

Long Beach School District Retirees' Association

P.O. Box 147, Long Beach, New York 11561-0147



JUNE 2012

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: FRANK VOLPE

ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, I WANT TO WISH ALL OF OUR MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND OUR MOST RECENT RETIRES A WONDERFUL AND RELAXING SUMMER.

Please visit our website at: <http://www.lbeach.org>. Go to the top of the screen. Look for the word "RESOURCES" and click on it. On the drop down menu, click on the words "STAFF RESOURCES". When you get to Staff Resources, look at the list on the left hand side of the page and click on "RETIRES". That will bring you to the retiree page. There are links to our Retirement systems and recent Association newsletters.

If you have any suggestions for inclusions on the website, please forward them to me at ZVolpe@optonline.net.

LONG BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT RETIREE ASSOCIATION BOARD

PRESIDENT: Frank Volpe

VICE PRESIDENTS: Jeff Elias and Sandy Volpe

SECRETARIES:

Recording: Joan Fisher and Sue Wien

Corresponding: Marcia Pikser

Libutti

TREASURER: Rica Haberman

Information Tech: Gloria Abramowitz

Hospitality: Jennifer Rett Wertovitch

Telephone Squad/Meetings: Lydia Parris

Newsletter: Thyra Zambuto, Editor: Myra Garber

Program: Barbara Solomon

Publicity: Doris Abeles

Scholarship Chair: Sandy Volpe

Group A: Bernice Altarac, Joel Crystal, Phyllis

Group B: Patricia Costello, Joane Tom

Group C: Bea Doof, Grace Waldman

Immediate Past President: Jeff Elias

Past Presidents: Joseph Caruso, Fran Gerstner,
Florence Seydel

These Board members give their talents, skills and time to serve our organization. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RETIREES

Denise Brand Margaret Butler Geraldine Christianson Carolyn Cody Julieta Cruz Susan Feld
Roxann Ferdschneider Laura Fuller Leslie Gilbert Daniel Gowens Anne Gubenko Kevin Hannon
Marjorie Jacobs Terrance Kane Jill Katz Arline Kwastel Rose Leggio Laura Lilley-Yavorcik
Paula Lipnick Eileen McDonald Reginald Mines Colleen Mininsky Stewart Mininsky Louise
Morici
Ellen Murphy Jane Nickelsberg Lauren Osnato Judith Rubin Francine Saginario Yvonne Smith
Robert Tonzillo Mary Ellen Toscano Teri Young

WITH DEEP SYMPATHY

It is with deep sympathy that we note the passing of the following retirees and we extend our condolences to their families: Rhoda Friedman Maria Gellis Sarah Ann (Sally) Haley Adele Higgins Kevin Lawlor
Mario Niccoli Claudio Paglianich Miriam Robbins Muriel Rosen Charlotte Hausman Rosin

- Our annual "Retiree's Brunch" will be held on August 1st, from 10 - 12 at the Fisherman's Catch in Point Lookout, NY. The cost will be \$25. Please respond to the flyer on the last page ASAP.
- Our next annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10/16/12, at 2P.M. in the Long Beach Public Library.
- If you are on Medicare, you will receive a statement of benefits sometime in November. It will contain important information relative to your Part B coverage expenses. Please retain this statement so you can submit a copy to the school district to facilitate reimbursement of your Part B payments.
- Medical Insurance Rates The 2012 Empire monthly rates are as follows: Individual \$712.75, Family \$1,562.80, Individual on Medicare \$419.24, Family with 1 Medicare \$1,269.28, Family with two Medicare \$975.77.
- Contact Laurie Sarro in the school district's benefit office at 516-897-2095 for answers to your health insurance questions. Ms. Sarro also can be reached by e-mail - lsarro@lbeach.org.

