



## **Notice: Retirees must maintain NYSUT membership**

Taking the time to plan ahead will help to make the stressful transition from active work to retirement an easier process. If you are currently enrolled in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs and would like to continue participation, you must maintain your NYSUT membership as a retiree. This can be accomplished in one of two ways:

**1. Continue membership within your local if retiree membership is offered.** Contact your local to find out if any retiree membership requirements are in place. You must comply with these retiree membership requirements to continue your membership in NYSUT and our national affiliate American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

**2. Continue as an at-large member of NYSUT through the Retiree Council in your region.** Contact your local to ensure you will be reported as retired to NYSUT. This will provide you with membership in the Retiree Council in your region along with NYSUT and the AFT.

Retiree membership is not automatic for the National Education Association (NEA); you may choose to join this national affiliate as a lifetime retiree for a one-time fee of \$300. At this time, as a current NYSUT member or retiree participating in NEA Member Benefits, you do not need to purchase retiree membership with NEA. For information about joining NEA National and/or an enrollment form, contact NYSUT Retiree Services at 800-342-9810.

If you are a non-lifetime NEA retiree member or know someone lost from the NEA/NY rolls, contact NYSUT Member Records at 800-342-9810 to learn more about joining NYSUT and NEA as a retiree.

For questions about establishing retiree membership, you may reach out to the following membership departments:

United Federation of Teachers members: 212-598-6855

United University Professions members: 800-342-4206

Professional Staff Congress/CUNY members: 212-354-1252

All other NYSUT members: 800-342-9810

If you have questions about maintaining NYSUT membership or would like further information about NYSUT retiree programs, contact the NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant (RSC) serving your region. You can also find this information at [nysut.org/members/retirees/retiree-services-consultants](https://nysut.org/members/retirees/retiree-services-consultants).

- Buffalo area (RC 1-3, 44): Janet Goddard, 716-634-7132 or *Janet.Goddard@nysut.org*
- Jamestown area (RC 4, 46): Louise Ortman, 716-664-7425 or *Louise.Ortman@nysut.org*
- Rochester area (RC 5-6): Peter Randazzo, 585-454-5550 or *Peter.Randazzo@nysut.org*
- Syracuse/Utica area (RC 7-8): Anne Marie Voutsinas, 315-431-4040 or *AnneMarie.Voutsinas@nysut.org*
- North Country/Capital District (RC 9-10): Ruth Shippee, 518-783-7977 or *Ruth.Shippee@nysut.org*
- Southern Tier (RC 11, 45): Mark Padgett, 607-786-5742 or *Mark.Padgett@nysut.org*
- Greater Capital District/Mid-Hudson area (RC 12-13): Sheryl Baker Delano, 845-339-4450 or *Sheryl.Delano@nysut.org*
- Orange, Rockland, Putnam & Westchester Counties (RC 14-16): Ellen Pincus, 914-592-4411 or *Ellen.Pincus@nysut.org*
- Nassau region (RC 17-19): Claire Zatorski, 516-496-2035 or *Claire.Zatorski@nysut.org*
- Suffolk region (RC 20-23): Joan Perrini, 631-273-8822 or *Joan.Perrini@nysut.org*
- Florida (RC 43): Judith Kalb, 561-994-4929, ext. 24 or *Judy.Kalb@nysut.org*

### ***Transitioning from payroll to pension deduction***

Moving from payroll deduction of NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs to pension deduction is NOT immediate nor automatic. Following the steps below should help to ensure a smooth process.

1. Contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 when you have your definite retirement date. Subsequently, Member Benefits will communicate that information to each plan administrator of programs you participate in.
2. Call each plan administrator of programs you participate in to verify your mailing address so you can be billed at home once payroll deductions stop. Member Benefits can provide you with the contact information for plan administrators if needed.
3. If you do not receive a bill for each program you had on payroll deduction, contact the applicable program administrator to verify a bill was mailed to your correct address. All discounts provided through payroll deduction will continue for up to one year with direct billing; pension deduction offers the same discounts as payroll deduction.

4. **Make sure to pay each bill you receive. You must be on home billing for at least one billing cycle** so your pension system has time to put your permanent monthly pension benefit in place. Even though you may be receiving a monthly pension benefit, this does not mean your permanent benefit has been finalized. Deductions can only be taken from the permanent benefit; this can take up to six months.

Note: You must be receiving your permanent monthly pension benefit from the New York State Teachers' Retirement System, New York City Teachers' Retirement System, New York State Employees' Retirement System, New York City Board of Education Retirement System, or receive income from a monthly lifetime annuity from TIAA to be eligible for pension deduction of Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

5. When you receive the bill for the next premium, it should include a Pension Deduction Authorization Form. Complete and sign the form and send it back with the bill to the plan administrator in lieu of payment. If you do not receive a Pension Deduction Authorization Form with your second bill, contact Member Benefits for one to be sent to you.

Upon receipt of your Pension Deduction Authorization Form, the plan administrator will transmit the details to Member Benefits regarding pension deduction of your program(s). Member Benefits will then submit this information to your pension system to start the deductions with your next monthly benefit. This process must be done for each program you participate in. Contact Member Benefits if you have any questions along the way and allow time for each of the steps above to be completed.

If you have any questions about continuing Member Benefits-endorsed programs or the pension deduction process, please visit ***memberbenefits.nysut.org*** or call **800-626-8101**.

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