



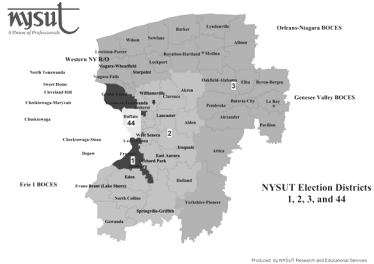
# BUFFALO RETIREE



August 2023 Vol. 10 Issue 4

Retiree Council No. 44

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



### Retiree Council # 44 Officers:

**President, Sara Rodland**  
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sarasarasara2008@live.com

**Vice-President, Teri DiPasquale-Mahar**  
(716) 913-7364  
theresa811@aol.com

**Secretary, Lynn Diagostino**  
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**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

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janet.goddard@nysut.org

Editor: Sara Rodland

### THANK YOU TERRY!

Theresa Ross is stepping down as treasurer of Retiree Council #44 after serving in this position for twelve years. Retiree Council #44 thanks Terry for her outstanding service, dedication, and support of retirees.

Terry worked in the Buffalo schools for twenty-three years as a teacher aide at Campus West and Dr. George Blackman Early Childhood Center #54. She was a member of the steering committee when the teacher aides joined NEA-NY and became BEST. As an active BEST member, Terry was a building representative, an Area Director and BEST Vice-President. She was elected treasurer of Retiree Council #44 in 2011 when the retiree council was formed. Terry was honored at the NYSUT Western New York Awards Dinner in May and at a luncheon in her honor given by the RC #44 Officers and Board of Directors in June.

*Top Picture: Terry Ross, outgoing RC #44 Treasurer*

*Bottom Picture: RC#44 Officers; Terry Ross, Lynn Diagostino, Teri DiPasquale-Mahar and Sara Rodland*



### RETIREE COUNCIL #44 ELECTION RESULTS

The Retiree Council #44 Elections Committee announced the results of the 2023 Election.

**President:** Sara Rodland

**Vice President:** Teri DiPasquale-Mahar

**Secretary:** Lynn Diagostino

**Treasurer:** Lynn Garcia

#### **Board of Directors:**

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

#### **NYSUT RA Delegates:**

Sara Rodland, Lynn Diagostino, and Christine Nowak

#### **NYSUT RA Alternates:**

Stanley Nowak, Lynn Garcia, and Tom Gattie

**AFT Delegate:** Sara Rodland

**AFT Alternate:** Donna Stempniak

Thank you to Floyd Kruschke, Mike Marzalek and Charlotte Ross who served on the Elections Committee and to all our members who voted.



<http://rcwest.ny.aft.org>



Follow NYSUT Retiree Council #44 on Facebook

### Retiree Council #44 Voluntary 2023-2024 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 \_\_\_\_\_

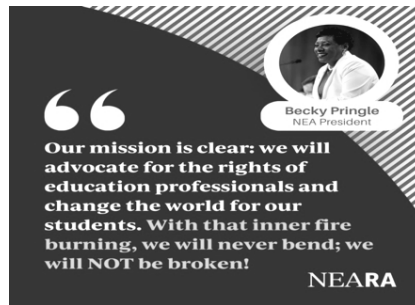
### 2023 NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

Six thousand educators attended the 2023 NEA Representative Assembly in Orlando, Florida from July 3-6. Becky Pringle, Princess Moss and Noel Candalaria, NEA officers, were re-elected to another three year term. Delegates debated many issues including health insurance, artificial intelligence, safe schools, and racial and social justice.



