

Bellmore-Merrick Retired Teachers Association

HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 40 Issue 2 Winter 2023

MARCH 8

Winter Meeting

1:00 PM
Brookside Board Room

MAY 9

RC17 General Membership Meeting/Elections

10:00 AM
Farmingdale Library

MAY 24

**BMRTA Spring Meeting/
Elections of Officers & Reps**

1:30 PM
Brookside Board Room

MAY 24

Welcome New Retiree Party

2:30 - 4:30 PM
Location TBA

JUNE 20

BMUST End of Year Party

Westbury Manor



please join us for a
Retirement Luncheon

- Honoring -

Sharon Wisla

Wednesday, May 10th, 2023

12:00 pm

Elisa's Restaurant

2754 North Jerusalem Road, North Bellmore

\$45 per person

Payable by check to:

Susan Stamile

33 Richard Avenue

N. Merrick, NY 11566

Please RSVP by: April 3

Cash bar

Questions?

Call or Text: 516-776-1878

Mark Your Calendars

As you can see, we have an active spring planned including meetings and parties. We hope to see you at our events.

Winter Meeting

Time: 1:00 PM

Date: Wed., March 8, 2023

Place: Brookside Board Room

Topic: *Health, Longevity and Living a Purposeful Life*

Speaker: Laura Proppe

F.Y.I.

Sharon Wisla
President
516-781-7884
alsiw@aol.com

Jane Sanacora
Membership
Newsletter
516-610-7956
jsanaco@aol.com

Deborah Molloy
Medical and Insurance Questions/Personnel
516-992-1017
dmolloy@bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us

Meg Hirsch
BMUST Secretary
516-992-1068

October 22, 2022 Meeting

BMRTA held its Fall Meeting on Wednesday, October 22 in Brookside Room 111. Meg Hirsch, BMUST secretary was thanked for all her help as were the Executive Board Officers. Of particular note was Sharon Wisla's statement that after serving 15 years as BMRTA president; she will step down in June.

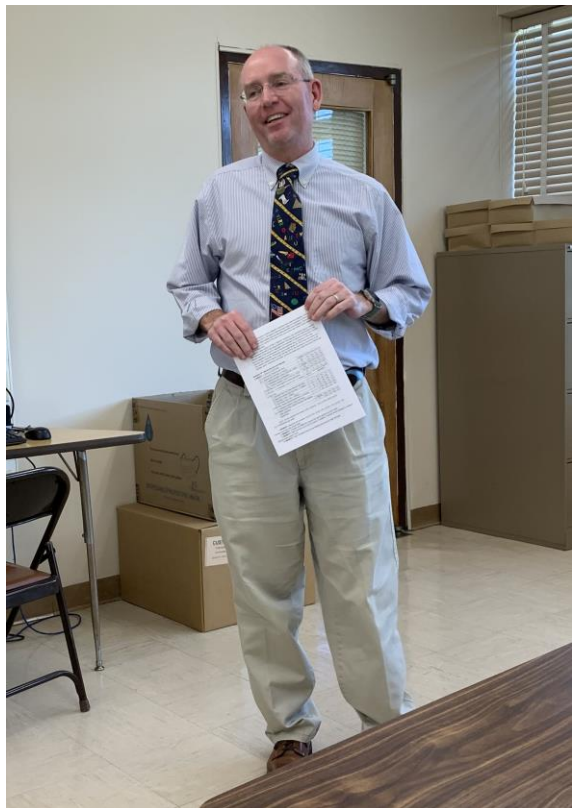
Ken Ulric, President of RC-17 spoke about the elections and other information of interest to retirees. Something to keep in mind about Medicare: **Don't switch to a Medicare Advantage plan. They are privatized and want to make money. What we have now is the best of health care plans.**



Sharon Wisla, Sal Bommarito, Joan Kleinman

Sue Stamile, Ellen Johanson, Pat Riew

Mike Dolber, Mark Steinberg, Dan Viafore, Henry Dircks



Roberta Mohr, Jane Kline, Rob Walsh
Sue Risberg, Tony Colesanti, Andrea Schuman
Arthur Schnee, Lydia Paulson

Heard Here and There

Many of you were inquiring if you could donate towards a gift for **Sharon Wisla's retirement** if you can't attend our luncheon. Please send a check for whatever you would like, made out to Susan Stamile, 33 Richard Ave, Merrick, NY, 11566, and we will add your name towards the gift.

