

PROVOCATOR

October 2022

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BUFFALO TEACHERS FEDERATION VOLUME 53/NUMBER 1

DEDICATION
SOLIDARITY
PROFESSIONALISM
PRIDE
SECOND TO NONE



President Rumore Sets the Facts Straight after The Buffalo News Writes Inaccurate Editorial

As expected, the Buffalo News editorial board has taken a position on our contract talks with the school district. And, as expected, their opinion attempts to make the teachers look bad.

However, Phil Rumore, president of the BTF, responded quickly in an attempt to set the record straight.

The following is President Rumore's response to their editorial.

"Once again, The Buffalo News editorial board takes a position, this time on retiree healthcare, that is factually wrong, one-sided, and detrimental to Buffalo teachers' and others' healthcare.

First, in reference to our current contract negotiations, any healthcare savings would not, as The Buffalo News printed, help pay for raises.

'Savings' would not begin for 15, 20, or 30 years, when new teachers retire, since teachers must have at least 15 years of service to receive retiree healthcare.

You mention that other districts don't have this benefit. You don't mention that:

Contract Resolution Approved Oct. 14 by Council of Delegates

A resolution calling for the BTF to secure an excellent for Buffalo teachers was approved October 14 by the Council of Delegates.

The short resolution was made by President Philip Rumore and seconded by Vice President Rebecca Pordum.

The resolution states:

MOVED: That the Buffalo Teachers Federation Executive Committee is authorized to take all actions necessary to provide Buffalo teachers with a contract that reflects their dedication and commitment to their students as do those contracts in other school districts.

- The average 2020-21 BA Step 1 starting salary for the Big 5 school districts (not including Buffalo) was \$55,596; whereas, Buffalo's (Step 2) is \$39,531.

- It takes Buffalo teachers 27 years to reach maximum salary, while in surrounding districts the average is 22 years.

- Lifetime earnings are therefore over \$100,000 less than in other districts.

You refer to 'economic conditions' dictating changes. Note: The district has a \$90 million plus surplus.

The district will receive additional Foundation Aid, \$41,260,020 more for 2021-22, \$34,947,010 more for 2022-23 and \$34,974,010 for 2023-24.

There will apparently be \$40 million more when COLA is added.

This is in addition to other state and federal aid.

Having some healthcare security also keeps many teachers working in Buffalo.

The issue should be the lack of adequate healthcare for all in our country. Most other countries already provide healthcare for their citizens.

Our country should not only provide healthcare for all, as do other countries, it should be superior to that in other countries."

Phil's article appeared in the Buffalo News on Saturday, October 8th.

With Teachers at a Premium, School District Needs to Settle a Teacher Contract Now

With an estimated 53 percent of schools in New York State reporting teacher shortages and BPS salaries well below other school districts in the area, you would think the School Board would be willing to settle a contract with the Buffalo Teachers Federation.

Instead, the School District continues to drag its feet in getting a new contract settled.

In a letter to the Board of Education and the District negotiating team, BTF President Phil Rumore outlined conflicting schedules for resuming negotiations that were presented by the district.

"Once again, you continue to distort and reverse your statements and commitments in negotiations", Phil wrote.

