BTF-Endorsed Candidates Take All Nine Seats in Board of Education Election

For the first time in 15 years, all nine Board of Education seats were up for grabs. Each of the BTF-endorsed candidates breezed to victory, setting off a flurry of radio and news reports criticizing the BTF’s political influence in the election.

The endorsements were made after the candidates underwent extensive interviews by teams from the BTF Political Action Committee.

Each candidate interviewed requested the BTF endorsement. They were questioned on issues such as school funding, smaller class sizes and a moratorium on Charter Schools.

After the interviews, the PAC recommended endorsements to the Executive Committee which reviewed the candidates’ qualifications and voted on which candidates to support.

The Executive Committee then made its recommendations to the Council of Delegates. The Delegates had the final vote on whom the BTF would endorse.

The incumbent Board members who were re-elected are:

- Jennifer Mecozzi, West District
- Louis Petrucci, Park District
- Sharon Belton-Cottman, Ferry District
- Hope Jay, North District
- Paulette Woods, Central District

Newly elected by a narrow margin was Dr. Kathy Evans-Brown, East District, a project coordinator for the Buffalo Urban League. Each will serve for three years.

Three new members were also elected to At-Large positions and will serve five years. They are:

- Larry Scott, a school psychologist in the Kenmore School District and co-chair of the Buffalo Parent Teacher Organization
- Dr. Ann Rivera, an associate English professor at Villa Maria College and chair of the district’s Special Education Parents Advisory Committee
- Terrance Heard, an assistant team leader at General Motors with a background as a probation and corrections officer.

The Board members will be begin their terms on July 1.

BTF Members Key to Election

“Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.” –Helen Keller-

Running for political office is not easy. But it would be much harder, if not impossible, to get elected without the hundreds and hundreds of hours of manpower donated by volunteers.

BTF members gave unselfishly to help elect school board members with students’ interests at heart. Beginning with interviews of the candidates, BTF members worked long hours on the May 7 Board of Education election.

Many donated money or attended fundraisers for the candidates of their choice. Others spent hours walking door-to-door in the cold obtaining signatures for petitions to get the candidates on the ballot.

Phone banks were conducted from the BTF and NYSUT offices, gift baskets were made and donated to raise funds, and campaign materials were distributed door-to-door by the dedicated volunteers.

And some volunteers did it all.

The BTF volunteers who helped get our endorsed candidates on the school board included:

- Marc Bruno
- Cherie Burau
- Sami Cirpilli
- Kiliissa Cissoko
- Lynn Garcia
- April Hall
- Nicole Herkey
- Sophia Howard-Johnson
- Isabella Keegan (retired)
- Melissa Kenney
- Joseph Montante
- Becky Pordum
- Sue Raicholson
- Sara Rodland (retired)
- Trish Rosokoff
- Phil Rumore
- Chris Salamone
- Eve Shippens
- Greg Sawicki
- Liz Spiro-Carman
- Ruyvette Townsend

Save the Date

June 28
Bisons Game
Sahlen’s Field

August 17
Puerto Rican/Hispanic Day Parade
Niagara Square

September 4
Labor Day Parade
Buffalo Irish Center

From left, Terrance Heard, Nina Heard, Ann Rivera, Jennifer Mecozzi, Kathy Evans-Brown, Hope Jay, Sharon Belton-Cottman, and Larry Scott.
On behalf of the BTF officers, secretaries and staff, have a safe and restful summer.

We will, of course, be here if you need us as the battles continue.

- Negotiations
- Receivership
- Grievances
- Arbitrations
- Summer school problems

Please remember when anyone asks how you are enjoying your summer “vacation,” remind them that the students are on vacation. You are on summer lay-off. You don’t get paid a salary during the summer.

Rumor Excoriates Wingo for Failing to Take Responsibility for His Actions

Three wrongs don’t make a right. That was the message BTF President Philip Rumore sent to Councilman Ulysees Wingo, Sr. after he failed to take responsibility for his illegal actions at Riverside High School.

First, Wingo went into Riverside High School with a loaded gun. Then he criticized the District for its lack of school security which he said allowed the indiscretion to occur.

But, it was Rumore who reminded Wingo that it takes money to increase security and funding for the school district has not been increased by the Common Council in three years.

Rumore criticized Wingo for his comments following the May 17 incident. “It is a matter of grave concern that Councilman Ulysees Wingo, Sr. brought a loaded gun into one of our schools despite all the horrendous school shootings and the fact that every knowledgeable person knows that it is illegal to bring a loaded weapon into a school (unless you are a law enforcement officer).

What is far worse and unacceptable is his complete refusal to accept responsibility for his dangerous action and his attempt to blame the school district for his illegal and dangerous action.

His statement that ‘I am remorseful that this has come to our doorstep as a community. This further enforces the need for a more robust security program at all of our schools.’

