



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

WINTER 2026 EDITION:

RETIREE COUNCIL 10 OFFICERS nysutrc10@gmail.com *Join our private Facebook group! NYSUT Retiree Council 10*

President Barbara McCarthy 1st Vice-President Cliff Brosnan 2nd Vice-President Sandie Carner-Shafran
Secretary Colleen Condolora rc10secretary@gmail.com Treasurer Mary Revere-Kruchinski Rc10payment@gmail.com
AFT Delegate Bonita Maxon NYSUT Delegates Mary Revere Kruchinski, Bonita Maxon, Barbara McCarthy
NYSUT Delegate Alternates Clifford Brosnan, Sandie Carner-Shafran, Colleen Condolora
Membership Director Davia Dymond rc10membership@aol.com Travel/Social Don Finelli
RC 10 Email Communications Laraine Gillette RC10communications@gmail.com
Webmaster and Newsletter Editor Ruth Shippee rc10newsletter@gmail.com <http://rc10.ny.aft.org>

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



Gratitude is defined as the quality of being thankful, a readiness to show appreciation for what we have. Historian David McCullough believed it is a core lesson of history and that it teaches us that our current institutions, freedoms, and quality of life are the result of those who came before us. Studying history and past challenges helps us appreciate what earlier generations have accomplished for us. In the words of George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

If nothing else, the current political climate has offered an opportunity to study much about the past as newscasters remind us of how our government responded to previous historical events that mirror current situations. Former DOJ and FBI officials are often enlisted and hired to analyze events on news platforms and weigh in on the legality of some of those proceedings, explaining how previous court cases have been settled. This is a unique opportunity to do a deep dive into the laws of our country and to witness how the justice system functions and if officials are operating within the laws that currently exist. It also lets us gain historical perspective, showing that leaders haven't always chosen the right path in the past.

News analysts share their perspective on the latest decisions and depending upon who is doing the analysis or the platform you are tuned into, the information may vary considerably. Thus, it is important to listen to a variety of informed sources and carefully examine the information that is shared, especially now that AI has invaded online platforms and social media. It's worth asking yourself, has the story been confirmed by any other **legitimate** news source? I won't name the sources I believe to be legitimate, but the publications that have wide national circulation have that status because they have very strict guidelines from which they will not deviate. If readers are dissatisfied, they can voice their opinions openly, without fear or favor in response to the author's perspective and may even cancel their subscription in protest. The impact of publicizing a high-profile story is that other news platforms will attempt to build upon the earlier information, thus expanding our understanding, or challenging the premise of the story if new information negatively exposes the previous point of view. Many of these stories have helped me to understand how we arrived at where we are today.

As former educators, we've all witnessed some of the **challenges** our former students and their families have experienced. Depending upon where you taught; a rural school, a suburban school, or an urban school, families dealt with circumstances that were unique to that location. That included finding jobs that provided health insurance and reasonable pay; finding affordable and adequate housing, affordable medical care and childcare; and getting to and from jobs in areas not covered by public transportation. These challenges have not lessened.

Most families are just trying to navigate the day-to-day challenges in an effort to provide for their loved ones. If life throws them a curve ball, the resources they might have previously depended upon are diminished or non-existent because the Federal Government has been downsized. As a result, state government and local charities must step up. Some of those agencies will not be capable of meeting the demands placed upon them. They were created to fill in when there were emergencies in the *existing* systems. The crises created will certainly be felt where many of us worked. For the coming year, let us reflect on the message of the season and acknowledge that life is very difficult for many individuals and families now and we need to focus on how we can lend a helping hand, rather than demonizing those that are trying to find a better life. Our nation has thrived in the last 250 years because we've always been willing to examine the message and hold leaders accountable when we did not feel our needs and the needs of the most vulnerable were adequately addressed.

There is much to be concerned about in the future, including the impact of AI, affordable healthcare, global warming, and climate change. For the current generation of educators, we need to be concerned about declining student enrollment in rural areas, a reluctance of our best and brightest to go into the teaching profession, and funding for programs that will prepare the next generation to work in the 21st century. I hope addressing these issues is a priority for the coming year. The impact will certainly be felt in the schools where we used to work.

I encourage you to stay connected with RC 10 and consider becoming involved with one of several volunteer organizations we support, either through your donation of time or financial support. We also have several active committees including travel, scholarship, legislative, and social justice that are always in need of new members with new ideas. Not all require a lot of time but all give you the opportunity to meet folks from among our 11,000+ members, while helping an agency or committee in need of assistance.

