



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 4 MARCH/APRIL 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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Thirty years ago, many school districts were beginning to see declining enrollment. The explosive population growth of the 50's, 60's, and 70's reached a peak and then began to slow down. As a result, the smaller rural districts began to discuss possible mergers to share resources and address budget concerns due to declining state aid. Those that were opposed to merging districts cited a loss of identity, particularly when it involved merging sports teams. Those leading the charge cited the opportunity to offer a wider variety of courses that would enhance learning outcomes as well as cost savings because

more than one district would be sharing the load to replace instructors. To my knowledge, no districts in our area successfully succeeded in merging any of the smaller districts.

Recently, out of necessity, several districts struggling to field both boys' and girls' sports teams opted to merge the students from two locations to field a team. There may have been some concerns, but the choice was obvious if they wanted to offer the opportunity to play that sport.

I suspect the next big concern officials in some of our remote and smaller districts will be finding qualified replacements for specific subject areas. Many local colleges and universities that have previously educated future teachers have closed and others have discontinued their education programs due to declining enrollment. Some of the vital programs in math, sciences, and languages no longer have an adequate number of recruits in the pipeline to replace the aging workforce. The people we used to attract have turned their attention to the private sector. Phones and electronics originally thought to enhance the education of students have proven to be a huge distraction and have caused many secondary issues: reduced focus, bullying, depression, and an inability to engage socially with others. These are challenges most of us did not have to deal with when we started teaching in the late 60's and early 70's.

Teaching has changed dramatically; however, I don't believe that teachers can ever be replaced by a computer or artificial intelligence. Learning to collaborate and come to consensus are essential skills for students to develop and working in isolation does not promote the skills they will need to interact with others as they face a changing world. Although the learning environment and tools have evolved, the fundamental need for guidance remains unchanged. We still need people that can react to those changes and adapt the learning experience. We need competent educational leaders in place to lead the charge in the 21st century.

I'm hoping that this reminds you of why you chose teaching as a career and why teaching matters. We need to help to light that flame of interest in the next generation and encourage those that clearly have something to offer to consider teaching as a career choice. *Do you know someone that embodies those characteristics?* Often encouragement from a respected adult is the catalyst for consideration.

Please join us on *June 3 for our annual Scholarship Awards dinner*, where we will honor four graduates who are entering the field of education from the four counties we represent. We will be highlighting their achievements as well as honoring retired educators who have made exceptional contributions post-retirement. The registration form is in this newsletter as well as on our website and on our Facebook page.

Barbara McCarthy- RC 10 President

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY:

Tea and Tour at Lyndhurst Mansion & Brotherhood Winery Dinner

Join your fellow retirees for a day of “*Tours, High Tea and Dinner*” on May 14, 2026 and leave the driving and arrangements to our Travel Committee and Yankee Trails.

Registration fee for contributing members is \$5/ others \$10. Once you register with RC 10, you will be given the information to register with Yankee Trails and pay their \$230 fee. The day includes pick up at either Yankee Trails or Crossgates Mall, travel to Lyndhurst Mansion for a tour and Crema Tea then on to Brotherhood Winery for dinner and return to Albany area. For the full trip details, go to

<https://rc10.ny.aft.org/crema-tea-lyndhurst-mansion-and-dinner-brotherhood-winery-trip>

On-line registration form is <https://forms.gle/XHUhyG2MbkN8nT4f8>

REGIONAL FOOD BANK BACKPACK AND SCHOOL PANTRIES

According to Feeding America, hunger touches every community in our country; 48 million people face hunger in the United States - including 14 million children. Locally, the Regional Food Bank provides students backpacks filled with food on weekends and access to food anytime during the school week in school “pantries.”

RC 10 collects funds for the Backpack Program throughout the year. From July 1, 2025, through March 2026, RC 10 members have donated a total of **\$23,367.82** *Thank you for your generosity!*

To support a local school, contributions can be made: ONLINE: give.regionalfoodbank.net/rc10

CHECKS: Payable to: The Regional Food Bank/specify school in memo section

Send to: Mary Ellen Caporta, 6 West Bayberry Rd, Glenmont, NY 12077

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES UPDATE

On February 25, seven RC 10 volunteers participated in a **Day of Service** at the RMH. Volunteers cleaned rooms, cleaned and restocked the breakfast pantry/milk room, and sorted tabs. Three participants were first time visitors to the RMH and received a tour prior to starting their service. ***Our Love Is Served Dinner Fund*** continues to receive donations. In February we were able to donate a \$300 gift card to the RMH, for use on the evenings when no one has signed up to prepare a meal. This is used to order from a local restaurant or can also provide for two nights of pizza dinners. RMH is very appreciative of RC 10 sponsorship for the Love Is Served Dinners. If you would like to contribute, go to: <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/9R7VDCLCAF824>

The **READ for the RMHC** event began in February. Schools who read to collect and donate money participate for the month of February or March. Subsequently, RMH provides prizes to those students. RC 10 members were asked to volunteer to pick up and deliver the prizes to over 50 participating schools. The response was overwhelming, with 25 RC 10 members volunteering, more than half of them as first-time volunteers. The coordinator of the program was duly impressed with the response from our organization. Prizes will be delivered in the months of March and April.