Rather than saying that he was wrong and had violated the law by bringing a loaded firearm into the school, he attempts to blame the school district’s security program for his bringing a loaded weapon into the school.

Yes, we would all like more security in our schools; however, that will never remove the responsibility of a person who illegally brings a loaded weapon into the school.

Blaming the school district is unacceptable.

Upon realizing that he had or was bringing a loaded firearm into the school, after notifying the administration, he should have immediately returned to his vehicle and locked it in the trunk.

We teach our children to accept responsibility for their actions. Councilman Wingo obviously ignored this life lesson.

He owes an apology to the community, our security officers and all in our school district.

We note that while Councilman Wingo shamelessly attempts to blame the school district for his unlawful act of bringing a loaded weapon into a school, the Common Council has not increased its allocation to the school district for over three years,” Rumore concluded.
### Letters to the Editor

#### Variety Kids Telethon Appreciates Support

Thank you and everyone at BTF for your generous support of the 2019 Variety Kids Telethon! On behalf of all of us at the Variety Club, and the children we serve, we look forward to your continued support of Telethon 2020.

Regards,

Richard and Alex

#### Students Grateful to BTF for LLS Donation

We are so grateful that you generously donated to our cause. With this donation, it made us achieve our goal. The Students of the Year campaign is a 7 week long fundraiser for high school students among Western New York. We competed against 10 other teams throughout WNY and we were from the smallest town. The campaign was to see what team could raise the most money after the 7 weeks is up. Whatever team raised the most money received the official title Students of the Year and an academic scholarship. We were the only students awarded the Mission and Citizenship Award. This award is given to a candidate or co-candidate team who displays outstanding efforts in the volunteerism spirit, involving the community, and spreading the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society mission.

Your generous donation of $250 was greatly appreciated. We are so thankful that you donated to our campaign. With the union’s support, we were one step closer to our goal of $15,000, which we successfully met.

Not only is this campaign a great way to support LLS and their life-saving work, but it was a great leadership opportunity for us. Students receive scholarships based on our fundraising and awareness efforts. We are so excited to be able to make a difference and with your help, we are one step closer to a cure for blood cancers.

Gratefully,

Madison Gaglione and Henry Jarzynski
2019 Students of the Year Candidates

#### BTF Supports Fair Housing Organization

Your support makes a difference! Thank you for your donation towards HOME’s 56th Anniversary Celebration held on May 17. Because of supporters like you, we continue to provide fair housing services to the community.

For your records, we received your donation of $300. I invite you to visit HOME’s website, www.homeny.org to learn more about fair housing and the programs you make possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Development Officer, Reina Ysaguirre-Boersma at 854-1400, ext. 22, or at ryboersma@homeny.org.

Thank you again for making our 56th Annual Celebration a success and for your continued support of fair housing.

With much gratitude,

M. DeAnna Eason
Executive Director

#### BTF Supports Vietnam Veterans’ Scholarship Fund

Thank you for your recent gift of $250 to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 77. Your gift has been applied to the Peter P. Tycz II Memorial Scholarship fund and will help deserving students stay in school. In recognition of your donation, your name will be placed on a plaque at the Chapter 77 Museum, 47 Main St., Tonawanda.

With the rising costs of higher education and the continued challenges of the local economy, we both know that there is a tremendous need for financial assistance; we average receiving over 90 applications per year. The number of our scholarships awarded is tied to fundraising and, since its inception in 2005, were able to present 368 $250 scholarships with a total value of $92,000. With help from people like you, we hope to present even more in 2019.

Again, thank you for your investment in the future of our country and your recognition of the importance of higher education. The Chapter, the Tycz family, as well as the recipients, greatly appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,

John Heffernan, chairman
Scholarship Committee

### BTF Supports EPIC

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and the families that we serve at EPIC—Every Person Influences Children, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the BTF for your 2018 donation to EPIC’s Annual Heroes Reception in the amount of $200.

EPIC’s mission is to help families, schools, and communities raise children to become responsible and successful adults. We provide research-based and evidence-informed year-round programming in Family Engagement in Education, encouraging early literacy and building parents capacity to become more actively involved in their children’s education, and Parenting Education, which includes Ready, Set, Parent! (offering support and solutions for parents of infants and toddlers, young children and young adolescents), Ready, Set, Read! (developing family literacy and early intervention for children’s academic success), Families in Transition (helping individuals facing challenges reach their full potential as parents), Storytime Family Literacy (family fun literacy-based event), Just for Teens (enhancing the skills and confidence of pregnant and parenting teens; and our Youth Services, including and Just for Me (teaching life skills and building confidence among at-risk teens).

We appreciate your belief in EPIC’s work to help families, schools, and communities raise children to become responsible and successful adults.

Thank you again for your generous support!

