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

2025-2026 Issue 5 JUNE/JULY EDITION: *Find updates and information at our website:* https://rc10.ny.aft.org/

Join our private Facebook group! NYSUT Retiree Council 10

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The winter that wouldn't end has finally concluded and the long-awaited summer weather has arrived. Spring never materialized so maybe we'll get a reprieve this fall with an extended Indian Summer. (One can dream)

RC 10 just concluded our last event of the 2025-26 calendar year with our spring Scholarship Awards and our Retiree Recognition ceremony. It was a pleasure having the opportunity to see our fellow colleagues honored, as they continue to give back to their communities. It was equally satisfying to see the next generation of teachers recognized for their accomplishments as they enter college and prepare to become future educators. These candidates and honorees were exceptional. *Thank you, Jeanne Bush and Laraine Gillette, for organizing this event*.

This is my final newsletter article as President of RC 10. **Tara Molloy-Grocki** was elected our new president beginning July 1, 2026. (more information on Tara in our next newsletter). Reflecting upon the last 6 years, I'm proud of what RC 10 has accomplished to involve more of our members in community activities. In 2018, I was contacted by my former school administrator. My district needed donations to sponsor all the children that were eligible for the Regional Food Bank Backpack Program. After reaching out to my former colleagues, retirees generously responded and sponsored the remaining students. It occurred to me then that there might be other schools that could benefit from the support that RC 10 members might offer if they knew about the need. I reached out to the leadership at the Food Bank, and the RC 10 Board agreed to encourage our members to make donations to the many schools in RC 10's four counties that were supported by the Food Bank. The response was incredible.

Just about the time I began my first term as president, **Mary Ellen Caporta** took over the **Backpack Program** and worked closely with leadership at the **Food Bank** to look for ways to increase awareness of the increasing needs of many districts. Mary Ellen has done a phenomenal job exploring the programs they offer and finding ways to involve our members. Her activism has resulted in thousands of dollars being donated to purchase backpack items that are distributed to member schools. She has also recruited a dedicated group of volunteers to man shifts sorting the salvage that is donated from local markets. Eventually, **Michele Doodian** joined her and took over the scheduling of the volunteer shifts. The program these two ladies have developed is remarkable.

Both Mary Ellen and Michele are stepping down in June and **Matt Miller** has agreed to take over the duties for which they have been responsible. Thank you to all the volunteers that supported their efforts. A special thanks to the faithful

donors that have made this such a successful program and thank you, Mary Ellen and Michele, for your commitment to making this program possible.

An outgrowth of that program was our partnership with the **Ronald McDonald House** under the leadership of **Paula Johannessen**. Most of the activities at this location are one day assignments and include cleaning specific public rooms, cooking for the families that stay at the house, sorting can tabs, gardening, delivering prizes to schools for those that participate in the Readathon and answering phone calls for the annual Radiothon. If you haven't had the opportunity to spend part of a day at the three connected houses, I urge you to find a friend and sign up for a shift. Pick what you like to do and meet and join other RC 10 members for a two-to-three-hour shift. It's exhilarating and will remind you that dedicated people make the world go round. The RMH is remarkable! Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time in person or has donated dollars to the meals we have sponsored for families in residence. Most of all, thank you to Paula for organizing the volunteer events.

We have had lots of suggestions for ways we can participate in other organizations and are only limited when we don't have the leadership to organize those activities. *Have you thought about joining us or leading a group of steadfast volunteers?* Think about inviting a friend to volunteer together and then top it off with lunch at a favorite restaurant.

It has been an honor to serve this great organization, and I look forward to continued involvement, while allowing time to do some of the things I thought I'd accomplish when I retired. Where did 19 years go?

My final request as I depart: Please make a plan for voting in the fall election. **Early voting** will take place from **October 24, 2026, until November 1, 2026**. **Election Day is November 3, 2026**. Check your calendar now and plan for how and when you will vote. If you plan to vote by mail, make your request for an absentee ballot early and return your ballot immediately or take it to one of the early voting locations. I recently had an experience where an important document took 18 days to travel from Albany to Saratoga. The documents I needed arrived the day I returned home from the event I was attending. This was **not** my first experience with delayed mail, but it reminded me that there will be no resolution if the current administration succeeds in requiring that all ballots must be returned by election day. So, plan now and follow through as election day approaches.

