



## January 2024 NYSUT Retiree Council 9 Newsletter

**Which Sub-council do you belong to?** These are based upon where the district you retired from was located. A retiree may join a sub-council where they now live if more convenient. (And if you like an activity in another sub-council, sign up!)

**RETIREE COUNCIL (RC) 9** Email is [NYSUTRC@gmail.com](mailto:NYSUTRC@gmail.com) Website is [rc9.ny.aft.org](http://rc9.ny.aft.org)

**RC9 OFFICERS:** President Lynn Hunneyman [lhunneyman@gmail.com](mailto:lhunneyman@gmail.com) Vice President Rod Sherman [rsherman@westelcom.com](mailto:rsherman@westelcom.com)

Treasurer: Rick Morris Secretary: Robin Duncan Newsletter Editor: Phillis Walrath [philliswalrath@gmail.com](mailto:philliswalrath@gmail.com)

RC 9 Website: Nona Garrard, Sandra Gleason, and Laura Gutenmann

NYSUT Delegates: Rick Morris, Rod Sherman, Joe Vernon Alternates: Tony Fiacco, Lynn Hunneyman, Nan Scinta  
NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant Ruth Shippee [ruth.shippee@nysut.org](mailto:ruth.shippee@nysut.org) 518-321-8676

### **SUB COUNCILS**

**CVCR Co-Chairs:** Carlos Madan & Voilet Moesch [cvcr.ny@gmail.com](mailto:cvcr.ny@gmail.com) **FSNUR:** [FSNURRC9@gmail.com](mailto:FSNURRC9@gmail.com) Acting Chair: Tony Fiacco

**SANR:** [sanrrc9@gmail.com](mailto:sanrrc9@gmail.com) Acting Chair Joe Vernon **Jeff-Lewis CNR President:** Lynn Hunneyman [lhunneyman@gmail.com](mailto:lhunneyman@gmail.com)

[jlcnr9@gmail.com](mailto:jlcnr9@gmail.com) **JLNCNR Webmaster** <https://www.jlcnr-rc9.org/> Carole Ashbridge [cashbridge@zoominternet.net](mailto:cashbridge@zoominternet.net)

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Greetings for 2024

Once again another new year is upon us, one that will surely be interesting and I hope one that brings a lot of our present day divisions to a close. I may be in the minority, but I truly believe the best thing that could happen for our upcoming Presidential Election is for both candidates that are presently leading the two sides would be to step aside. We need an election based on issues, not personalities. There are too many problems facing our country and the world for us to have another election bogged down with all these side issues. Now to that subject I urge all of you to actively support Vote Cope, we need to continue to have a strong voice not just in the national election but for statewide and local races too. Many of you I know are already involved by working at the polls, a role I took on for many years, but also writing letters to our legislators, campaign signs, phone trees, political buttons or any other way to make our voices heard.

RC 9 is busily planning another active year for our members across the North Country. Our membership numbers continue to grow and it appears that FSNUR is getting closer to being an active sub council once again. Social activities are being planned along with Mini Conferences and retiree meetings in our respective sub councils. Rod Sherman, Rick Morris, and Joe Vernon will be attending the NYSUT RA in New York City this spring. I along with others will attend the Retiree Councils statewide meetings this spring and fall. Ruth Shippee, our NYSUT Retirees Services Consultant has done a wonderful job planning events and assisting your retiree leadership. She continues to provide services to retirees across the North Country. I would also urge all of you to make use of the NYSUT and RC 9 websites as shown in the newsletter for each issue. In my travels across RC 9 I hope to meet many more of you for the first time and visit the many retiree friends I have already met.

Now on to 2024,

RC 9 & JLCNR President, *Lynn Hunneyman*



***Been Wondering What You Can Do....This May Be Your Answer*** Are you like many people wondering what you can do to help make a positive impact in our area? As they say, activists never retire. You could become part of a team for our Retiree Council to help provide other retirees with information and possible action plans so that we can use our experience to make a difference?

NYSUT Retiree Services is looking to make teams to help us learn more about what actions we can take. *What will these teams be looking at?* For one item, what can be done to help Tier 5 and 6 members have a more supportive retirement like we have. That will take legislative action. And we have an easy way to influence that through our contributions to VOTE COPE. The retiree council team will be looking to encourage us all to do our part with that.