Warm Regards,

Tara N. Burgess
Executive Director

#### Peace Center Donation

This letter is our thank you for your kind donation of $400 to the WNY Peace Center in the 2018 calendar year. We wish you a peaceful year and thank you again for your continued and very generous support.

In peace,

Victoria B. Ross, Exec. Director
Silver Light, Ass’t. Director
Deidra M. EmEl, Officer Manager

#### Thanks from Voice Buffalo

Thank you very much for your Community Sponsorship of our Annual Awards Banquet. Your support enables us to send leaders to training, lift up and empower our community, and help make our city and country more just and equitable for all.

With Gratitude,

Dennis Walczyk, Treasurer
Sixty-eight retiring teachers, who accumulated a total of 1,990 years in the classroom, were honored May 30 during the annual BTF Retirement Dinner. The teachers, who are retiring at the end of the month, were honored during a celebration at Salvatore’s Italian Gardens in Depew.

“You probably don’t even know it, but you have impacted generations,” BTF President Philip Rumore told the retirees. “Teaching is not like any other profession. The impact you have on kids is amazing.”

Rumore reminded the retirees their health insurance will remain the same throughout retirement.

“What you retire with is what you get,” he said. “It shouldn’t change. If it does change, contact us immediately. We are still here for you.”

Rumore also thanked the retirees for their years of service.

“Thank you on behalf of all the teachers. You have been the heart and soul of this organization. Without you, we wouldn’t be here,” he said.

Among the retirees were three past and present Executive Committee members. They are Tom Gattie, who is currently on the Committee and a member of the negotiating team; and former Committee members, Luci Emmi and Teresa Leatherbarrow.

The retirees, listed by the number of years served, are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years Served</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter A. Jankowski</td>
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<td>Julia Brocato</td>
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<td>Kevin Coady</td>
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<td>Roslynn Gaumer</td>
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<td>Carol Hesketh</td>
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<td>Kathleen Marcinkiewicz</td>
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<td>Claire Rosart</td>
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<td>Mary Cole</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>Karl Maggiore</td>
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<td>Crista Scheiten</td>
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<td>Judith Stenroos</td>
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<td>Andrea Andrews Cott</td>
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<td>Debbie Biggane</td>
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<td>Leslie Stahlin</td>
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<td>Franca Todaro Tucker</td>
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<td>Doug Aderdice</td>
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<td>Bonnie Hill</td>
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<td>Judith Zanetti</td>
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<td>Lori Joerger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen White</td>
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<td>Cynthia Clark</td>
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<td>Patrice Glynn</td>
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<td>Bruce R. Burton</td>
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<td>Jeanette C. DeBel</td>
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<td>Cecilia Doody</td>
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<td>Christine Fennie</td>
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<td>Tom Gattie</td>
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<td>Alice Lawrence</td>
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<td>Deborah Rudyk</td>
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<td>Beverly A. Sikora</td>
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<td>Mary Ann Woods</td>
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<td>Kathy Bethel</td>
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<td>Jeanne Cummings</td>
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<td>Susan McNamara</td>
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<td>Rose Swift-McKeller</td>
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<td>Luci Emmi</td>
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<td>Daniel W. Conley</td>
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<td>Gerard Dickson</td>
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<td>Richard Leggio</td>
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<td>James Mattisson</td>
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<td>Karen Partridge</td>
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<td>Barbara Wachowiak</td>
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<td>Paul Liszka</td>
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<td>Mary Sandone</td>
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<td>Patricia Watson</td>
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<td>Jacqueline E. Nelson</td>
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<td>Wendy D. Coyle</td>
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<td>Kathy Fischer</td>
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<td>Bradley White</td>
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<td>Valerie Lauricella</td>
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<td>Annette S. DiDomizio</td>
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<td>Helene Gilboff</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Liang Gu</td>
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<td>Aida Stewart</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Vullo</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teres Leatherbarrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nora Roberto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Ann Topper</td>
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<td>David Carver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pamela Gay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Tokarz</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erin Hickey</td>
<td>16.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peg (Margaret) Heath</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Pilcher</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lori Harrington</td>
<td>12</td>
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ABOVE: Tom Gattie, who has served on the Executive Committee for many years, is retiring after 31 years of service to BPS.
Congratulations to our new retirees! As you conclude your time as an active teacher and BTF member, be assured that you are still a union member in NYSUT and AFT.

Retired members serve as delegates to the NYSUT, NEA and AFT conventions where they represent the interests of their retired colleagues as well as support the issues important to active teachers. Retired teachers become members of NYSUT Retiree Council #44 and join more than 200,000 NYSUT retirees. As a retiree, you can still take advantage of the many benefits that NYSUT offers its members.

In addition, RC#44 partners with retirees from the Western New York area (Retiree Councils #1, #2, and #3) to plan activities for its members.

