



From the President's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

We here in the Northeast are now enjoying nature's splendid display of colorful flowers, greening lawns, and the melodious return of the songbirds. Don't forget to take down your birdfeeders because the new season also marks the return of hibernating bears.

Our April meeting at our new venue, the Mill River Country Club in Stratford, CT was a resounding success. Comments were very positive – location, food, atmosphere and the attentiveness of staff. The country club has easy access from both the Merritt Parkway and I-95.



Our next Meeting is June 9, 2022. Moving the date of our traditional May meeting to June afforded the opportunity for the Board of Directors to meet and evaluate the new venue. Because of strong positive feedback, the Board decided to continue having General Meetings at Mill River. Details of the June meeting and menu can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

I trust you received a pleasant surprise when you filed your CT tax form. The 50% tax exemption on your retirement pension reduced your state tax. I hope that you will thank members of the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut (ARTC) for all the time and energy spent on this legislation. Remember that as retired educators we have no union to represent us. ARTC's role is to inform and demand that our legislators honor the commitments they have made to retired teachers. I urge you to spend \$50 to join ARTC if you are not already a member. Information and a membership application can be found on the ARTC website - www.artct.org

With sadness we note the passing of a number of GBRTA members. GBRTA has lost three members of the Board of Directors in the past 15 months. Susan Berescik recorded and distributed minutes for our Board and General Meetings with extraordinary precision and clarity. She took on each task with enthusiasm and a passion for doing it well. Trudi Black, with her husband Larry, oversaw every detail of our lunch meetings. From clarifying the differences between *gravy*, *thickened gravy*, and *dressing* to lobbying for hot water in the Ladies' Room, Trudi insisted that the restaurant provide the best possible dining experience for GBRTA members. Helen Scinto first served the GBRTA as its Recording Secretary and then as Newsletter Editor. When she felt "Newslettered-Out", Helen took on the responsibility of serving as our Treasurer. She proved to be as proficient in math as she was in writing! Her final service to GBRTA was as its Member Services Chair.

We are grateful for having known these Board members and sincerely appreciate their generous service to our organization.

In closing, I hope you enjoy a delightful Spring and a relaxing Summer. Stay Healthy. Stay Safe.

Rose Marie D'Aquila

President, GBRTA

Legislative Update

Connecticut's 2022 Legislative Session ended in early May with the State's budget showing a surplus of about \$7.9 billion of which \$605 million has been allocated for tax cuts. Among these cuts are a reduction in the gasoline tax, a reduction in property and auto taxes, and a \$250 per child tax credit.

The consistently underfunded pension funds will receive about \$3.5 billion. The State's Rainy Day fund will benefit with the addition of \$3.1 billion.

SB 442, *An Act Increasing the Amount of the Teachers' Retirement System Health Insurance System Subsidy* was passed. The subsidy for retired teachers under age 65 and who do not yet qualify for Medicare was

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June 9th Meeting of the Membership

Mill River Country Club

4567 Main Street

Stratford, CT

Cost \$34

Deadline for checks and choices—May 26

Entrée—Choice of:

Chicken Marsala

Salmon with Lemon Butter Sauce

Sliced Sirloin with Mushroom Sauce

Penne alla Vodka

Entrees served with roasted vegetables (except pasta), tossed salad, rolls and butter, apple strudel with ice cream, and coffee and tea.

The business portion of the meeting will begin at 10:30, followed by the program. Lunch will be served at noon. If attending the business portion *and not staying for lunch, please call to let us know you are coming so we can reserve seating for you.*

Reservations and payment by May 26 to:

Angela McKelvey

273A Agawam Drive

Stratford, CT 06614

203-227-3222

lamckelvey@optonline.net

Speaker: Adrienne Saint-Pierre, Curator of the Barnum Museum will speak on

“Treasures of the Barnum Museum – Inside and Out.”

This Illustrated overview will highlight Bridgeport’s magnificent landmark building, the Barnum Institute of Science and History, a legacy of the famous showman to his beloved City, and will showcase outstanding artifacts in the collection. The presentation will also touch upon the restoration underway and plans for the museum to become a major attraction on the I-95 corridor.

