



# THE CENTRAL NEW YORKER

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## RC 7 Delegates Attend NYSUT ED 51 Meeting

The March 18-19, 2025, ED 51 Meeting in Utica was jam packed with information from NYSUT officers, staff, and guests. Loretta, Candace Johnson, and I attended as your delegates.

The first reports were from the three sub-committees of the Retiree Advisory Council, co-chaired by Beverly Voos (RC 6) and Ron Gross (NYSUT VP). They introduced the three sub-committees and their chairs. Each committee reported on their progress.

The Communication Committee work is ongoing as they are continuing the previous work done by the last RAC which brought about an updating of the NYSUT webpage. The current work involves strengthening communication between in-service and retiree members through electronic, written, and website means. They also wish to review the process of communicating with retirees regarding VOTE-COPE and its importance. They hope to make it easier for retirees to continue from payroll to pension deduction.

The Fix Tier 6 Committee, with the help of NYSUT political action, has seen some progress made which includes changing the right of vesting from 10 years to 5 years and getting the School Boards Association on board this very important cause. The easy part is looking at the inequities, but changes in fixing Tier 6 will take time and be expensive, but it is a high-level topic with politicians. The committee plans to keep this in members' and the public's mind this year.

The Resolution Committee gathered information on the feasibility of implementing resolutions in order to make them successful. In October 2024, the Retiree Recognition resolution was implemented for the first time. It is now part of NYSUT's calendar on an annual basis and will hopefully improve over time as locals become more involved in honoring their retiree councils.

Ron Gross and Carrie Andrews, Program Services Manager, and Jonathan Rubin, Field and Affiliate Services, presented many updates from NYSUT, including the implementation of a committee to examine health insurance across NYS.

So far, this committee has learned that health insurance across NYS is quite a mixed bag that includes PPO/POS, HMO/EPO, HDP/HAS, and Indemnity plans.

Information is going out in every retiree newsletter about opting in for the printed and mailed version of the RC newsletter. Please read the instructions on your last newsletter and let NYSUT know if you wish to opt in to receive a newsletter via US Mail. You have until September 2025 to send in your request. Ron promised one newsletter each year will be mailed to everyone even if opt for electronic. Which one will be mailed is up to each RC. Newsletters are already available online. You can download an electronic version of your NYSUT ID card. Log in to NYSUT.org and find out how.

David Keefe, President of NYS Teacher's Retirement System Trustee Board, spoke to us and said NYSTRS is the safest, most secure fund in the United States. Our 30-year return on our investments has been about 30%.

John Cochran, Chief of Staff from the NYS Office of Aging, presented updates on the work that the office is doing on a state-wide level. We also received updates about NYSUT Member Benefits from Yessenia Raposo.

Lastly, At-Large Director Florence McCue gave a short talk on preparing for the unexpected. Florence said that all retirees should make sure that they have all important papers (Will, Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy, Living Will, Trust, Insurance Policies, Medical Information, Bank Accounts, Passwords, Financial Documents) all in a single place accessible by the person who will act on your behalf if you become incapacitated. Prepare careful instructions on your doctors' names and phone numbers, your burial and funeral wishes, who needs to be contacted upon your death (insurance, banking institutions, NYSTRS, SSA) and the fact that at least five copies of death certificate will be needed.

As I said in the beginning a very productive and informative meeting. We are all looking forward to representing you at the NYSUT RA in May.

Melody Mariani, RC 7 Delegate, RC 7 Secretary



*Please Note: Our newsletter is posted on the RC 7 Website before it is printed and mailed from NYSUT Headquarters. Be sure to check there for luncheon information and avoid sending in a late reservation due to unexpected printing and/or mailing delays.*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
NYSUT Regional Conference for  
RC 7 & 8

**September 25, 2025**  
Doubletree, East Syracuse  
*Watch for your invitation over the summer!*



**From the President’s Desk...**  
*Loretta K. Donlon*

**Staying Connected and  
Remembering Those Who Have Left Us!**

First, I’d like to thank all of you for your tireless efforts on behalf of our students and in-service members in our schools. As retirees, we serve a vital role in advocating for them daily. Please be sure to stay connected with us through your Chapters and Locals, and with us through your participation fee. It’s important that we have your updated contact information, including your email addresses.

Second, you already heard about the changes to our Newsletter program. If you would like to continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, you can! BUT, you must notify NYSUT that request. There are five ways to notify NYSUT: email, phone, .... But please do it now.

And, I’d like to pay tribute to the many NYSUT retirees who have gone before us on our journey in Public Education. We try to list the names of our recently deceased in our newsletter, but we know we miss many of our colleagues. Please be sure to let us know if a member of your local has passed away. We try to keep up with the local media, but many have moved away in retirement, and we are not informed of their passing. With your help, we would like to pay them homage in each edition of our newsletter.