There will be a September luncheon to welcome new retirees as well as a holiday luncheon and a retiree conference in the spring. These events provide the opportunity to network with retirees as well as to keep up to date on member benefits, Legislation, and any other issues pertinent to retirees.

There are a variety of activities that retirees can engage in. RC #44 members can volunteer at The Teacher’s Desk, participate in the Making Strides Walk, make phone calls to support NYSUT endorsed candidates, to name a few.

There are also workshops and trips the Retiree Councils offer to members. You can keep informed of these events through our RC #44 newsletter that you will receive during the year and by following us on our Facebook page.

Retirees do not pay dues to belong to NYSUT. RC #44 has a voluntary participation fee that is collected each year.

However, upon retirement, you are no longer an NEA member unless you join as a lifetime member. There is a one-time $250 payment. This will enable you to continue to enjoy all the benefits of membership.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Rodland, president of RC #44 at 689-9561 or by email at sarasarasara2008@live.com

Welcome to NYSUT

Retiree Council #44

Retirees Remain Active

You don’t have to say goodbye to your friends and colleagues when you retire. The Buffalo Retired Teachers Association (BRTA) will keep you busy and in touch.

The BRTA is open to all Buffalo teachers and administrators who are retiring. The BRTA hosts four luncheons during the school year, including the Fall Luncheon on the first day of school in September, Holiday Luncheon in December, Winter Luncheon in February, and the Spring Luncheon, held in May.

During June, BRTA men and women participate in the Annual Golf Tournament. Travel excursions are sponsored by the BRTA throughout the year, including international vacations, day trips to various locations within a 100-mile radius, overnight trips outside New York State, and theater trips to Shea’s Buffalo Theatre.

The BRTA newsletter keeps members informed of all important issues.

And although retired, members of the BRTA don’t forget the students. Each year, three $1,500 scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors of the Buffalo Public Schools.

Life membership in the BRTA is $150 and must be paid in full. Annual membership is $12 per year.

For more information contact Linda Parada, membership secretary, at 875-3392 or online at www.BRTA.biz
BTF Resolution Referred to Board of Directors

A resolution forcing NYSUT to seek to vacate arbitration decisions adversely affecting its members never made it to the convention floor during the NYSUT Representative Assembly.

The resolution, proposed by BTF President Philip Rumore, had not yet been considered late in the RA when a lack of quorum closed the meeting.

All resolutions not considered by the close of the meeting were referred to the Board of Directors for consideration.

The 47th Annual Representative Assembly was held May 3-4 in Albany. Rumore, nineteen delegates and four successors attended the convention.

Rumore’s resolution was written after NYSUT refused to provide legal assistance to Buffalo teachers, even though the District will continue court action to vacate arbitration favorable to Buffalo teachers when it is unfavorable to the School District.

The resolution said the arbitration “is in violation of our contract, undermines seniority rights, and allows teachers to evaluate other teachers.”

It states, “NYSUT has for months refused to provide legal assistance to vacate this critical arbitration by twice stating, ‘Finally, as a matter of policy, this office spends great energy defending and enforcing arbitration provisions negotiated by its local affiliates into collective bargaining agreements and the arbitration awards issued pursuant to those provisions. We strongly recommend that local affiliates negotiate final and binding arbitration and the arbitration awards issued pursuant to those provisions. We strongly recommend that local affiliates negotiate final and binding arbitration into their agreements. It would undercut such efforts were this office start seeking to vacate arbitration awards.’

The resolution says that since there is no NYSUT policy statement preventing NYSUT from supporting a local’s legal fight to overturn an adverse and detrimental arbitration decision, it should defend and advocate for its members as long as requested.

The resolution stated “that it be the policy of NYSUT that where a district has sought to overturn an arbitration favorable to NYSUT members it will honor the request of an affiliate seeking to vacate an arbitration decision that the local deems detrimental to its members.”

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BTF Gets Two Awards at NYSUT RA

Every year, the BTF goes above and beyond what is expected when giving back to the community and fighting for what’s right.

For these extraordinary contributions, the BTF received two awards during the annual NYSUT Representative Assembly, May 3-4 in Albany.

For the first time, the BTF earned the Ken Kurzweil Social Justice Recognition Award for
- Advocating for educational justice and funding equity
- Supporting initiatives to combat hunger and poverty
- Demonstrating labor solidarity at events and protests
- Upholding solidarity with the LGBTQ community
- Fighting for racial and social justice
- Championing women’s issues, history and rights

The BTF also received the Community Service Award for participating in the Variety Club Telethon, Read Across America, and the Thanksgiving food drive, contributing $43,000 to local charities and awarding $3,000 in scholarships to the Peter P. Tycz, II Memorial Scholarship Foundation and University at Buffalo Foundation, Inc.