On June 24, 2010, an EF-1 tornado struck the Barnum Museum. Colossal winds slammed into the historic structure compromising structural integrity of the building, contaminating the environmental and mechanical systems, shattering windows, and exposing collections to a vicious burst of glass, moisture, and debris. Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy followed, causing additional damage in 2011 and 2012. The Museum has since been engaged in a full-scale conservation effort to recover and preserve thousands of artifacts, and to stabilize and restore the building to its original, majestic state.



At the Meeting—Karol Fleegal and the Community Outreach Committee will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

Suggested food items include:

- Boxed or bagged pasta, cereal, rice, beans, macaroni and cheese
- Canned meats and fish—tuna, ham, chicken
- Powdered milk and creamer
- Canned vegetables, fruit, soups, spaghetti sauce
- Ground coffee
- Sugar
- Plastic containers of peanut butter or jelly

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, 2022*, your dues are in arrears.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ 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

GBRTF to Elect New Officers and Board Members

The Greater Bridgeport Retired Teachers Fund, Inc., will elect new officers and board members in June, 2022. The Fund helps retired teachers in the eight towns served by the GBRTA with insurance premiums, lifeline services, and short-term home health care. The governing board manages the affairs and portfolio of the Fund. The slate of officers for 2022-2024 will be voted on at the GBRTA annual meeting in June. If you are interested in serving on the board or for further information contact Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone, Nominating Committee Chair at 203-463-8403.

GBRTF Slate of Officers for 2022 – 2024

Officers

- President—Deborah Broccoli
- 1st VP—Marie Petitti
- 2nd VP—Andrew Figlar
- Recording Secretary—Marilyn Feranec
- Corresponding Secretary—Sandra Petrucelli-Carbone
- Treasurer—Jo-Ann Olsen

Board Members:

- Lynn Corra
- Walter Drozeck
- Gloria Francesconi
- Filomena Goncalves
- Sheena Graham
- Mary McIntyre
- Jacqueline Norcel
- Charles Sala
- Michael Ward

Legislative Update

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increased from \$110 to \$220 monthly. For teachers who will never be eligible for Medicare, the current State contribution is \$220 and was raised to \$440. Retired teachers lobbied strongly and successfully for the increases. The budget also provided for full funding of the State’s contribution to the Pension Fund and the Health Insurance Fund.

Unfortunately, bills focusing on the addition of a retired teacher to the TRB and reducing the disparity between the cost of the Medicare Advantage Plan and the Senior Supplement Plan did not pass the Legislature. These will continue to be objectives for GBRTA and its parent organization, the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut (ARTC).

GBRTA
29 Valley View Road
Trumbull, CT 06611
Email
GBRTA.org@gmail.com
Website
www.GBRTA.org

Check your name on the address block. If it's followed by anything other than *Life Member* or the date is earlier than **September 1, 2022** you're behind in your dues. Please catch up by mailing your check to Ann Block
60 Ridgeview Ave.
Trumbull, CT 06611

Remembering

Those we hold most dear never truly leave us.

***They live on in the kindness they showed, the comfort they shared,
and the love they brought into our lives.***

Sarah Honrath	10/19/12	Marianne Bell	01/18/22
Shirley Beresin	09/22/17	Dorothy Von Hacht	01/04/22
Jacqueline Shea	12/14/18	Antoinette Carpenter	02/16/22
Margaret Philbin	04/15/20	Susan (Sue) Berescik	03/07/22
Pauline Fox	04/16/20	Dorothy Haggety	03/12/22
Veronica "Ronnie" Hendrick	11/29/20	Lola Stephanic	03/27/22
Norma F. Roman	02/22/20	Linda Miller	03/23/22
Alfred Broncato	03/03/21	Dorothy Blaustein	03/27/22
Edward "Ted" Lovely	11/23/21	Helen Scinto	04/04/22
Barbara Lynch	12/01/21	Frances Apfel	04/12/22
Mary Elizabeth "Marybeth" Connell	12/03/21	Angeline Schillaci	04/14/22
Mary Louise Kane	01/17/22	Mary F. Brown	05/01/22

While we make every effort to promptly acknowledge the passing of GBRTA members, we have identified several members whose passing had not been reported in any of our newsletters.