

## Spring 2024 NYSUT Retiree Council 9 Newsletter

**Which Sub-council do you belong to?** These are based upon where the district you retired from was located. A retiree may join a sub-council where they now live if more convenient. (And if you like an activity in another sub-council, sign up!)

**RETIREE COUNCIL (RC) 9** Email is [NYSUTRC9@gmail.com](mailto:NYSUTRC9@gmail.com) Website is [rc9.ny.aft.org](http://rc9.ny.aft.org)

**RC 9 OFFICERS:** President Lynn Hunneyman [lhunneyman@gmail.com](mailto:lhunneyman@gmail.com) Vice President Rod Sherman [rsherman@westelcom.com](mailto:rsherman@westelcom.com)

Treasurer: Rick Morris Secretary: Robin Duncan Newsletter Editor: Phillis Walrath [philliswalrath@gmail.com](mailto:philliswalrath@gmail.com)

RC 9 Website: Nona Garrand, Sandra Gleason, and Laura Gutenmann

NYSUT Delegates: Rick Morris, Rod Sherman, Joe Vernon Alternates: Tony Fiacco, Lynn Hunneyman, Nan Scinta

NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant: Ruth Shippee [ruth.shippee@nysut.org](mailto:ruth.shippee@nysut.org) 518-321-8676

### SUB COUNCILS

**CVCR Co-Chairs:** Carlos Madan & Violet Moesch [cvcr.ny@gmail.com](mailto:cvcr.ny@gmail.com) **FSNUR:** [FSNURRC9@gmail.com](mailto:FSNURRC9@gmail.com) Acting Chair: Tony Fiacco

**SANR:** [sanrrc9@gmail.com](mailto:sanrrc9@gmail.com) Acting Chair Joe Vernon **Jeff-Lewis CNR President:** Lynn Hunneyman [lhunneyman@gmail.com](mailto:lhunneyman@gmail.com)

[jlcnrcc9@gmail.com](mailto:jlcnrcc9@gmail.com) **JLNRC Webmaster** <https://www.jlcnr-rc9.org/> Carole Ashbridge [cashbridge@zoominternet.net](mailto:cashbridge@zoominternet.net)

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT Rod Sherman

On March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, at the New York State Capital and Legislative Office Building over 500 NYSUT members attended the Committee of 100 (C-100) legislative lobbying day. A group of NYSUT activists from Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Warren, and Washington Counties met with our legislators on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Other members of the Committee of 100 spoke with legislators in the western part of RC-9. Those legislators we spoke with; **Assemblyman Billy Jones, Assemblyman Matt Simpson, and Senator Dan Stec.**

The focus of this C-100 visitation was focused on State Aid and other revenue issues related to the state budget presented by the Governor earlier this year.

- Foundation aid to properly fund our schools and keep the promise of fully funding our schools under the foundation aid formula. Many of the districts across the state and within our region of RC-9 have lost millions of dollars in state "Save Harmless Aid". With tax caps it is impossible for any of these districts to raise local taxes to fix the budget problems these losses will create. All three legislators support a budget that restores these losses. All of **RC-9 school districts have a \$15 million loss in save harmless aid** under the Governor's budget.
- We were seeking support of \$100,000,000 for increasing the number of Community schools models across the state.
- We pushed for more funds to help with greater availability of Career and Technical Education courses at our BOCES. Part of this is to remove the restrictions on money that can go toward the 1990 cap of \$30,000 for instructor salary aid.
- We asked and argued for the restoration of the \$21.4 million cut from the teacher centers. There is strong support for this among our legislators.
- This year a new request has been added and that is having the state work on assistance in helping all schools deal with extreme heat in schools. This is a new one for them but an old issue for all who are in our schools during those extremely hot days in the fall and spring.
- The call for fixing Tier VI and support for such is gaining momentum but will be slow in coming. There was a large rally on the "Million Dollar Staircase" in the capital with several legislators and labor leaders speaking out.
- We pushed the legislators to put APPR back into the hands of local control. We emphasized that this discussion has been going on too long and a solution is expected this year. **\*\*\*Since the Committee of 100 this has happened. \*\***

This fall we will ask you to remember to renew your membership (or join if you have not joined before) in RC-9 and your sub council. It is this involvement that makes your NYSUT Retiree Council so important for you to join and support. We are NYSUT and have been there for you in your entire career and will be there in retirement.

