



# RETIREE COUNCIL 10 SKYLINE NEWS

**NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 10: SERVING OVER 11,000 NYSUT MEMBERS WHO WERE EMPLOYED IN ALBANY, RENSSELAER, SARATOGA, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES**  
**TEACHER AND SRP SOLIDARITY**

**October- November 2024 From your RC 10 President: Barbara McCarthy**



October has arrived and as we turn the calendar page, we are reminded that Election Day is in a few days. There has been considerable discussion about **Project 2025** and the impact it may have upon Americans if implemented. Because it is nearly 1,000 pages long, it's unlikely that most will read it from beginning to end. Fortunately, our national organization, the **American Federation of Teachers (AFT)**, has synthesized it to a five-page document which highlights the impact the proposals will have upon our members.

I've provided those links at the end of this message, along with a link to the nearly 1,000-page **Project 2025** document, should you be so inspired to read or fact check anything I have written.

As retirees, we should all be concerned about raising the retirement age for Social Security. When we retired, most of us made the choice to leave after we had accumulated 30+ years of service and reached the age of 55. Some left as soon as they reached that benchmark, while others stayed well beyond the requirement of age plus number of years of service; having a pension made that possible, knowing as the cost of living went up, Social Security would augment our income. Ideally, many waited until age 70 to draw on that additional source of revenue. However, there are many of our former colleagues that need that income sooner rather than later because they were not in the workforce as long as their counterparts and may not have a spouse who can also contribute to the household income. Raising the Social Security age will mean that in the future these individuals will have to continue working longer than they want or can.

Currently some of our members in other parts of the state have no retiree health insurance, and they must continue working until they are eligible for Medicare. Would raising the retirement age mean Medicare would also respond by requiring a higher retirement age? A back-up plan for retirees who might have needed to retire due to health concerns might have been the Affordable Care Act. That, too, is on the chopping block in Project 2025, threatening to leave millions without health insurance. (chapter 14)

In addition, Project 2025 wants to put Medicare on a path to privatization and repeal the recently established caps on out-of-pocket drug costs, including eliminating the \$35 monthly cap on insulin! Would a privatized plan offer the same protections we currently have with Medicare, such as an annual well visit and capped rates on necessary medications like insulin, statins, and vaccines? (page 465)

We're all hoping for medical research breakthroughs in areas like Alzheimer's, cancer, arthritis, Parkinson's, macular degeneration and pulmonary disease to name a few. Project 2025 proposes restricting federal funding for universities to conduct research. (page 355)

Project 2025 also calls for the elimination of the Department of Education. It calls for eliminating **Head Start**, which serves over 1 million children and offers access to high quality childcare for those that need it most. It removes accountability and transparency requirements for charter schools, allowing them to pick and choose who they wish to serve. It calls for reducing the eligibility for free school meals and would allow states to "opt out" of federal education programs and instead allow education funds to be used "toward any lawful education purpose under **state law**". It's easy

**Retiree Council 10 Officers**     [nysutrc10@gmail.com](mailto:nysutrc10@gmail.com)     **Join our private Facebook group!**

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**Membership Director** Davia Dymond [rc10membership@aol.com](mailto:rc10membership@aol.com)     **Travel/Social** Don Finelli

**Webmaster and Newsletter Editor** Deb Escobar & Ruth Shippee <http://rc10.ny.aft.org>

**RC 10 Email Communications** Laraine Gillette [RC10communications@gmail.com](mailto:RC10communications@gmail.com)

**NYSUT RETIREE SERVICES CONSULTANT FOR RC'S 9 AND 10**  
**CHRIS FOWLER** [CHRIS.FOWLER@NYSUT.ORG](mailto:CHRIS.FOWLER@NYSUT.ORG) (518)783-7977

to see that enacting a new state law would allow them to use the funds in any way they wish. (pages 319, 482,331, 303, 351)

We all remember the predatory universities that offered courses and programs that failed to prepare students for the workplace. Project 2025 proposes weakening the accreditation agencies that have oversight over for-profit and predatory institutions. Do we really want to put students in that kind of jeopardy again? (page 352)

In addition, Project 2025 proposes ending **affordable** student loan repayment plans and student loan forgiveness for working in high needs areas. (Currently teachers and healthcare professionals may be offered loan forgiveness for pledging to work in rural and high needs areas for a specific period and in return all or a portion of their loan is forgiven.) Attracting quality providers to rural locations is an issue with which many of our members must deal. Project 2025 proposes **privatizing** all student loans and eliminating federally backed student loans, which currently account for about 90% of all loans made to students. These loans include protections for borrowers. (pages 354,353)

