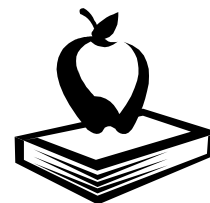


# B.R.E.A.D



Bridgewater-Raynham Educational Association Digest

May 2008

[Http://bridgewater-raynham.massteacher.org](http://bridgewater-raynham.massteacher.org)

Volume XIV No. 4

## Congratulations Class of 2008

Congratulations to this year's class of retirees.

Sandra Bohlin  
Bette Bridges  
Lorraine Castro  
David Creighton  
Rosanne Crowley  
Michele Dahlin  
Janis Guiney  
Maureen Kelley  
Suzanne Leahy

Karen Manning  
Carol Price  
James Osenkowski  
Denise Pimentel  
Christopher Slater  
Patricia Slowikowski  
Dianna Tavares  
Gloria Stanton  
Anne Swarce  
Linda Stanton

### 2 ½ Override

The town of Bridgewater will hold a town election on Saturday, June 14 at the regional high school. This override is needed to help with the funding of the upcoming school year budget including some staff funding. Go out and vote and get out the vote!

### Know Your Contract

All BREA employees are required to participate in direct deposit once the new school year, 2008-2009, begins. To be sure your paycheck is not delayed come next school year, please enroll in direct deposit before this school year ends. Check for enrollment forms with your main office first. If they have none, contact Julie Prescott at the superintendent's office.

## Help your ESP

### (Education Support Professional)

The MTA ESP committee looks for donations for its raffle and silent auction being held at the MTA Summer Conference in August at Williams College. Proceeds from this raffle and silent auction goes directly to fund their professional development activities.

Some suggestions for raffle item donations include handcrafted items (knitting, ceramics, quilts), gift certificates for restaurants. Some suggestions for silent auction items include themed baskets, lodging certificates, entertainment certificates (sports, theater, concert). Donations needed by no later than July 18. If you have any questions or having donations to give, please contact Beverly Saccocia at Williams Middle or [pocket2609@aol.com](mailto:pocket2609@aol.com).



Congratulations to Sandy Leahy of the Merrill School. Recently, Sandy received the Albert F. Porter Citizen of the Year Award from the town of Raynham. She is also one of this years retirees. Congratulations, Sandy!

## Contacts

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## **BREA Annual Meeting**

Info from the BREA meeting on May 19:

- New executive board officers (Anita Newman, president; Natalie Winsor, 1st VP; Sarah Castro, 2nd VP; Bob Kostka, 3rd VP).
- Because of building and staff reconfigurations expected to happen over this summer, it was decided that there will be a special election come the beginning of the new school year for building reps.
- If any member took courses from KITES, Research for Better Teachers, or Implementing Inclusion which happened through the district, these courses do count for credit for lateral movement including the new M +75 column.

## **Honors**

The PCEA (Plymouth County Education Association) recently had their annual awards banquet. The following is a list of award recipients from the Bridgewater-Raynham schools. The following were mistakenly left off last month's list. We regret the error.

Honorary Life Membership (30 years)  
Patricia Slowikowski

The BCEA (Bristol County Education Association) held an awards banquet at the Venus deMilo on May 15. The following is a list of award recipients from the Bridgewater-Raynham schools.

### Teacher of the Year

Ellen Brennan-Ring                      Robin Murray

### Mentor of the Year

Ellen Chiocca-Carey                      Debbie Olean

### Rookie of the Year

Nicole Boulay

# B.R.E.A.D

## **Lisa White Receives Plymouth County Education Association Citation**

Excerpts from her nomination letter:

Lisa has been a Special Education teacher at Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School for twenty-one years, a building representative for the Bridgewater-Raynham Education Association for twelve years, and has meshed these roles with involvement in the community. In addition to her exceptional commitment to education and her students, Lisa is committed to the school community as well. All three areas, profession, association and community intertwine as one as Lisa demonstrates the utmost commitment to teaching; she is an outstanding educator.

Next to her professional obligations and the education and general well-being of her students, Lisa's love is theater. For twenty years, Lisa has been the driving force behind the Musical Theatre Productions at the high school. Lisa has been involved in some capacity in every production. It is her love of these productions and her desire to share that passion with students, staff, and community that has powered these productions. The students look forward to the announcement of the show and the dates and times of auditions each year. Every student is invited to try out and to be involved with the production in some way, whether it is acting, singing, dancing, or working backstage. What a wonderful opportunity for the students of our district!

