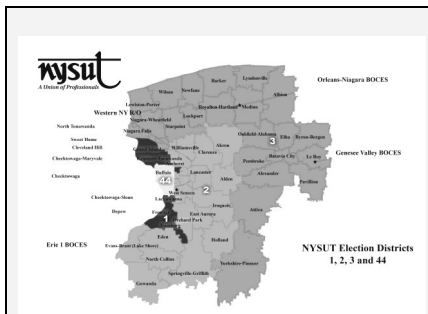


Western N.Y. NEWS & Views

FALL 2024

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



Welcome to our New Retirees,

It's a whole new world you are entering now that you have retired. Let me add my ***Congratulations and Best Wishes*** to all new retirees. No more papers to correct, no more faculty meetings, and no more getting up early and fighting snow and traffic! Enjoy the new phase of your life! Try out new things...hobbies, sports, restaurants, or just take that book you have been meaning to read off the shelf, make yourself a cup of coffee or tea and enjoy!

Your Board of Trustees are looking forward to meeting the new retirees and catching up with our "seasoned" members at our annual Fall Luncheon at The Columns in Elma on September 10. We will be having a Basket Raffle, "Share the Wealth" giveaway, Door Prizes, and a swag bag for the new retirees. Send in your RSVPs ASAP. The registration form is on Page 3 of this newsletter.



Just because you are retired doesn't mean you still can't be active in the Union. We are Union for Life! Our WNY Retirees have been recognized by Albany as having the highest percentage of retirees who remain politically active. Our retirees are working to FIX TIER 6, making phone calls for budget votes, writing post cards, or contributing to VOTE/COPE. NYSUT just announced that it is establishing the Third Monday of October as a day of *Recognition of Retirees* across the state!

Yours in Solidarity,
Lynn Mele, President

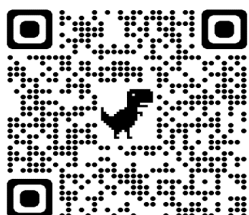


ROAD TRIP!

On Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 39 of our NYSUT Retirees and friends went on a coach bus tour of the **Seneca Wine Trail**. The weather was fantastic while we visited the Sauders Market, Muranda Cheese, Parker's Grille for lunch, The Woman's Rights Museum National Park, and Zugibe Wines. There was lots of time for shopping and tastings of locally produced wines, cheeses, baked goods, etc. Thanks to Horizon Tours (AAA), Niagara Scenic Bus Company, Tom Muranda (the owner/founder of Muranda Cheese), and our bus driver, Darren. It was a great adventure for all! (See page 3 for photos of the day.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—THE THIRD MONDAY OF OCTOBER

October 21, 2024—NYSUT's Recognition of Retired Teachers
A special event which will be announced and become a permanent "celebration" starting this year and going forward.



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.

PARTICIPATION FEE FORM (2024-2025)

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



HOLIDAY PARTY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024 SALVATORE'S ITALIAN GARDENS



Menu choices include: Prime Rib, Salmon, Chicken Francaise, Vegetable Napoleon.

Full information on this luncheon will be forthcoming in our November newsletter.

2023-2024 MINI-GRANTS

Mini-Grants are specially funded projects sponsored by our coalition for current active classroom teachers. This year we awarded \$6,740 to 17 WNY teachers. Some of their unique projects included building a Monarch butterfly way station, purchasing start-up supplies for an Elementary Kitchen Club, a presentation and discussion by a local professional artist, 5th and 6th grade Robotics Club building kits, funds to create an Urban Garden for the Erie County Fair, and purchasing field trip tour tickets to Niagara Falls Vista, Herschell Carousel Museum, and Silo City. The recipients were:

Kim Caligiuri, Orchard Park SD
Jennifer Canti, Iroquois SD
Sheila Chille, Niagara Falls SD
Lauren Darling, Hamburg SD
Melisa DiGuiseppe, Maryvale SD
Teri Fallessen, Lewiston-Porter SD
Sherry Grande, Pembroke SD
Lauren Molbert, Grand Island SD
Megan Molbert, Hamburg SD

Karen Pierce, Orchard Park SD
Susan Saeli, Pioneer SD
Lindsay Simmen, Erie 1 BOCES
Stacey Smith, Hamburg SD
Tim Stringham, Pembroke SD
Marisa Strzelic, Erie 1 BOCES
Patrick Uhteg, Depew SD
Mark Vogel, Springville SD

Thank you to all who supported the Mini-Grant program through your contributions and participation in our various fundraising events throughout the year.

MINI-GRANT DONATION FORM FOR 2024-2025

NYSUT Retirees of WNY awards mini-grants up to \$500 to in-service teachers to supplement special projects.

Grant monies are funded by our "Share the Wealth" drawings and retiree donations.

This past year we were able to offer five more mini-grant awards to local teachers for a total of \$7,000.

Our mini-grants help make a difference! Please consider donating to this worthwhile activity.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

DONATION AMOUNT \$ _____

Please send your donation payable to: **NYSUT Retirees of WNY** and mail to:

ATTN: Mark Shanahan
270 Essjay Road
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 10, 2024 – 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 August 30.
This form may be copied. Use only one registration per form.
Registrations will NOT be accepted after August 30.
No refunds will be issued.**

Checks should be payable to NYSUT Retirees of WNY and mailed to:

Lynn Mele, c/o NYSUT, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

Please cut and return with payment.

2024 FALL LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

Name _____
District from which you retired _____
Address _____
Town/City _____ Zip: _____
EMAIL: _____
Phone Number: _____ Are you a 2024 Retiree? Yes ___ No ___

COST: New Retiree \$20 _____ Current 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.**

There will be a basket raffle to benefit the Coalition Mini-Grant Program.

Questions? Contact Lynn Mele at (716) 632-2975 <http://rcwest.ny.af>



Sauders Country Store



Zugbie
Wines



Muranda
Cheese



**JUNE 5
Seneca
Bus Trip**
Parkers Grille



WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS THIS SUMMER?

NYSUT Member Benefits offers a variety of endorsed programs & services that can help you enjoy today, while planning for tomorrow.



As a NYSUT member, you have access to participate in a number of programs and services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits. These products have been carefully cultivated to provide members with quality programs at competitive prices, including insurance programs to help you protect your family; legal and financial plans to help you plan for the future; and shopping, travel & personal services to help save you money.

Member Benefits also offers a number of benefits available free of charge to members such as the premium Calm service, Peer Support Line, Financial Learning Center, and more.

Participation in our endorsed programs features the added protection of having a trusted advocate on your side. Our staff take great pride in stepping in to support members with any questions, concerns, or issues that may arise.

No matter what your plans may be, NYSUT Member Benefits is a great place to start. Explore all that your union membership has to offer!



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