Remember the 2008 financial crisis that was followed by a recession? Project 2025 proposes repealing large sections of the Dodd-Frank Act which was passed to prevent another recession like we experienced in 2008. (pages 705-706)

Finally, the civil service protections that currently exist for thousands of non-partisan federal government positions would be eliminated and replaced with Schedule F, a Trump executive order which would allow the government to fire and replace those individuals with Trump loyalists. This plan was implemented in the last Trump administration but was reversed by President Biden. Eliminating job protection for skilled employees and replacing them with loyalists would undermine every agency that currently works to enforce health and safety. These jobs require experts! Think: FEMA for hurricane and tornado response which went into action after the most recent disaster in some of our southern states. Think: FDA, which is tasked with protecting public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, and medical devices, as well as the safety of the nation's food supply. How many times in recent memory have they been involved in food contamination issues? (pages 62, 80, 271, 524, 535)

I think we can all agree that all agencies can do better but eliminating or weakening their ability to function competently is in no one's best interest, except those who do not want oversight.

If you have questions or wish to read more about the proposals I have mentioned, please follow the provided links to take a deep dive into the issues.

Make a plan to vote and then reach out to family and friends and remind them of the importance of voting and the dates and times when they can vote. Early voting begins on 10-26-24 and ends on 11-3-24. Election Day is 11-05-2024.

[Project 2025 Higher Education \(3\).pdf](#)

[Project 2025 Taxes and Economy \(1\).pdf](#)

[Project 2025 Prek-12 Education \(1\).pdf](#)

[Project 2025 Healthcare \(1\).pdf](#)

[Project 2025 Public Employees and Workers' Rights \(1\).pdf](#)

[https://archive.org/details/project-2025-mandate-for-leadership-full\\_202309-manifesto/2025\\_MandateForLeadership\\_FULL/page/n12/mode/1up](https://archive.org/details/project-2025-mandate-for-leadership-full_202309-manifesto/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL/page/n12/mode/1up)

### MAUREEN ROSSLEY'S GOOD NEWS STORY – THIRD IN A SERIES

Everyone deserves a quality public education. I am from a long line of teachers that continues today. My grandmother taught in a one room schoolhouse in Brant Lake. My parents settled and taught in Lake George. My husband and I made our home and enjoyed lifelong teaching careers in Schuylerville. My daughter and son-in-law are carrying on the family tradition in local public schools today. Public education has always been near and dear to our hearts!

After student teaching in Schuylerville, I was hired full time in 1973 and taught kindergarten through third grade until retiring in 2010. My favorite was kindergarten...every day was different, never boring, never a dull moment with those little ones!

During the early years, we struggled (as many did then) to achieve fair contracts. We looked to NYSUT to gain knowledge and skills to organize and unite member teachers, creating positive change, and achieving fair contracts. Before receiving tenure, I served on the social committee, an opportunity I enjoyed, bringing fellow teachers together, hearing their concerns and getting to know them. As time passed, I became involved as our building rep, served as president, and was a member on the negotiating team.

Through NYSUT's LAPP (Local Action Project Program), leadership conferences provided mentorship for local reps, sometimes in isolated, rural districts to come together, share ideas and strengthen member engagement with the broader community. I learned so much through this excellent NYSUT program. Additionally, informal meetings were coordinated with our LRS (Labor Relations Specialists). These meetings were key to answering our questions and providing up-to-date information with staff. NYSUT specialists played a key role in assisting and strengthening our local through the years.

You may have seen in recent NYSUT news, Tony McCann (Shenendehowa) was honored at the Retiree Council 10 Fall Conference in 2023 for his decades long service to teacher union reps and members. Tony, with his ability to articulate issues and defend our union's ethical position on fairness, was an inspiration to me. His mentorship throughout my career was indispensable. Presently, as in the past, teachers are struggling, earning less, and losing contractual rights while unreal expectations are rising. They need more "Tony McCanns!"

Teachers today would benefit from interactions and communication with NYSUT functions as we did. With union rights being challenged throughout the country, let's stay UNION STRONG! Now, more than ever, educators need support from EVERYONE: parents, administrators, Board of Education members, NYSUT, and teacher retirees. The "cause" continues. There is no career path

like teaching especially in the most rewarding and the most challenging of times. Today outstanding, committed, and dedicated teachers are making a difference for students!