It has been Lisa's determination and drive that has assured the success and popularity of these shows. It is Lisa who is in the middle of it all, choosing the musical, securing the

rights, holding tryouts, attending to the details of production and advertising, guiding students through rehearsals including acting, singing, and dancing, at times directing seventy cast members into colossal ensemble numbers, ordering costumes, scenery, managing back stage, raising funds, selling tickets, and coordinating the technical aspects of the production. Lisa very graciously accredits all the success of the musicals to the tireless efforts of a very talented and dedicated student body.

Lisa has introduced musical theatre to our students, staff and community. She has brought us quality productions which have led to an appreciation of musical theater and an appreciation of the performing arts in general. Many would not have had the opportunity to experience this type of entertainment or become familiar with some of the most popular productions of our time. Lisa's dedication in this endeavor is remarkable. She has gone above and beyond in every way. For Lisa, bringing musical theater to Bridgewater-Raynham has truly been an act of love!

**Congratulations Lisa on your award!**

## Here are excerpts from a letter read at the retirement party for Chris Slater from former MTA rep Alice Paes.

When I heard you were retiring, I began to reflect on when I first met you in 1979 and all the time we spent together representing teachers and support staff, first in Bridgewater, and then at Bridgewater-Raynham.

Don't worry, I won't try to recount all the negotiations, grievances and political activities that we engaged in. That would take hours, maybe days. But there are a couple of highlights that stand out in our almost 30 year relationship that I think bear recalling.

Our first contact was in the summer of 1979 when then president George Mitchell called the MTA office and wanted a lawyer to go to a grievance hearing with the Bridgewater School Committee concerning a sick leave issue with a teacher. The hearing was the next night. George was told that the MTA did not assign attorney's to such hearings but that I would be assigned to Bridgewater to represent the grievant at the hearing. [This] began what would be a long relationship that, as the years went by, crossed over into a close friendship as well.

In the beginning it was you, George, Gloria Stanton, George Gausconi, Jim Lucia and me. We negotiated hard, went to bat for those who were wronged, got involved in the political scene and had a good time in the process. It was hard not to have fun given George Mitchell's sense of humor, and the mischief that you all seemed to enjoy getting into.

[T]here was the time that you and George got it into your heads that we should hire an airplane with a banner to fly over a field in Bridgewater when, then Governor Cellucci, was giving a speech to parents and other residents on education. The banner read something to the effect that Cellucci was unfair to education. So off I went to try to get the Executive-Director of the MTA to agree that the MTA would pay for an airplane. Fortunately, he liked the idea, thought it was clever and agreed to pay for it. The Governor was so rattled when he saw the plane flying overhead with the banner that he couldn't finish his speech.

Over the years we worked hard and we laughed hard too. We knew how to handle whatever came up, or so we thought. But we were not prepared for the day that our good friend George Mitchell passed away. No one could fix that and it sent all of us in the Association and all of Bridgewater, for that matter, into a tailspin.

You were the Vice President at the time and therefore assumed the presidency. You did what needed to be done at the time to keep things together, and you have carried on, as president, since that time, in the manner that I believe George would applaud.

You have been fortunate to have loyal support from your colleagues who have joined in to be on Executive Committees and Negotiating Teams and Grievance Committees. They have worked hard to keep the BREA strong. But at the end of each day, the buck stops with the President and you have been there everyday working tirelessly, often well into the night, to defend the contractual rights that were achieved over the years, and to improve upon them to insure the economic advancement and professional well being of all those you represented.

You understand, more than anyone I ever worked with, the power of the membership of the Association in the political process both at the local and state level. You connected the dots and you have educated the members about why it is important to get involved politically and how it impacts them directly. The BREA is a political force in Bridgewater and Raynham because of your leadership.

A leader is a person who is willing to take charge, to be out front, to speak up and fight for what's right, to be willing to be criticized by the opposition and to pursue a course of action that may take time, that may have set backs, but is worth seeing through to the end.

You are such a leader and all the teachers and support staff owe you a debt of gratitude for all your efforts over the past 30 years. I owe you a debt of gratitude also because your leadership made my job in representing the Association much easier. When I spoke on your behalf, I spoke with strength because of your strength and the strength that you built in the membership.

Have a wonderful retirement.  
Your forever friend,

Alice

We, the BREA, thank Chris for his countless hours, days, weeks, and years of dedicated service to the education associations of Bridgewater and then Bridgewater-Raynham. Thank you, Chris, for all that you have done. We hope your retirement may be relaxing and stress free!