Contact Paula M. Johannessen for more information on volunteering events like the upcoming day of service where we help with spring cleaning inside and outside the Ronald McDonald House. Paula's email is pmjohannessen4@gmail.com

As schools and other public institutions attempt to hire staff, Tier 6 is one aspect that is holding those attempts back. NYSUT joined with other labor unions at a recent rally in Albany on March 8.



Think if your tier had made you contribute 3-6 % of your salaries into the pension system for YOUR ENTIRE career with your contributions growing as your pay increased. *That's what Tier 6 does.*

What if you needed to work until you were 63 for your full retirement rate, which means you would have up to 40 years of service? *That's what Tier 6 members face.*

Fixing Tier 6 (and 5) is about solidarity and fairness. We continue to work and advocate for these members. Look on our Facebook page to see some of the RC 10 members advocating for these reforms.

NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 10 SPRING CONFERENCE

Join us for our annual conference on April 23, 2026

The day begins at 8:30 am at the Vista Van Patten Gold Club in Clifton Park. Cost for the day: workshops and meals included is \$25. Itinerary includes updates from RC 10, Keeping Connections between in-service members and retirees strong, J. Phillippe Abraham, NYSUT Secretary/Treasurer, Regional Food Bank, Mocktail demonstration, lunch, America's 250th Celebration and driving range.

Register Now; Here's How:
It's easiest and preferred
for you to register
and pay by credit card,
via online registration.
Go to: <https://nysut.cc/2026rc10>
Or use this QR Code.



RETIREE COUNCIL 10 ELECTIONS

The election of officers and delegates for 2026-2029 will be held at the annual spring business meeting on June 3. (The registration form is in this newsletter). **All RC 10 members may attend the business meeting. Members do not need to attend the dinner to vote in this election. Nominations from the floor are not permitted.** All Retiree Council 10 members are eligible to vote.

The following members have been nominated for officers and delegates: **President**, Tara Molloy-Grocki; **First Vice President**, Dina Ariemma; **Second Vice President**, Sandie Carner-Shafran; **Secretary**, Colleen Condolora; **Treasurer**, Mary Kruchinski; **NYSUT Delegates** (vote for three), Colleen Condolora, Mary Kruchinski, Tara Molloy-Grocki; **Alternate NYSUT**

Delegates Fran Hyde, Susan Googins; **AFT Delegate**, Bonnie Maxon; **Alternate AFT Delegate**, Cliff Brosnan. Candidate bios are on our website: <https://rc10.ny.aft.org/news/candidate-bios-rc-10-june-2026-elections>

RETIREE COUNCIL 10 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING JUNE 3, 2026 4-7 pm

The highlight of this evening will be the celebration of the RC 10 scholarship winners and the RC 10 honorees.

Agenda for June 3, 2026

- 4 pm Annual RC 10 Spring meeting and Election of Officers- not necessary to attend dinner to participate in meeting
- 5 pm Dinner-Meal including tax and gratuity is \$30
- 6 pm Scholarship Awards and Retiree Recognition - Donations to RC 10 Scholarship fund can be made at:
<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/5HZ3A9B8YK5CC>

Register and pay on-line at: <https://forms.gle/kdD5yVn4qCJPEWmo9> **Or mail** checks should be made payable to RC 10 and form below to: Jeanne Bush, 102 Southbury Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065 by May 22, 2026.

Contact: 518-371-1738 or Jeannebsh50@gmail.com if you have questions.

REGISTRATION FORM – ANNUAL SPRING DINNER MEETING JUNE 3, 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

SELECT ONE: _____ Chicken Parmesan _____ Glazed Baked Salmon with honey mustard glaze
_____ Butternut Squash Ravioli in brown butter sage sauce

Looking for QR Codes to help with registrations? Here are a few included in this newsletter:

**RC 10 April 23
Conference**

**June 3 Election/Meeting/
Dinner/Awards**

RC 10 Candidates

**May 14
Lyndhurst/Brotherhood
Winery Trip**



Scholarship Contribution

RC 10 Membership Form





Retirement doesn't mean entering a world of unlimited tee times and champagne coolies. It's important to be properly prepared for the transition from in-service employment to retiree status.

Please note the following information if you are currently enrolled in one or more NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed program(s) or would like to do so in retirement:

- **If Your Local has a Retiree Chapter:**
You are encouraged to maintain membership and pay chapter dues to that local (if necessary) to continue membership in NYSUT and our national affiliates, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and National Education Association (NEA).
- **If Your Local does NOT have a Retiree Chapter:**
You will continue your membership with NYSUT, AFT, and NEA through the Retiree Council in your geographic area.

Member Benefits endorses a number of programs that can be purchased through the convenience of payroll or pension deduction – offering reduced premiums or the elimination of service fees in many instances. Approximately 88% of NYSUT members have payroll or pension deduction available to them.

You must have an active NYSUT membership to participate in payroll or pension deduction. If you're currently participating in one or more of our endorsed programs, you will want to look into switching to pension deduction after you enter retirement.

LEARN MORE

Learn more about continuing Member Benefits-endorsed programs by scanning the QR code, visiting mb-nysut.org/retireemembership, or calling 800-626-8101.

SCAN ME