Have a great summer and hope to see many of you at one of our fall events.

Barbara McCarthy- RC 10 President

SOCIAL JUSTICE

REGIONAL FOOD BANK BACKPACK/SCHOOL PANTRY

Retired Council 10 members are actively engaged, loyal, caring, and contribute generously to their local school districts! In 2025-2026 the Regional Food Bank's Backpack/School Pantry Program received over $25,000 that was distributed to local schools. In order to track RC 10's member contributions, please consider **donating online**: give.regionalfoodbank.net/rc10
You can donate with a check payable to: Regional Food Bank. In the memo section: RC 10 Backpack (specify school district). **Send to**: Matt Miller, 11 Trinity Place, Selkirk, NY 12158.

REGIONAL FOOD BANK

Another fabulous year for those who volunteered at the Regional Food Bank from October 2025-May 2026. Many thanks to the 22 RC 10 members for their efforts to help sort donated food and other items. It helps keep good food out of the landfill and instead be sent to over 1,000 charitable agencies that partner with the Regional Food Bank to provide enough food for millions of meals each year. Our volunteers worked hard with good spirits and a willingness to help make a difference for this who will benefit the most. Looking forward to another great opportunity starting October 2026. Matt Miller at milkm23@gmail.com will be coordinating volunteers this fall. In the meantime, volunteers are always needed. Simply go to the Regional Food bank website: regionalfoodbank.net.
Scroll down to Volunteer and many opportunities to help will be listed. You can choose the time, day and location where you would like to volunteer.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

This year RC 10 members contributed to the Ronald McDonald House:.

- Six Days of Service, two of which involved Love Is Served – Baking: 21 RC 10 volunteers participated, 13 who volunteered for two or more of the Service Days.
- READ for the RMHC Program saw 20 volunteers delivering prizes to 30 schools.
- Donations to the RMH Love Is Served Dinner Fund garnered over $600 from 12 members which provided three meals for the guests.
- Additionally, various members participated in the RMHC Radiothon, the 5K Family Fun Run, and made donations of items from both the Winter and Spring Wish Lists.

RETIREE COUNCIL 10 OFFICERS AND DELEGATES

At the annual spring meeting on June 3, the following officers and delegates for 2026-2029 were elected:

President, Tara Molloy-Grocki; **First Vice President**, Dina Ariemma; **Second Vice President**, Sandie Carner-Shafran; **Secretary**, Colleen Condolora; **Treasurer**, Mary Kruchinski; **NYSUT Delegates**: Colleen Condolora, Mary Kruchinski, Tara Molloy-Grocki; **Alternate NYSUT Delegates**, Fran Hyde, Susan Googins, Bonnie Maxon; **AFT Delegate**, Bonnie Maxon; **AFT Alternate Delegate**, Cliff Brosnan

To contact any of these people, nysutrc10@gmail.com.

CENTER FOR CREATIVE RETIREMENT

As retired teachers, most consider ourselves lifelong learners. This is most evident at the Center for Creative Retirement, located at Hudson Valley Community College. Instituted over 20 years ago by Jean Chenette, a retired teacher, this program continues to thrive.

Jean was honored by Retiree Council 10 last spring as a community member who has, through Creative Retirement, reached an untold number of retirees in the Capital District. The program has been responsive to the needs of the community of retirees who are life-long learners, want low-cost activities, enjoy classes that don't involve weeks of commitment (we are all so busy!), and offer daytime opportunities for those who don't prefer or can't drive at night. Twenty plus years later, Jean still makes a majority of the contacts recruiting speakers for the program.

If you are interested in taking classes through this program, registration opens for the fall semester in mid-late August. You can check the website for the opening registration date and access the list of classes at: https://www.hvcc.edu/programs/community-professional-workforce-development/schedules/creative-retirement.html.

