

Western N.Y. NEWS & Views

Spring 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



Dear Retirees,

Welcome Spring! I am ready for yardwork, warmer weather, longer days, and sitting on my porch. I have been going through seed catalogs and planning my garden. Let's hope that the weather will cooperate all across Western New York.

Thank you to all the retirees who sent in contributions for the mini-grant collections. \$1,055 has been raised. This year we are able to grant 18 mini-grants totaling \$7,303.56.

Our Regional Conference, sponsored by NYSUT on May 21 will offer fun and interesting workshops as well as speakers. Take a look at the offerings in this newsletter and send in your registration ASAP.



Once again, I cannot reiterate this enough. NYSUT is organizing political action to correct the economic injustices of Tier 6. Remember this affects not only teachers, but police, firefighters, nurses, and public servants. NYSUT President, Melinda Person, testified before a joint committee of the New York State Legislature in February, concerning efforts needed to fix Tier 6. Please go online to fixtier6.org for information and sign the petition. Honest, it's simple and fast!

As always, be well,
Yours in Solidarity
Lynn Mele, President



You are Invited! Never Too Late to Learn—May 21, 2024

You are Union for Life! No need to worry, NYSUT – your union – continues to protect and enhance your rights in retirement. NYSUT works to preserve income security including Social Security and Medicare. NYSUT also provides educational opportunities on topics relevant to retirees and works to enrich the lives of retiree members through social activities. Stay engaged with your union, experience all that is available to you. Elevate your knowledge base—join your fellow retirees at a local conference on **May 21** to learn new strategies for maximizing life in retirement. **WHERE?** Buffalo Marriott Niagara, 1340 Millersport Highway, Amherst NY 14221 ~ Registration begins at 8:30 AM ~ Wrap-up by 2:30 PM. \$36 per person. Breakfast and lunch is included. See the conference details on Page 3 of this newsletter.



Welcome New Retirees Fall Luncheon - Tuesday, September 10 at The Columns, Elma, New York. The menu is a Brunch Buffet.

Holiday Party - Tuesday, December 10 at Salvatore's. Menu choices include: Prime Rib, Salmon, Chicken Francaise, Vegetable Napoleon.

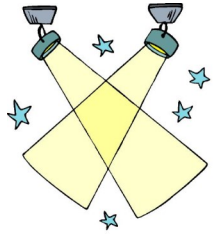
Full information on these luncheons will be forthcoming in future newsletters.



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.



SPOTLIGHT ON..... MARK SHANAHAN AND ED HALEY

Mark and Ed are co-treasurers of our coalition. **Mark Shanahan** taught for 37 years with the Sweet Home School District as a chemistry teacher and retired in 2018. During his tenure, he was also a football, basketball and track coach. Mark has 33 years of union participation; 17 years serving as the president of the Sweet Home Education Association.

Mark is married to Dr. Lynn Shanahan, Assistant Superintendent of Schools at Amherst CSD and they have two boys, Daniel and Michael. Mark has been a Bills season ticket holder since 1984; his other hobbies include golf, pickleball and traveling. Mark volunteered to serve on the NYSUT Retiree Board upon his retirement in order to continue his involvement and stay current in education, and to help teachers and their unions.



Mark Shanahan and Ed Haley

Ed Haley, who received a Bachelor’s degree from Niagara University and his Masters degree in Counselor Education from Canisius College worked as a caseworker for the Erie County Department of Social Services for two years before accepting a School Counselor job at Thousands Island HS in 1976. He left there in 1980 and began working as a School Counselor at Akron High School. Thus, he worked for a total of 37 years as a counselor until his retirement in 2013. He also worked part-time as a U.S. Immigration/U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer at the Peace Bridge from 1984-2007. While working at Akron, Ed co-chaired the Scholarship Committee, was a member of the negotiations committee for 26 years, was the Akron Faculty Association vice-president for 6 years, and the President for 14 years. In addition, Ed received the NYSUT Leadership Award for E.D. #2 in 2010. He not only serves as co-treasurer of our coalition, but he also serves as co-chair of the Legends Committee.

Ed met his wife, Karen (a retired English teacher) while working at Akron. They have been married for 40 years and have two children, Meghan and Sean.



TRAVEL NEWS—SENECA WINE COUNTRY AND TRAIL

A coach bus day trip is being planned to tour Seneca Wine Country on **Wednesday, June 5, 2024**. This event will include round-trip coach bus (pick-ups will be in the Southtowns at the AAA Office in Orchard Park and the Northtowns AAA Office in Williamsville). The coach bus will be handicapped/lift accessible. *The trip will include: a stop at Sauder’s Country Store, lunch at Parker’s Grille & Tap Room; tour of Muranda Cheese Company, and wine tasting at Zugibe Vineyards.* The price will include round-trip transportation, one meal, taxes and gratuity. Reservations are limited to the first 52 paid reservation forms received—the cost per ticket is **\$140** per person. **The deadline to register is April 19, 2024.** Registration forms can be obtained through this newsletter, the union webpage (www.rcwest.ny.aft.org), or our Facebook page. This tour is brought to you by the WNY Regional Council and AAA Horizon Club Tours. Please contact FRANK MARCHESE at 716-698-8434 or at his email buffwings@verizon.net with any questions.



