

PROVOCATOR

December 2019

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BUFFALO TEACHERS FEDERATION VOLUME 50/NUMBER 2

DEDICATION
SOLIDARITY
PROFESSIONALISM
PRIDE
SECOND TO NONE



BTF's 23rd Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive Helps Feed More than 100 Needy Families

For the 23rd consecutive year, the Buffalo Teachers Federation has made Thanksgiving "a day of thanks" for needy families in the Buffalo School District.

Thousands of dollars in food and gift certificates were donated by BTF members and students and were distributed through several charitable and non-profit groups.

The annual event is held in an effort to "make sure those families enjoy a 'meal of thanks' on Thanksgiving Day," BTF President Phil Rumore explained.

"As we do each year, this bounty of food before us was donated by Buffalo teachers and students who want to do their part to make sure families, who might otherwise go without, would enjoy their Thanksgiving Day meal," Phil said. "This is our 23rd Annual Thanksgiving food drive where canned and packaged goods and monetary donations were made by Buffalo teachers and students. This is a wonderful way for all of us to give thanks for what we have. After all, isn't that what Thanksgiving is all about?," Phil continued.

He said more than 3,500 families have benefited from the BTF Thanksgiving Food Drive throughout the years.

After the food was collected, volunteers met at the BTF office where they stuffed 120 shopping bags with all the traditional foods for a Thanksgiving feast: corn, green beans, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, stuffing mix, and a \$10 gift card for Tops Supermarkets to purchase a turkey.

The bags, and boxes of additional food items, were then picked up and distributed to the needy by several nonprofit organizations.

JROTC cadets in Col. Jeff Cipolla's class at Hutch Tech helped fill the grocery bags and carried the food items to the cars of the agencies that distributed the food.

Schools that generously donated food items to supplement the bags were D'Youville Porter Campus #3, BEST School #6, Hillery Park #27, Bilingual Center



#33, International School #45, School #48@#39, Adult Learning Center #46, George Blackman ECC #54, Roosevelt Academy #65, Houghton Academy #69, Lorraine Elementary #72, Herman Badillo #76, Southside Elementary #93, Harvey Austin #97, South Park HS #206, Lafayette International #207, Leonardo daVinci HS #212, Emerson HS #302, Hutch Tech #304, Middle Early College #335, Bioinformatics School #366, and The Buffalo Teacher Center #910.

The organizations distributing the food were: The Community Action Organization, Buffalo City Mission, The Gloria Parks Community Center, Native American Community Services, Fulgham Family Foundation, and Women for Human Rights and Dignity.





Three Gifts

by PHIL RUMORE

Hardly one day goes by that you, probably one of the most important people in your students' lives, don't give gifts more precious and more important than many they will receive – you in your own way shape knowledge and provide encouragement.

Indeed, through your caring, you become an important part of your children's lives. Every one of us can remember an important teacher in our life. That important teacher is and will be you for someone.

On behalf of the Buffalo Teachers Federation and Staff, may the precious gifts that you give so freely enrich your lives and be returned to you one hundred fold during this holiday season and throughout the New Year.

The snow swirling outside the classroom window seemed to be affirming the children's belief that the winter holiday season is the time for anything but school work.

"Talk about conspiracies", thought Terry Hastings, the first-year third grade teacher, "even the weather's against me. The last day of school before the winter holiday vacation is tough enough without that constant reminder brushing against the windows."

"Thomas, please pay attention up here. There are no math facts written in the snow."

Terry had to admit that there was more action outside, but she was troubled. Tommy had been a problem all year. He was in class, but his thoughts weren't. Today he was more distracted than ever.

After a home visit with Mrs. Casey, Tommy's mother, Terry understood the meaning of "impoverished". She had seen a house that was certainly clean, but one that had only the barest of furnishings. She remembered that there was a color television, or rather color on the television. The colors on the set in no way represented the real world. The half green faces and flesh colored grass had given a surrealistic appearance to the "ring around the collar" commercial blaring on the television.

"What kind of Christmas will Tommy have?"

thought Terry. "I wonder if he's upset because he knows he won't be getting many of the things he wants for Christmas."

The morning passed (as did Tommy's attention). Now back from lunch, the children were barely able to contain their excitement. Not so for Tommy. As the children readied their presents and snacks, Terry had a private talk with Tommy which proved useless.