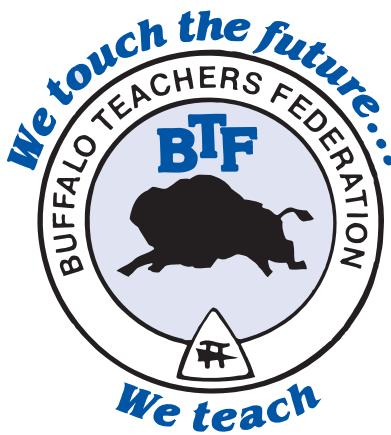
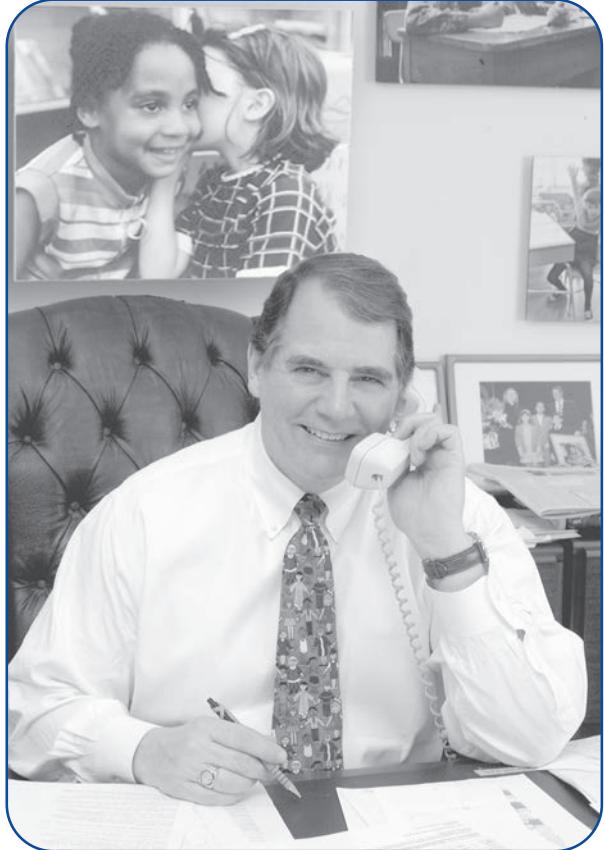
"Your duplicity and lack of honor that you have and continue to demonstrate in negotiations is a slap in the face of your dedicated teachers."

For three years, since the current contract expired, the BTF has been trying to get the District to sit down and reach an agreement that both sides can live with.

Teachers, determined to lessen discrepancies with other districts, have stood strong by attending school board pickets and walking outside their schools before classes.

Rallies, attended by hundreds of teachers, were held on August 24 (at City Hall) and 31 as well as September 21 and October 19. The last three were at BAVPA before Board meetings where Phil Rumore addressed the Board on behalf of all teachers. President Rumore said the "Superintendent's and Board's team refuses to present a salary/compensation counter-proposal" to the one presented by the BTF in May. The proposal, which remains on the

(Negotiations, Continued on page 4)



BTF at a Glance

BTF President

Philip Rumore

BTF Vice President

Rebecca Pordum

BTF Treasurer

Joseph Montante

BTF Secretary

Melinda MacPherson-Sullivan



BTF Executive Committee Members

Pre-K-6

Rachel Binda-Lis, April Hall,
Sophia Howard-Johnson,
Trisha Rosokoff, Janine Schuster,
Ruyvette Townsend

7-12

Dennis Brancato, Mike Jeffers,
Melissa Kenney, Rich Nigro,
M. Sue Raichilson, Eve Shippens

K-12

Susan Baker,
Desiree Breckenridge-Barnes, Amy Flynn,
Nicole Herkey, Ellen Malone,
Mark Mecca, Gregory Sawicki

At Large

Tom Anthony, Mike Mecca, Brian Meyer

BTF Headquarters Staff

Philip Rumore, *President*
Joseph Montante, *Presidential Assistant*
Rebecca Pordum, *Presidential Assistant*
Tim Connick, *NYSUT Counsel*
Jenna Burke, *NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist*
Devon Gawley, *NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist*
Robert Mueller, *NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist*

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www.btfny.org

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 2022-2023 school year as a service to BTF members and interested parties in the community. Subscription price is included in BTF dues.

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The BTF is an affiliate of **NYSUT, AFT** and **NEA**.

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Letters to the Editor

BTF Donates to Tops' Victims

The hearts of educators around the state of New York continue to be heavy after the racially motivated attack in Buffalo on May 14th.

New York State United Teachers, (NYSUT), has chosen Say Yes Buffalo, an education-focused nonprofit in Buffalo that administers a city-wide scholarship program for all graduates of public and charter high schools, to partner with to administer the NYSUT Memorial Scholarship Fund for the Buffalo Victims and Families.

On behalf of everyone working on the Say Yes Buffalo Partnership and the collaborative efforts of NYSUT, we thank you so much for your gift of \$5,203.20, including fees, received on June 8, which will support the family members of shooting victims as well as high school seniors who live in the 14208 zip code area, and are graduating and heading into higher education now and in coming years.

We are honored to list the Buffalo Teachers Federation as an investor to the NYSUT Memorial Scholarship Fund for the Buffalo Victims and Families in our various publications.

