



From the President's Desk

Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers Association

Bridgeport Easton Fairfield Milford Monroe Shelton Stratford Trumbull

As Mother Nature awakens from her deep slumber, the crocuses push their purple, yellow and white heads through the softening earth. The bright yellow daffodils trumpet the arrival of spring. Tulips will soon show off their brilliant array of colors.

I hope you are looking forward to the sun's warming rays and the ability to venture outside without the burden of bulky winter clothing. Enjoy the glorious spring days while following the recommended "social distance" set by local health authorities.

Normally GBRTA's budget is presented at the April meeting and voted on at the May meeting. Instead, with the cancellation of the meeting, we have included the budget in this newsletter. Please take a few minutes to review it. If you have questions or concerns, please contact our treasurer, Helen Scinto at 203-375-1921 or hscinto@aol.com.

While Lobby Day was cancelled, our State



Lobby Day—2019

legislators continue to work on a variety of issues including the approval of tolls, the legalization of marijuana and the elimination of vaccination exemptions for

religious reasons.

However, our elected officials must also be made aware that retired teachers are very concerned about the funding of our pensions and health insurance, the implementation of the promised 50% tax exclusion on our pensions and the calculation of our cost of living adjustment (COLA).

As you are aware, retired teachers do not have a union. We must be our own advocates. I encourage you to write a short

note, email or phone your elected officials and make them aware of your retirement concerns.

On a lighter note, I was sent an email by a former colleague regarding the origin or phrases we sometimes use. AS rainy April approaches, I thought I would share this little bit of non-boring history.

In the 1500's houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats, dogs and other small animals, including mice and bugs, lived in the roof.

When it rained the thatch became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

Happy Spring!

Rose Marie D'Aquila
President, GBRTA

The Best Laid Plans . . .

As this newsletter is sent to the printer, the Coronavirus pandemic is in its early stages in Connecticut. We are advised that it will get significantly worse with more cases expected. There is no estimate of how long it will last.

GBRTA has cancelled its April 16th luncheon meeting and it is possible that the May 14th meeting will also be cancelled.

ARTC has cancelled its April 20 Lobby Day at the Capitol and is still awaiting a decision regarding its May 19th luncheon.

We will keep you advised of any changes that become necessary.

Stay safe and join us in praying for an end to the crisis.

Trips

We have made arrangements to participate in the "Friends of Marcella" Friendship Tours.

Departure is from the Commuter Lot at the junction of Route 25 and Route 111 (Main St. in Trumbull).

Checks should be made payable to Friendship Tours and mailed to: Marcella Chamberlain

PO Box 292
Trumbull, CT 06611 203-261-6182

July 13, 2020

Lobster Feast at the Delaney House

Holyoke, MA \$107

All-you-can-eat lobster along with a buffet of salads, fruit, Pork Marengo, Focaccia, Haddock, Chicken Marsala, baked ziti, vegetables and dessert. Entertainment provided by Lou Villano who follows the vocal styling of Paul Anka.

August 20, 2020

Westchester Broadway Theatre

9 to 5, The Musical—\$112

9 to 5, with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton, is set in the 1970's when three female employees conspire to take over their company and learn that there's nothing they can't do even in a man's world.

Lunch is individually selected from the theatre's excellent menu.

Flyers for trips will be available at our meetings and online at www.GBRTA.org

Space is limited!

Questions? Contact GBRTA's Travel Coordinator
Angela McKelvey - 203-227-3222

A Very Brief History of the GBRTA

The GBRTA was established in 1951 to provide for the welfare of retired teachers. Looking back, our early history documents a number of social activities—trips, card parties, lunches in various restaurants, raffles and teas—yes, formal teas with petite sandwiches and cakes. Most of the earliest members were retired ladies. At the end of the year, funds remaining in the treasury were donated to area charities.

Before long, GBRTA members saw the need to become

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GBRTA BUDGET 2020-21

INCOME	
Balance forward: carryover from prior year	\$3,700.00
Wells Fargo— withdrawn from cash account	\$16,000.00
Dues	\$6,200.00
Miscellaneous	\$300.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$26,200.00
Scholarship Donations	\$500.00
EXPENSES	
Administrative (including recruitment	\$1,200.00
ARTC Dues	\$50.00
Communications (newsletter and web	\$2,800.00
Contingency	\$300.00
Glen Moon Scholarship Fund	\$200.00
Henry Barnard Fund	\$200.00
Insurance	\$1,300.00
Legal and Professional (tax preparation,	\$600.00
Member Welfare (sunshine, holiday gifts)	\$625.00
Memorial Service	\$400.00
Occupancy	\$475.00
Programs	\$800.00
Scholarships	\$16,000.00
State Corporate filing fee	\$50.00
Lobby Day Bus	\$1,200.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,200.00

A Word about the Budget

The budget runs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The balance forward is always a guesstimate, based on our current balance, expected expenses from now through June, and anticipated income (in large part, your dues). Certain items are fixed, such as the State corporate filing fee, ARTC dues, and the occupancy fee (for the Burroughs Center, where the board meets). The tax preparation fee (yes, we do have to file a tax return though we don't pay taxes) and the liability insurance amounts reflect current prices. Fortunately, the budget has remained fairly consistent from year to year.

