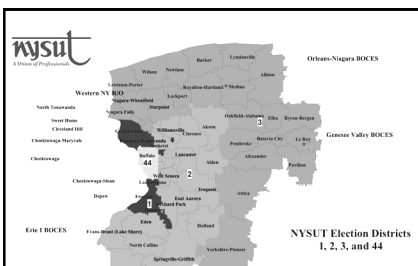


# Western N.Y. NEWS & Views

September 2022

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



## From the President's Desk by Lynn Mele

Dear Retirees,

Welcome Class of 2022 Retirees! Begin this new stage of your life by savoring an extra cup of coffee. Remember there are no more lesson plans to submit, no more faculty meetings to attend and no more papers to correct. Now is the time to relax, spread your wings and enjoy new activities. We hope you will join us at the Fall Luncheon being held in your honor in October. Information is included in this newsletter. And speaking of new activities, check out our "Save the Date" and travel sections for upcoming events.

On a serious note, the event of May 14 at the Tops on Jefferson Ave. has made us all stop, think, and wonder why. In response to this tragedy, NYSUT has decided to establish a scholarship fund that will support the family members of shooting victims as well as high school seniors who live in the neighborhood (ZIP code 14208) and are graduating and heading into higher education. You may not be aware that three of the victims, Margus Morrison, Pearl Young and Aaron Salter, Jr. were NYSUT members.

**Say Yes Buffalo**, a nonprofit educational group that oversees a city-wide scholarship program for graduates of Buffalo public and charter high schools has agreed to partner with NYSUT and administer the fund. NYSUT would like to encourage Retirees as well as active teachers to make a donation. The website is <https://sayyesbuffalo.wedid.it/campaigns/10536-nysut-memorial-scholarship-fund-for-buffalo-victims-families>.

Have a wonderful summer!

*Yours in solidarity,  
Lynn Mele, President*

## Union for Life?????

### What do I need the Union for now that I am retired?

How am I connected to my local union, regional organization (The Retiree Council or RC), NYSUT and AFT/NEA? What do I need from these organizations? When you were an in-service member, the connection to your local, NYSUT, and AFT/NEA were more obvious. Our union was there to help us negotiate our working conditions, guide our working conditions, act for us, and call us to action on various issues and events. As we have moved into retirement, that connection may seem less obvious.

First, most of us notice that our pension does not have union dues taken from it. For that reason, some feel you no longer belong: NOT TRUE! We do not pay dues to NYSUT or AFT, but we are members. If your local requires retiree dues, payment of those dues is a requirement for local, NYSUT, and AFT retiree membership. That gives us access to all the benefits and services of our union. Many continue to use items such as car, home, and life insurances offered by Member Benefits. Others may pick up new items such as Lifeline for themselves or loved ones, Elder-care law packages, hearing aid packages, etc. as life events change. Some continue to be involved with their Regional Councils and chapters.

It is important that we all help and are aware. In retirement, what happens with our local could impact us and our benefits. What happens at the state level absolutely could impact us. And at the national level, the impact on our lives is very evident.

Please make sure you keep the relationship you have with your local to ensure you stay informed. Our Retiree Council needs you to be involved to ensure that our issues remain in the forefront. Also, as we are retired, we can offer our time and wisdom to assist those still in service. Please look for materials from the RC and NYSUT, read them, and make sure that your current email is available to get updates. Get involved in the work AND FUN that our retirees will again be experiencing soon.

Ellen Pincus, Retiree Services Consultant

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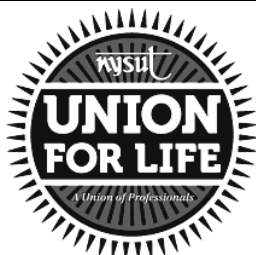
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# LEGENDS AWARD

The Legends Award honors an individual who has made a significant contribution to his/her local union or NYSUT in Western New York. It is our coalitions way of having retirees in our area recognized for their tireless efforts and advocating for the retiree movement. The individual chosen is recognized at our October Welcome New Retirees Luncheon and also at the Regional Awards Dinner. The first recipient of this award was Jane Kauffman. If you would like to nominate anyone for this award for **2023**, please complete the nomination form below and mail into our regional office at the address listed on the form.

<p><b>NYSUT Retirees of WNY Legends Award Nomination Form</b> Please print or type.</p> <p>Name of individual being nominated: _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Home phone _____ Cell phone _____</p> <p>Personal email _____</p> <p>Retiree Council Name _____</p> <p>District Retired from _____ Years of service: _____</p> <p>Former Occupation/job title: _____</p> <p>Union position/involvement: _____</p> <p>Reasons why this nominee should be recognized: (Please include information that addresses each of the criteria previously listed and give specific examples, such as accomplishments, special attributes, service to local or retiree council, service to NYSUT, committee involvement, outstanding qualities and achievements.) <b>Typewritten preferred.</b> <b>Attach a separate sheet to this form.</b></p> <p>Name of person submitting nomination: _____</p> <p>Union position/office(s) held: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____</p> <p>Email address: _____</p> <p>Signature of Nominating person _____ Date: _____</p>	<p><b>Send all nominations to: WNY Retiree Legends Committee c/o NYSUT Regional Office 270 Essjay Road Williamsville, New York 14221</b></p>
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**Nominations will be accepted from September 1st through December 31st of each year.**



Our new website is up  
visit it at:

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



**Mark Your Calendar**  
RC 1,2,3 & 44 Coalition's

*Annual Holiday Party*

**Tuesday, December 13, 2022**  
**Salvatore's Italian Gardens**

**Watch future newsletters for information!**



# Travel with Us!

## NATIONAL COMEDY CENTER

Audrey Hepburn once said that laughing is the best calorie burner. Join us in burning some calories on September 28, 2022 at the National Comedy Center and Lucy/Desi Museum. After traveling by bus, participants will enjoy a short tour and lunch in the Tropicana Room at the Lucy/Desi Museum.