After the snacks were passed out, the children decided to exchange holiday gifts. They had written notes home asking if they could either make a gift or spend a dollar for one. Each parent had been agreeable. They had drawn names, and now the big moment had arrived.

Terry sat down and proceeded to let groups exchange their gifts. By the time Charles, the boy who was to exchange gifts with Tommy, reached Tommy's desk, tears were streaming down Tommy's cheeks.

"My mother didn't come home last night..." he cried, almost unable to speak. "...and she forgot to leave any money." Poor Charles was almost crying himself.

"And my brother wouldn't give me any. I'm sorry Charles. I don't have anything for you." By this time Tommy was almost hysterical. He could say no more even if he wanted to.

Charles finally spoke up. "Tommy don't be sad; you don't have to give me anything." There was what seemed like a suspension of time for a few seconds.

"Remember when you gave me some of your lunch when mine got knocked down", Charles blurted. "And how Miss Hastings tells us stories about sharing...and about how we're friends?"

Tommy looked up from his desk. His face was streaming with the paths left by his tears.

Charles, apprehensively, handed Tommy a red construction paper card which he had obviously spent much time making. It was beautifully colored, with sparkles, evergreen needles and tinsel pasted on the front.

"Please take my present", Charles implored.

Just how tears of sadness could at once be transformed to tears of joy was a mystery that only a child's understanding could have solved.

Terry cleaned up her room that Christmas. She knew the warmth and feeling of togetherness felt by the class as Tommy's eyes lit up, overjoyed with his gift, would be remembered by them all. Nor would she forget the radiance of his face as he left for home.

Finally, just a few pieces of wrapping paper remained on her desk before she could call it a day. And one last gift...wrapped in school writing paper no less.

"To Miss Hastings." She opened the paper... "From Tommy." In her hand Terry held the red card that meant so much to him. She just couldn't believe it.

Now in the warmth of a June day, 30 years later, Mrs. Teresa Powell removed the red construction paper card from her desk drawer. It was her last day before retirement. She thought about how the everyday realities of teaching sometimes displaced her belief in the rewards of teaching. Tommy, Charles, and the card had been a reminder of that belief for the last 30 years. She was happy. She had been right.

As she walked to the office to turn in her keys for the last time, she thought to herself.

Thank you Charles.

Thank you Tommy.

I'll never forget.

And she never did.

BTF at a Glance

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Robert Mueller, *NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist*

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PROVOCATOR

BTF Provocator Staff

Joseph Montante, *managing editor, photo editor*
Chris Salamone, *editor*

The **Provocator** is the official publication of the Buffalo Teachers Federation. It will be published five times during the 2019-2020 school year as a service to BTF members and interested parties in the community. Subscription price is included in BTF dues.

Postmaster, send address changes to:
BTF Provocator, 271 Porter Avenue,
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The BTF is an affiliate of NYSUT, AFT and NEA.

December 2019
Volume 50, No. 2
Circulation 4400

Letters to the Editor

BTF Donates to Uncrowned Queens Institute

Thank you for contributing to the Uncrowned Queens Institute. Through its digital repository, uncrownedcommunitybuilders.com, and numerous other educational programs, the Institute has established a unique model to preserve the histories, including their contributions and achievements, of African American women and men in the Western New York region.

The Institute makes historical resources available to educators, students, family historians and others in the community who understand the importance of collecting and maintaining the rich history of Buffalo/Western New York's African American community. We count you among those individuals, organizations and companies.

In July, I wrote to you about the extraordinary story of Ida Dora Fairbush, the first African American teacher hired for the Buffalo School District in 1897. Few people are aware of Ms. Fairbush and unfortunately much of her life story has been lost. However, thanks to the generosity of the Buffalo Teachers Federation, Ms. Fairbush's name and legacy will be known and shared throughout the Buffalo School District and community.

With the \$2000 gift from the BTF, the Uncrowned Queens Institute will establish the Ida Dora Fairbush Memorial Scholarship. The award to the first recipient, a Buffalo School graduate, will take place in 2020. The scholarship will be for \$1000 and with the BTF's contribution we will also offer the scholarship in 2021. The Institute will fundraise to endow for the succeeding years.

We also thank the BTF for the \$1000 contribution to underwrite publication

of the Uncrowned Queens Monograph Series.

Again, we will feature Ida Fairbush's story as our first publication.

We will recognize the BTF as a sponsor of this series and we will provide you with copies when it is published.