**Editor's note: We expect that when you receive this newsletter the budget will have been passed. The work of our union never ends.**

## Frederic Remington Museum Visit- March 14

After meeting for lunch, members of FSNUR and CVCR toured the Remington Museum. We learned a great deal about his life and work. Many thanks to our docent, Luanne Herzog, a fellow retiree, who added her enthusiasm to the day!



### SUB-COUNCIL EVENTS AND NEWS:

*Check out what is happening across Retiree Council 9. Events are open to all RC members- even if the event is in another sub council. Events will be listed at <http://rc9.ny.aft.org/>*

### CVCR

Our monthly meetings/luncheons/speakers are at MHAB Fresh Dormitory Drive Plattsburgh. You will receive an email with details on how to sign up. The rest of the dates for the year are April 8 (**CANCELED DUE TO ECLIPSE**), May 13, June 10, 2024. If you haven't received your invitation a week before, contact [cvcr.ny@gmail.com](mailto:cvcr.ny@gmail.com).

*At the March 11 luncheon, after our meeting and a great lunch, members heard from the Clinton County Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners. It was great to hear from a couple of retired teachers on how they are helping the community AND giving us gardening advice.*



### JLCNR- Jefferson Lewis Council of NYSUT Retirees

Make sure we have your email so we can notify you of upcoming events.

### Southern Adirondack NYSUT Retirees (SANR)

Be on the lookout for upcoming events.

### FSNUR-Franklin St. Lawrence NYSUT United Retirees

FSNUR's last meeting was February 27<sup>th</sup> at the NYSUT office in Potsdam. Thank you to all members in attendance. We listened to an informative presentation by S.O.A.R. (Stimulating Opportunities After Retirement), a continuing education program housed at SUNY Potsdam. We also put some activities on the calendar and brainstormed for more to come.

FSNUR is working to provide educational and fun activities for retired educators. As with any activity, participation is key. So, select an upcoming activity and join us, as social networking is one of the leading indicators for a satisfying and long life.

**FSNUR's next meeting** will be at **10:00 am on June 11, 2024**, at the NYSUT office in Potsdam. This will be an important meeting as the election of officers will take place. If anyone is interested in being an officer or knows someone who would want to be involved, nominations will be taken from the floor. We do have a slate of officers willing to serve:

*President ~ Tony Fiacco (Canton Central)*

*Vice President ~ Val Chiarenzelli (Potsdam Central)*

*Secretary ~ Tom French (Massena Central)*

*Treasurer ~ Sarah Fiacco (Potsdam Central)*

Hope to see you there to vote and to participate! We need new ideas to help the organization to grow and prosper.

**June 17, 2024, 10 am-noon, St. Lawrence Power and Equipment Museum** 1755 NY-345, Madrid, NY 13660  
Come explore this unique museum located just outside of Madrid. <https://slpowermuseum.com/> is the website that will give you an idea of the vast collection of artifacts, buildings (including a schoolhouse) and grounds of this museum. FSNUR members, Ron and Sheila Day, have arranged for us to explore. Please contact

[ruth.shippee@nysut.org](mailto:ruth.shippee@nysut.org) by June 14 to let us know you will be attending. Those who are interested in lunch can gather at the Hometown Cafe afterwards. *The museum would accept donations from those who visit this facility run by volunteers.*

**Walking Tour of Thousand Island Park with Optional Walk to Top of Thousand Islands Bridge**  
**Monday, July 15, 2024 10:00 am** Thousand Island Park, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was established in 1875 as a Methodist Camp Meeting Ground on Wellesley Island along the St. Lawrence River. Within a couple of years, it was reported that over 500 family tents populated the grounds. Many of those original tents, erected on platforms, evolved into tent cottages that still exist today. This tour of Thousand Island Park will include the Thousand Island Park Museum and several buildings including the circa 1913 Chapel (with its history as a gym and schoolhouse), the 1885 wooden Tabernacle, 1903 Library, still-operating Wellesley Hotel (an overflow for a larger hotel that burned in 1912), historic ferry landing, and walking tour of the “Historic District” with several tent cottages and other structures of historical significance.

If weather and time permits, a guided walk to the top of the iconic Thousand Islands Bridge (1938) will be provided to those wishing.