SENECA LAKE SHOPPING, CHEESE, AND WINE TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone # _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Email _____

Please circle meal choice: **Caesars Salad with Chicken** **The Regular Burger (w/house fries)** **Famous Club Sandwich (w/kettle chips)**
Choose: Turkey, Roast Beef or Pastrami

Each meal includes: Beverage: soda or coffee and Dessert : Hot brownie sundae

Please complete this form and send with your check made payable to **WNYRC** to

WNYRC, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221.

NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

Buffalo Marriott Niagara, 1340 Millersport Highway, Amherst, NY 14221

\$36 - Includes Breakfast and Lunch

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30 - 9:00 AM	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 9:15 AM	Introductions, Opening Remarks and Recognitions Joe Cantafio, NYSUT WNY Regional Staff Director Janet Goddard, NYSUT WNY Retiree Services Consultant Lynn Mele, NYSUT WNY Retiree Coalition President
9:15 - 9:45 AM	Ron Gross, NYSUT Second Vice President
9:45 - 10:15 AM	Buffalo/Niagara Honor Flight - Kathy Brown RC1 President
10:15 - 11:00 AM	Session 1 Workshops
11:00 - 11:15 AM	Break
11:15 - 12:00 PM	Session 2 Workshops
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Keynote Speaker - Rob Ciminelli Award Winning Certified Life Mastery Consultant/Life Coach "LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE POSSIBLE" Looking for a new sense of Peace and Joy? Aren't we all? This presentation will give us tips on how to achieve new heights of success, fulfillment and spiritual aliveness.
2:00 - 2:30 PM	Wrap-up, Evaluations and Raffle Prizes



Please select **ONE** Workshop in **each** session and indicate your choice on the registration form.

Workshop Descriptions:

Cardio Groove for Seniors - Mary Cone, Certified Fitness Specialist and creator of Forever Fit. "You don't stop exercising because you grow old...you grow old because you stop exercising!"

HANDS ONLY CPR! - Grace Wach, Volunteer Recruitment Specialist, American Red Cross of WNY. Be ready to save a Life with HANDS ONLY CPR! Put your Compassion into Action! Also learn a bit more about how the Red Cross serves the WNY community and how you can get involved.

Medicare Fraud Prevention, Detection and Reporting - Tiffany Erhard, NY Senior Medicare Patrol Director, New York Statewide Senior Action Council, Inc.

Medicare Patients' Rights, Observation Status, Hospital Stays and Advanced Directives - Tiffany Erhard, NY Senior Medicare Patrol Director, New York Statewide Senior Action Council, Inc.

Member Benefits - Shopping and Travel - Jackie Davis, NYSUT Member Benefits Coordinator. Learn about the numerous programs and services offered through the NYSUT Member Benefits. Topics will range from popular insurance programs to shopping and travel discounts available to NYSUT Retirees.

The 1901 Pan-American Exposition - a World's Fair in Buffalo, New York - Anthony Greco, Director of Exhibits and Interpretive Planning, The Buffalo History Museum. This special presentation will explore why Buffalo was chosen, what one could expect to see at the world's fair, what was Tesla's role in the Pan-Am, and why is Buffalo known as the City of Lights?"

Cut Here

Name: _____ E-Mail _____

Street Address: _____ City _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Choose **ONE** Workshop Session 1: (10:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.) Choose **ONE** Workshop Session 2: (11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardio Groove for Seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> Cardio Groove for Seniors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HANDS ONLY CPR | <input type="checkbox"/> HANDS ONLY CPR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare Fraud Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare Patients' Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member Benefits - Shopping and Travel | <input type="checkbox"/> Member Benefits - Shopping and Travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pan-American Exposition History | <input type="checkbox"/> Pan-American Exposition History |

Please return this form with your check for \$36.00 payable to NYSUT by April 30, 2024 to:
Lynda Brown at NYSUT, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville, NY 14221 / (716) 634-7132

* Indicate here if you require any assistive device or accommodations as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

PARTICIPATION FEE FORM (2023-2024)

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

MINI-GRANT DONATION FORM

NYSUT Retirees of WNY awards mini-grants up to \$500 to active teachers to supplement special projects.
Grant monies are funded by our "Share the Wealth" drawings and retiree donations.
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