Your recognition of the significance of the Institute's programs and their value to the community is appreciated. You are to be commended for the "investment" you've made in supporting the preservation of African American regional history.

Again, we thank you for your contribution in support of the Uncrowned Queens Institute and its Uncrowned Community Builders' programs.

Sincerely,
Barbara A. Seals Nevergold
Co-founder

BTF Supports Striking Los Angeles Teachers

Thank you for your very generous donation of \$5,000 to the United Teachers Los Angeles.

As you know, United Teachers Los Angeles achieved a major milestone and a historical victory in defending the future of public education in Los Angeles and beyond. Being part of this effort and your willingness to support public education helped us win this battle.

Thank you once again for your generous donation.

Sincerely,
Harry Mar, Chief Financial Dir.

Student Thanks BTF for Scholarship

My name is Htaboe Rar and I just started my second year at D'Youville College. I am the recipient of the "BTF Make a Dream Come True Scholarship Fund" and "Eaton Deabold Scholarship Fund."

I would like to thank the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and the scholarship donors for helping to provide me with financial assistance which is a huge help for me. It is such an honor to have been selected as the recipient of the scholarships.

Receiving these two scholarships will

give me another chance to learn and work hard toward my goals. I promise you I will work very hard and work towards giving back to the community as well.

Thank you so much for your generosity and choosing to support me through my education. I hope one day I will be able to support other students just like you have supported me.

Once again, thank you and I will continue to dream big.

Sincerely,
Htaboe Rar

ALSC Thanks BTF for Supporting Reception

On behalf of the American Labor Studies Center board of directors, I want to thank you for your support of our recent ALSC Annual Recognition Reception at the New York State United Teachers in Latham, New York.

It was a very successful event as we recognized New York State Commissioner of Labor Roberta Reardon, IUPAT District 9 Business Representative Lee Eck, and TEC Protective Coatings President Tom Carney.

They all recognize the importance of the American labor movement and the role it has played in our history and the ALSC's mission to tell that story to our nation's students and others. They have also demonstrated strong support for our efforts to restore the Kate Mullany National Historic Site in Troy, New York, that is the home of the founder and leader of America's first all-female union – the Troy Collar Laundry Union – organized in 1864.

We look forward to working with you in the future and very much appreciate your support.

In Unity,
Paul F. Cole, Executive Director

BTF Makes Donation for Student Literacy

Thank you so much for your generous support of \$2,500 received on 10/8/19 in support of KidsLit Week and the WNY Children's Book Expo 2019!

It is hard to believe that this premiere literacy event is in its fifth year! KidsLit Week has grown to over 60 schools participating with author visits this fall in districts throughout WNY and last year the Expo drew nearly 2,000 children and their families! This year's theme is CELEBRATE! And we are all so grateful that you chose to join the celebration in 2019 as a sponsor of these events!

Thank you again for your generous support of KidsLit Week and the WNY Children's Book Expo. Read to Succeed Buffalo is thrilled to be the not-for-profit partner in such an amazing effort designed to help build a community priority on literacy for children birth through 3rd grade.

Thanks for all you do!
Yours,
Anne Ryan, Executive Director

NYSTRS Is Still the Best Around

Although you've probably heard it before, it's worth repeating. **The New York State Teachers' Retirement System is the best in the country.** No retirement system is as well-run and as well-funded as NYSTRS. The recent Annual Meeting in Saratoga Springs revealed much information to the 19 delegates from Buffalo who attended.

NYSTRS is one of the only teacher retirement systems in the country that is not in trouble. Some, including New Jersey's, are less than 50% funded! All eight public pension systems in NY State are healthy and all of them rank among the best systems you will find.

Some facts about NYSTRS are below and may help in countering anyone who criticizes public pension systems

- The System has **\$122.5 billion in assets** and realized a 7.06% rate of return last fiscal year. The 30-year rate of return, a period that included some of the worst economic downturns since the Great Depression, is an incredible 8.8%!
- The system is **101.2% funded** based on Market Value of Assets and **99.6% funded** based on Actuarial Value of Assets.
- Nearly **80% of benefits paid remain in New York State.** Retiree spending creates a ripple effect through the economy and that benefits everyone.

Over the last 30 years, NYSTRS has paid out **\$120.2 billion in benefits but has earned \$186.1 billion in investment income.** Additional income of \$33.4 billion has come from employer and employee contributions. All of this helps the long-term health of the System and should make you feel secure that NYSTRS will be around when it's your turn to collect a pension. See figure 1.