Email [info@tiphistory.org](mailto:info@tiphistory.org) by July 10th. Registration is limited to 20 people. An optional lunch at The Guzzle, an iconic eatery at the Park, will be available. More information regarding the lunch will be provided closer to the date.

Information about the Thousand island Park Museum can be found at <http://tiphistory.org>



### Member Benefits For You

*Have you heard?* NYSUT Retirees have access to many benefits. Member Benefits <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org> has many programs that could be of interest to you. Here are some highlights:

Need a will? Using pension deduction, you could get one, with a power attorney, health care proxy and living will for \$50/year. There are many other aspects of the program - see it at <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/legal-and-financial>  
Feeling a tad bit stressed? Like to try meditation? NYSUT has been able to obtain the CALM app for all of us (and we can share with 5 other people) at no cost to us. Go to <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/free-member-benefits>  
Do you or a family member need hearing aids? Or Life Line to help keep loved ones safe? Check these out at <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/shopping-travel>



### Retiree Council 9 Conference

Be on the lookout for a mailing on the annual conference for Retiree Council 9 sponsored by NYSUT. This year, the conference will be held at the Watertown Elks on May 23. The day will be filled with various speakers, food and interacting with other retirees. The mailing will include instructions on how to register for the conference and the schedule for the day. *Hope to see you there.*

### It's That Time of the Year!

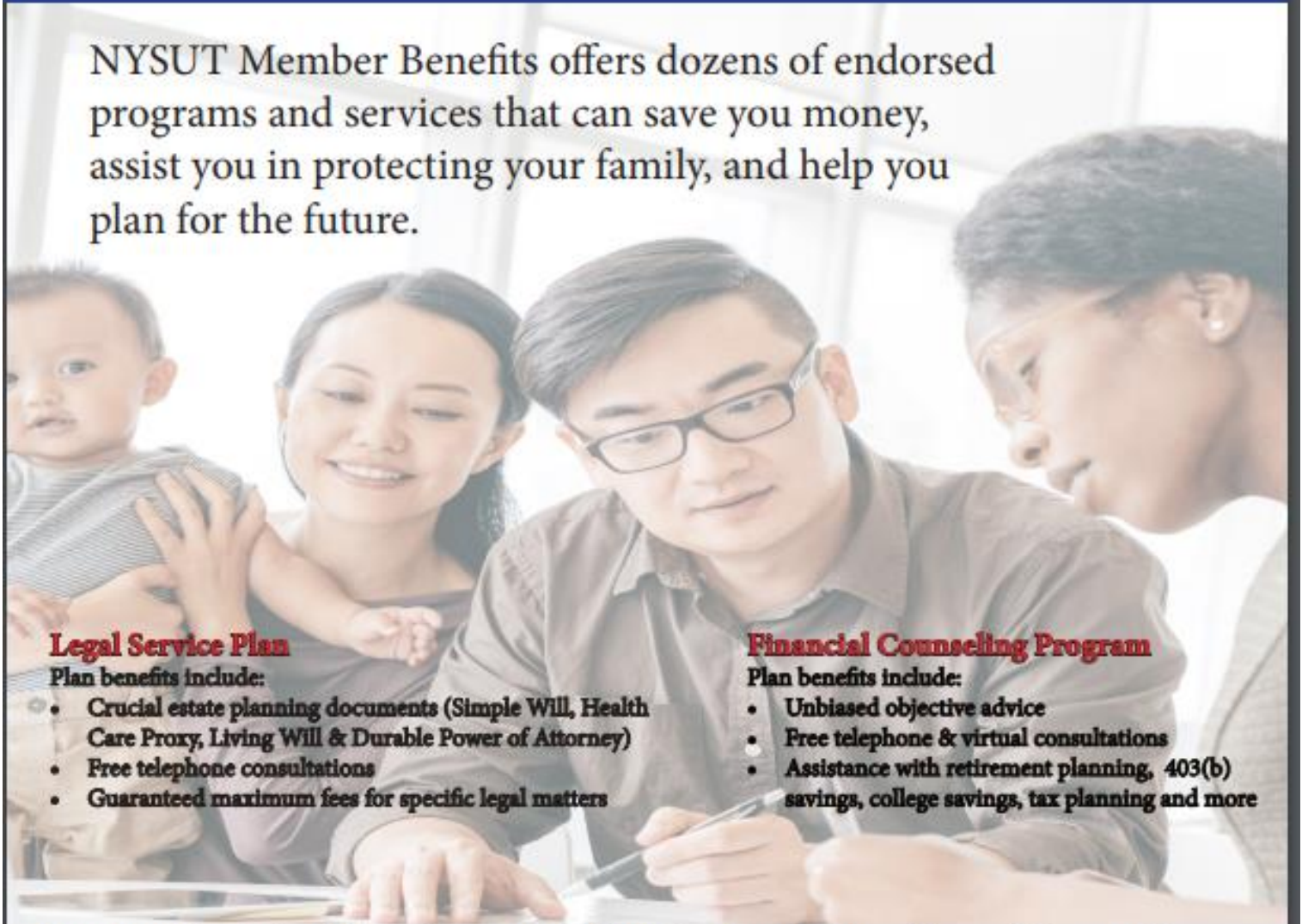
This is the time of the year that our in-service colleagues will be committing to join us in the retiree ranks! If you hear of people making that decision, if you look at Board of Education agendas/minutes, see it on social media, etc., please let us know so we can make sure to get everyone connected as soon as possible. Send the information to [nysutrc9@gmail.com](mailto:nysutrc9@gmail.com), that way they can take part in summer and fall events.

