



BUFFALO RETIREE



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Retiree Council No. 44

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

nysut



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Retiree Recognition Celebration, October 21, 2024

NYSUT has one of the most successful union retiree programs in the country. What started over 30 years ago with approximately 33,000 retiree members, has now grown to nearly 270,000 and counting! Today's NYSUT retirees were the activists who gave birth to our union 51 years ago and continue to actively participate in all NYSUT's programs and initiatives. They work phone banks to elect endorsed



candidates; they attend marches and rallies; they work for civil rights, social justice and women's rights; they work to support their in-service colleagues; they fight to protect Medicare and Social Security; they provide scholarships and teacher grants; they donate books and school supplies for children in local districts; they support local food banks; they deliver meals to the elderly and infirmed; they plan interesting, informative and educational programs to keep seniors engaged and informed...and the list goes on.

In recognition of their work and commitment to our Union, the third Monday in October each year shall be designated NYSUT RETIREE RECOGNITION DAY

The first annual Retiree Recognition Day celebration was held in Western New York at the NYSUT office on Monday, October 21, 2024. Retiree Council #44 members celebrated with retirees from RC #1, #2 and #3. The celebration included a proclamation from the Erie County Executive's office, a statement from Rich Nigro, president of the Buffalo Teachers Federation, and of course, cake! Plan on joining your retired colleagues this year on October 20, 2025 for this event.

Statement from Rich Nigro, President of Buffalo Teachers Federation on Retiree Recognition Day, October 21, 2024

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. For both teachers and unions, there is no truer statement. As retirees, the sacrifices you made throughout your careers and the contributions you continue to make inspire your fellow educators and fortify the enduring strength of the union. On behalf of my fellow BTF union brothers and sisters, thank you for what we have and thank you for all you continue to do for us!

Retiree Council #44 Voluntary 2024-2025 Participation Fee Form

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please circle your affiliation

BTF BEST TAB SUB

Please check the amount of
your Participation Fee:

\$10.00 _____ Other \$ _____

Year of Retirement _____

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

Lynn Garcia—RC #44 Treasurer 1805 Maple Road Apt 215

Williamsville, NY 14221

BUFFALO RETIREE NEWSLETTER CHANGES

The delivery of our newsletters is changing in the fall of 2025. Prior to this date, you will need to choose a delivery option for your Retiree Council #44 newsletter that best meets your needs. **If you prefer to receive a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you, you must communicate your desire to NYSUT and opt-in to receive it.** All Retiree Council newsletters can be viewed in the Retiree Council Newsletters page located on the NYSUT website. New issues will be added immediately as they become available.

There are several easy ways to select your preference.

- ♦ Visit nysut.org/rcnewsoptin and use your NYSUT identification number.
- ♦ Contact NYSUT at 518-801-9199 or retiree.services@nysut.org
- ♦ Scan the QR Code to the right with your smart phone.



SUPPORT EDUCATORS

HELP OUR STUDENTS

PROTECT OUR RIGHTS

ADVANCE DEMOCRACY

UNITE OUR NATION

GIVE TO

VOTE-COPE

Why Contribute to VOTE-COPE?

Your statewide union has a political fund-raising arm called VOTE-COPE. VOTE-COPE is NYSUT's non-partisan action fund that coordinates the voluntary contributions of members and supports NYSUT-endorsed candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public-education and pro-labor.

Last year, your colleagues contributed over \$11 million to VOTE-COPE.

Our VOICES need to be heard year round. PLEASE CONTRIBUTE! **Login to MyNYSUT to learn more or give to VOTE-COPE**



NYSUT SANCTIONED FLORIDA RETIREE COUNCIL

NYSUT Retiree Council #43 is the only NYSUT sanctioned out of state retiree council. They have an active, dedicated group of retirees who welcome you to join a local Florida unit. All units sponsor social activities, meetings with guest speakers and community projects that benefit children. If you are interested in becoming involved, even on a seasonal basis, please contact Miriam Hanan, NYSUT Retiree Consultant, at 516-236-0276 or at miriam.hanan@nysut.org. Miriam will connect you with the local unit representative in your area. Connecting with a Florida retiree unit in no way takes away your affiliation with Retiree Council #44.

RC # 44 EXPERIENCED • RESOURCEFUL • ENGAGED



Back Row L to R: Pam Messina, Donna Stempniak, Becky Pordum and Tom Gattie
Front Row L to R: Paula Prince, Sara Rodland, Teri DiPasquale-Mahar and Lynn Diagostino
RC#44 Officers and Board Members



Making Strides Walk
Retirees contributed \$666
L to R: Sara Rodland and Paula Prince



L to R: Rhonda Mathiebe and Carol Cromwell
from Retiree Celebration



L to R: Daniela Hager-Carbonara and Steve Parada from Retiree Celebration

The following pictures are from the Retiree Celebration



L to R: Roz Gaumer and Claudia Kania




Front Row: L to R: Lynn Diagostino, Stephanie Geyer & Teri DiPasquale-Mahar
Back Row L to R: Tom Gatti & Lynn Garcia