Speaking of **Sue Stamile**--unfortunately, she had a freak accident before the holidays and has a broken leg. She has a cast on her left leg from her hip to ankle and cannot put any weight on the leg for 3 months. She isn't in pain but has some discomfort.

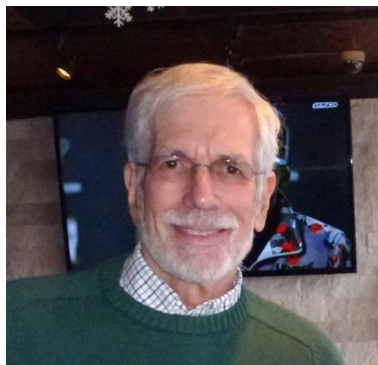
If you would like to get in touch with her, her cellphone number is 516 776 1878. Her email address is suestamile@gmail.com. I am sure she would love to hear from you.

Another of our members, **Barbara Farchione**, a retired art teacher from Merrick Ave, was in a serious car accident along with her husband, John. They're now recovering at home. She would appreciate hearing from you. Her address is 75 Millbrooke Farm Drive, Wells, Maine 04090

Ellen Robilotto, (retired MAMS), and her husband Mike, proudly announce the marriage of their son, Michael, to Amanda Smith. It was a fantastic day, June 26, 2022!
The wedding party is pictured here.



Tony Colesanti and his wife Angela recently sold their Long Island home and moved permanently to their second home in Florida. By coincidence, not only did the buyer graduate from Calhoun, but his brother was a student of Tony's at Calhoun.



Political Action News

Mike Dolber

Governor Hochul recently submitted her budget proposal, and while there is a lot to applaud, NYSUT has a major concern with her plan to increase the number of charter schools permitted in the state.

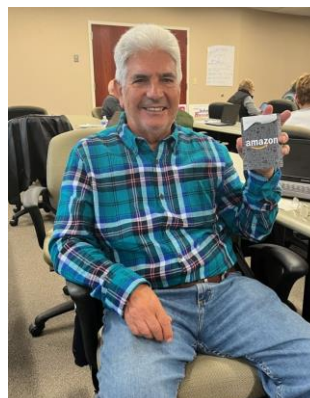
On the plus side, the Governor proposed a significant increase in state aid to schools, including in Foundation Aid. In addition, the budget contains money for more funding of full day pre-K, added capital funding for CUNY and SUNY, new programs, and more support for mental health programs and staff. However, the charter school provisions are a problem. Lifting the cap could create up to 85 new charters. While some of these schools do good work, it must be remembered that many corporate charters' goal is profit for the shareholders, not the best education for students. They often lack accountability that public schools are expected to have. Of course, any money that goes to charter schools is that much less to support public education. Public schools are, and always have been, a vehicle for social mobility, diversity, and democracy, offering education to all. Charters, on the other hand, often are exclusive, not open to students who do not meet their particular standards.

While this is not a major election year, it is essential that we, as retirees, stay politically engaged and continue to make our voices heard, especially on issues concerning education and academic freedom. We generally have more time than in-service teachers to make phone calls, send letters and emails, and join in demonstrations and picket lines in solidarity with others. Our involvement makes a difference.

In solidarity,

Mike Dolber

Tony Colesanti was one of our members who participated in the NYSUT phone banks at the Nassau Office in Woodbury to get out the vote for the 2022 elections. As you can see, Tony won the raffle for an Amazon Gift Card.



BMUST HOLIDAY HAPPY HOUR

The BMUST Shirt Day and Happy Hour was held at the Third Rail in Bellmore on Friday, December 2, 2022. The in-service teachers were, once again, wearing their BMUST tee shirts in union solidarity. A special thanks to Mike Dolber for the pictures.



Meg Hirsch, Pete Brideson, Bill Morris, Mark Steinberg



Rob Walsh, Mike Dolber



Roberta Mohr, Marc Bieler



Kristin Fusaro, Mike Dolber, Marc Bieler, Roberta Mohr

IN MEMORIAM

Arthur McQuillan, known as Artie, passed away on February 15, 2023. He was employed by the district in many capacities. Artie started as a social studies teacher at Mepham and later took the role of assistant principal. He concluded his career as a guidance counselor at Grand Avenue until his retirement in 2001. Artie continued to live in North Bellmore until his death at 89 years old. He and his wife Sharyne, who predeceased him, had eight children and eighteen grandchildren who will always remember him.



