

SOUTHERN TIER TIMES

Retiree Council 11

NYSUT Retirees Southern Tier
Vestal RO (607) 786-5742

Affiliated with: NYSUT ~ AFT ~ NEA

Newsletter Editor

Judy Mitrowitz (jmitrowitz@stny.rr.com)

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President's Message

Dear Fellow Retirees;

What an interesting “Winter” it’s been. I think I used my snow blower once all “Winter.” I really can’t and shouldn’t complain. It’s just been different...maybe our new normal? Anyway as I compose this letter to you I’m hoping you are in good health and in good spirits.

Since our last RC 11 Steering Committee meeting held on Monday January 28th things have been clicking ahead politically. I recently attended the NYSUT Committee of 100 Lobby Day in Albany – March 4th and 5th. There were a little over 500 NYSUT members involved this time (both “in-service” or “active” and “retiree” participants). My group was scheduled to meet with Assembly member Donna Lupardo and Senator Lea Webb. Donna Lupardo was able to meet with us in person. Lea Webb was heading off to a committee working on the State Budget so we met with her Chief of Staff.

Issues we discussed with both individuals were: a) Reject Foundation Aid Cuts – having them advocate for full funding within the foundation aid formula; b) Fixing Tiers 5 and 6 by Co-sponsoring Assembly Bill – A9133 (Pheffer and Amato) and Senate Bill – S8490 (Jackson). We (NYSUT) are encouraging legislation that would reduce the final average salary calculation from five to three years for Tier 6 members, which would increase their pension earnings and offer parity with Tier 4 (you can learn more about this issue by visiting FixTier6.org); c) Community Schools – encouraging our legislators to support legislation advocating for the expansion of Community Schools which provide more support for student success; d) Increasing BOCES funding. The current BOCES Aid cap was established in 1992 and hasn’t been updated since; e) Reforming IDAS (Industrial Development Agencies) which currently provide tax abatements to industries to build within a community but then waive school taxes. There are currently bills before the State Legislature that would prohibit IDAs from waving school taxes; and f) Supporting SUNY and CUNY – calling for our legislators to support the “New Deal For Higher Education.” This would include increasing funding for more full-time faculty, better adjunct pay, more support for SUNY hospitals and increasing funding for student mental health services (you can learn a lot more about this issue by visiting PublicSchoolsUniteUs.org/NewDeal).

Donna Lupardo assured us that she is all in on every one of the issues we presented to her. She is well aware of the problems facing Public Education and is very supportive. Lea Webb’s Chief of Staff took copious notes for Lea as we met with her and assured us that (in her words) – “What I can tell you is everything we are seeing currently within both houses of the legislature looks very good for the future of Public Education in the State of New York.”

I’ve attended many Committee of 100s over the years and this was by far one of the better ones. Positive communications, no negative budget talk, everything seemed like we might actually see some good things in the future of Public Education....but...it’s still early and it’s all politics involved so we shall see. Let’s keep our fingers crossed that all goes well in Albany. Hope Springs Eternal.

Respectfully yours and in Continued Solidarity,

Tredwell Burch

President – Retiree Council 11

SENIOR HAPPENINGS
Submitted by Tim Cooper, RC 11 Vice President

- Prices for certain items should see a decrease in 2024. This includes gas prices, airline tickets, home heating oil, cars, and grocery store prices. This is due to prices having been high and now declining. (AARP Bulletin, 1/11/24).
- After you file your Federal Income taxes for 2023, you may track your refund on the app, IRS2Go.com. You will need your Social Security number, filing status, and the exact amount of the refund expected. (AARP Bulletin, 1/3/24).
- New Medicare rules allow for mental health counselors, including addiction specialists, to now join Medicare and enroll as eligible providers as of January 1, 2024. (AARP Bulletin, 12/14/23).
- The four most common pain relievers are Ibuprofen/Naproxen, Acetaminophen, Aspirin, Topical pain relievers. All come with side effects that need to be considered before using these products. (AARP Bulletin, 2/22/24).
- Hopefully, our Groundhog friends were correct, and we are looking for an early end to winter! (Tim Cooper, 2/28/24).