One misconception that many people have is that the "taxpayers are funding the pensions for teachers". The truth is that **85% of the System's assets come from investment income.** Only 13% is paid by employers (what some would consider "taxpayer money"). See figure 2.

Another often-mentioned half-truth is that "retirees don't pay NY State Income Tax on their pensions and that costs everybody". While it is true that pension benefits are not subject to NY State

Income Tax, the tax liability is paid years in advance of ever collecting a pension. Employees who contribute to the System (all Tier 5 and 6 employees) have what are called 414(h) contributions deducted from their pay. Even though the employee is not receiving this money, these contributions are subject to NY State tax and must be added to one's income when preparing a NY State tax return. Thus, while pension benefits are not subject to NY State Income Tax, the tax is paid **decades in advance** and the State has had the benefit of using that money for perhaps 30 years!

Besides the good news on the financial well-being of the System, teachers should take comfort in knowing that they have some of the longest life expectancies of any group in the country! Determining the System's "Funded Ratio" is a complicated procedure which examines NYSTRS' assets in comparison to its long-term liabilities. To properly determine this ratio, the System needs to know how long, on average, retirees will live and collect a pension. The numbers below are based on actuarial tables calculated from empirical data.

For teachers/retirees who are already 55 years of age, life expectancy is 87.8 years for men and 90.5 years for women. If a teacher/retiree is already 65, the number increases to 88.0 years for men and remains 90.5 years for women. But when a retiree has reached age 75, the expectation is 89.2 years for men and 91.3 years for women. These numbers are much better than national averages and many factors account for this.

So whether you are close to retirement or a beginning teacher just out of college, one of the best benefits you have going for you is membership in NYSTRS. With a guarantee from the NY State Constitution that your benefits "cannot be diminished or impaired", you can sleep soundly knowing that some day, there will be a pension available for you.

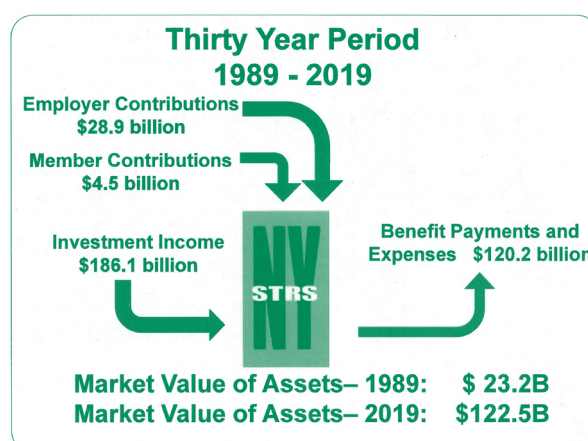


Figure 1

Negotiations Update *PERB Will Assist*

Negotiations have been at a standstill since the last session on October 22nd when unacceptable and belligerent behavior by the District's Chief Negotiator resulted in an Improper Practice (IP) charge.

The BTF filed the IP charge against the District with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). In addition, the BTF again declared that the parties have reached an impasse in negotiations.

The BTF and District have met a total of seven times and, although some progress has been made, both sides are still very far apart on many key issues including salary and healthcare.

At the heart of the IP was a counterproposal the District made to BTF proposal #75 dealing with sick day accruals. The District made the counter offer and, at the October 22nd session, the BTF accepted that counterproposal.

The District then changed course and indicated that they were unwilling to agree to our acceptance of their counterproposal. In short, the District was unwilling to sign off on its own proposal! After the District's chief negotiator realized he had made a mistake, his demeanor quickly changed and he became belligerent.

PERB has now appointed a mediator to work with both parties to help bring about a resolution. Gregory Poland, PERB Regional Director, has been assigned to the case.

Be assured that the BTF Negotiating Team will never agree to a collective bargaining agreement that eliminates health care for retirees or that forces newer members to pay more for healthcare than current employees.

Negotiations should begin again soon and updates will continue to be published as they become available.

