

III. MAINTAINING YOUR UNION CONNECTION IN RETIREMENT

Throughout your working life, you enjoyed countless benefits as a NYSUT member. Those benefits do not end with your retirement. In fact, as a NYSUT retiree member you:

- ◆ Maintain your eligibility to participate in the various endorsed programs and services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits. Visit memberbenefits.nysut.org for more information.
- ◆ Will remain informed of NYSUT activities through the *NYSUT United* publication.
- ◆ Can create an account and sign in to the member section of the NYSUT website, nysut.org/log-in-landing. (You will need your Member ID to create an account).
- ◆ Have access to the weekly NYSUT Member Briefing electronic publication. Contact NYSUT IT for assistance in signing up for the Member Briefing. You will need the NYSUT ID number found on your NYSUT ID card. You can sign up to receive the publication online after logging into nysut.org; there you can edit your profile and check the box to receive the Member Briefing.
- ◆ Will be informed of NYSUT-endorsed candidates and eligible to run for retiree delegate for the NYSUT Representative Assembly.
- ◆ Have access to a regional NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant. Visit nysut.org/retireeconsultants to find the consultant in your area.
- ◆ Will continue to have access to the NYSUT Social Services program by visiting nysut.org/socialservices or by calling the Peer Support Line at 844-444-0152, available to members in the Fall of 2022.
- ◆ Can continue to participate in the annual VOTE-COPE Political Action Fund drive with direct contributions or through convenient monthly pension deductions. Visit nysut.org/votecope.

NYSUT helps ensure retirees have a voice through their local union, local retiree chapters (where they exist) and/or through regional retiree councils across the state. This is only possible if you maintain your membership status as a retiree.

Upon retirement, any member of a NYSUT local automatically becomes a NYSUT and AFT retiree member. If your local provides for a retiree membership, you must remain a member of your local to maintain your membership in NYSUT and AFT. If your local requires retiree dues, payment of those dues is a requirement for local, NYSUT and AFT retiree membership.

As a retiree you will maintain your NEA membership and can participate in NEA Member Benefits programs you purchase individually. NEA also offers an “NEA Retired” membership with the purchase of a lifetime NEA-Retired Life membership (currently \$300). With an NEA Retired membership, you are eligible to vote and run for office in the NEA Retired group. For more information, please contact NYSUT Retiree Services at 800-342-9810 or visit nysut.org/members/retirees/about-nysut-retirees-and-retirement.

Contact your local union officers for further information on how to maintain your membership as a retiree. Contact NYSUT Retiree Services if you are unclear or need further guidance.

To ensure you are in NYSUT’s membership records, be sure to maintain current contact information with your local and/or your regional office. Contact NYSUT’s Member Records Department at 800-342-9810.

Your Union is There to Support You in Retirement.

At the local level: Protecting your rights for your health insurance and other benefits.

At the state level:

- ◆ Working with the retirement systems to safeguard the funds for your future.
- ◆ Working through the Legislative and Political departments to protect your pension and advocate for new legislation that will meet future situations.
- ◆ Working through NYSUT Member Benefits to provide you with options to save on important insurance programs, legal and financial programs, travel and shopping options, and much more. Visit memberbenefits.nysut.org to learn more.
- ◆ Using NYSUT Social Services to help you and your family navigate the confusion of hospital and elder care as the need arises. Contact NYSUT Social Services for more information by visiting nysut.org/socialservices or by calling the Peer Support Line at 844-444-0152, available to members in the Fall of 2022

At the national level: Protecting and enhancing Social Security and Medicare.

Your Union Still Needs You to Remain Strong.

At the local level:

- ◆ To support your union brothers and sisters in crisis situations.
- ◆ To cast your votes on school budgets, board candidates and bond issues.
- ◆ To continue VOTE-COPE contributions that allow your local to have the funds to meet its local political needs.
- ◆ To maintain relationships with in-service colleagues to understand and support their agenda.
- ◆ To educate those who follow about the struggles of our early days and the legacy of continuing service to our members.

At the state level:

- ◆ To support our Legislative and Political departments with a few minutes of your time at critical moments to lobby for (or against) new legislation through the Member Action Center network (mac.nysut.org).
- ◆ To donate through VOTE-COPE to enable NYSUT to create a political climate that will support candidates and programs for our benefit.
- ◆ To vote in each election to make sure your rights and benefits are protected.

At the national level:

- ◆ To aid the AFT and NEA in advancing the cause of public education across the country.
- ◆ To ensure the federal benefits each retiree receives will be there for the future.