**Miguel Cardona, Secretary of Education**

*It's time to detoxify those who seek to destroy public education; to detox them from ignorance, racism and hate.*



**President Joe Biden**

*Educators have champions in the White House. I know the last three years have been so difficult -we asked so much of you. I want you to know that I see you, we see you, and we thank you.*

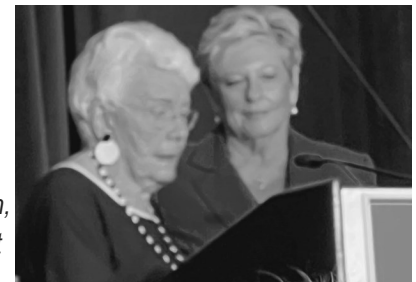
### NEA RETIRED ANNUAL MEETING

NYSUT retirees were represented at the NEA Retired Meeting by delegates Lynn Diagostino, Bill Ninness and Sara Rodland, NYSUT Second Vice-President, Ron Gross and At Large Retiree Representative on the NYSUT Board, Florence McCue. NEA Retired celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. NEA leaders praised NEA-Retired members' long history of activism for public schools, Medicaid, Medicare, pension protection, and for supporting candidates who are friends of public education. Sarah Borgman, outgoing President, reflected, "We have accomplished so much because we have experienced and endured so much. We went to the bargaining table and filed grievances. We went on strike... And some of you also have walked the picket line, and you have gone to school board meetings, and you have written letters to the editor, and contacted your legislators." Sarah Borgman passed the gavel to Anita Gibson, who was elected NEA Retired President by the delegates.



*L to R: Ron Gross, Sara Rodland, Lynn Diagostino, Florence McCue and Bill Ninness*

*L to R: Sarah Borgman, Outgoing NEA Retired President and Anita Gibson, newly elected NEA Retired President*



### Rich Nigro is Elected Buffalo Teachers Federation President

*"I'm grateful for the confidence members had in me. I'm excited to get started."*

These are the words of Rich Nigro, the new President of the Buffalo Teachers Federation. He and Melinda MacPherson-Sullivan, Vice President, were successful in a runoff election. He succeeds Phil Rumore who served as BTF President for forty-two years and laid the foundation of a strong union. Rich, who has taught in the Buffalo Public Schools for twenty-five years, leaves his position as an instructional technology coach at the New Buffalo School of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management #355. Melinda is the director of the Buffalo Teacher Resource Center. The new president and vice president took office July 1. Retiree Council #44 officers, board and membership congratulate Rich and Melinda and look forward to working together with them.



*L to R: Rich Nigro and Melinda MacPherson-Sullivan*

### POLITICAL ACTION



Retiree Council #44 members answered the call to support the Buffalo Teachers Federation endorsed candidates running for Common Council seats in the June Primary Election. A special thank you goes out to Teri Di Pasquale-Mahar, Sara Rodland and Charlotte Ross who called NYSUT members living in the Masten, North and University districts.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE



The Teacher's Desk is busily preparing for the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. An integral component in this process is the volunteers. Please consider joining your retired colleagues in this rewarding work that benefits teachers and their students. If you are interested in participating, please contact Sara Rodland (sarasarasara2008@live.com)



# NYSUT RETIREES FALL LUNCHEON HONORING NEW RETIREES

*Please join your fellow retirees and meet new ones as we get together for our Fall Luncheon.*

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 – DOORS OPEN AT 11:00 AM  
BUFFET LUNCH AT NOON**

**The Columns 2221 Transit Road Elma, NY 14059**

Please complete the form below and **return by September 5**. *This form may be copied. Use only one registration per form.* No registrations will be accepted, and no refunds can be made after **September 5**. Checks should be made out to **NYSUT Retirees of WNY** and mailed to: Tracy Beatty, c/o NYSUT, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221.

----- Please cut and return with payment. -----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District from which you retired: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a 2023 Retiree? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
New Retiree \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran Retiree and/or Guest \$42 \_\_\_\_\_

There will be open seating for this event.

**PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING TOILETRIES TO DONATE TO A LOCAL WOMEN’S SHELTER.**

Questions? Contact Tracy Beatty at (716) 803-5340

	Experienced	<a href="http://rcwest.ny.aft.org">http://rcwest.ny.aft.org</a>
	Resourceful	
	Engaged	



RC #44 Board Members 2020-2023

Front Row L to R: Christine Nowak and Amelia Parrish

Back Row: L to R: Tom Gattie, Claudia Kania, Terry Ross, Pam Messina, and Donna Stempniak



Teri DiPasquale and Sara Rodland visit One Room Schoolhouse #8 in North Collins with NYSUT Coalition members



Lynn Garcia speaking at the NEA RA concerning women's health care