Life is a journey. Since retirement, I am very involved with the local food pantry SAFER, (Schuylerville Area Food and Emergency Relief), serving as corresponding secretary, board member and worker in the pantry. The Schuylerville school staff and community are constant contributors to SAFER and coordinate the backpack program. SAFER provides a critical service for all members of our community. As a former educator, I also value and enjoy my role as a member of the Friends of Saratoga Library. Last, but not least, helping out and caring for my grandchildren always provides much excitement and joy as a retiree!

## Schodack Faculty Association - Retiree Chapter Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



In 2003 the Schodack Faculty Association (SFA) was awarded a Local Action Project (LAP) grant from NYSUT. During the summer of 2003, a team of six teachers from each of the three buildings (Castleton Elementary School – Candi Stuart and Linda Wemple, Maple Hill Middle School – Karen Harris and Carole Lovelett, Maple Hill High School – Linda Bracco and Kandace Eaton) attended a five-day planning session at Jiminy Peak to develop Schodack's plan. A lasting piece of the plan was the funding of a retiree offshoot of SFA. Thus, SFARC (Schodack Faculty Association – Retiree Chapter) was born in the winter of 2004!

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Schodack Faculty Association – Retiree Chapter. SFARC currently has 55 dues paying members. The group meets 3-5 times each year to plan. Even though retired from teaching, members continue to support the students, faculty, and community of Schodack Central Schools through:

- awarding over \$6,000 through the End of Year Student Awards Program for students in each building
- providing "Teacher Goody Bags" with sweet treats twice a year
- donating gift cards to building Social Workers
- annually funding one student weekly backpack in the Pat Wood Student Backpack Meal Program
- co-sponsoring the Castleton Little League with SFA
- serving SFA members at the annual Back to School Luncheon

To further support the Schodack community, our members have supported many items not funded in our budget through personal donations from members. These include:

- contributing healthy snacks for students in need
- participating in the annual Holiday Gift Drive and Food Pantry for The Anchor
- sponsoring The Canonica Classic, annual baseball tournament honoring retired coach, Jim Canonica
- assisting individual faculty members in times of need
- supporting needs in the community

*Congratulations and Happy Anniversary to SFARC. Here's looking forward to the next 20 years of support!*

### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

*Organizing opportunities for members to engage in local community service initiatives donating time and/or financial support.*

RC 10 MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED WITH: The **Regional Food Bank** (BackPack/School Pantry Program and In Person Warehouse Salvage Sorting), **Ronald McDonald House Charities** (Days of Service, Read for RMHC, Lunch is Served, Dinner is Served), **Breast Cancer Walks** in Albany and Glens Falls, **Wreaths Across America**, and other activities members choose individually. Questions? Email *Mary Ellen Caporta* at [Bayberry6@gmail.com](mailto:Bayberry6@gmail.com).

Financial donations that are collected for the **Food Bank School Programs** are for designated local schools. As of September 30, \$8,744 has been collected. Depending on the school's resources, children receive either weekend backpacks filled with food *OR* have access to a school food pantry. Every \$1 supplies four meals for either program. The cost of supporting one child for a year in the BackPack Program is \$273. Each School Pantry has an individual budget that provides different foods each week based on specific needs, preferences, and cooking ability. Checks to: THE REGIONAL FOOD BANK with memo of: RC 10 BackPack/school to receive funds; EX: RC 10 BackPack/South Glens Falls, and mMail to: Mary Ellen Caporta, 6 West Bayberry Rd, Glenmont, NY 10277



For online donations use this updated QR code:

**Food Bank** We had a plethora of RC 10 retirees who offered to help sort salvaged items at the Regional Food Bank in Latham. All our slots are filled for the 2024-2025 dates. I asked if we could increase our monthly number from 8 to 10 and Ellie was only able to do so for the 2025 dates. We are in good shape this year with our dedicated team of volunteers. Going forward, anyone who volunteers will be placed on a substitute list. Thank you to all who reached out.  
*Michele Doodian*



*Have you completed your RC 10 Membership Form yet for 2024-2025? Follow the link in this QR code for our on-line version and payment option.*

### **TRAVEL/SOCIAL EVENTS**

CHECK ON <https://rc10.ny.aft.org/> UNDER ACTIONS & EVENTS



**VOLUNTEERING AT ALBANY RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024, AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024, FROM 9:30-12 NOON.** In the past Days of Service, we have organized donations, sorted pull tabs, assembled new small kitchen appliances, as well as done some light cleaning. Depending on the RMH schedule, as well as your interest, there may also be an opportunity to bake for the residents during this time. Additionally, if this is your first time visiting the RMH, a tour of the facility will be included. If you are interested in participating, or have any questions, please email Paula Johannessen at [pmjohannessen4@gmail.com](mailto:pmjohannessen4@gmail.com)