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Teacher Grief Must Be Handled

One of the things they don’t prepare you for in teacher training is the loss of a student.

However, in a 30-year career, it is inevitable that some students will be lost to accidents, illness, suicide, or violence. In high poverty districts, such as Buffalo, the numbers increase due to poor health care, environmental contaminants, malnutrition, and other economic impacts.

Experiencing these losses, especially repeatedly, can have a big impact on a teacher’s mental and physical health, as well as their performance inside the classroom.

In a May 29 Buffalo News article, “Violence, student trauma taking toll on teachers, too”, some BTF members talked about their experiences with student loss.

After losing a student to gun violence, Eve Shippens said, “I didn’t know I was numb for 3 years. I had really shut down emotionally to protect myself from losing another student I cared about.”

“We get training how to deal with kids who have trauma, but not how to deal with our own”, added Kelly Cooper after losing a student this year to suicide.

And, they are not alone.

Teacher grief needs to be respected. As the district incorporates more social-emotional wellness initiatives, it also needs to recognize the impact trauma has on teachers and staff, and include them in these plans.

If you are struggling with grief or trauma, one source for short-term counseling or referral, that is free to our members, is the Employee Assistance Program. More information is available at (716) 854-1990 or on-line at https://www.employeeresources.com/
NYSUT’s Women in Leadership Summit Draws Union Activists from Across the State

More women are needed in leadership and politics. That was the message of the 2019 NYSUT Women’s Leadership Summit.

Six BTF activists were among about 50 women from across the state who attended the May 11 Leadership Summit. The all-day Summit, held in the NYSUT Rochester Regional Office, was open to all female NYSUT members.

The Summit got underway with a presentation and discussion on the complexities of women’s rights in the workplace. It included information on sexual harassment, the Family Medical Leave Amendment, and breastfeeding rights at work.

A leadership panel, consisting of Jolene DiBrango, first vice president of NYSUT and four women who lead NYSUT locals throughout the state, shared their stories of rising through the ranks. Each panelist shared their leadership experiences, challenges and success stories.

DiBrango, who holds the second highest position in NYSUT, one the most powerful unions, related how she was consistently asked how she would juggle family responsibilities with work as she pursued her goals.

“Nobody would ask the men these questions”, she said.

WomenElect founder Diana Cihak gave a presentation on the importance of having women in leadership and breaking down barriers to become leaders.

Participants were treated to breakfast, lunch, and a free raffle for NYSUT Women hats, scarfs and pins. DiBrango said she hopes to make the Summit an annual event to empower the NYSUT’s female members.

Attending the Summit from the BTF were: Sheila Busshart, Lynn Garcia, April Hall, Sophia Howard-Johnson, Sue Raichilson, and Chris Salamone.

BTF President Debunks Misinformation in Larry Quinn Series Printed by The Buffalo News

BTF President Philip Rumore lambasted the Buffalo News and lame duck School Board Member Larry Quinn for taking pot-shots at teachers in a five-part news series.

In an article published May 7, Rumore wrote:

“Larry Quinn’s personal attacks on the Buffalo Teachers Federation and me, eagerly printed by The News, are to be expected from the person who wrongly predicted that our last contract recommended by the superintendent and the district’s negotiating team was unaffordable.

He was no doubt embarrassed to know that the district increased its reserves from 2017 to last year by more than $10 million. In Quinn’s eagerness to continue his vendetta against us, he fills his article with completely false statements and insults such as:

• Of teachers he stated, “You stay alive, you get increased pay.”

• ‘Where there are no (monetary) rewards, there is also no punishment.’ Mr. Quinn, teachers don’t teach to make extra money. They teach for the joy of seeing students learn.

• Teachers do not ‘earn tenure after two years of service.’ It takes four years and the approval of the Board of Education.

• Teaching assignments within schools are not based on seniority. Principals have the final say in school assignments.

• Unused sick time does not ‘go into a sick day bank.’ Teachers voluntarily donate sick days. Only teachers enrolled, with a valid doctor’s verification, can utilize the Sick Leave Bank. They are also subject to evaluations by a BTF health care provider.

• The BTF is not in negotiations for a contract ‘extension,’ we are in negotiations for a new contract.

• The BTF left negotiations to approve ground rules when, after our having agreed to major changes in the ground rules we have used for over 20 years, the district adamantly and unequivocally refused to schedule more than one tentative negotiating session in advance, thereby stringing negotiations out for as long as they choose.

• The BTF Executive Committee is not, as Quinn states, ‘appointed by Rumore.’ It is elected by an all-teacher secret ballot vote.

One of the major issues for the teacher strikes was the fight for art, music and physical education in the primary grades. Buffalo teachers fought for contract provisions that include:

• class size limits (they need to be smaller);

• art, music and physical education in primary grades;

• the services of guidance counselors, school social workers, psychologists and attendance teachers.