If you could include the person(s) name, school district (and building location if possible), when they are retiring and where you found the information. For example: Joe Doe, Green School District, in ABC Elementary, in the January 2024 Board of Education agenda, and retiring May 30, 2024. Thank you!



## Check out all your union membership has to offer!

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs and services that can save you money, assist you in protecting your family, and help you plan for the future.



### **Legal Service Plan**

Plan benefits include:

- Crucial estate planning documents (Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Durable Power of Attorney)
- Free telephone consultations
- Guaranteed maximum fees for specific legal matters

### **Financial Counseling Program**

Plan benefits include:

- Unbiased objective advice
- Free telephone & virtual consultations
- Assistance with retirement planning, 403(b) savings, college savings, tax planning and more

For an annual fee, the Legal Service Plan -- provided by the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. Plan participants receive unlimited access to toll-free advice weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) as well as a toll-free hotline for urgent legal assistance outside of these hours.

Meanwhile, the Financial Counseling Program -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone or virtual consultations with a Stacey Braun Certified Financial Planner. \*



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

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.



Mar/Apr 2024

## Join us for a Paint and Sip to Raise Funds for Scholarships for New Teachers

FSNUR will be hosting a Paint and Sip on **May 2, 5-7 pm**, in the amount of \$40 per person, at the NYSUT Potsdam Regional Office. Participants will be given what they need to create the painting and light refreshments. Prepayment is required, adults only. Payment can be made via Venmo to Jade @Jade-Reynolds-17 or contact Sandra Gleason 315-323-6155.



### SAVE THE DATE:

Spring RC 9 Conference  
May 23, 2024 at Watertown Elks  
Materials will be mailed soon!

- Register at: <https://nysut.cc/rc9-2024>

### Check out NYSUT.org section on Retirees!

A screenshot of the NYSUT.org website's Retirees section. The top navigation bar is dark blue with white text: WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, WHAT WE CARE ABOUT, nysut (with tagline A Union of Professionals), TAKE ACTION, FOR MEMBERS, NEWS. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: Home | Members | Retirees. The main content area is titled "Retirees:" and features a list of links on the left: About NYSUT Retirees and Retirement, Retirement Guide, Retiree Activist Handbook, Retiree Services Consultants, Retiree Council Websites, Reaffiliating At-Large Members, and TRS. To the right of the links is a large graphic with the word "Retirees" in large white letters on a blue background. To the right of "Retirees" are three stacked colored boxes: "Experienced" (blue), "Resourceful" (purple), and "Engaged" (green). Below the graphic is a paragraph of text: "NYSUT has one of the most active and successful union retiree programs in the country. The NYSUT Retiree Services Program, part of Program Services, was established by NYSUT to help its retirees organize and to act as a service provider for those retiree groups. In an effort to better serve the growing number of retirees, 11 Retiree Services Consultants have been hired to serve members in the field."

We matter!