*Be sure to stay up to date by joining our private facebook group: NSYUT Retiree Council 10 or our website <https://rc10.ny.aft.org>*

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14** at the Gerald H. Solomon National Cemetery in Schuylerville This is a national event in which RC 10 first participated in 2023. Volunteers come together at cemeteries around the country to honor military veterans with a Holiday Wreath on their grave. More information will follow about our participation but know that there are many ways to be involved, including sponsoring a wreath if you are unable to attend. We encourage you to bring family members and friends if you would like to be involved in wreath placement. If you'd like to join us, please send Barbara McCarthy an email at [irishiz9@aol.com](mailto:irishiz9@aol.com), and I'll add you to my contact list. Here's a link to the main web page [Home - Wreaths Across America](#).

## REPORT ON ED 51-53 MEETING

At the ED 51 meeting, Barry Kauffman, president of the NYS alliance for retired Americans (NYSARA) gave a presentation on the 2024 election issues affecting retirees. Topics included Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Project 2025, and voting records of incumbent federal representatives. On retiree issues Democrats voted 100% positive. Republicans voted either 10% or 0% positive. At the ED 51-53 meeting on political action, delegates were given the option to support NYSUT endorsed candidates by writing postcards, phone banking and using the hustle texting app.

Afterwards, delegates from Western NY explained the coalition of RC 1,2,3, and 44. They do most events as a coalition, which increases attendance. Then Rod Sherman explained the RC9 sub council structure.



At the ED 51-53 Conference representing Retiree Council 10: Chris Fowler- NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant, Mary Rever-Kruchinski, and Cliff Brosnan

### RC 10 Fall General Meeting- October 24 Breast Cancer Walk in Glens Falls October 27

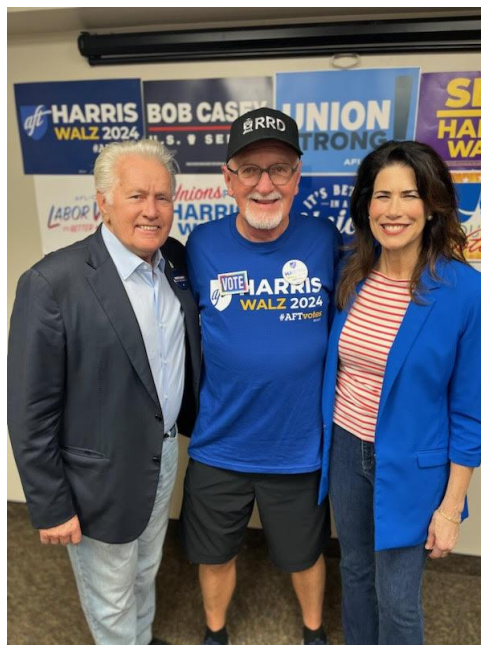
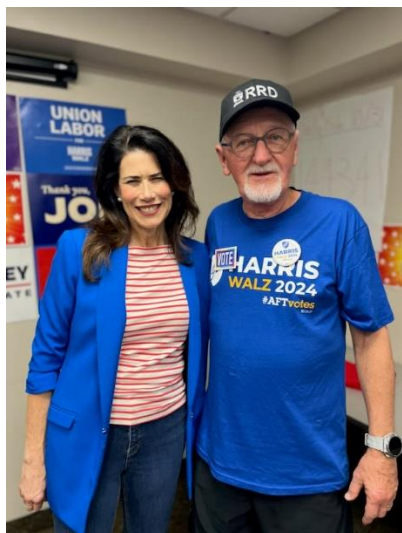
A few hardy souls gathered with hundreds of others at the annual Adirondack region Breast Cancer Walk. The team, organized by Sandie Carner-Shafran met its goal. If you would like to make a contribution, go to: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/2641676109347643/> Those participating including Sandie and her husband Roy, Cliff Brosnan, Barbara McCarthy and David and Ruth Shippee.

