



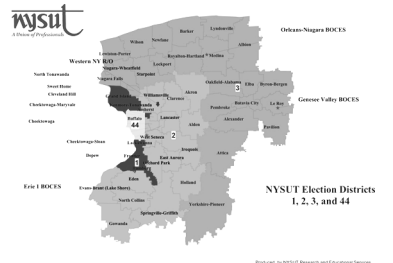
BUFFALO RETIREE



June 2024 Vol. 11 Issue 3

Retiree Council No. 44

Keeping you informed and connected. Published by Retiree Council # 44



RETIREE COUNCIL #44 RECOGNIZED at NYSUT RA 2024



Congratulations to Retiree Council #44 Members! Our Retiree Council was recognized at the NYSUT RA held in New York City on May 3 and 4. We were the winner of a Local Community Service Award and one of three locals who were recipients of the Ken Kurzweil Social Justice Recognition Award. Sara Rodland, Lynn Garcia and Stan Nowak represented Retiree Council #44.

Retiree Council # 44 Officers:

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Tom Gattie
Pam Messina
Christine Nowak
Amelia Parrish
Paula Prince
Donna Stempniak

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Editor: Sara Rodland

Highlights of the NYSUT RA

- Over 1700 delegates attended.
- **Ron Gross**, Second Vice President, announced to the delegates that the third Monday of October will be Retiree Recognition Day. This year it will be celebrated on October 21.
- **Tom Di Napoli**, New York State Comptroller
As long as I am State Comptroller, I won't let anyone undermine our pension security.
- **Randi Weingarten**, AFT President
When NYSUT fights, NYSUT wins.
- **Melinda Person**, NYSUT President
Our world needs you more than ever and your participation matters.
- **Diane Ravitch** spoke at the Presidents Conference
You are on the right side of history...you belong to a union that protects students, teachers and academic freedom in public schools.
- **Resolutions** that were adopted included...

Pension and Retirement: Credit for Out-of-State Prior Service

Legislative and Political Action II: Addressing Extreme Temperatures in New York Schools, Healthy Universal School Meals for New York State Public School Children

Healthcare and Workplace Safety: Monitoring Medicare Advantage Plans, Strategies to Address Rising Health Insurance Costs and Achieve Quality Coverage

Legislative and Political Action I: Banned Books, Mandatory Seat Belts to Save Lives, Fighting Child Poverty in New York State

Educational Issues I: Addressing the Challenges of Artificial Intelligence

Organization: Addressing the Overreach of the U.S. Supreme Court, Teaching and Learning about Labor

RC #44 Delegates L to R: Stan Nowak, Sara Rodland and Lynn Garcia



IN MEMORIAM ART PARKS



History teacher at McKinley High School
Long-time member of the Buffalo Teachers
Federation Executive Committee

Delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly
as a teacher and retiree

Strong unionist

Trivia player extraordinaire

Beer connoisseur

Husband, father and grandfather

This is who Art Parks was. Art passed away
March 31, 2024 at the age of 94. We remember Art for
being an advocate for teachers and retirees.

NYSUT LEADERSHIP AWARDS DINNER

The NYSUT Leadership Awards Dinner was held at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center on May 16, 2024. NYSUT leaders from Western New York were recognized and honored for their service and commitment to the union. Two of our members were honored at this event.

The Retiree Council #44 honoree was Claudia Kania. Claudia worked as a special education teacher in the Buffalo Public Schools at #84. She developed and implemented a community based program for students with multiple impairments between the ages of 18 and 21. Claudia has been active in union activities serving on the Buffalo Teachers Federation Executive Committee, as an NEANY delegate, Board member of Retiree Council #44 from 2011 to 2023 and an alternate delegate to the NYSUT RA. She volunteers at the Family Justice Center, The Teacher's Desk and delivers Meals on Wheels. She enjoys spending time with her husband and children. Congratulations, Claudia!

Sara Rodland received the NYSUT Retirees of WNY Legends Award for 2024 for her involvement, service and leadership in the union as an in-service teacher and retiree.



*L to R: Serena Kotch,
Sara Rodland and
Melinda Person,
NYSUT President*

<http://rcwest.ny.aft.org>
Follow NYSUT Retiree Council #44
on Facebook

RC # 44 ADVOCACY • VOLUNTEERISM • ACTIVISM



WNY Labor Federation Annual Meeting
L to R: Lynn Garcia, Sara Rodland, Congressman
Tim Kennedy, Donna Stempniak, Becky Pordum
and Ginna O'Leary



RC #44 members and NYSUT colleagues join New York State
Senator Sean Ryan and New York State Assemblywoman
Karen McMahon to lobby for funding for public schools
at a press conference.



NYSUT Awards Dinner
Claudia Kania



NYSUT Awards Dinner L to R: Tom Gattie, Paula
Prince, Becky Pordum, Sara Rodland, Claudia
Kania, Lynn Garcia, Teri Mahar, Lynn Diagostino
and Charlotte Ross



Committee of 100 In-District Meeting
L to R: Paula Prince, Sara Rodland, Becky Pordum,
Eva Mroczka, Rose Furman and Claudia Kania



Volunteers at The Teacher's Desk
L to R: Julie LoCicero, Sharon Fretthold
and Becky Pordum



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. No registrations will 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.

Questions? Contact Lynn Mele at (716) 632-2975

Cost \$20 for new retirees/ \$42 Current Retiree/Guest 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.

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/Guest \$42 ___

SIX REASONS TO JOIN NEA-RETIRED

1. Protect retirement security.
2. Improve public education.
3. Politically advocate for schools and students.
4. Stay connected to colleagues and the profession.
5. Stay informed through conferences and media.
6. Access financial benefits through NEA Member Benefits.



Contact Sara Rodland if you are interested in becoming an NEA Retired Member.

THE BUFFALO BRIDGE CENTER

welcomes players of all skill levels.

90 Dingens Street, Buffalo, NY
(716)424-0014

www.buffalobridgecenter.com



Retiree Council #44 Voluntary 2023-2024 Participation Fee Form

Name _____

Please circle your affiliation

Street _____

BTF BEST TAB SUB

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please check the amount of your Participation Fee:

\$10.00 ___ Other \$ ___

Send check payable to: NYSUT RC #44 and mail to:

**Lynn Garcia—RC #44 Treasurer 1805 Maple Road Apt 215
Williamsville, NY 14221**

Year of Retirement _____

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.

