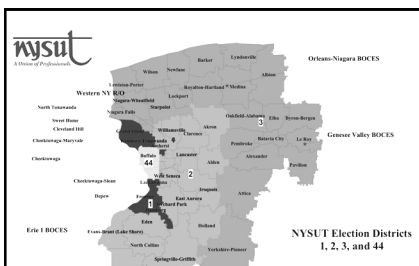


Western N.Y. NEWS & Views

FALL 2023

Reaching Out to Retirees in Five Western New York Counties— We are over 12,000 strong — a Coalition of Councils 1, 2 & 3



NYSUT Retirees of WNY Officers

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from the President's Desk by Lynn Mele

Dear Retirees,

Happy Fall! This is the season I enjoy the most. There's something about apple picking, falling leaves, and crisp cool nights. But it's also the time I count as the beginning of another new year of retirement. Like many of you, I retired at the end of the school year. I didn't count the "first" day of retirement until I saw those yellow busses in September. Thus, for many of you new retirees, this is truly the beginning of the next phase of your life! Be curious, adventurous, and bold. Try new activities, think about volunteering for a special cause, or trying out a new hobby. This is your time to shine and spread your wings.

We hope to see many of you at our Fall Luncheon on September 19, at The Columns...for good food, great friends, and many door prizes. Please join us.

Election 2024 is extremely important to all of us. But on the home front in New York State, one of NYSUT's goals is to correct the economic injustices of Tier 6! Tier 6 began in April 2012. What does this mean for younger teachers? They must work longer and pay into their pension until they retire only to receive LESS in retirement than you and I. Please join our efforts to "Fix Tier 6."

As always, be well,
Yours in Solidarity,
Lynn Mele, President



SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE GREAT EVENTS!



TRAVEL NEWS: A bus trip to Batavia Downs is being planned for October 2, 2023. Check our website or Facebook page for more details which will soon follow.

WELCOME CLASS OF '23 NYSUT RETIREES – SEE INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ON OUR "WELCOME NEW RETIREES LUNCHEON" ON SEPTEMBER 19.

ALSO, SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

For RC 1, 2, 3 & 44 Coalitions
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
SALVATORE'S ITALIAN GARDENS



For up-to-date information on RC's 1, 2, & 3 visit our new website at <http://rcwest.ny.aft.org>

SCAN the QR CODE to be taken to our Facebook Page! Make a friend request; we are a private group.



Tracey Beatty presented the Legends Award to Joanne McCartin

CONGRATULATIONS, JOANNE McCARTIN 2023 LEGENDS AWARD RECIPIENT

Joanne began teaching at Springville-Griffith School District. Joanne then continued a thirty-two-year career at Grand Island Central, retiring in 1995. Her union service began as building representative, then treasurer and finally President of the Grand Island Teachers Association where she served nineteen and a half years. Since its inception, Joanne was a member of the Committee of 100. She is currently the longest serving member of the WNY Retirees Coalition Board of Trustees. It is with great honor that Joanne McCartin was awarded the Legends Award. She truly embodies the spirit, commitment and enthusiasm for being a union advocate.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following May 9 Regional Conference Winners:

Carol Abendischein
Deborah Bokobza
William Breen
Charles Burrano
Veronica Cavan
Jan Cilip
Dana Dee
Tom Delecki
Lynne Diagostino
Helen Esford
Karen Forth
Deborah Grine
Edward Haley

Shonah Hayden
Bernadette Heuer
Dorothy Hodosy
Allison Joes
Magdalene Kennedy
Deborah Lovallo
Hattie McCarley
Joanne McCartin
Diane Meacham
Lynn Mele
Dan Miller
Lydia Perry

Klayton Peterson
Darlene Petschke
Nancy Phillips
Sandra Price-Allen
Christine Rising
Sara Rodland
Lawrence Ronald
Elizabeth Smith
Joanne Smith
Tom Spengler
Karen Tam
Marge Watz
Sharon Wright



These folks completed and submitted their conference evaluation form which made them eligible for a series of drawings. The following is the prize list: two \$20 Wegmans gift cards, two \$15 Panera gift cards, six \$10 Target gift cards, four \$10 Anderson's gift cards, three \$10 Starbucks gift cards, a Member Benefits blanket, a Member Benefits canvas book bag, 8 NYSUT travel mugs, and 10 NYSUT "Public Education Unites Us" t-shirts. Our coalition also donated a basket that was filled with kitchen gadgets, knives, pot holders, etc. Join us in 2024 for our May Regional Conference and you may be a lucky winner, also!

PARTICIPATION FEE FORM (September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024)

If you have not already sent in your Participation Fee Form, we urge you to support our Retiree Councils by sending in your \$10 participation fee and by encouraging others to support the work we do for all of us. Thank you.

Name _____ District you retired from _____

Street Address _____ Year of Retirement _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Make your \$10 contribution payable to: NYSUT Retirees of WNY. NOTE: Due to heavy initial response, there might be a delay in processing your check. Please be patient when looking for your cancelled check.

Mail this form to: Eva Mroczka, c/o NYSUT Retirees of WNY, 270 Essjay Rd. Williamsville, NY 14221



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**

Photos from the Regional Conference, May 9, 2023 and the WNY Leadership Awards Dinner, May 25, 2023



WELCOME TO OUR 2023-2026 COALITION OFFICERS*

President.....Lynn Mele
1st Vice President.....Veronica Cavan
2nd Vice President.....Eva Mroczka
Recording Secretary.....Liz Dolce
Treasurers.....Ed Haley
.....Mark Shanahan
Corresponding Secretary.....Kathy Stewart

*Their offices begin September 1, 2023

2022-2023 MINI-GRANT AWARDS

Our Coalition granted 12 mini-grants totaling \$4,674 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Congratulations to the following teachers who completed their own special projects to enhance their learning and classroom instruction using the mini-grant funds.

Mike Grosso, Grand Island	Jennifer Aumer, Maryvale
Karen Monaco, Ken-Ton	Kristen Raimond, Niagara Wheatfield
Lynn Sadjak, Hamburg	Tammy Sawisuck, North Tonawanda
Mark Hunt, Erie 1 Boces	Kate Dempsey, Newell, Iroquois
Jennifer Driver, Pioneer	Kim Grundtisch, Frontier
Michelle Helf, North Tonawanda	Lauren Dalton-Brown, Springville

Pass along the word that teachers interested in mini-grants for 2023-2024 should contact their union presidents who will receive the information in the Fall.