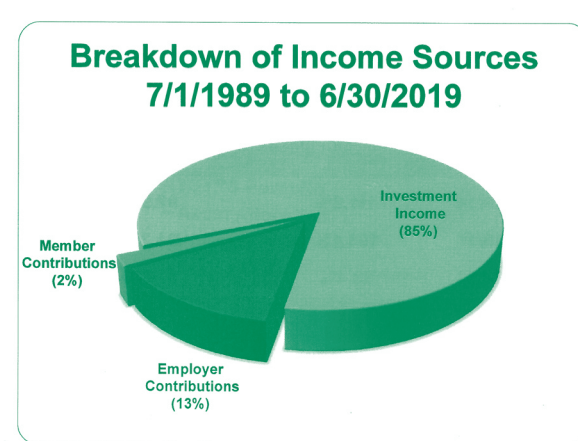


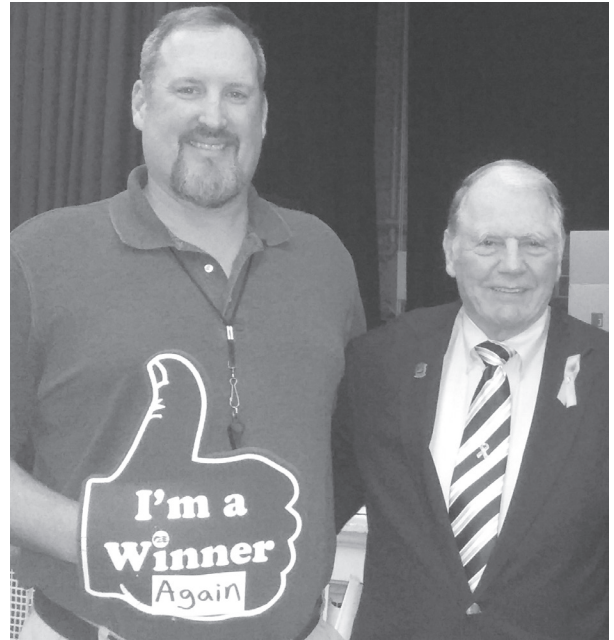
Figure 2

Grine Wins Again!

For the second time, Hutch Tech Physical Education teacher Andrew Grine is the winner of the Get Moving New York contest sponsored by Flaghouse Sports.

He was selected based on a lesson plan he submitted.

Grine, one of only 31 winners statewide, will receive a \$200 gift certificate which he plans to use to purchase fitness-related equipment for Hutch Tech.



ABOVE: Andrew Grine, left, is congratulated by BTF President Phil Rumore after winning a sports contest.



ABOVE: Students of School 6 work hard on the Ray Floyd Patterson III Memorial Peace Garden.

Scholarships Available

Scholarships, some earmarked specifically for the children of Buffalo teachers, are being offered by The Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo.

The Foundation will be awarding scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year in the spring.

Students who currently are high school seniors or are already enrolled in an accredited program are encouraged to apply.

Applications are accepted from students all over Western New York and some money is allocated specifically for the children of Buffalo teachers. Awards range from \$1000-\$6000.

The application process opens on January 1st and closes April 1st.

To apply, visit www.cfgb.org and click on the For Scholarships tab. You also may call the CFGB at 852-2857.

School 6 Creates Memorial Peace Garden

The “Ray Floyd Patterson III Memorial Peace Garden” (The Peace Garden) at BPS School #6 has garnered interest from members of the Buffalo-area community.

The Peace Garden is a student-designed and student-built project under the tutelage of School #6 Art Teacher Liz Spiro-Carman, who is also a member of the BTF Executive Committee and Co-Chair of the Community Engagement Committee.

Some of the students who have participated in The Peace Garden project from its inception in 2017 have spent two days per week for two summers working the landscaping and gardening aspects of the project. They are learning and applying landscape architecture and gardening skills.

School #6 teachers and their families have also been involved. One teacher’s family built and helped to install a bench, enhancing the peace sculptures made by the students.

Others have brought snacks to the gardening students and many members of the School #6 community have contributed garden materials.

The donors have been honored with

Time Available for Cancer Screening

Getting screened for cancer is extremely important as it could save your life! As per New York State law, Buffalo Public School employees are entitled to four hours of leave per year to have a screening test done for any type of cancer.

To take advantage of this health care opportunity, enter your absence into AESOP as a cancer screening.

A verification form, available from your building clerk or representative, must also be completed by the health care provider. This form is turned into the clerk for payroll purposes.

commemorative garden stones painted with messages of peace and love from those contributors.

Many other materials, contributions and labor have been donated by community members. Local musicians and lawyers have participated to support the students’ project and its positive message.

Most recently, Pastor Vicki from St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and some congregants worked alongside the students and teachers in The Peace Garden and, then, contributed plants and two rain collection barrels.