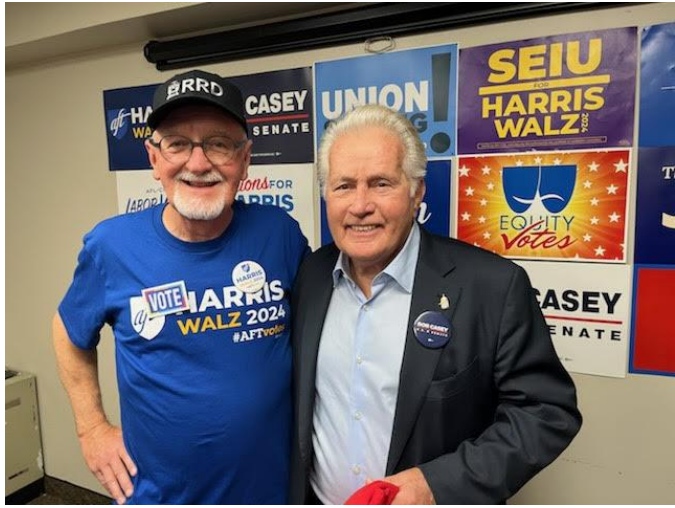
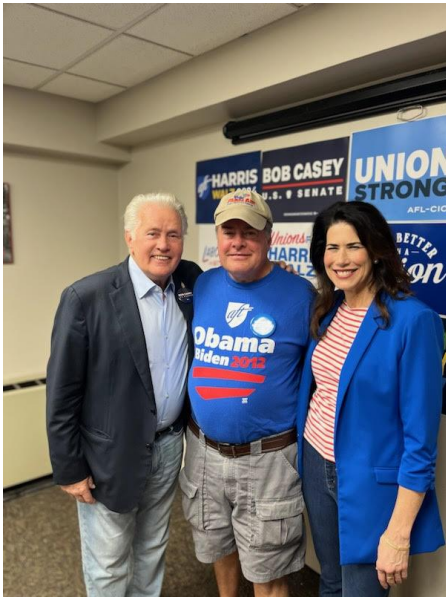




### STEPPING UP AND ADVOCATING: MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN GOTV BUS TRIP

RC 10 and SABEA (WSWHE BOCES EA) has been represented well by two members who truly are living Union For Life. Mark Sullivan and Jerry Starr made the trek to Pennsylvania and these are some photos of their work. Thank you for advocating for us all!!! You may recognize a few of the people they met.







## RC 10's BACK PACK/SCHOOL PANTRY 2024 HOLIDAY DONATION DRIVE

Local RC 10 districts are in need of financial support for their Back Pack and School Pantry Programs especially during the holidays. The Children's Program Director at the Regional Food Bank has identified those MOST IN NEED as ARGYLE, BRUNSWICK, FT. EDWARD, HOOSICK VALLEY and WHITEHALL. Can you help?

\*\*\*Donations can be made by CHECK or ONLINE link/scan code\*\*

To Donate by CHECK: Make checks Payable to: The Regional Food Bank  
In the memo section write: RC10 Back Pack/School Pantry/District  
For example: RC 10 Back Pack/School Pantry – Whitehall

Mail Donations to: Mary Ellen Caporta, 6 W. Bayberry Rd, Glenmont, NY 12077  
Questions? Contact Mary Ellen at bayberry6@gmail.com  
To Donate ONLINE [give.regionalfoodbank.net/rc10](https://give.regionalfoodbank.net/rc10) or use



A DONATION IN ANY AMOUNT IS APPECIATED!!

Thank you and

Happy Holidays to you and yours.....



# Member Benefits can help you save during the holidays

Another holiday season full of anticipation and joy is upon us, and NYSUT Member Benefits is ready to help with gift giving. Before purchasing any items on your list, make sure to check out all that Member Benefits has to offer.



Whether you're looking for savings on gift baskets, flowers or chocolates, Bose products, clothing or shoes, movie tickets, sporting events and concerts, theme parks and attractions, restaurants, or thousands of other deals, you'll want to check out MB Discounts & Deals.

While you're on our website, take some time to explore the Buyer's Edge, Inc., ODP Business Solutions, and Purchasing Power programs for new and used vehicles; appliances, televisions, furniture, and mattresses; school and office supplies; electronics; and more.

Don't forget about making sure your family is protected during the holidays and beyond. Going back over 40 years, NYSUT members have historically counted on Member Benefits for crucial

insurance, legal, and financial offerings. Member Benefits endorses quality life, disability, auto/home/renter's, dental and vision, and pet insurance offerings – along with unbaised legal services and financial counseling options.

Learn more by scanning the QR code, visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org), or calling 800-626-8101.



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