*Have you wondered how your school district is influenced?* Are you interested in learning more about how staff is supported and encouraged to do their job? Are you concerned about how some groups are targeting our in-service members and creating hostile work environments? *What can retirees do to support our in-service members?* This team will explore that.

The team's efforts in creating, recruiting, and growing a political program specifically designed for our region and by our regional retirees. NYSUT staff training for this role is included, in March, as well as support to help train and educate fellow retirees on issues and the program.

Help build a stronger and deeper support network of retirees to support the union!

Please consider being a part of this team. If you are interested in further information, contact our Retiree Services Consultant, Ruth Shippee at [ruth.shippee@nysut.org](mailto:ruth.shippee@nysut.org)

### **SUB-COUNCIL EVENTS AND NEWS:**

*Check out what is happening across Retiree Council 9. Events are open to all RC members- even if the event is in another sub council. Events will be listed at <http://rc9.ny.aft.org/>*

#### **CVCR**

Our monthly meetings/luncheons/speakers are at MHAB Fresh Dormitory Drive Plattsburgh. You will receive an email with details on how to sign up. The rest of the dates for the year are February 12, 2024, March 11, 2024, April 8, 2024, May 13, 2024, June 10, 2024.

### **JLCNR- Jefferson Lewis Council of NYSUT Retirees**

#### **Sharing Your Story**

*How often do you wish you would have asked your parents or grandparents about their lives, from where they came and who are other relatives?* Family research is one way to go about finding this information and then sharing this information for your descendants. Join Carole Ashbridge, retired library media specialist from Sackets Harbor Central School and a professional genealogist, as she provides some tips on how to get started and the surprises you can find.

This hour long zoom workshop will be on Thursday, February 15 at 1 pm. Please register by emailing [nysutrc9@gmail.com](mailto:nysutrc9@gmail.com) by Friday, Feb. 9.

### **Southern Adirondack NYSUT Retirees (SANR)**

### **FSNUR-Franklin St. Lawrence NYSUT United Retirees**

#### **Happy New Year!!**

2024 is going to be an interesting year. FSNUR has been reactivated and we are planning activities and meetings that will be fun and informative for the retired educators of the North Country. If you have never participated, we encourage you to join FSNUR and become involved in some way. If you are a member, please reach out to your retired colleagues and invite them to join us at an activity or a meeting.

Research shows that social networking is a cornerstone of a happy and healthy retirement. ***May 2024 be a year of new experiences for you.***

*Tony Fiacco- Acting FSNUR Chair*

#### **FSNUR Nominating Committee.**

The committee will help to locate candidates for our spring elections.

Please contact Ruth Shippee our NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant at [ruth.shippee@nysut.org](mailto:ruth.shippee@nysut.org) or 518-321-8676 if you would like to help with this.

**AND OF COURSE:** people willing to be officers are needed.

The offices are president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The Board looks to meet several times a year to approve activities suggested, work on programming and scholarships to new teachers.

Please contact Ruth by **February 20** if you are interested in running for an office and/or being on the nominating committee.

In our next newsletter candidates will be announced and the date of our June meeting and elections.

## FSNUR Upcoming Events

**February 15** Retirees (and friends) are invited to a guided ski at **Higley Flow State Park** in South Colton, beginning at 10:00. Higley Flow offers almost 10 miles of groomed x-country ski trails for all levels of experience. Retired English Teacher Tom French, a volunteer groomer at the Park, will guide the group over 2 to 4 miles of woods trails while offering commentary on the history and ecology of this park along the edge of the Adirondacks. The route will be determined by the group.

Rental X-Country Skis will be available for \$7.00. The Park also offers snowshoe rentals for those who would prefer to walk. If there is insufficient snow for skiing, a hike will be offered instead. Lunch (on your own) will be available afterwards at the nearby [Red Pine Cone](#). If weather is inclement, the event will be postponed until the following week, Thursday, February 22. RSVP by 2/12 to [fsnurrc9@gmail.com](mailto:fsnurrc9@gmail.com)

**February 27** at 10 am at the NYSUT Potsdam Office will be the next meeting. We had many great ideas of activities and we will be checking back on what we have found out. Please come join us. Email [ruth.shippee@nysut.org](mailto:ruth.shippee@nysut.org) to let her know you will be attending.