“The community involvement in this School #6 project is a two-way win for students and the Buffalo community. The students get the clear message that the Buffalo community values not just their efforts, but the message of and commitment to peace,” Spiro-Carman explained. “I encourage all schools to develop relationships with the members of their community. It adds the community as true shareholders in students’ education. And that means so much to the students and their teachers.”



Tell Us What’s Happening at Your School

Are you running a special performance at your building? Taking students on an overnight field trip? Was there a lesson that went exceptionally well that you would like to share with your BTF colleagues? We want to hear about it and may feature it in a future edition of the Provocator. Photos of such events are especially welcome.

Please send the following information and any related photos via e-mail to salamone426@aol.com.

Name _____

School/position _____

Personal email _____

Phone _____

Description of event _____

(All submissions become the property of The Provocator.)

BTF Delegates Attend Annual Workshop

There were a lot of new faces among the building representatives who attended the annual BTF Delegate Workshop November 1st and 2nd.

About 100 BTF delegates, alternates and building committee members spent a good portion of their weekend learning how to better serve our teachers during the event. It was held Friday evening and most of Saturday at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga.

During the workshop, the representatives attended informational sessions conducted by President Phil Rumore as well as NYSUT Labor Relations Specialists Jenna Burke, Rose Hennessey, Matthew Kibler, and Robert Mueller.

In addition, a legal update was presented by NYSUT attorney Claire Sellers.

The workshop got underway with a welcome from Rumore who thanked the delegates for coming.

“Thank you for coming and taking the time so you can help the teachers in your schools. That’s something special”, Rumore told the attendees. “You are the backbone of this organization.”

Rumore also noted the many new participants and commented “this is just what this organization needs”.

The breakout sessions were divided into two tracks. Track I for new delegates included workshops on building committee information and grievance procedures.

Track II, for returning delegates, included a session on grievance resolutions at the lowest possible level and another on engaging members in the work of the union.

Rumore also went through the contract and BTF handbook with the delegates. Some of the new delegates said they were happy to get information on the duties of the delegates and repeat attendees agreed there is always something new to

be learned.

“What I enjoyed most about the weekend was having the opportunity to network with colleagues”, said Sheila Busshart, Delegate Chair for the Virtual Pathway Program. “The weekend was all about people motivating people. It afforded me the chance to share ideas, socialize with friends, refresh and reflect on information presented in the workshops. It was both fun and informative.”

She said the Workshop “makes the union strong” and she looks forward to attending again next year.

BELOW:

1. BTF President Phil Rumore responds to a question while NYSUT attorney Claire Sellers smiles in approval at his answer.
2. Julia Barlow and Michea Pope Moss of Bennett Park Montessori School follow along in the delegate handbook.
3. Desiree Breckenridge-Barnes asks a question during Phil Rumore’s presentation on Friday evening.
4. Sue Raichilson, Lynn Garcia, and Alicia Proctor-Szilagyi examine the documents provided during the Legal Update.
5. Jeremy Lyman and Dawn Weihrich have a moment to chat before dinner is served.
6. Labor Relations Specialists Rob Mueller and Matt Kibler listen to a concern during the Saturday presentation on grievances.





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Nineteen Delegates Attend NYSTRS Annual Meeting

Nineteen BTF delegates attended the 99th Annual Meeting of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSYRS), Nov. 3-4 in Saratoga Springs, NY.

On Sunday afternoon, after the informational sessions, the 10-member NYSTRS Board of Trustees took questions from the delegates about topics such as credit for Driver Education, the System's assumed rate of return, the ramifications of divestment, and disability retirements.

The business portion of the meeting took place on Monday. Sheila Sullivan Buck of Rush-Henrietta Schools was re-elected to a three-year term as a trustee. In addition, a special election

was held to fill the seat of long-time trustee Paul Farfaglia who retired in June 2019. Elizabeth Chetney of Baldwinsville Central School District was elected to fill the spot for the remainder of the term.

The delegates who attended the convention were: Maria Baker, Dennis Brancato, Timothy Camp, Sami Cirpili, Lynn Garcia, Sophia Howard-Johnson, Melissa Kenney, BTF Secretary Melinda MacPherson-Sullivan, Kim McCullough-Gabel, John McTigue, BTF Treasurer Joseph Montante, Sue Raichilson, Trisha Rosokoff, Christine Salamone, Gregory Sawicki, Ruyvette Townsend, Michael Vacanti, and Janine Williams.