The weather so far for the winter of '25 – '26 has not been encouraging, so I hope everyone has an opportunity to escape the brutal cold if only for a week or two. RC 10 is in the planning stages of several spring events, so stay connected via our newsletter, Action Network emails, and our website and Facebook pages. The most encouraging news I can give right now is that we are gaining minutes every single day as we move to our longest day in June. Enjoy some good books, some shared friendships and stay connected to RC 10.

Happy New Year!

Barbara McCarthy



Recent dinner at Ronald McDonald House sponsored by RC 10. Pictured are Sheila Lobel, Paula Johannessen, and Laraine Gillette

RC 10 High School Scholarships

Each year RC 10 offers a \$1,000 scholarship to one public high school student from each of the four counties (*Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Washington*) that comprise RC 10. These students will be pursuing a career in education. Applications are sent to public high schools in January.

In their applications, students are asked for a transcript, in-school activities, out of school activities and employment history. In addition, they must respond to two essays. The Scholarship Committee meets in April to select the recipients. *The Scholarship Committee is always looking for new members.* The committee meets for only one day a year, usually in early April from 10-2 with lunch included.

The recipients from each county are honored at the Spring Dinner Meeting which will be held at the Italian Community Center on Wednesday, June 3. It is a wonderful event where everyone gets to meet and interact with the students and their families.

To donate online, use this link:
<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/5HZ3A9B8YK5CC> or use this QR Code

Scholarship Donation



If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please contact Jeanne Bush at jeannebsh50@gmail.com.

The scholarship is funded by donations from Retiree Council members- please consider supporting this effort.

OR send a check payable to **Retiree Council 10** and on memo line indicate Scholarship to:

Davia Dymond, 32 Appletree Lane, Clifton Park, NY 12065

For student application materials go to:

<https://rc10.ny.aft.org/news/annual-retiree-council-10-high-school-scholarship-application-announcement>

RETIREE COUNCIL 10 SPRING RETIREE CONFERENCE

Retiree Council 10 will hold its annual conference on **Thursday, April 23, from 9 am to 3 pm** at the Van Patten Golf Club in Clifton Park. Continental breakfast and full lunch buffet will be served. Morning speakers will focus on the social justice and community involvement efforts of RC 10 and NYSUT. Other highlights will be a Making Mocktails demonstration and sampling, **Rev 250 presentations about America's semi quincentennial**, and improving your golf game by using the Club's golf simulator.

Registration details will be emailed and sent in the US mail soon.

RETIREE COUNCIL 10 ELECTIONS

As per the Retiree Council 10 Constitution, a five (5) member Nomination and Election Committee has been appointed by the Executive Committee to seek and accept names of individuals who are members of RC 10 to fill the following positions: *President; First Vice-President; Second Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; three Delegates and three Alternates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly; one Delegate and one Alternate to the AFT Convention.*

- The term of office for each position is from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2029.
- The Nomination and Election Committee will conduct the election for these positions at the annual spring meeting on June 3, 2026.

If you would like to nominate someone or yourself for one of the available positions, please complete the form below. The form may be mailed to *Cliff Brosnan, 36 Briarhurst Drive, Gansevoort, NY 12831* or given to a member of the Nomination and Election Committee (*Cliff Brosnan, Michele Doodian, Laraine Gillette, Paula Johannessen, and Barbara McCarthy*). **This form must be received by March 27, 2026.**

I would like to nominate _____, for election to the following position (pick one): *President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer.*

I would like to nominate _____, for election to the following position: AFT Delegate **OR** AFT Alternate Delegate (**person cannot run as a delegate and alternate**).

I would like to nominate _____, for election to the following position: NYSUT Delegate **OR** NYSUT Alternate Delegate (**person cannot run as a delegate and alternate**).

Nominations are to be made by a member of RC 10. Each nomination requires a maker and a second. Signatures are required.

Name of Maker of the nomination _____ Signature _____

Name of Second to the nomination _____ Signature _____

NOMINATIONS FOR RETIREE COUNCIL 10 RETIREE RECOGNITION

NYSUT Retiree Council 10 annually recognizes members (*one from each county--Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Washington*) who have shown outstanding dedication to the Retiree Council and their communities.