Please be sure to join us at our upcoming luncheons. Have a great Spring and Summer!

*Forever in our Hearts...*

- West Genesee  
Deborah Carey+Auburn
- North Syracuse  
Mary Anne Gorski  
Dolores Locey  
Joyce Ludwig  
Patricia Rizzo
- CBA  
Mary Flynn
- Baldwinsville  
Marceline Ecker  
Barbara Rydelek
- Marcellus  
Leona Schad
- East Syracuse-Minoa  
Audrey Althoff

- Syracuse  
Girdon Buck  
Verna Gene Clark  
John Drazek  
Carolyn Fitzgerald  
Mark Kinnan  
Lorraine Kimmerle  
David Rogers
- Liverpool  
Shirley Chajkowski  
Gary Ross  
James Switzer, Jr.
- Jamesville-Dewitt  
Robert Anderson+Syr  
Eleanor Johnson  
Anne McFetridge  
Rosalind Otis+NS

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NYSUT Retiree Council 7

NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO

**Officers**

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William Spreter, Second VP  
Candace Johnson, Third VP  
Melody Mariani, Secretary  
Carol Graham, Treasurer  
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Loretta Donlon, ED 51 Director

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Anne Marie Voutsinas  
Retiree Services Consultant

Lynn Davis, Web Master

[nysutRC7@gmail.com](mailto:nysutRC7@gmail.com)

**AARP Smart Driver Class**  
August 19, 2025, from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm  
(Registration begins at 8:30am)

NYSUT Regional Office  
4983 Brittonfield Pkwy, East Syracuse

\$25 for AARP members, \$30 for non-members  
(Bring a check payable to AARP to class.)

*Driving Safely and Defensively is important in all situations. During this class, we will refresh the best ways to stay safe on the road. Check with your insurance company to learn of the savings by completing this course.*

*Class is limited to 40 participants!*

**To register, call Jay Guss at 315-488-6639**

Bring your driver’s license, your AARP card, and lunch when you come.



Join Us on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025**, at  
**NYSUT, 4983 Brittonfield Pkwy., East Syracuse**

\$20 per person

**Registration @ 11:30 • Meeting @ noon • Lunch @ 12:45 • Program after Lunch**  
**Hear the latest OCCRA news!**

**Catered Buffet by John and Sons Deli**

Garden Salad, Fruit Salad, Oven Roasted Chicken, Stuffed Shells, Rolls and Butter

Assorted Cookies, Iced Tea, Coffee, Water

*Vegetarian and Gluten-Free available upon request. Please indicate on form.*

**Reservation Form    RC 7 Luncheon – May 20 @NYSUT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*If you require any device or accommodation as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act, or need a vegetarian, vegan, or gluten-free meal, or other dietary accommodation, please indicate here:* \_\_\_\_\_.

Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_ at \$20      Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*First Time Attendee?** \_\_\_\_\_ **District Retired From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*We'll make sure you find your colleagues!*

Please send reservation form and a check payable to **NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 7** to:  
**RC7 Luncheon Chair, NYSUT Regional Office, 4983 Brittonfield Parkway, E. Syracuse, NY 13057**  
**Reservations must be received by May 13th. No one can be seated without a reservation.**

Join Us on **Tuesday, June 17, 2025**, at  
**Coppertop Event House, 3372 Milton Ave., Syracuse**

\$39 per person

**Registration @ 11:30 • Meeting @ noon • Lunch @ 12:45 • Program after Lunch**  
**Presentation of Scholarship Winners!**

**Chicken Milanese** – breaded and lightly fried, with lemon butter sauce, topped with salad greens, tomatoes and balsamic vinaigrette shaved cheeses.

**Baked Haddock** – butter crumb crust served with rice

**Pasta alla Vodka** – imported pasta with vodka plum tomato cream sauce and basil

Salad, Rolls and Butter, Assorted Pastries, Lemonade, Soda, Iced Tea, Coffee, Water

*Vegetarian and Gluten-Free available upon request. Please indicate on form.*



**Reservation Form    RC 7 Luncheon – June 17, @Coppertop Event House**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*If you require any device or accommodation as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act, or need a vegetarian, vegan, or gluten-free meal or other dietary accommodation, please indicate here.* \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_ at \$39.      Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Please check entrée choice below. If including multiple reservations, indicate names clearly next to choice.

Chicken \_\_\_\_\_      Haddock \_\_\_\_\_      Pasta \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*First Time Attendee?** \_\_\_\_\_ **District Retired From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*We'll make sure you find your colleagues!*

Please send reservation form and a check payable to **NYSUT RETIREE COUNCIL 7** to:  
**RC7 Luncheon Chair, NYSUT Regional Office, 4983 Brittonfield Parkway, E. Syracuse, NY 13057**  
**Reservations must be received by June 10th. No one can be seated without a reservation.**