Thank you again for your generosity and support!

Gratefully,
David Rust, CEO
Say Yes Buffalo

BTF Donates \$500 to Archie L. Hunter Summer Program

On behalf of the Archie L. Hunter Scholarship Committee thank you for your recent donation of \$500 in support of children who attend the summer Day Camp program. Your gift helps to continue the legacy of Archie's longstanding efforts to assist and promote the wellbeing of all children, particularly those in need. It is the continued support of individuals like yourself that contribute to the development of our greatest resources, our youth. Once again, thank you for your contribution and continued support.

Sincerely,
Calvin J. Baxter, chair
Archie L. Hunter Scholarship Committee

BTF Supports Summer Camp Journals

Thank you for your generous donation to the Passport to Culture, a summer journaling project for Buffalo Public School students that was sponsored by the Buffalo Parent Teacher Organization (BPTO). Your donation allowed us to distribute 5,000 journals to summer campers.

The journals included information on cultural sites throughout the Western New York area and provided the students with space to journal about their experiences at the sites they visited. The journals were designed to encourage the students to work on their reading and writing skills and to explore culture throughout the summer and into the school year.

In June 2022, you made a contribution of \$1000.00 to the BPTO for the Passport to Culture journal project. No goods or services were exchanged for your contribution.

Thank you again for your generous donation and your dedication to Buffalo Public School students and the mission of the Buffalo Parent Teacher Organization.

Sincerely,
Buffalo Parent Teacher Org.
Executive Board

BTF Sponsors Matt Urban Center

On behalf of our team at the Matt Urban Center, I want to thank you for BTF's very generous sponsorship donation to our Home for the Holidays campaign. We were able to raise over \$28,000 support our programs and we couldn't have done it without your contribution. Thank you for your ongoing support for our agency and those we serve.

With gratitude,
Sarah Maurer

Visit Our Updated Website

www.btfny.org

Junior Achievement Thanks BTF for Gift

On behalf of Junior Achievement of WNY's board, staff, volunteers, and most importantly, the K-12 JA students we serve, I want to express my sincere appreciation for your commitment to JA. Your support is helping JA to educate WNY students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs.

Your tax-deductible contribution of \$250 is providing young people with the real-world skills they want and need, like how to manage money, how to prepare for a career, and how to open and run a business. In the process, students are connecting classroom learning to the real world, which is allowing them to recognize the value of staying in school, increasing the likelihood they will graduate. Because of your generosity, more students are receiving life-changing financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship education.

Thank you for investing in JA's young people, helping us teach them about money management and how business works. This education will allow them to compete in the workforce and become successful professionals, which will strengthen the economic health of our community and nation. Truly, we believe this is the most important investment that you will make all year. It is certainly the most appreciated.

We remain grateful for your gift and look forward to your continued partnership.

Sincerely,
John Crawford, president

BTF Supports Teacher's Foundation

Thank you for your continued support for the Alex Pichette Memorial Foundation. Your generous donation provides funding for the Kids Escaping Drugs Face-to-Face Program. This is an educational program that partners with schools and communities to meet the needs of kids & families.

In six years, we have donated \$63,000 and our work is not done! We couldn't have done it without you!

Best Regards,
Mary Kobee
APMF-2022

Negotiations Continued from Page 1

table, calls for salary hikes for each year of the contract, from July 2019 to July 2026, as well as a cost of living raise. A number of salary steps would also be removed making it faster to reach the top salary step.

"They didn't like the expense of our proposal", Phil explained. "We don't like the expense of everything around us that has gone up except our salaries!"

In addition, the BTF proposal calls for increasing coaching and club rates by the same percentage as the salary schedule. Psychologists' salaries would increase by the same percentage with the same reduction in steps.

Other proposals made by the BTF include:

- Increasing funding for the Supplemental Benefit Fund.
- Correcting discrepancies at the Adult Learning Center.
- Reducing caseload issues for School Counselors, Psychologists,

School Social Workers, and Attendance Teachers to provide more services for students.

- Increasing the waiver incentive for teachers who decline district healthcare coverage.

Nathaniel Kuzma, the District Counsel who is the chief negotiator for the Board, has told various news outlets that the proposals made the BTF would "bankrupt" the District.