**March 14** Come visit the **Remington Museum** in Ogdensburg! We will be meeting at **1 pm** at the museum. Entrance fee is \$12/person. For those interested in having **lunch** beforehand, we are planning to meet at the **Freight House** at around 11:45. Please email [fsnurrc9@gmail.com](mailto:fsnurrc9@gmail.com) to sign up by Friday, March 8.

### Tai Chi



As a thank you for years of service in education, North Country Tai Chi LLC is offering a free one month unlimited membership in Tai Chi instruction to retired teachers and school personnel. All classes are offered both in person and online in a friendly, informative, and fun environment. While we offer three semesters each year, you can start at any time you are ready. Our Winter Semester begins 1/15 but you can start your trial at any time. Please visit us at [northcountrytaichi.com](http://northcountrytaichi.com) You can also send Sean Boutin an email at [northcountrytaichi@gmail.com](mailto:northcountrytaichi@gmail.com) or call at (315) 229-4003.

### It's That Time of the Year!



This is the time of the year that our in-service colleagues will be committing to join us in the retiree ranks! If you hear of people making that decision, if you look at Board of Education agendas/minutes, see it on social media, etc. please let Lorraine know so we can make sure to get everyone connected as soon as possible. Send the information to [nysutrc9@gmail.com](mailto:nysutrc9@gmail.com)

If you could include the person(s) name, school district (and building location if possible), when they are retiring and where you found the information. For example: Joe Doe, Green School District in ABC Elementary in the January 2024 Board of Education agenda retiring May 30, 2024. Thank you!

Free Member Benefits for NYSUT members. For more information visit [Free Member Benefits \(nysut.org\)](http://Free Member Benefits (nysut.org)) Have you checked out their free services lately? These are the newest ones:



PEER SUPPORT LINE  
PREMIUM CALM SERVICE  
YOURCARE360  
LEGAL ASSISTANCE PLAN



**Speaking of Legal Plan:** Often we procrastinate about getting our legal documents updated- *don't we all!!!!* To assist in this, Retiree Council 9 has arranged help. This benefit is amazing: for you and a partner, for \$55 annually or \$50 pension deduction, you will get your wills, power of attorney, living wills and health care proxy.

The process is to: 1) *pay for legal plan*, 2) make appointment to get assistance in *filling out forms* on February 20 9-5 ( the 21st will be available if needed) with John Calimano of the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C., 3) once forms are completed, wait 6-8 weeks for them to be mailed to you for *review*, 4) attend a *signing event* at one of the three North Country offices: Watertown, Potsdam, Plattsburgh or with one of the participating law firms.. Find out more information, go to <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/legal-and-financial/legal-service-plan>

### **To take advantage of the Retiree Council 9 plan:**

- A. Contact Member Benefits to register and pay for the plan. You can do this by calling 800-626-8101 or going on-line. Please do so by February 14.
- B. If you want to complete the forms and send them in, do so. To schedule a 10 minute appointment with a lawyer on Feb. 20 between 9 am - 5 pm, email [ruth.shippee@nysut.org](mailto:ruth.shippee@nysut.org). These will be either by phone call or via zoom: your choice.

- C. Dates are being set for document signing days. These will be in the next newsletter. You will bring your documents to be signed and witnessed.

For those of you who may have had your local provide this benefit, it will be similar to that. *Let's use this benefit and get our legal documents updated!*

**FLORIDA SNOWBIRDS (OR TRANSPLANTS)**

Did you know that there is a NYSUT Retiree Council #43? It consists of 10 units throughout the state that will **"Welcome You"** to be a participant while in the Sunshine State. For information contact: RC President Felicia Bruce or visit <http://rc43.aft.org> They are planning their conferences now so make sure to reach out!

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
Spring RC 9 Conference  
Watertown Elks  
May 23, 2024

-----Cut here and mail with \$20 Participation Fee with RC 9 for 2023-2024 -----

If you have not done so yet, please make sure to submit your membership form and participation fee: our year runs July1- June 30. Some sub-councils pay directly to their membership person.

**\*\* YOU CAN PUT AN ADDRESS LABEL HERE SO YOU DO NOT NEED TO FILL OUT THE ADDRESS\*\*\*\***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

School district retired from: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Retired: \_\_\_\_\_

Check your sub-council:  CVCR  FSNUR  JLCNR  SANR

**Send to:** RC 9 Membership c/o NYSUT 513 Washington Street #3 Watertown, NY 13601