(Tim Cooper, February, 2024)

NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 11 -- LUNCH BUNCH MEETING
Wednesday, May 22, 2024
McGirk's Irish Pub, 1 Kattelville Road, (Chenango Bridge), Binghamton, NY

AGENDA

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Registration and Coffee (Coffee, Tea, and Danish)
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Welcome by President Tredwell Burch Business Meeting
11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Break
11:15 a.m. – 12 noon	LeAnn Keim Action for Older Persons, HIICAP Coordinator <i>LeAnn joined Action for Older Persons last year as the Health Insurance Information and Counseling Program (HIICAP) coordinator. This program provides no cost, unbiased information about all things Medicare. LeAnn grew up in western NY and moved to this area for employment with IBM. She has since worked at Cornell University, United Health Services, and most recently at Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways. She is excited to be leading the Medicare insurance counseling program which provides such valuable assistance to the residents of Broome County.</i>
12 noon	50/50 Drawing and Adjourn to Lunch
Cost:	Twenty-Two Dollars (\$22) per person <i>(All-inclusive for morning coffee, Danish, and luncheon)</i>
Menu:	Morning Coffee, Danish, and Buffet Luncheon

Return the form below by **May 7** with your check (**\$22 per person**) made payable to NYSUT Retiree Council 11 and Mail to:

Judy Mitrowitz, 1214 Dorothy Street, Binghamton, NY 13901
(Please ~ checks only, no cash payment)



LUNCH BUNCH -- May 22, 2024—Registration Form
\$22.00 --- CHECKS ONLY

Name: _____

Address: _____

Association You Were a Member of: _____

Guest: _____

Telephone: _____

Telephone: _____

Home E-mail: _____



**BOLDT CASTLE & ALEXANDRIA BAY
ALEXANDRIA BAY, NEW YORK**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

Sponsored by NYSUT Retiree Council 11

Hop on board and join your fellow retirees this summer for a day trip to Alexandria Bay, NY. We will enjoy an all-inclusive luncheon buffet and narrated cruise on Uncle Sam's Boat Tours through the Thousand Islands with an included stop at Boldt Castle. Enjoy a leisurely cruise through the enchanting channels of the Thousand Islands and learn about the region's rich history from one of the knowledgeable guides while enjoying a delicious lunch. You will be up close to the spectacular scenery and magnificent island homes. Near the end of the cruise, we will stop at Boldt Castle where you can disembark and spend up to an hour and a half on a self-guided tour of the castle. If someone should not want to tour the castle, they can remain on the boat and return to the mainland where they will have free time to sightsee and shop. On the way home, we will stop at the Cracker Barrel in Watertown for dinner which is included in the price of the trip.

We will meet at the Cracker Barrell parking lot, 876 Front Street, Binghamton, NY, by 7:30 a.m. and start to board the Hale Transportation bus.

- Depart for Alexandria Bay at 8:00 a.m. with a rest stop enroute.
- Arrive at Alexandria Bay at about 11:30 a.m.
- Board the boat at 12:00 noon.
- Narrated luncheon buffet cruise 12:00 to 2:45 p.m.
- Disembark the boat at Boldt Castle for a self-guided tour about 15 minutes before the cruise ends. Remain on the boat if you do not want to tour the castle.
- For those visiting Boldt Castle, a shuttle boat runs between the castle and the mainland every 30 minutes. Be sure to get the shuttle back in time for departure at 4:30 p.m.
- Everyone needs to be back to the motorcoach to depart by 4:30 p.m.
- Depart for home at 4:30 p.m.
- An included dinner stop at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Watertown, NY from approximately 5:15-6:15 p.m.
- Arrive back at the Cracker Barrel In Binghamton at approximately 8:30 – 9:00 p.m.

TOUR COST: \$199.00 PER PERSON

This trip is open to retirees from Retiree Council 11, and each retiree may bring one paying guest if you choose. Everything is included in this price including lunch, dinner and all tips and gratuities. The only thing not included is anything you purchase on the trip or at the fast-food rest stops on the way there or home. There will be bottled water and snacks on the bus, but feel free to bring your own coffee and snacks on the bus, as well.

For Reservations: Call or text Marianne Krno at 607-222-1695 (cell) before sending in your reservation to make sure that seats are available.

Please complete the form, tear off at the dotted line, and KEEP THE TOP HALF for your trip details. Mail this form with your check.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NYSUT Retiree Council 11

Money is due with your registration form. Your seat is confirmed when we receive your registration form and check.

**** If you need to cancel, please let me know ASAP !! We will not be able to refund money after June 21, 2024 unless a replacement can be found.**

Mail completed reservation form with check to: Marianne Krno, 1013 Forest Road, Endwell, NY. 13760 Cell Phone: 607-222-1695

Name: First _____ Last _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Association You Were a Member of: _____

Guest's Name: First _____ Last _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please "X" here if you require any device or accommodations as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act. You will be personally contacted by a NYSUT Staff Member.

