

**President's Message:**

**EVERY DAY IS LOBBY DAY.  
WE CAN NEVER STOP FIGHTING FOR COLLECTIVE  
BARGAINING RIGHTS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

April 4<sup>th</sup> was MTA's Lobby Day on Beacon Hill. Hundreds of fellow MTA members converged on the State House and from their homes to make their voices heard. The legislature is deciding on changes to our municipal health insurance. We cannot now or ever let our voices go unheard.

Just as every day is "Mother's Day", every day MUST BE LOBBY DAY when it comes to protecting our collective bargaining rights.

What's going on in Wisconsin, Ohio and other states with Republican governors and legislatures cannot be minimized. Do not become complacent and sit back simply because Massachusetts has a Democratic governor and legislature. The battles across this country facing all union workers, both public and private, are REAL. The ongoing struggle to protect the decency and fairness of collective bargaining rights belongs TO ALL OF US.

Solidarity Forever (author unknown)

When the union's inspiration  
Through the workers' blood shall run,  
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun,  
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one?  
For the union makes us strong.  
Solidarity forever, solidarity forever, solidarity forever;  
For the union makes us strong.  
Is there ought we hold in common  
With the greedy parasite?  
Who would lash us into serfdom  
And who would crush us with his might,  
Is there anything left to us  
But to organize and fight?  
For the union makes us strong.  
Solidarity forever, solidarity forever, solidarity forever;  
For the union makes us strong.

April 4<sup>th</sup> CANNOT be the only day for us to have communicated our beliefs and what we know is right.

Visit: <http://capwiz.com/nea/ma/state/main/?=MA>  
Click "Take Action," enter your ZIP code and send an email to your legislators.

Contact your legislators now. Contact your legislators often.

Yours truly,



Larry Kramer  
BEA President

(P.S. Call your MOM)

**Barbara Swain, 2011 NCTA Lay Person of the Year  
Nominee from Braintree  
Written by Lorraine Liston, Grade Two, Flaherty**

Barbara Swain, long time volunteer at the Flaherty School, has been nominated by the BEA Board of Directors to represent Braintree at the annual Norfolk County Teachers Association Honors Dinner on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Barbara is a remarkable lady. Originally, she worked with the school psychologist and resource teacher at Flaherty. As the needs of students increased, the staff at Flaherty knew whom to call . . . yes, Mrs. Swain. We at Flaherty all have to share her and none of us want to part with her. She brings to the table many attributes to help our students and she is willing to do it all.

Arriving faithfully every Tuesday morning, Barbara is ready to take on the challenges of the day. She has a smile on her face, whether copying papers for a teacher, helping a struggling child catch up on work, or listening to a child read to master fluency.

Flaherty staff love Barbara Swain, as do the students who look forward to her coming every week. Many of her seventeen grandchildren went to Flaherty School. She is a caring and nurturing individual who truly loves her job working with elementary students.

Barbara's volunteer activities do not end with Flaherty School. She is an integral part of the Pink Ladies; a group of dedicated women committed to finding a cure for breast cancer. Barbara and her daughter Laurie are both breast cancer survivors. This will be their fifth year participating in the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" held annually at Braintree high School. Their team, consisting of Barbara's five daughters and several friends, has raised over \$110,000 for cancer research through a variety of fundraisers. Some of these events are mother and daughter tea parties, Jenny Boston Night Out, Movies Under the Stars, and Flocking.

In addition to her fund raising activities, Barbara also runs birthday parties for children who live in shelters in Brockton, bringing joy and happiness to these wonderful children.

There are many wonderful and talented volunteers in the Braintree School System. Barbara Swain stands out.

The BEA Board of Directors is proud to nominate Barbara Swain as Braintree's nominee of NCTA Lay Person of the Year.

**Larry Kramer, 2011 NCTA Teacher  
of the Year Nominee from Braintree  
Written by Virginia Tobin, Grade One, Hollis**

BEA President Larry Kramer has been nominated by the BEA Board of Directors to represent Braintree at the annual Norfolk County Teachers Association Honors Dinner on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

For seventeen years as president of the BEA, Larry has faithfully served the teachers and support staff of Braintree. He represents BEA members with dignity, integrity, and compassion. Larry has always been available to all union members at any time of day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. His tenacity in advocating for educators is evident at local union meetings, MTA meetings, with the Braintree School Committee, with administrators, and most importantly, in one-on-one dialogues with individual members. Many members can still recall Larry's refrain from the opening day speeches: "What we do as teachers is the most important job in the world."

Larry's name is synonymous with the union, which is the BEA. He is always willing to meet with Dr. Kurzberg and other administrators to discuss local issues and problems that concern teachers and support staff of the Braintree Public Schools. Much of his work is done behind the scenes in a quiet, professional manner. BEA members are treated with respect and their confidentiality is always guarded. When Larry Kramer's public voice is needed, he assumes the responsibility with knowledge, enthusiasm, and confidence. His strength at rallying the troops during negotiations is note-worthy. His involvements in lobbying BEA members at the grass roots level are constant.

Larry works with union members and administrators alike. His goal is to resolve conflicts as early as possible. He strives to seek an outcome that is both positive and advantageous for the educators he represents. At the same time, he is respectful and understanding of the position of administration.

In June, Larry will retire after thirty-five successful years as a middle school teacher. His first five years were spent teaching science and the past thirty teaching grade seven social studies, specifically World Geography. The constant theme in his classroom is "appreciation and respect for the earth and its peoples." For twenty-five years Larry has organized the National Geographic Bee at East and for twenty-seven years he has coordinated the East Whale Watch. Over the years various guest speakers have enriched the lives of Braintree students through Larry's contacts.

Balancing full time teaching and the BEA presidency is not an easy task. Larry has done this very well for seventeen of his thirty-five teaching years. He will be missed by the students and faculty at East, by the hundreds of BEA members that he has so tirelessly represented, and by the BEA Board of Directors.

**MTA AND NEA ANNUAL MEETING DELEGATES:**

The following individuals will attend the **Massachusetts Teachers Association Annual Meeting** as local delegates representing the Braintree Education Association:

Larry Kramer (**East**) Christine Giacamozi (**Hollis**)  
Karen Lauria (**Hollis**) Rhonda Hill (**Hollis**)

The following individuals will attend the **National Education Association Representative Assembly** as local delegates representing the **Braintree Education Association:**

Karen Lauria (**Hollis**) Rhonda Hill (**Hollis**)

Feel free to contact any of these people to ask questions and or to give them your opinions and/or suggestions.

**CONTRACT ALERT!!**

**Every BEA member and every agency fee person should have received a contract by now. Please let us know if you haven't and we'll send one over to you as soon as possible.**

**Larry Kramer, East  
Holly Belmosto, BHS.**

**Jennifer FriedenberG Needs Your help!**

Jen FriedenberG, a second grade teacher at Hollis Elementary School, is running the Boston Marathon for **Metro Lacrosse**. This is a non-profit organization that promotes youth development and access to educational opportunities through the sport of lacrosse. **Metro Lacrosse** serves over 700 youth and teens in Boston's urban communities. The money raised by the marathon team will be used to improve homework help, tutoring, and standardized test preparation. Please help Jen meet her goal of raising \$5,000 by donating at <http://www.metrolacrosse.org/jennifer.html>  
Thanks for your support!

**BRAINTREE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION MESSAGE**

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