A Brief History

Cont'd from page 2

informed about and involved in legislative issues related to retired teachers' pensions and health insurance. Social activities were supplemented with increasingly necessary discussions about pensions and health insurance.

Bequests allowed our treasury to grow and the Association committed itself to providing scholarships to high school seniors in each of the public high school in our eight town area.

Keeping up with proposed changes to legislation became an almost full time job so GBRTA recognized that it needed assistance in coordinating state-wide action and became one of fourteen affiliate chapters of the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut (ARTC).

Since 1946 ARTC, with its 8,000 members, has spoken for Connecticut's retired teachers on issues related to protecting their pensions and health insurance benefits. In conjunction with ARTC, GBRTA participates in *Meet and Greet* sessions at the Capitol in Hartford where retired teachers meet with legislators to educate those legislators on issues of concern to retired teachers. In addition, *Connecticut Retired Teachers' Lobby Day* offers the opportunity for retired teachers to learn about proposed legislation that would affect them and then to meet with their State Legislators to discuss that legislation.

GBRTA's president serves on the Board of Directors of ARTC. GBRTA members serve on ARTC's committees. GBRTA benefits from information provided by ARTC's Lobbyist who tracks and advises on all bills related to issues of concern to retired teachers.

ARTC members present testimony, both written and in-person, to legislative committees dealing with our pension and health insurance. The GBRTA/ARTC partnership benefits each of us.

Additional information about ARTC is available at its website, www.ARTCT.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Dues—\$20

Life Membership \$250

The membership year runs from September 1—August 31. Members whose dues are two or more years in arrears will be dropped from the membership file and must repay two years of back dues for reinstatement.

Please check the address label on this newsletter. If the message after your name is anything other than *Life Member* or *any date before September 1, 2020*, your dues are in arrears.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Year Retired _____ School System _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Amount of check _____

_____ **Check here if there are any changes to your contact information.**

Mail form and check, payable to GBRTA to

Ann Block

60 Ridgeview Avenue

Trumbull, CT 06611

Facts About *The Fund*

The *Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers Fund, Inc.* was established in 1983 as a result of a bequest by retired teacher Florence Batchelder. The mission of *The Fund* is to assist retired teachers in need in every way possible for their well-being and comfort.

Information about benefits offered by *The Fund* are available at the GBRTA website (www.GBRTA.org).

The Fund will elect its officers at the May 14, 2020 meeting of the GBRTA. The following are nominees for officers and board members of *The Fund*.

Officers

President: Deborah Broccoli

1st VP: Marie Petitti

2nd VP: Andrew Figlar

Recording Secretary: Eileen McMahon

Corresponding Secretary: Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone

Treasurer: Jo-Ann Olsen

Board Members:

Lynn Corra

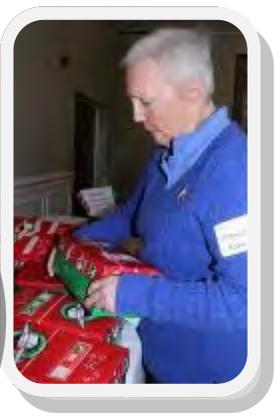
Walter Drozeck

Gloria Francesconi

Jacqueline Norcel

Susan Reher

Greta Stanford



Join Us For Lunch at Testo's Restaurant in Bridgeport

May 14, 2020 - \$28.00

Choice of

Roasted Chicken

Scrod Oreganato

Baked Ham

Deadline for Reservations— May 7

Cancel by May 12

The Memorial Service will begin at 10:30 with Rabbi Evan Schultz from Congregation B'nai Israel, Park Avenue, Bridgeport officiating. Rabbi Schultz was ordained in 2012 and enjoys working with the Temple's youth groups, promoting community activism and fostering a program for area Jews in their 20s and 30s. He has a passion for engaging community members through learning, song, prayer, conversation, and social justice.

Make check payable to GBRTA with date, menu choice and your phone number on the check. CHECKS MUST ACCOMPANY RESERVATIONS; NO PAYMENT ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR.

The Business Meetings begin at 10:30; lunch will follow at noon.

Members may attend the business portion without staying for lunch; please call to let us know you are coming.

Reservations and payment to
487 Church Hill Rd.

Trudi Black
Trumbull 06611

trudib@aol.com
203-261-6576