We continue to fight for more time and for more support for our students. We also work with the district here and in Albany to secure increased funding, at which we were successful.

It is pathetic that Mr. Quinn continues to attempt to spread falsehoods and hurl insults at teachers.”
For many, many years, teachers have relied on Dennis Licherelli to answer questions about the BTF bargaining agreement, talk to principals, and represent them in grievances with the District.

His expertise and laid-back demeanor made him a favorite among teachers and administrators.

Licherelli, who retired in December 2018 from his position as a NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist assigned to the BTF, was honored May 23 for his service. BTF President Philip Rumore presented the award during the New York State United Teachers Western New York 32nd Annual Awards Dinner in the Buffalo Grand Hotel, Buffalo.

Licherelli began his career as a Chemistry teacher at East High School. In 1970, after holding several union positions, he became one of the first six UNISERV Directors in the country. Permanently assigned to the BTF, he presented more than 100 arbitrations and worked under BTF Presidents Phil Rumore, Tom Pisa and Thomas Hobart, who also served as NYSUT President.

While at BTF, Licherelli helped start the Supplemental Benefit Fund and Sick Leave Bank. He also served on several contract negotiating teams, including the current one, settled after 12 years.

Licherelli, who has been with his spouse since 1976, is currently helping in the SBF office of the BTF.

Another retired Buffalo Teacher, Donna Stempniak, Retiree Council #44, also received an award during the dinner.

Stempniak, who currently works as membership coordinator for the BTF, was a Bilingual Science teacher in the Buffalo Public Schools for 34 years. She became involved in the union after the teacher strike of 1976 and served on the Executive Committee and as treasurer.

An involved community activist, Stempniak was a council member in the Town of Lancaster from 1996-2016. She also served as a charter member of the RC#44 Board and is involved in political action activities for NYSUT.

Her husband, Richard, received the Regional Higher Education Award during the NYSUT dinner for his work on behalf of the UUP at Buffalo State College.

The BTF also received an award at the dinner, for the Local with the highest amount collected for the Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk held each October.
Time to Make Changes to Sick Leave Bank

Attention ALL teachers! It’s that time of year again when you can join or change your sick leave bank enrollment.

Requests to enroll, change, or withdraw must be in the BTF Office no later than 5 PM, Thursday, June 27.

To enroll or change your days, complete both the purple enrollment card and the grey authorization card.

All teachers are eligible to join the Sick Leave Bank. Employees may donate 2, 3 or 4 days to the Sick Leave Bank and then are eligible to withdraw or utilize up to 95 days of sick time depending on the number of years of SLB membership of the employee and the number of days donated. Complete information is available by calling the Sick Leave Bank at BTF at 881-5462.

Teachers wishing to terminate membership must withdraw by written request. These requests must be mailed by certified return receipt requested only!! BTF cannot accept faxed copies of withdrawals or enrollments. See your building delegate or contact the SBF Office for Enrollment cards.

The Sick Leave Bank Trustees are: Maria Baker, Dennis Brancato, Sophia Howard Johnson and Melissa Kenney.

Four New Officers to Join BTF Executive Committee

Several new faces will be joining incumbents at the BTF Executive Committee table next year.

In all but one category, the candidates were unopposed and automatically elected to the position they were seeking. Each position is for a two-year term and is effective July 1.

Voting for the BTF officers was electronic and a total of 672 ballots were cast.

Joining the Executive Board are: April C. Hall, representing Pre-K-6; Amy Flynn and Ellen Malone, K-12; and Tom Anthony, At-large, who previously has served on the Executive Committee.

The certified voting results for the BTF Officers were reported by Janine Williams, chair of the Elections Committee.

The officers and their positions, listed by rank order of votes received, are:

President/Vice President
Philip Rumore/Rebecca Pordum

Secretary
Melinda MacPherson-Sullivan

Treasurer
Joseph Montante

Elementary Teachers Pre-K-6
Trisha Rosokoff
Sophia Howard-Johnson

Did You Know…?

That permanent teachers who have completed ten years of service within the system or have the equivalent as defined in Article XXV shall be eligible to apply for and receive leaves of absence without pay of up to two years?

Leaves granted under this provision must be taken in units of a full school year running from September 1 to June 30 and shall not be counted for increment purposes or towards years of service. This can be found under Article XXX, I of the CBA.

Olmsted Orchestra Receives Gold Award

The Olmsted #156 High School String Orchestra, under the direction of Teacher Mr. Thomas J. Mudd, Jr, participated in the New York State School Music Associations Spring Major Ensemble Festival where the orchestra was awarded a Gold Award for their performance. The orchestra competed again at the Darien Lake Music in the Parks Festival and received an Outstanding with Distinction rating and took First Place in their category. Mr. Mudd said, “It’s been a wonderful year with these hard working young adults.”