Nominees should reflect the purposes of the Council as stated in the Constitution: *To promote the best interest and welfare of NYSUT Retirees; to promote mutual assistance and cooperation with other organizations with which it is associated; to promote the aims and objectives of the New York State United Teachers and its national affiliates.*

Nominations are due by **April 1**. For an online form, (<https://rc10.ny.aft.org/news/announcing-nominations-recognizing-retirees-2026>). For a paper form, contact rc10communications@gmail.com. Recipients will be recognized at the June Dinner Meeting.

Nominees will be evaluated using a rubric that looks at the following items: Involvement in Retiree Council 10 Board, Involvement in Retiree Council 10 activities, Involvement in Other Community Volunteer Organizations.

This award is always inspirational on what our fellow retirees are doing to support our Union, their communities, and the greater good.

RC 10 Members Who Are Making a Difference!

There are so many ways the members of RC 10 are involved and contributing to our communities! So many that we don't have room to list them fully here. To find out more information about several of our endeavors, follow these links to our RC 10 webpage: <https://rc10.ny.aft.org/>

- Ronald McDonald House: <https://rc10.ny.aft.org/ronald-mcdonald-house-volunteer-opportunities>
- Regional Food Bank Backpack/School Pantry Update: <https://rc10.ny.aft.org/rc-10-regional-food-bank-backpack-school-pantry-update-january-2026>
- Contributing to the RC 10 High School Scholarship Fund: we award \$4000 in scholarships <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/5HZ3A9B8YK5CC>
- Becoming fully participating RC 10 Members and updating your contact information for the 2025-2026 year: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfj6tKdMNFEFWjg9a4Zp1fZbrcVAh0lEOZowGpUVCUKXF5bjQ/viewform>
- Fix Tier 6 Rally: Sunday, March 8 noon- 2 pm at MVP Arena in Albany: details will be provided regarding bussing and parking. <https://rc10.ny.aft.org/statewide-rally-fix-tier-6>
- Also upcoming Travel and Social Opportunities- make sure we have your email! Rc10communications@gmail.com

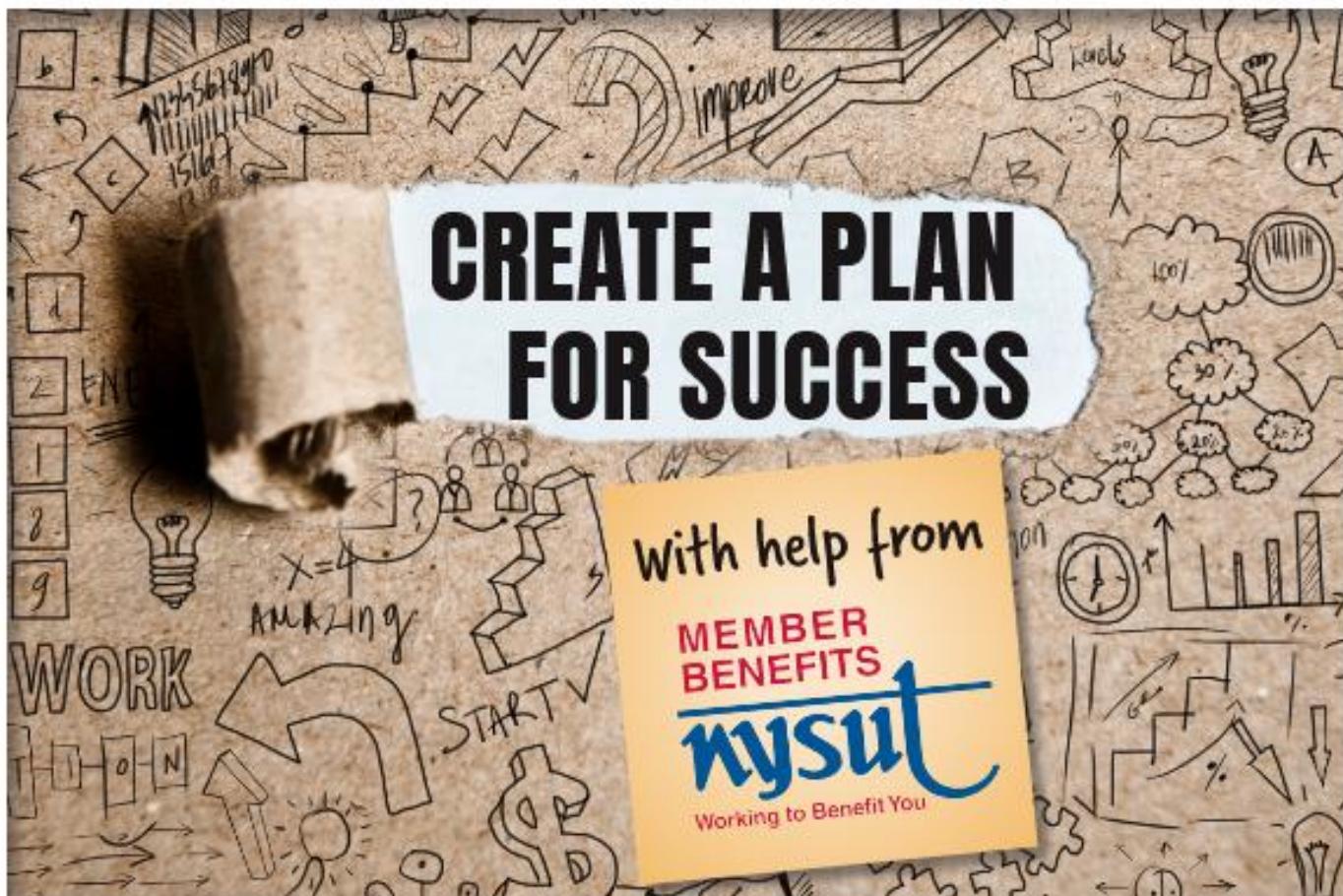
Use this QR code to go directly to our website where these articles are located.



