



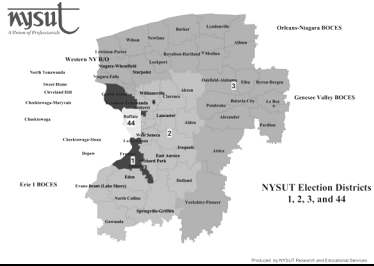
BUFFALO RETIREE



March 2024 Vol. 11 Issue 2

Retiree Council No. 44

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



WESTERN NEW YORK NYSUT WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The NYSUT Women's Committee has asked members to form regional Women's Committees across the state. The state-wide committee was formed to address issues that affect women in our membership and create opportunities for women to participate in activities that uplift and empower them as well as to develop resources to support, educate and mentor women.

The first meeting of the Western New York NYSUT Women's Committee was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at the NYSUT office. Fifty active and retired women attended this initial meeting, which included 8 RC #44 members. Small groups discussed activities that the committee might want to engage in. Among the topics discussed were participating in community activities, working on issues important to women and planning trips for members. Retiree Council #44 members are invited to join the Western New York NYSUT Women's Committee. If you are interested, please contact Lynn Garcia by email at garcia61@aol.com.



Lynn Garcia, RC #44 Treasurer and Chair of NEA Women's Caucus attended NEA Super Week. Lynn, far right, is pictured with Princess Moss, NEA VP and Becky Pringle, NEA President.

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Bottom Row (L to R): Serena Kotch, NEA Director, Lynn Garcia and Sue Raichilson
Top Row (L to R): Claudia Kania, Daphne McNab, Elaine Lydon, Sylvia Stovall, Paula Prince, Sara Rodland and Becky Pordum

Retiree Council #44 Voluntary 2023-2024 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

One person can make a difference, and everyone should try. ~John F. Kennedy



Since 2011 The Teacher's Desk has been committed to providing teachers in Western New York who teach children in need with materials for their classrooms and students.



Left to Right: Debra Hurley, Stephanie Hall, Meg Villa, Cheryl Malzan, Maria Pacheco, Sharon Fretthold and Julie LoCicero

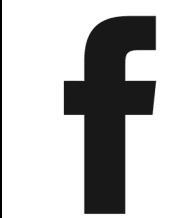
The Teacher's Desk is able to provide this valuable service because of volunteers who are willing to make a commitment and thus a difference in the lives of teachers and students. Retiree Council #44 members, along with their colleagues from Retiree Councils 1, 2, and 3, are an integral part of this success. This year The Teacher's Desk has set a goal of packing and distributing 20,000 Panchopacks to children in need. This is in addition to providing teachers with materials for their classrooms and students. Retirees volunteer on Tuesdays between 2:30 and 5:00 P.M. and Wednesdays between 1:30 and 4:00 P.M. Please consider joining in this wonderful service to teachers, students and the community. If you are interested in participating, please contact Sara Rodland at sarasarasara2008@live.com



SENECA WINE COUNTRY AND TRAIL

A coach bus trip is being planned to tour Seneca Wine Country. The date is **Wednesday, June 5, 2024**. This event will include a round trip coach bus (pick ups will be in the Southtowns at the AAA Office in Orchard Park, NY and the Northtowns AAA Office in Williamsville, NY). The coach bus will be handicapped accessible. The trip will include lunch at Parker's Grille and Tap Room, tour of Muranda Cheese Company, shopping at Sauder's Country Store and wine tasting at Zugibe Vineyards. Price will include transportation, one meal, taxes and gratuity. This event will be limited to the first 52 paid reservations. The cost per ticket is \$140. **The deadline to register is April 19, 2024.** Registration forms can be obtained from our union website www.rcwest.ny.aft.org or the Facebook page WNY Regional NYSUT Retiree Council.

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

Follow NYSUT Retiree Council #44 on Facebook

Photos from the Holiday Luncheon



Helen Davis and Barbara Schwimmer



Amanda Sperrazza and Kelly Panek



Genevieve DeCarlo



Photo above: Lori Archdeacon



Debbie Glieco and son Paul



Photo on Right: Christine Salamone and Tom Giambra



A TALE OF TWO TIERS

Let's look at Mike and Molly who both teach in the same school district. Mike is the more experienced and is on Retirement Tier 4 while Molly is on Tier 6. Let's see what that means when retirement nears.



At the start of their careers, Mike and Molly each pay 3% of their salary toward their retirement...

BUT WATCH WHAT HAPPENS.

TIER 4

For the first 10 years, **Mike** continues to pay 3% of his salary toward his pension, BUT after year 10, his payments END.

Mike can retire and collect his full pension penalty-free at age 55 and 30 years of service. This would equal 60% of his FAS (Final Average Salary.)

TIER 6

As **Molly's** salary increases, so does the percentage of her salary going to her pension. When she reaches \$46,000, she will be paying 3.5% of her salary toward her pension. By \$56,000 she is paying 4.5%. By \$76,000 it's 5.75% and by \$101,000 it will be 6%. **Molly can't retire and collect her penalty-free pension until she's 63.**

If she retired like Mike at age 55 and 30 years of service, she would receive only 26.4% of her FAS – after paying tens of thousands \$\$\$ more into the system.

**info from FixTier6.org

It's UNFAIR that some NYSUT members must work longer, and contribute more, to earn a significantly reduced pension. This should anger ALL union members. **FIXING TIER 6 IS ABOUT DIGNITY.** The hallmark of a public-service career is the promise of a dignified retirement.

FIXING TIER 6 IS ABOUT KEEPING TALENTED EDUCATORS IN THE CLASSROOM AND RECRUITING NEW EDUCATORS INTO THE PROFESSION. Forcing younger members into a lesser pension system undervalues our profession and makes it harder to recruit new teachers. **FIXING TIER 6 IS ABOUT UNITY AND POWER.** By staying united, we've made big changes before. We can do it again!

HOW CAN RETIREES HELP?

- ➔**WRITE OR CALL** your state representatives letting them know that Tier 6 has to be changed if NYS is going to attract qualified teachers.
- ➔**TELL** your state representatives that Tier 6 makes teaching a less desirable career and discourages young people from choosing to teach.
- ➔**EXPLAIN** what has happened to Teacher Pensions in NY if the subject of *"teachers' great pensions"* comes up in conversation.
- ➔**DEFEND** and **ENCOURAGE** teaching as a worthy profession for young people to consider.
- ➔**DONATE** to **VOTE-COPE** to help NYSUT get the message out to our state lawmakers so that changes can be made.



SNOW BIRDS

NYSUT Retiree Council #43 is the only NYSUT sanctioned out-of-state retiree council. They have an active, dedicated group of retirees who welcome you to join a local Florida unit. All units sponsor social activities, meetings with guest speakers and community projects that benefit children. If you are interested in becoming involved, even on a seasonal basis, please contact Miriam Hanan, NYSUT Retiree Consultant, at 516-236-0276 or at miriam.hanan@nysut.org. Miriam will connect you with the local unit representative in your area. Connecting with a Florida retiree unit in no way takes away your affiliation with Retiree Council #44.