Afterwards we will travel to *The National Comedy Center* where we will experience an interactive journey through comedy history. The cost including bus, tours, lunch and gratuities is \$115 per person. **First departure from Eastern Hills Mall 4545 Transit Road, rear lot behind the food court will be at 9:00 AM.** Return at the mall will be at 7:00 PM. **Second departure at Tops Supermarket, 355 Orchard Park Road, West Seneca will be at 9:30 AM.** Return at 6:30 PM. Choose a meal selection when making reservations. Stuffed chicken w/buttered potato OR vegetable lasagna. Your group leader will be Sharon Wright.



## HOLIDAY BITES & CASINO LIGHTS

Feeling lucky? Take a ride to the southern tier on November 2, 2022. Enjoy breakfast and purchase some holiday presents at the gift shop at *Sprague's Maple Farm*. Afterwards play to win at the Seneca Allegany Casino. Receive \$25 free slot play and enjoy your favorite table games or enjoy a beverage at the casino bar. \*Bring a valid state or federally issued ID (passport or driver's license) along with your Seneca Social Card, if you have one, to receive the \$25 incentive. The casino incentive is the offering of the casino, and as such, is subject to change without notice. The cost including bus, tours, breakfast and gratuities is \$75 per person. **First departure from Eastern Hills Mall will be at 8:30 AM.** Return at 7:00 PM. **Second departure from Tops Supermarket, 355 Orchard Park Road, West Seneca will be at 9:00 AM.** Return at 6:30 PM. Choose a meal selection when making reservations. Pancakes with eggs & meat OR Texas-size French toast OR sausage gravy & biscuits served with home fries. Your group leader will be Rose Furman.

### **TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT FOR EITHER BUS TRIP BY PHONE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Call **Scenic Excursions** at 716-649-9694. Please note when signing up that you are with **NYSUT** OR **BOOK ONLINE** at [www.ScenicExcursions.net/nysut](http://www.ScenicExcursions.net/nysut) (be sure to type web address in **ALL lower case**)

\***Payment is due with reservation.** When making a reservation, remember to choose your menu item and choice of seat partner on the coach if not booking together.

\*Please do not travel if you are ill. Trip protection for cancellation prior to trip due to illness is available at \$19 per person and must be booked when making the reservation



## NYSUT RETIREE FALL LUNCHEON HONORING NEW RETIREES

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

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022 - APPETIZERS AT 11:00 AM - LUNCH AT NOON**

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

Please complete the form below and return by October 5. ***This form may be copied, only one registration per form.*** No registrations will be accepted and no refunds can be made after October 5.

Checks should be made out to *NYSUT Retirees of WNY* and mailed to:

Veronica Cavan, 252 Willow Green Drive Amherst, NY 14228.

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

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

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

Are you a 2022 Retiree? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ New Retirees @ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran Retirees and Guests @ \$42 \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose one Entrée: **Stuffed Chicken Breast** \_\_\_\_\_ **Salmon** \_\_\_\_\_ **Vegetarian** \_\_\_\_\_ **Vegan** \_\_\_\_\_

There will be open seating for this event. PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING A TOLITERIES ITEM TO DONATE TO A LOCAL WOMEN'S SHELTER.

Questions? Contact Veronica Cavan at 716-691-5190. [veronicacavan@yahoo.com](mailto:veronicacavan@yahoo.com)

## WE'RE WORKING FOR OUR NYSUT RETIREES!

Thank you goes out to everyone who has sent in their participation fee for the 2021-2022 year. We urge you to support our Retiree Councils once again for the upcoming year by sending in your \$10 participation fee and by encouraging others to support the work we do for all of us. Thank you.

### PARTICIPATION FEE FORM

Sept. 1, 2022 – Aug. 31, 2023

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.

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

### RETIRED TEACHERS AND LIBRARIAN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It is estimated 410,000 New Yorkers suffer from Alzheimer's disease and that number is growing. The Alzheimer's Association of WNY provides support to many families affected by Alzheimer's and other dementias. One of our very successful programs is a Virtual Book Club. Over five sessions, ten to twelve registered caregivers meet every other week via Zoom and discuss a dementia related book with the assistance of one or two facilitators.



Currently, there are two book groups meeting, but the demand is great. We are looking for individuals interested in training to be facilitators to expand this vital program. These people would receive the support of facilitators currently hosting book discussions. The Alzheimer's Association would provide the titles free of charge to participants. Facilitators will host a total of three or four five-week sessions per year.

As one caregiver recently said, *"Not only does your book club offer peer support and a safe place to process our emotions, it also helps us feel more prepared. While that feeling may not make the difficult symptoms go away, it certainly helps caregivers be more empowered to cope with them."*

You can make a difference! Please consider volunteering to host a book club by yourself or with a friend. For more information, please contact Lee Ainsworth (current facilitator and NYSUT retiree) at [ainsworthmahaney@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworthmahaney@gmail.com) or at 716-208-2888.