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- Laurie Sarro, Sr. Personnel Clerk-Benefits, reports that Surviving Spouses remain on health benefits for 3 months. The dental ends at the end of the month. There is no grace period for dental. During this time, she will send an election form for benefits to the spouse with the cost of each plan. It should be completed and returned to her. If coverage is elected, the district would bill the individual.
- Health Insurance Dependent Coverage. In accordance with the new federal law, dependent coverage will be extended to policy holders children up to age 26 regardless of financial dependency, student status, marital status, employment or residency. After age 26, the young adult option allows your unmarried children, up to age 30, to purchase their own Empire/Hip coverage.
- Hospitalization Jay Broad, NYSUT Retiree Council 18 VP, reports that some hospitals have accepted patients for admission as "being under observation" rather than being admitted as patients. The consequence of this practice is to deny Medicare coverage to a person who is sent for rehabilitation after the hospital stay. Medicare rules require THREE DAYS as a PATIENT in a hospital in order to qualify for Rehab coverage. If you are hospitalized, you or your advocate must ask if you are being admitted as a patient at the time you enter the hospital. **DON'T FORGET TO ASK THAT QUESTION!**
- Hearing Aids The Empire Plan will cover hearing aid evaluation, fitting and purchase of hearing aids up to a maximum reimbursement of \$1500 per hearing aid, per ear, once every four years. This benefit is not subject to deductible or co-insurance.
- Medical Insurance/Travel outside the U.S. Medicare does not cover you. If you are on Medicare, Empire will become your primary insurance. For questions on Empire coverage, call 877-769-7447. For questions on Medicare benefits, call 800-633-4227. Visit www.ipro.org for important updates on senior health care issues. The Long Beach City School District dental plan, does provide benefits for dental services provided by dentists outside of the U.S. It is required that the dentist provide an appropriate license and ID numbers required by the locality in which they practice, for inclusion on

your claim form.

- LBCTA Retirees Please forward your LBCTA dues of \$9 to Jim Fiola, Treasurer, 149 Southampton Dr., Massapequa, NY 11758. These dues are separate from our Retiree Association dues. If you would like to join the LBCTA PAC mail distribution list and receive electronic copies of their minutes and notices please e-mail lbctapoliticalaction@hotmail.com. Include your name and the word "retiree" in the subject line. LBCTA also maintains an active website at [www.nysut.org/long beach](http://www.nysut.org/long%20beach).
- Retiree Association Dues should be sent to: Rica Haberman, Treasurer, 251 Lincoln Ave., Island Park, NY 11558. Please keep current with your dues. Failure to do so will result in your being removed from membership in the Association. Please report any address or telephone changes to Rica as well, rica11558@yahoo.com or call 516-431-3910.
- It is imperative that you send your e-mail address to ZVolpe@optonline.net. If you do not have an e-mail address, please send us the e-mail address of a trusted family member or friend so that you can be kept up to date during the year.
- Scholarships The 2012 Scholarship winners were Samantha Shreck, from Long Beach High School, granddaughter of Rita Smith and James Elustondo from Regis High School, grandson of Ann Mangiapane. Congratulations to the winners and their families.
- Social Security Article Newsday column "Ask the Expert" by Lynn Brenner speaks to postponing receiving your benefits past retirement age. You would receive an 8% increase in your social security payments for each of up to four years of such postponement. Website with more information: bit.ly/9t3nWF.
- I would like to take a moment to reflect on the efforts of Eli Stark. Eli was a mentor to countless young teachers, myself included. As an administrator he was always supportive of his staff. He was always there to listen and to offer constructive advice. Eli knew that the good health of our schools was a direct result of the efforts of our employees. He continued to serve our district admirably as a Board of Education member. He was a major positive influence in improving our schools and the working conditions of our staff. As retirees many of the benefits we enjoy today were either gained or enhanced by Eli's efforts on the school board. We say thank you to Eli for all he has done. He was truly our friend. Our friend will be sorely missed. We wish him peace.

Please remember, the success of the Long Beach schools, past, present and moving forward is also very important to us as retirees. We have invested in the Long Beach schools and the district has invested in us. When you are asked to **SUPPORT EDUCATION** and public employment, locally, statewide and nationally, answer by exerting a **POSITIVE** influence. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. My phone number is 516-431-6406, e-mail, ZVolpe@optonline.net