Don't wait! Once registration is open for classes, they fill up quickly!

RETIREE COUNCIL 10 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND HONOREES

On June 3 RC 10's annual spring meeting was held at the Italian Community Center in Albany. After the business meeting and a delicious meal, the scholarship recipients and the RC 10 member honorees were honored.

Congratulations to:
Dylan Singh from Bethlehem High School in Albany County. Dylan plans on becoming an English teacher and will attend SUNY Geneseo.
Brooke Austin from Argyle High School in Washington County. Brooke hopes to become an elementary school teacher and will attend Vermont State University in Castleton.
Riley Mattison from Corinth High School in Saratoga County. Riley will be attending UMass Amherst.
Anna Grace Macica from Hoosic Valley Jr. Sr. High School in Rensselaer County. Anna Grace will attend Siena University.
This year a fifth $1,000 scholarship is sponsored by Tony McCann in memory of Shenendehowa teacher James Tortorici. Tony described Jim as "an outstanding English Scholar, Teacher of Humanities and a highly effective President of Shenendehowa Teacher's Association." Tony's scholarship was awarded to *Hannah Coffin* from Hoosic Valley Jr. Sr. High School. Hannah hopes to become an elementary teacher and will be attending SUNY Oneonta.

In addition to the scholarship winners, **RC 10 also recognized a Retiree Council 10 member** from each county in recognition of the time and energy they give to RC 10 and their community. This year's honorees are *Dina Ariemma*, Albany County; *Valerie Flood*, Rensselaer County; *Maureen Cronin Rossley*, Saratoga County; and *Sherwin Bowen*, Washington County. Congratulations to these fine educators who prove teachers don't really retire once they leave the classroom.

26-27 Retiree Council 10 Contributing Membership Form

As the 2026-2027 Fiscal year kicks off in July, make sure that you are a contributing member of RC 10. To do that, complete a membership form. This ensures that you will receive all the information that is sent out. Whether you are interested in trip and social aspects, keeping informed about issues that are occurring at your local level, state wide or national that could impact you and your retirement, participating in some of our Social Justice work, it's important to stay in touch with your Union.

You can use a paper form and check – the link is found on our website: https://rc10.ny.aft.org/ OR complete our online form and payment : using this link: https://forms.gle/2uggiFUhssfm5kYU9 or QR code

Complete this fall activity interest survey:
https://forms.gle/TRo1YR2rbEuZUhb2A

Busy spring for RC 10 members

Member Benefits covers all your summer needs!

No matter what your upcoming plans include, NYSUT Member Benefits can help turn this summer into one that you'll always remember.

If you're seeking excitement, look no further than the Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel program. NYSUT members enjoy reduced pricing (at least a $150 savings per trip along with many other discount opportunities) on a variety of international and domestic tours, including new "Immersions" adventures (8-12 days in length) designed for travelers seeking a more active style of adventure. "Immersions" tours combine iconic destinations, authentic cultural experiences, and dynamic outdoor activities.

Transform your indoor or outdoor living space with a variety of options from **Purchasing Power**. Eligible NYSUT members can browse from thousands of items and pay over 12 months through payroll deduction or Automated Clearing House (ACH) withdrawals. Save 20% on your first order and at least 10% on all subsequent purchases. While not a discount program, Purchasing Power offers the benefits of no credit check, no hidden fees, and fixed payments.

Thinking about upgrading your home with new appliances, countertops, or kitchen cabinets? The **Buyer's Edge, Inc.** buying service program can be used to purchase these items and many others such as new or used vehicles, televisions, furniture, mattresses, desktop and laptop computers, home security systems, and more (all backed by a low price guarantee). With Buyer's Edge, you have the option of purchasing online, by phone, or in-person (in certain benefit categories and geographic regions).

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE BENEFITS AND MANY OTHERS

SCAN ME

Scan the QR code, visit **mb-nysut.org/summerplanning**, or call **800-626-8101**.