But Phil Rumore believes otherwise. "They have a huge surplus", the BTF President said. "Our teachers are behind other area teachers (when it comes to salary) and we want to make the public aware of how behind we are". He noted that the Buffalo School District is sitting on a large surplus of many millions of dollars that the BTF assisted the Buffalo School District with securing recently.

As negotiations continue, both sides have submitted their briefs to the PERB fact finder.

1. BTF President Phil Rumore addresses a large crowd of teachers at the City Hall rally on August 24th.

2. After an informational picket the morning of September 2, the Hutch Tech faculty gathers on front of the school for a photo.



NYSUT Trains Four in Implicit Bias

Four current and former BTF Executive Committee members have been trained by NYSUT as instructors of its workshop Sticks & Stones: Understanding Implicit Bias & Stereotypes.

The program trains teachers to promote social unity and increase cultural awareness in schools and in the community.

The four-hour workshop strengthens team unity by teaching participants to look at the world from a different perspective. That perspective takes into consideration how someone's ethnicity, race, ability, and socio-economic background can impact how they experience our society.

The goal is to bridge cultural divides and make our schools and communities more welcoming and inclusive places for people of all abilities and backgrounds by helping participants see beyond their own world view.

Eve Shippens, an East Community School science teacher, Sophia-Howard Johnson, an elementary school teacher, and Lynn Garcia, a former history teacher at Hutch Tech who retired in June, were trained in Albany in May. Chris Salamone, who retired in 2021, was trained online in September. All four are expected to train teachers throughout the state in the program.

Several other teachers and retirees have signed up for training.

Deceased Teachers Remembered

The Buffalo Teachers Federation remembers the following active and retired members who have recently passed away. Some also later served as administrators.

Miriam Aquino	Charles Garfinkel	Suzanne Nyitrai
Frank Austin	Mary Jane Hanavan	Frank O'Connor
John Bargnesi, Sr.	Edward Harling	Cora Olkowski
Roseanne Batt	Carmen Harris	John Opera
Julianna Bednarz	Marian Harrison	Carol Pasiecznik
Susan Beeler	Theresa Harris-Tigg	Frances Patricola
Nancy Biondolillo	Arlene Haug	Arthur Pepe
Charles Breinin	Bonnie Hill	Madonna Priore
Marilyn Brunner	Norman Hinz	Mary Eileen Prisinzano
Wendy Brisky	Audrey Hurd	Joseph Regan
Cullie Brown	Yvonne James-Brown	Diana Rochford
Michael Carvana	Richard Leggio	Margaret Proctor Saetveit
Bernadette Ciccia	Marion Lehsten	Grace Schaefer
Jean D. Collins	Joseph Locke	Arlie Schwan
Corrinne Cristofaro	Melissa Lorkowski-Venne	Janice Sheedy
Nancy Ann Davidson	Ronald Louchren	Helen Sherk
Carl DiPasquale	James Marabella	Irving Slater
Mary DelGaudio	Christopher Marinaccio	Patricia Smith
Judith Dixon	Natalie Masker	Ann L. Swan
Jean Duggan	Romeo McKinley	Hajj Rasheed Sultan
Lillian Dunlavy	Sandra Munch	Mary Thomas
Barbara Frost	Waidene Murphy	Leonard Twarozek
Elayne Foster	Robert Nagel	Elizabeth Venator
Andrea Friedland	Dolores Needham	Michael Wech
Donald Fritzinger	Elizabeth Newton	Patricia Weihing

If you know of a teacher, whose name is not listed, please send their name to Lsauer@btfn.org or Sumhauer@btfn.org.

Two Executive Committee Members Attend NYSUT Leadership Institute

This summer, two BTF Executive Committee members joined educators from across the state to study successful labor strategies to tackle some of today's biggest challenges in public education.

Amy Flynn and April Hall underwent six days of intensive training at the NYSUT Leadership Institute in Albany where they prepared to assume greater leadership roles within the BTF and NYSUT. They join a number of Executive Committee members who have completed the biennial training including Vice President Becky Pordum, Treasurer Joseph Montante, Nicole Herkey, Sophia Howard Johnson, Melissa Kenney, Trish Rosokoff, and Eve Shippens.