Olmsted Orchestra at Darien Lake
BTF Releases Auditor’s Report

2017 - 2018

BUFFALO TEACHERS FEDERATION, INC.

Balance Sheets
August 31, 2018 2017
Assets
Current assets:
Cash $481,659 $354,205
Receivables, net (Note 2) 129,256 125,579
Prepaid expenses 26,443 26,125
Investments (Note 3) 3,189,388 3,588,962
4,226,646 4,204,872
Property and equipment, net (Note 4) 120,831 116,790
$4,347,477 $4,221,662

Liabilities and Net Assets
Current liabilities:
Accounts payable 17,110 13,439
Accounts payable 93,350 98,695
Deferred revenue - 17,000
Payable to affiliates (Note 6) - 557,075
120,460 784,174
Accrued post-retirement health care benefits (Note 7) 1,000,074 1,439,381
Net assets - unrestricted 3,126,343 2,067,571
$4,347,477 $4,221,662

BUFFALO TEACHERS FEDERATION, INC.

Statements of Activities
For the years ended August 31,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Member dues</td>
<td>3,493,272</td>
<td>3,193,523</td>
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<td>Investment income</td>
<td>535,240</td>
<td>544,653</td>
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<td>Rent</td>
<td>123,936</td>
<td>122,252</td>
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<td>Advertising and other</td>
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<td>77,862</td>
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<td>Total revenue</td>
<td>4,156,350</td>
<td>3,874,340</td>
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<td>Expenses</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>2,247,607</td>
<td>2,178,218</td>
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<td>Personnel (see page 9)</td>
<td>876,937</td>
<td>953,519</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities and programs (see page 9)</td>
<td>109,901</td>
<td>162,064</td>
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<td>Other administrative (see page 10)</td>
<td>266,448</td>
<td>327,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>3,591,534</td>
<td>3,665,300</td>
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<td>Excess of revenue over expenses</td>
<td>664,816</td>
<td>209,040</td>
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<td>Post-retirement health care benefit obligations (Note 7)</td>
<td>463,206</td>
<td>484,790</td>
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<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>1,999,572</td>
<td>1,745,760</td>
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<td>Net assets - beginning</td>
<td>2,066,371</td>
<td>1,521,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets - ending</td>
<td>3,126,343</td>
<td>2,067,371</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See accompanying notes.

See accompanying notes.
Many educators come out of college with a lot more than a degree and certification to teach. For some, the growing problem of student debt is all too real. Unscrupulous lenders often send “offers” to borrowers informing them that they can lower their payments. Unfortunately, the provisions of such an offer usually mean extending the term of the loan.

There are teachers who have been paying off their student loans for more than 20 years and they are still a long way from being free of this burden. A failure to pay student loans could result in the garnishment of wages. Even in certain bankruptcy situations, student loans are difficult to discharge.

Phys Ed Teacher Inducted into Hall of Fame

Barbara Wachowiak, a Physical Education teacher at Hutch Tech, has been inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame. Including this year’s 13 inductees, this incredibly high honor has been bestowed upon only 343 individuals since the Hall of Fame’s inception in 1991. She is one of only a handful of female athletes ever inducted and the first field hockey player, coach, and official to be inducted. Barb joins Buffalo sports greats such as Rick Azar, “Baby” Joe Mesi, Gilbert Perreault, and Bruce Smith in the Hall of Fame.

Wachowiak was recognized for being a First Team All-American field hockey player and top-level game official. In addition, she was a four-sport athlete at Hamburg High School. Her accomplishments did not end after high school, however. As an athlete, Barb has competed internationally, playing in the 2016 FIH Masters World Cup in Canberra, Australia and won a bronze medal by defeating South Africa in overtime shootouts. In 2018, while competing in the Over 55 World Cup Masters in Barcelona, her team took 5th place.

As both a bowling and tennis coach at Hutch-Tech, her teams have posted cumulative records of 264-24 and 90-18, respectively and consistently place first or second in the league each year. Furthermore, Barb has been one of the top field hockey officials in the country for 26 years and currently serves as a Level III Field Hockey Umpire and a Level II Futures Coach.

The BTF is incredibly proud of this outstanding teacher, athlete, coach, and official. Barb Wachowiak has been a BTF member for over 26 years and has decided to retire at the end of this month. We wish her all the best and hope that she continues to reach for the stars!

A BoVE: An avid and intense field hockey player, Barb Wachowiak is now part of the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame.
Periodically, the BTF receives inquiries about the Extended Pay Plan.

Essentially, the Extended Pay Plan is a form of a savings plan for teachers who want to be assured they have budgeted monies for the summer following the school year. Interest monies are used to help defray the BTF’s operational expenses and thereby keep dues costs down.