STATEWIDE RALLY TO FIX TIER 6!

Join 10,000+ of your fellow NYSUT members for our largest, most powerful Fix Tier 6 rally yet – in Albany on March 8, 2026.

Register with QR code above or at: https://fixtier6.org/events/statewide-rally-to-fix-tier-6?_gl=1*10m7tlm*_gcl_au*MTE2MzM3NzQzMC4xNzY0MDAwMTA0LjUyMjk2NDY3Ny4xNzY0MDAwMTczLjE3NjQwMDAzMzA.*_ga*MTg1ODU3OTQxNC4xNzEzNzA4MzE3*_ga_6N3TSPL4XR*czE3NjcxNjcyMDIkbzU4JGcwJHQxNzY5MTY3MjAyJGo2MCRsMCRoMA..



Another new year is upon us and with it comes the opportunity to take stock of where we are in our lives. NYSUT Member Benefits endorses numerous programs that can help with creating a plan to prepare for whatever the future brings.

**CREATE YOUR
PLAN OF ACTION
FOR THE UPCOMING
YEAR TODAY.**

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

SCAN ME



Have you addressed any legal or financial concerns?

With our Legal Service Plan, you gain access to a national network of attorneys at a reduced cost; two, free hour-long consultations; and a legal security package containing a simple will, health care proxy, living will, and power of attorney. Meanwhile, our Financial Counseling Program provides access to certified financial planners that can offer unbiased financial counseling services.

Improving your financial acumen is a key part of building a successful retirement plan. Powered by Kiplinger's Personal Finance, our Financial Learning Center is a free online resource that offers monthly articles about dealing with debt, insurance, retirement, finances, and more.

Do you have an emergency fund?

Synchrony Bank offers several options to help grow your savings over time, including high-yield savings accounts.

money market accounts, and certificates of deposit. NYSUT members receive special rates above those available to the general public.

Is a new home or refinancing of your current home on your list?

NYSUT members can save up to \$2,700 on lender fees and closing costs with the UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program from Mid-Island Mortgage. For more than 60 years, Mid-Island Mortgage has been helping union members with realizing the joy of homeownership.

Are you looking for assistance with credit and/or debt management?

Our partnership with Cambridge Credit Counseling can assist members with understanding debt consolidation and student loan repayment options. Members can receive a free, no-obligation consultation with a Cambridge certified counselor.

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE AGAIN!

After last year's positive feedback, NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the 2026 Member Appreciation Event this March! This celebration is an opportunity for us to express thanks to NYSUT members with a variety of great prizes donated by Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers. Prize winners will be announced exclusively on the Member Benefits website.

Join our MAP Alert email service by March 31, 2026 to be eligible to win! If you're not already a MAP Alert participant, visit mb-nysut.org/stayinformed or call 800-626-8101 to join.

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO
SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR
FELLOW NYSUT RETIREES
AND WISH YOU GOOD LUCK!**