With attacks on public education continuing to grab national headlines, this year's program had a sense of urgency. The training included labor history lessons, team building activities, and inspirational talks from national labor leaders Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, Kim Anderson, executive director of the National Education Association; and Jeffrey Grabelsky, co-director of the National Labor Leadership Institute at Cornell University.

The guest speakers talked about the necessity of a well-informed population to preserve democracy, teacher shortages, and the need to increase teacher salaries and elevate the attraction to teaching, described as the "noblest of all professions".

"If we don't succeed, then the country doesn't succeed", Anderson told the participants.

Weingarten stressed the need for union members to remain strong while teachers are under attack nationwide.

Flynn, a teacher at Grabiarz School of Excellence, #79, said the Leadership Institute provided a "good team building experience".

She added, "It was a good way to connect and make contacts with other union leaders across the state.

The training gave me more confidence in my leadership abilities and will help me be a better union leader in the future."

Hall, a 27-year veteran of the Buffalo School District, is a third grade teacher at Highgate Heights Elementary, School #80.

She said the Institute focused on



April Hall completes an activity.



Amy Flynn, center, participates in a group presentation.

growing leaders by understanding self behavior and leadership behaviors and building effective relationships.

She said Weingarten's talks inspired a push for unions at both state and national levels to handle challenges caused by the pandemic.

Hall said she also learned how to

use a behavior inventory tool to better connect with colleagues and to create strategies to motivate and inspire members to support shared goals.

"This experience helped me to take a deep look into myself and my personality and to discover my leadership style in the workplace."

BTF Receives 25 Pages of Concerns from Teachers Responding to Safety Survey

Inconsistent discipline, too many doors and too little security are just a few of the common concerns on a School Safety Survey conducted by the BTF.

The survey, which was sent to all teachers in September, was released October 13 during the Council of Delegates meeting.

Camera failures, PA systems that can't be heard in all rooms, students returning to regular classes after incarceration and housing more than one school in a building are also frequent complaints in the survey.

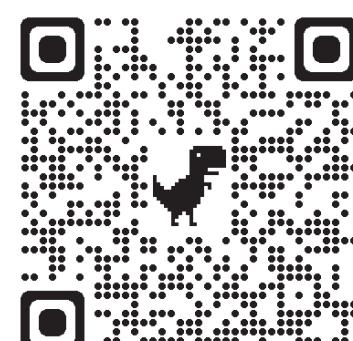
Other issues teachers would like addressed include:

- Doors left open during school day
- No metal detectors
- Students with violent history allowed in classes where knives are used
- Parent meetings not held before suspended students return to school
 - Too many students in class to adequately 'shelter in place'
 - Students opening doors for outsiders
- Classroom phones are broken; repair tickets not done in timely manner
- Suspended students returned

to same school without attending an alternative program or receiving counseling

- Lack of communication regarding suspensions and violent incidents
- Students smoking marijuana on school grounds
- Students walking halls, all day, without consequences
- No ID tags or tags that don't activate the doors
- Insufficient staff
- Classroom doors that don't lock or have windows
- The new Code of Conduct allows the administration to ignore issues
- Bullying and inappropriate behavior of administration

To read the complete 25-page report, scan the QR code below.



Welcome New Members

The following 213 teachers have joined the Buffalo Teachers Federation this school year. Welcome to the union!