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Student Debt Clinic Planned in February

Student debt is a problem crippling many Americans. Several of our teachers are saddled with loans that seem impossible to repay. If you are looking for information regarding repayment plans, teacher loan cancellation information, or public student loan forgiveness information for you, your spouse, or your children, we may be able to assist.

In an effort to help our members get access to these programs, the BTF, NYSUT Member Benefits, and the Cambridge Group are excited to host a debt clinic which will provide details on the above mentioned information.

The clinic will be held Tuesday, February 11th, 5-7 PM at the NYSUT Regional Office, 270 Essjay Road, Williamsville.

A limited number of spaces are available and this clinic is exclusively for BTF members.

Register by visiting <https://secure.everyaction.com/4rLBxAR1a029XqkXQ-2Blw2>

If you have questions about registering, please contact Karen Field at 664-7425 or kfield@nysutmail.org

Art Teacher Wins Grant

Michele Schroeder, an art teacher at Leonardo daVinci High School, is the 2019 Western Zone recipient of the NYS Retired Teachers Association Hudson/Kramer Award.

Ms. Schroeder was presented a \$1000 check at an Oct. 23 faculty meeting in front of her colleagues. The award was presented by Ronald Czapla and Stan Nowak, Board members of the NYS Retired Teachers Association.

Her winning entry in the grant competition was a proposal to form a club, POSITIVELY PRINTING, in which she hopes to engage some of her less-involved and introverted students whom she calls “fringe kids.”

The students would participate in a skills activity that would give those involved an enhanced sense of belonging to a “community” and help them achieve greater self-confidence and social skills.

Ms. Schroeder is the first Buffalo Public Schools teacher to win the grant. The BTF congratulates Michele Schroeder.



ABOVE: Ronald Czapla, left, and Stan Nowak, right, present Michele Schroeder with the NYS Retired Teachers Association Hudson/Kramer Award.

PROVOCATOR

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271 PORTER AVENUE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14201
716-881-5400**



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Welcome New Members

The following 57 teachers have joined the Buffalo Teachers Federation since the last printing of the Provocator. Welcome to the union!

Ashley Acevedo
Briana Adesso
Kara Barrett
Dina Bdour
Justin Benham
Kellee Brownell
Linsey Buchlis
Summer Byrd
Julianna Carlo
Michelle Cheesman
Kathryn Clouden
René Cooley
Caitlin Deveny
Timothy Dorr
Courtney Drayton
Eric Egeling
Kaitlyn Gardner-Capriotto
Allison Giomundo
Amy Goodwin

Mario Granata
Mary-Allison Gray
Samuel Grey
Nilia Guadalupe
Melissa Hahn
Kirsten Henderson
Stacy Johnson
Laurence Jones
Katarzyna Jordan
Diamond Junior
Darian Kinney
Joshua Klettke
Son Mi Lim
Bethany Lowe
Abigail Malczewski
Marissa Marek
Margaret Marino
Griselda Martinez
Leanne Molenda

Eryn Morris
Lauren O’Brien
Natasha Perkins
Sarah Pitts
Jerome Piwko
Ellen Porrath-Lord
Clarice Proeschel
Jenmarie Reynolds
Andrew Romano
Sarah Root
Denise Roty
Lauren Ryan
Nicole Schiske
Michael Schwab
Sara Spence
Jennifer Sprague
Alexander Tiberia
Bailey Tryon
Delshawn Wray

BTF Donates to Breast Cancer Research

On a very windy Saturday, Buffalo teachers stepped up to help beat breast cancer by donating to the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.

The annual event was held October 12. It began at the Outer Harbor and continued along the canal.

On behalf of the teachers, the BTF donated \$2,300 to this worthy cause.

The money was raised through donations, participation in the walk, and tickets sold for basket and 50/50 raffles during a Council of Delegates meeting.

The baskets for the raffle were donated by members of the BTF.

Among the schools donating to the event were Schools 3, 6, 45, 64, 65, 67 and 72. A number of online donations were also made.

Ruyvette Townsend and Rachel Lis served as co-chairpersons for the event.



ABOVE: Braving the wind and rain are Jennifer Purpora, Phil Rumore, Sara Rodland, Barb Russo, Rachel Lis, and Joseph Montante.



*October is
Breast Cancer
Awareness Month*