The program is optional for any Buffalo teacher who wishes to participate. Any teacher who wishes to participate in the Extended Pay Plan for the summer of 2020 should be aware of all the information that follows.

Q. How much money do I receive during the summer?
A. You decide how much you want to receive during the summer of 2020. Assuming there are no difficulties, payroll deductions occur from 20 paychecks during the 2019-20 school year. The amount you receive will depend on how much you have deducted from each check.

Q. How do I receive my summer payments?
A. You may receive your summer payments as paper checks mailed directly to the address that is on file with the BTF. There is also a direct deposit option. (Please see the Direct Deposit Section.)

Q. How much money will come out of each check?
A. The exact amount of deduction is determined by you and will be withheld from 20 of your 22 pay warrants. The minimum deduction per pay warrant allowable is $40. You may increase this amount in $5 units (i.e. $45, $50, $55, $60, etc.).

Option 1: One check or direct deposit issued during the summer recess. Formula: to determine the exact amount of the summer check or direct deposit under Option 1, multiply the amount deducted each paycheck times 20. Example: $100 withheld per paycheck times 20 equals $2,000. If you saved $100 per paycheck and selected Option 1, your one summer check or direct deposit would total exactly $2,000.

Option 2: Two checks or direct deposits issued during the summer recess. Formula: to determine the amount per check or deposit under Option 2, multiply the amount deducted each paycheck times 20 and divide by 2. Example: $100 withheld per paycheck times 20 equals $2,000 divided by 2 equals $1,000. If you saved $100 per paycheck and selected Option 2, your two summer checks or direct deposits would each total exactly $1,000.

Option 3: Four checks or direct deposits are issued at two-week intervals during the summer recess. Formula: to determine the amount per check or direct deposit under Option 3 multiply the amount deducted each paycheck times 20 and divide by 4. Example: $100 deducted per paycheck times 20 is $2,000 divided by 4 equals $500. If you saved $100 per paycheck and selected Option 3, your four summer checks or direct deposits would each total exactly $500.

Q. Are there other teachers participating in the BTF Extended Pay Plan?
A. Currently more than 1,700 teachers are participating.

Q. How do I sign up?
A. You must complete an Extended Pay Plan card. The Extended Pay Plan card is divided into 3 cards. Be sure to complete the top two cards as instructed. Be sure the amount that you would like to have deducted from each paycheck is listed. The third card is for direct deposit (please see the direct deposit section below). Cards are not available online. Contact your building delegate for an application form or call Joseph Montante or his secretary at the BTF Office (881-5400). ALL CARDS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE BTF OFFICE.

Q. When should I sign up for the Extended Pay Plan?
A. Submit your form during the months of May, June, and July for the following September. New teachers may enroll when they receive their New Membership Packet.

Q. What is an advance withdrawal?
A. An advance withdrawal is available to you should you need funds before the summer. One withdrawal per school year is allowed. Call the BTF and ask to speak with either Joseph Montante or his secretary and they will take the necessary information over the telephone. Please be advised that it may take three to five days to process a check.

Q. Am I allowed a second withdrawal?
A. Yes, however, if a second withdrawal is taken, you will be asked to discontinue your paycheck deduction for the remainder of the school year.

Q. Will I be able to have my summer check before the scheduled payments?
A. No. To keep our records accurate, up-to-date and provide sufficient time for our accountants to review the accounts, there will be no withdrawals after June 1st (of each school year) Extended Pay Plan Questions & Answers for the 2019-20 School Year unless there is an extraordinary circumstance, which we will ask be accompanied by appropriate documentation.

DIRECT DEPOSIT
The BTF/Extended Pay Plan Program reached an agreement with Northwest Savings Bank for DIRECT DEPOSIT of your Extended Pay Plan checks. Listed below are ways that Direct Deposit can make your summer checks efficient and safe:

• 100% of the funds are available when the funds are deposited to your account.
• Funds are in your account when you are sick or on vacation.
• No worries if the mail is late. Please consider this benefit. You will need to complete the third card of the Extended Pay Plan card. The best way to ensure the accuracy of your banking information is to include a voided check for the account that you would like to have the funds deposited into.
• Northwest Bank will have your Extended Pay Plan funds electronically deposited during summer into the bank of your choice. You DO NOT need to have an account at Northwest Bank.
• Please remember that if you make any changes to the account that your Extended Pay Plan funds are deposited in, YOU MUST notify the BTF before June 1st to be sure that your summer payments are deposited into the correct account.

*Special Note: If you receive paper checks, please be aware that they are only payable for 60 days after the date of issue, as stated on the front of the check. Also be sure to update your address to be sure that your payments arrive on time.

**Extended Pay Plan Dates Set**
Extended Pay Plan disbursement dates for the summer are:
- July 19
- August 2
- August 16
- August 30

The number of disbursements you will receive has been pre-selected by you. If you have questions, please call the BTF.