

Western N.Y. NEWS & Views

JANUARY 2023

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



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From the President's Desk by Lynn Mele

Dear Retirees,

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone. I hope you and yours had a memorable holiday season. Now it's time to focus on the new year with goals for all of us at NYSUT.

Even though you are retired, you are still a part of the Union family. Did you know that Retirees make up almost 40% of NYSUT's 600,000 members. As retirees, we have a voice and NYSUT wants to hear from you! The Board of Trustees will be actively pursuing a more efficient and effective communication system. We have a website, <http://rcwest.ny.aft.org> and a Facebook page, *WNY Regional NYSUT Retiree Council*. You will find up-to-date information regarding events, programs and legislation. Please utilize these sites!

We are also in the process of establishing an email data base. Please make sure you give us an up-to-date email when you return your Participation Fee Form.

Yours in solidarity,
Lynn Mele, President

NYSTRS RETIREES, PLEASE NOTE:

Change of Address: So that NYSTRS can provide you with the annual Retired Member Profile, your year-end tax information, and the retiree newsletter, Resource, it is important that they have your current address on file. You must report any address change in writing with your signature. You can use the Member Name/Address Change (GRE-50) form. Return the form to NYSTRS by mail or fax to (518) 447-4749. MyNYSTRS account holders have the convenience of changing their address online.

NYSTRS Retired Members Handbook, Page 7

NYSUT Retirees of WNY
Regional Conference

May 9, 2023

SAVE THE DATE



SCAN
QR CODE



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



SPOTLIGHT ON.....

Dave D'Amato



Dave D'Amato is a Retiree Council 3 trustee on NYSUT's Coalition of Retirees in WNY board. Dave graduated from the University of Buffalo in 1968 and secured a Secondary Math position in the Holland Central School District. He describes it as an exciting first year of teaching that ended abruptly in April of 1969 when he received an Army Induction Notice to report for active duty. Like many of the young men of this time, Dave spent a year in Vietnam.

The Holland Central Superintendent directed Dave to resign from his teaching position prior to entering the Army. Believing that this was protocol, Dave resigned. That resignation cost him two years of credited retirement service as well as his teaching position. Dave stresses, "If there was a strong union presence like we have today, I would not have resigned. Remember, the basic union structure that so many of us have enjoyed throughout our teaching careers developed after the Taylor Law

of 1967 was passed." Dave eventually won his case in 1993 and received those two military years of credit cost free. After the service, Dave taught for a year at Starpoint Central, married at the end of the school year, then went to Niagara University to work on his master's degree. With his master's work completed, Dave secured a position at Newfane Central and spent 33 years teaching secondary math and Driver Education in the summer.

While at Newfane, Dave served on the union Executive Board for nearly 33 years. In 1975 he participated in a teacher strike that lasted for 9 school days. Being that it was Dave's tenure year, he thought he was kissing his job goodbye. Luckily, that didn't happen! Dave believes that during his 33 years of union involvement at Newfane he helped improve the working conditions, salary, and the educational environment.

Dave and his wife, Peggy (who is a retired elementary school teacher) just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have one daughter, Karen, who has received a mechanical engineering degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. After retiring in 2006, Dave was asked by a close friend if he would like to join the NYSUT Retirees of Western New York as a board member. After the first meeting he said YES! He has served as President of RC 3 for two terms, as well as two terms as Secretary/Treasurer and two terms as on the Pension and Retirement committee. Dave also served two terms on the statewide NYSUT Retiree Advisory Committee and is presently a member of the Mini-Grant committee for the Coalition.

Dave concludes by stating "We all had the opportunity to spend our working years in what I believe to be one of the best careers you could have chosen. We worked with the youth of our country! It was hard and even crazy at times, but I believe extremely rewarding. In New York State, through our local union and NYSUT involvement, we have improved our quality of life and the quality of education. There are 250,000 NYSUT retirees, and if we can continue to remain politically active and vote, we can protect those hard-earned gains from the last 50 years or so. We are all Lifetime NYSUT Union Members!"

Thank you, Dave, for your NYSUT service!

PARTICIPATION FEE FORM (2022-2023)

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.

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

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are being accepted for officers/delegates for Retiree Council 1, Retiree Council 2, and Retiree Council 3.



Nominations shall be for the four offices of President/1st Delegate, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Delegate, and Alternate. All offices are for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2023.

Nominations must be signed by a retired NYSUT member from the nominee’s Retiree Council (referred to as **nominator**) and by that **nominee**. The nominee may include a supporting statement of not more than 100 words.

Nominations should be mailed or hand delivered to the NYSUT Office. Send to **RC Elections, NYSUT Office, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221, c/o Janet Goddard**. Nominations must be received at the NYSUT office by 12 PM on January 31, 2023. It is suggested that any mailed nominations have a return receipt request.

RETIREE COUNCIL OFFICER NOMINATION

I Hereby Nominate _____

Retiree Council # _____ (fill in if you know your RC, otherwise we will fill it in)

Position (Check One)

_____ President _____ Vice President _____ Secretary/Treasurer _____ Delegate/Alternate to
NYSUT RA & AFT Conventions

Name _____ Signature _____

District the Nominee Retired from _____

Acceptance of Nomination: I hereby accept the nomination as designated.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

District the NOMINEE Retired from _____

If desired, you can send a SHORT profile of the nominee.

TRIP TO SKANEATELES, NY!

An exciting excursion is being planned for early June 2023 (date TBA) to Skaneateles, New York.

Our one-day tour will include the following:

- Motorcoach Round-Trip Transportation
- A tour of Seneca Falls Women’s Rights National Park
- Lunch at the Sherwood Inn and a One-hour Skaneateles Lake Cruise
- Plus some “surprises” along the way!



More details to follow on our website. Set your Smartphone to camera mode – scan this QR code with your camera phone screen, click on the link that will pop up...and you will instantly be on our website.