Lyndsay Adams	Brittany Ferger	Hannah Luther	Colleen Sikorski
Jason Agosto	Katelin Fitzpatrick	Rachel Mackiewicz	Briony Siler
Malika Alshawli	Kevin Fitzgerald	Erin Maier	Vanessa Singletary
Alexis Andrzejak	Daniel Fronckowiak	Olivia Maldonado	Doreen Skowron-Mota
Elizabeth Arana	Sarah Fronczak	Owen Maley	Courtney Smith
Lisa Baldwin	Shauntae Fulgham	Morgan Mann	Jennifer Smith
Lija Baranowski	Hayley Gabrielli	Tricia Markel	Zachary Sorrentino
Holly Bartkowiak	Emily Gammell	Katherine Martin	Alexandria Sorrento
Christine Battaglia	Susan George	Donald McCann	Jennifer Sprague
Dean Bavisotto	Neve Georgia	Kimberly McCarley	Megan Stachewicz
Erin Belile	Brett Gibson	Sherrell McLean	Allison Stoerr
Jessica Bennett	Jillian Gilmartin	Kimberly McNett	Ellen Stott
James Benz	Karly Glowny	Meghan Mercurio	Carla Stumpo
Alexander Berkley	Thomas Goergen	Carlie Mogavero	Danyell Sugg
Shannon Borow	Connor Graham	Maria Montoya	Na'Cole Suttles
Molly Borowicz	Eden Griger	Kaitlyn Moran	Katelyn Swaenepoel
Mary Brandquist	Victoria Guagliano	Stephanie Morlock	John Swanson
Kayleigh Brandstetter	Caressa Guerrero	Charleen Myles	Fakiha Tanha
Phoenix Brown	Marielle Guido	Brooke O'Brien	Danielle Thaler
Lauren Buchner	Judith Guyse	Morgan Orlando	Margaret Thompson
Danielle Burruss	Elizabeth Hacherl	Julia Pacitto	John Tilert
Grace Butler	Latajana Hall	Rebecca Padilla	Patricia Tirone
Cheryl Callihan	Sarah Halpin	Natalie Pagano	Bonnie Todaro
Lindsay Camp	Toni Harris	Ta-Tanisha Palmer	Kaylynn Torres
Rose Carcione	Paige Heagerty	Maggie Papia	Grace Turner
Lindsey Carrion	Kimberly Heider	Sharon Parmer	Adam Valenti
Jenna Cavallaro	Kimberly Hernandez	Sarah Pearson	Thor Vandehei
Kathy Chan	Jade Hoch	Kathleen Peknic	Janelle Ventura
Madison Clark	Samantha Hoggard	Adam Perilli	Camille Vieira
Rebecca Coe	Juliet Holme	Katherine Pessecow	Brianna Virgilio
Matthew Coloprisco	Grace Horner	Sara Piper	Stephanie Vogt
Tenae Connell	Nicholas Ilardi	Molly Poczciwinski	Anna von Hagn
Marissa Contangelo	RaiVen Jackson	Antoniette Polito	Jacob Walek
Amber Crittenden	Samantha Jacobs	Valerie Poniatowski	Aungalique Wallace
Carol Cromwell	Julia Jarvis	Alexa Pontillo	Christie Walker
John D'Aguanno	Rachel Jeckovich	Maura Price	Kacy Wandel
Victoria D'Amaro	Lisa Jones	Briana Pridgen	Jan Wanderlich
MaryKate Delia	Ashley Kaminska	Estevan Puerto	Tracey Watson
Amanda Dire	Shane Keyes	Rebekah Quinlivan	Tara Welty
Kerry Dobranski	Harry King	Sally Rebl	Kari Wendell
Kristen Dollmann	Claire Kirby	Kathryne Rapp	Claudia White
Caitlin Driscoll	Tyler Krempa	Harrison Reeds	Leah White
Kathryn Duane	Jordon Krivonos	Sydney Reiser	Karen Wilcox
Sandy Dunkleman	Tasnia Kusum	Josephine Rivera	Alia Williams
Joseph Egloff	Allan LaFlore	Lawrence Rizzuto	Kristyn Wind
Robert Ellis	John LaForgia	Andrea Russell	Peter Wlosinski
Jason Elmore	Jill Lauck	Carmen Sabala	Alyssa Young
Nshimirimana Emmanuel	Carrie Laudico	Stephanie Sacco	Mackenzie Zakowski
Claire Englander	Anthony Leone	Alyssa Salamone	Donna Zehler
Emily Erb	Catherine LeSage	Sabrina Schwartz	Shanshan Zhang
Angela Exum	Kimberly Lewis	Anna Scirri	Mary-Alice Zicari
Ellen Farrell	Lisa Lewis	Kimberly Seay	
Simon Farrell	Son Mi Lim	Jason Shaffer	
Rebecca Ferer	Ashleigh Lloyd	Alyssa Shellman	

Brunch Held in Honor of Edith LeWin

It's hard to believe that more than a year has gone by since retired BTF Vice President Edith LeWin passed away on September 18, 2021.

To celebrate her life, more than 100 current and retired teachers gathered together for a memorial brunch. The brunch was held September 24 at the Lake Erie Italian Club in Lackawanna.