L to R: Paula Prince, Lydia Perry, Kathy Franklin and Charlotte Ross



Student and Teacher Reunited L to R: Terrance Heard and Barb Snyder



Scenic
EXCURSIONS.NET
Experience / Discover / Explore

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5175 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg, NY 14075
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NYSUT Syrup & Slots

Sprague's Brunch & Seneca Allegany Casino

MON., JUNE 2, 2025

\$97.00 per person

Price does not include driver gratuity
Payment due MAY 12, 2025



Cuba Cheese Shoppe



Off to the Southern tier to a fun filled excursion. First, we're off to the **CUBA CHEESE SHOPPE** for shopping time. We're now off to **SPRAGUE'S MAPLE FARMS**. Sprague's is a great place to visit year 'round. Enjoy **BRUNCH** with your choice of entrée & time to browse in their gift shop. Continue on, to enjoy the "slots" portion of your day excursion, at the **SENECA ALLEGANY CASINO**. With 68,000 sq. feet of world-class gaming, more than 2,200 reel-spinning & video Slot Machines & 40 favorite table games. The casino is now non-smoking with a separate smoking section, a high limit slot and table games areas, the Poker Room and The Casino Bar. **RECEIVE \$25 SENECA SLOT DOLLARS AND \$5 SENECA DINING DOLLARS** during your casino stay. **BRING ALONG OR REGISTER FOR A SENECA SOCIAL CARD TO RECEIVE THE INCENTIVE.** Bring small soft sided cooler for cheese purchases.

BRING A VALID STATE OR FEDERALLY ISSUED ID (PASSPORT OR DRIVER'S LICENSE) ALONG WITH YOUR SENECA PLAYERS CARD IF YOU HAVE ONE.

CHOOSE ONE WHEN MAKING YOUR RESERVATION:

- Pancakes with Eggs & Meat
 - Texas Size French Toast w Meat
 - Sausage Gravy & Biscuits
- Dessert is not planned. Use your \$5 meal credit at casino to purchase a sweet!

DEPART: 8:00 am Eastern Hills Mall, 4545 Transit Rd., Williamsville REAR LOT park where former food court entrance was located.

8:30 am Tops, 355 Orchard Park Rd. W. Seneca, NY -front of store- further area away from store entrance.
RETURN: 6:30 pm – 7 pm

First paid, first reserved. Complete form below and return with payment and meal choice. Please make payable to and mailed specifically to **NYSUT RETIREES of WNY**, 270 Essjay, Williamsville, NY 14221, ATTN: TRIP Questions, call Sharon 716-472-6666. Keep top of flyer for your reference.

Please make payable to and mailed specifically to NYSUT RETIREES of WNY, 270 Essjay, Williamsville, NY 14221, ATTN: TRIP
No refunds once paid.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Email: _____

Check Box: ☐ I understand trip is non-refundable. I must have valid, government issued photo ID to receive casino incentive.

Pick up Point: ☐ Eastern Hills Mall, Williamsville ☐ Tops Supermarket, 355 Orchard Park Rd. W Seneca

Meal Choice ☐ Pancakes w Eggs & Meat ☐ French Toast w Meat ☐ Sausage Gravy & Biscuits

Dietary Restrictions _____

Special Needs / Wheel chair lift needed* _____

*Max. two wheelchairs on motor coach. First request, first reserved.

Save the Date! May 20, 2025: Retiree Conference Day at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott. Please check Coalition website (<http://rcwest.ny.aft.org>) or use this QR code to register.



Follow NYSUT Retiree Council #44 on Facebook

<http://rcwest.ny.aft.org>



NYSUT members have access to programs and services from NYSUT Member Benefits that can help them save money, protect their family, and assist with planning for the future.

With our **Legal Service Plan**, you will receive crucial estate planning documents (Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Power of Attorney); free attorney consultations; and guaranteed maximum fees for personal legal matters. Plan participants receive guaranteed hourly rates along with discounted prices for referral attorneys.

Our **Financial Counseling Program** offers access to certified financial planners that provide fee-based financial counseling services. Participants can get help with retirement planning, 403(b) & 457(b) plan advice, debt management, savings, budgeting, and more.

Check out **Synchrony Bank** for some of today's most competitive interest rates on certificates of deposit, money market, and savings accounts. An optional automated savings program (which makes transfers from your checking account at another bank to your money market or savings account at Synchrony Bank) is an easy way to build your balances in higher-earning accounts.

Our online **Financial Learning Center - powered by Kiplinger's Personal Finance** – offers numerous articles designed to assist NYSUT members with achieving their personal financial goals and better understand the nuances of insurance, savings, investing, and more. This free resource is updated on a monthly basis.

Do you have student loan or general debt concerns? Our **Cambridge Credit Counseling program** is available at no cost to assist NYSUT members with better understanding general debt consolidation and student loan repayment options. Members can take part in a free consultation with a certified Cambridge counselor or sign up for a no-cost student loan debt webinar provided by Cambridge.

Take back your financial independence and protect your family for whatever the future may bring.

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

