beans and dessert

\_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib (\$55) – 8 oz. boneless cut served w/au jus

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Francaise (\$45) – seasoned chicken breast seared topped w/lemon

\_\_\_\_\_ Fresh Salmon (\$45) – served with lemon herb sauce

\_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable Napoleon (\$40) – eggplant, roasted red peppers, zucchini and yellow squash w/balsamic glaze

----- *Please cut and return slip with payment* -----

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your Food Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (\* Indicate guest's food choice) \_\_\_\_\_

School District Retired From: \_\_\_\_\_

## SAVE THE DATE

December 8, 2026: Holiday Luncheon  
at Salvatore's Italian Gardens

April 19, 2027: Books, Bites and Booze Book Fair  
at NYSUT Regional Office

May 18, 2027: Regional Conference at the  
Buffalo Niagara Marriott

**nysut**  
**Retirees**

**Experienced**  
**Resourceful**  
**Engaged**

## What is VOTE-COPE?

VOTE-COPE is the Committee on Political Education, the non-partisan political action arm of New York State United Teachers. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions from members, VOTE-COPE is used to help union-backed candidates and campaign committees support education and labor.

VOTE-COPE helps strengthen political action programs on all levels – national, state and local. To help on the local level, VOTE-COPE provides rebates to participating unions for local political action.

VOTE-COPE funds, by law, are kept separate from those of NYSUT. Decisions on the use of VOTE-COPE contributions are made by a statewide committee.

VOTE-COPE solicits and accepts only voluntary contributions. Contributions or gifts to VOTE-COPE are not tax-deductible.

**vote**  
COPE

# Protect your independence with exclusive member savings

Your NYSUT membership allows you to preserve your independence with reduced pricing on important personal health and safety programs.

**Home Care Plans:** Affinity by True Freedom offers non-medical home care through a vast network of licensed and insured home care agencies. This benefit includes exclusive discounts not available to the general public with plans administered by Advisors Insurance Brokers/New York Long-Term Care Brokers, provider of our endorsed long-term care insurance plan.

**Hearing Care Plan:** Save thousands on out-of-pocket costs for quality prescription hearing aids from TruHearing, ranging from \$499 to \$1,799 per device. Access a nationwide network of over 8,850 providers that can perform hearing tests and offer personalized hearing aid solutions. All purchases come with a 60-day no-risk trial period and one-year of follow-up support.

**Medical Alert Systems:** Enjoy up to a 40% discount on the monthly cost of a medical alert system from Connect America. At-home and on-the-go wearable safety devices are available with comprehensive coverage using landline, cellular, or GPS monitoring. All products include 4G LTE technology using the AT&T and Verizon cellular networks.

**Preserve your independence with help from Member Benefits.**

Scan the QR code, visit [mb-nysut.org/lifecare](https://mb-nysut.org/lifecare), or call 800-626-8101.



**MEMBER  
BENEFITS**  
**nysut**  
Working to Benefit You