It is with great sadness that we tell you of the passing of **Daniel Shea** on January 21, 2023. Dan loved teaching Social Studies and languages, especially Latin. He taught at Calhoun from 1963 to 1998 when he retired. He then continued teaching, most recently at Sacred Heart Academy in Hempstead, retiring again, in 2021. Dan loved sports, especially hockey. He was an off-ice official for the New York Islanders from 1972-2015, and a youth hockey coach and referee on Long Island for many years. He lived in Oceanside, NY for most of his life, relocating to Concord, NH in 2022. He was 86 years old.

Louis Noll passed away December 9, 2022 at the age of 88. He taught math at Calhoun from 1969 to 1989, when he retired. Louis moved to Florida soon after retiring, most recently living in Juno Beach.

Patricia Claire Bloodgood, born in New Jersey in 1930, passed away on November 28, 2022 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Pat taught English at Grand, Mepham, and Kennedy for over 20 years before retiring in 1994. In recent years, she moved to Minneapolis to be closer to her family. Prior to moving there, she spent over 45 summers at her treasured cabana at Malibu Beach Club. Pat was a loving mother to six children: Bill, Maura, Tricia, Eileen, Gina, and Deirdre, and grandmother of three. She was 92 years old.



Valerie Gitter passed away on August 1, 2022. Valerie taught business at Kennedy from 1970 until 1985. She spent her retirement with her husband in Arizona where they were active members of their temple. She was 92.

We recently learned of the death of **Ruth Extract** who passed away on June 9, 2015. Ruth was a home economics teacher at Kennedy who retired in 1976. She moved to Arizona and then returned east to New Jersey to be near family. She was 93.

We were recently informed of the death **Antonia Ledesma** who passed on October 18, 2012. She taught Spanish at Kennedy and retired in 1979. She lived in Miami Beach, Florida near her family. She was 90.

Eileen Williams, who served as secretary to the principal of Kennedy High School, passed away on November 13, 2022. She originally worked for the Brooklyn Dodgers before their move to Los Angeles. She lived in North Bellmore and had seven children and sixteen grandchildren.

It is with great sorry that we inform you of the passing of Kim Black's mother, Ruth Burkart, on October 9, 2022. Kim is the former BMUST secretary.



The current nurse at Kennedy, Ro DeVito, lost her husband, Joseph DeVito, in a tragic hit and run in the parking lot of local diner on January 18, 2023. Donations can be sent to Merrie Ober at JFK (Venmo @MerrieOber, checks payable to Merrie Ober) if you would like to help her family through this difficult time.



Dates to Remember

2023

| | | |
|---------|--|---------------------------------|
| March 8 | Winter BMRTA Meeting | Brookside Board Room 1:00 pm |
| May 9 | RC 17 General Membership Meeting | Farmingdale Library 10:00 am |
| May 10 | Party to Honor Sharon Wisla | Elisa's Restaurant 12:00 |
| May 24 | Spring BMRTA Meeting- Election of Officers & Reps | Brookside Board Room 1:30 pm |
| May 24 | Welcome New Retiree Party | TBA 2:30 – 4:30 pm |
| June 20 | BMUST End of the Year Party | Westbury Manor |

The BMUST Representative Assembly meetings for 2022-23 will meet at 4:30 in the Brookside Board Room on the following dates in the spring of 2023: March 15, April 19, May 17, and June 14 at 3:00 pm.

The Board of Trustees will meet in the BMUST Board Room on the following dates in the spring of 2023: March 1, April 3, May 3, June 7, and June 21 at 3:00 pm.

We would like to hear from you!

In future issues, we would love to include any news you would like to share. E-mail jsanaco@aol.com with the information and picture. And join us on Facebook!

Check out all your union membership has to offer!

LEGAL SERVICE PLAN

Plan benefits include:

- Crucial estate planning documents (a Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Durable Power of Attorney)
- Free telephone consultations
- Guaranteed maximum fees for specific legal matters

FINANCIAL COUNSELING PROGRAM

Plan benefits include:

- Unbiased objective advice
- Free telephone & virtual consultations
- Assistance with retirement planning, 403(b) savings, college savings, tax planning and more



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Jan-Feb 2023