

President's Message:

## WE MUST NEVER STOP FIGHTING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

As the 2010-2011 school year (my last in Braintree) winds down, two questions are often asked of me. Are you counting the days? "You must have mixed feelings about your upcoming retirement?"

I can honestly say I'm not counting the days. That could, however change in about a month.

I've walked up the stairs of East Middle School as a teacher for 35 years and I've been involved with the BEA as its President for 17 years. Yes, I have mixed feelings.

What will I do for work in the future? I might teach in some capacity or go in a totally different direction. I do need to work.

There is one given: I WILL NEVER STOP ADVOCATING FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE RIGHTS OF ITS EMPLOYEES.

There's too much at stake. To quote Ann Clarke, MTA Executive Director..."In Wisconsin, Ohio, New Jersey, Alabama, and other states (i.e. Massachusetts) unions and workers' rights have been targeted for elimination. If those arrayed against us have their way, both the MTA and its national affiliate, the NEA will be rendered powerless and then destroyed."

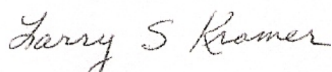
Some of you have been involved with the BEA and some of you have not. I urge every one of you to consider getting involved in your union in some way, shape, or form. The strength of the BEA, the NCTA, the MTA, and the NEA has always been and will forever remain the collective actions of its members, both those actively employed and those retired.

This country, like many had a history of workers being exploited. Unions, public and private, were formed to combat this exploitation. Fairness, plain and simple, were the unions goals and they still are.

The Braintree Public Schools do a fantastic job and that is because of the teachers and support personnel that work here. It was the case in 1976 when I was a 1<sup>st</sup> year science teacher and is no different in my 35<sup>th</sup> year teaching social studies.

The workers in the Braintree Public Schools deserve to be treated fairly.

Yours truly,



Larry Kramer

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P.S. How About Williams Leadership Conference?

Please consider attending MTA'S Summer Conference. If you are a BEA member you are eligible and warmly encouraged to attend this outstanding conference. You'll meet so many wonderful educators across Massachusetts.

If you're thinking, "I've never been involved with the BEA or MTA, I don't know if I can attend." The answer is absolutely positively 100%, YES YOU CAN.

Members seeking to enhance their knowledge of content areas or classroom techniques will be delighted with the abundance

of programs on these subjects. New or seasoned local leaders will find essential workshops to prepare them for their roles. If you're considering getting more involved in the BEA this is also an opportunity to explore that possibility more fully.

Read the brochure that was sent to you in the mail. Call any BEA member that has participated. There are many; Bill Kendall, Lisa Pacino, Karen Lauria, Rhonda Hill, Larry Kramer, Christine Giacamozi just to name a few.

The BEA will pick up all expenses involved with attending the Summer Conference at Williams College.

Any BEA member who wants to attend and have the BEA pay ahead of time should send their registration form to Larry Kramer at East by Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. If you choose to attend the Summer Leadership Conference after that date, you should register on-line, pay the fees, and the BEA will reimburse you. Don't hesitate to contact me at home or at work if you have any questions regarding Williams.

**Apartment for rent: Quincy, nice area one mile from Braintree town line. Large 1 bedroom, clean quiet building, off street parking, laundry and storage in basement. No pets, no smoking. Call Tina Ranieri-DiPace 617-719-6802**



## Tuition Reimbursement

The BEA and the Braintree Public Schools administration have agreed to a change in the procedure that BEA members are reimbursed. The reason for this is because this year for the first time tuition reimbursement funds did not meet the requests that were submitted. A more detailed explanation will be forthcoming from the administration to the agreed change.

### BEA Annual Meeting:

The BEA Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, at 3:45PM at the Braintree High School Auditorium.

Along with other business of the Association the election of officers and 3 members of the Professional Rights and Responsibility Committee (aka the Grievance Committee) will also be elected.

The following names have been submitted so far to run for BEA office:

Christine Giacamozi (President)  
Holly Belmosto (Vice President),  
Lisa Pacino (Vice President of Membership)  
Anne Antonelli (Vice President of Membership)  
Rhonda Hill (Treasurer)

If you are interested in running as a BEA officer please submit your name to Pat Conard, BEA secretary, at the BEA office, which is located at Braintree High School. All BEA officers serve for a two-year term.

If you are interested in serving on the grievance committee representing Unit A (teachers, guidance counselors, and school psychologists) send your name to Pat Conard as well. There will be an opening for one member from elementary schools, one from the middle schools, and one from the high school.

### BRAINTREE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION MESSAGE

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Treasurer: Rhonda Terrill

VP Membership: Lisa Pacino

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