Attendees shared stories, laughed and cried together and honored the woman who selflessly gave more than 43 years to helping Buffalo teachers.

"It's a big loss", BTF President Philip Rumore said. "She was special - a caring person who cared about people. She was always there for people and she would leave no stone unturned to help anyone, and that was among her greatest accomplishments."

Edie, as she was known to her friends, began her career as a Home Economics teacher. She was a building delegate and a member of the BTF Executive Committee before becoming Presidential Assistant to Tom Pisa from 1974-81. She continued in that position under President Rumore from 1981 until her retirement in 2017. In addition, Edie was elected Vice President of the BTF, a position she held for more than 20 years.

She was a wealth of knowledge

when it came to labor laws and rights and knew the history of the BTF and its union affiliates. Edie was always willing to help with any issues teachers were having and offered advice freely.

Even after retirement, Edie made herself available to teachers and often met for lunch with Executive Committee members to keep up on current news.

Edie was preceded in death by her husband, Merrill, and her son, Keith. She is survived by her beloved nephews.



BTF Vice President Edith Lewin

BTF Resolution Adopted at NEA RA

A resolution, calling for the Tops massacre in May to be defined as "murder" and for those who commit such acts to be labelled "murderers", proposed by BTF President Philip Rumore, passed unanimously during the National Education Association convention in July.

The NEA Representative Assembly, attended by about 6,000 teachers each year, is the world's largest democratic, deliberative body by educators, for educators.

The National Education Association held its RA in Chicago in early July and the American Federation of Teachers conducted theirs in Boston later that month.

The NEA convention was also held online for those who chose not to travel.

Vice President Kamala Harris was the keynote speaker at the NEA RA. She gave high praise to educators and encouraged them to continue during this most difficult time.

"Again and again you have been champions of social justice. You are not only essential to our children's future, you, I believe, are essential to the future of our children's children", Harris said.

For the entire resolution and complete coverage of both conventions, visit the websites of the NEA and AFT.

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NYSUT Member Benefits Starts Helpline

Life is complicated, but NYSUT Member Benefits can help.

The Peer Support Line is a new service available through NYSUT Member Benefits offered at no cost to all NYSUT members and their families.

This confidential helpline -- staffed by trained in-service and retired individuals who understand the unique professional and personal challenges of NYSUT members -- can provide answers, referrals, and empathetic support when you need it.

The Peer Support Line can assist with utilizing Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefits, along with finding information and referrals for professional assistance within your community.

This service can help with the following topics and more:

- Finding mental health services or support groups
- Answering questions about Medicare and Medicaid
- Managing work-related stress
- Providing support to new members
- Sourcing elder care or caregiving services
- Assisting with marital, relationship, or child rearing concerns
- Reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness
- Accessing services for individuals with disabilities
- Finding help for victims of violence
- Managing planned or unexpected hospitalizations

Don't go it alone. When stressful situations arise, look to the Peer Support Line to speak with trained peer support specialists who will lend a caring ear and connect you with community resources that can make a difference for you and your family.

Contact the Peer Support Line at 844-444-0152.

The Peer Support Line is a partnership between NYSUT Member Benefits and Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care.



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Teachers Needed for Interview Teams

At various times during the 2022- 2023 school year, the Buffalo Board of Education will conduct interviews for placement of candidates on hiring lists for probationary, future temporary appointments and certain other positions.

Tenured teachers are needed in all areas to serve as members of these interview teams.

However, not all tenure areas may conduct interviews. Interviews may be scheduled during the school day, after school hours or on Saturdays.

If you wish to serve on an interview team, please clip the form below and submit it to Rebecca Pordum at the BTF Office, 271 Porter Ave., Buffalo, NY 14201.

Interview Teams

I am interested in serving on an interview team. I have tenured status in the tenure area listed below.

Name: _____

School: _____

Position: _____

Phone(cell/home): _____

Personal email: _____

I AM A TENURED TEACHER AND MY TENURE AREA IS:

Did You Know...?

That all future retirees will be eligible to participate in the "Open Enrollment" process each year, as they have as active employees?

They will be notified of their annual opportunity to change from their current chosen plan to another of the plans offered to them and will be told of the proposed rates.

This important provision can be found in Article XXVI (2), A (11) of the BTF contract.



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