

THE LTA EXAMINER

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
LYNBROOK TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

From The President's Desk

By Craig Kirchenberg

Tough times give us perspective.

Perspective.

us; it is how we identify ourselves as individuals.

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, so many people suffered so much, yet so many considered themselves lucky.

It's what grounds us and enables us, as educators, to do what we do. So many teachers said to me during that two week period following the storm that they couldn't wait to get back to work. Teachers who lost their homes and belongings couldn't wait to get back to educating their kids.

Perspective.

I felt lucky that all that I had to deal with was thirteen days without electricity and a few downed trees in my backyard that somehow didn't hit anything on the way down.

Perspective.

The hardships of this year have helped many people refocus their perspective on what's important. I'm so proud of the way everyone stepped up to help our Lynbrook Family. We always get through the times, and we get through them together.

I felt lucky when I only had to wait for an hour and a half on a gas line while others waited for four hours.

I felt lucky that I had a warm place to stay, even though I was sleeping on a floor for nearly two weeks.

After I sent out an email to begin a collection of items for our staff and community members who were in need, the high school conference room was filled in one day. My hope was that those who were in need would just walk in and take what they needed. I saw many of these individuals go into the conference room, but it wasn't to take, it was to give.

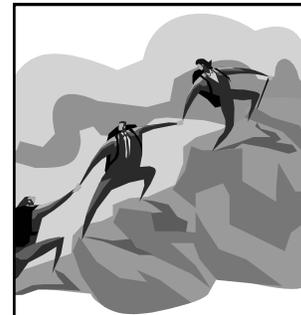
Craig Kirchenberg

The more I heard other people's stories, the luckier I felt about my own situation. What's interesting about perspective is that I heard so many people say to me that they felt lucky too.

People who lost a car said that they felt lucky that they didn't lose two cars. People who lost two cars said that they felt lucky that they had minimal damage to their house. People who lost part of their house said that they felt lucky that they didn't lose the whole house. People who lost their whole house said that they felt lucky that they didn't lose their life.

Perspective.

Teachers are givers, not takers. *That's the nature of who we are.* We dedicate our lives to others. We lead by example. Teaching is not a job to



Recovering from Hurricane Sandy is nothing that anyone should have to do alone. We're here for each other!

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- All monthly LTA Executive Board meetings are open to all members.
- Your building representatives are a great resource. Don't hesitate to ask them any questions you may have.

Hurricane Recovery: How To Get Help



Help is there when you need it!

“The devastation and loss resulting from Hurricane Sandy reminds us of one of the tenets of organized labor: we must look out for one another.”

The devastation and loss resulting from Hurricane Sandy reminds us of one of the tenets of organized labor: we must look out for one another. Here are some resources and points of contact for those needing assistance:

NYSUT Disaster Relief Grants

- Download an application for assistance at www.nysut.org/

disasterrelief.nysut.org/. Please refer all questions to Jeff Lockwood at 1-800-342-9810, extension 6252 or at disasterrelief@nysutmail.org.

Completed applications can be mailed to NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund, Attn: Jeff Lockwood, Accounting Department, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110.

Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund

- The trustees of the Long Island Benevolent Fund have developed a special emergency financial grant application that will enable us to process the expected volume of applications in a timely and efficient fashion. Applications can be acquired on the LTA website, and should be returned to the LITBF office by January 25, 2013.

FEMA - To contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency, call 1-800-621-3362. If you are able to access the internet, go to www.disasterassistance.gov. You will need to have your social security number, current and pre-disaster address, and a telephone number where you can be reached; insurance information, including policy numbers; total household annual income; a description of losses caused by the disaster; and the dates of the disaster.

NYSUT Social Services

- Expert guidance for experienced caring professionals will help members and their dependents cope with some of the storm's unexpected complications. Social Services staff can be reached at 1-800-342-9810, extension 6206 or at socsvcs@nysutmail.org.

NYS Department of Financial Services

- The disaster hotline number is 1-800-339-1759. It is staffed Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm and weekends from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

United Way 2-1-1 - United Way's 2-1-1 hotline is oper-

ational in most of the affected areas. Further information regarding United Way's 2-1-1 program and disaster guide can be found at www.211ny.org or www.uwnys.org.

NYSUT Legal Plan

- The LTA is a member of the plan, and as a member of the LTA, you are entitled to discounted rates on legal fees. Contact the law firm of Feldman, Kramer, and Monaco at 1-631-231-1450.

American Red Cross

- The American Red Cross can be contacted at 1-800-733-2767 or by visiting www.redcross.org to locate the local Red Cross chapter.

LESCA

- The Labor Education & Community Services Agency can be contacted at 1-631-851-1295. Please check with district to confirm EAP employee services.

Information on these and other resources can all be found at the LTA website, www.lynbrooklta.org. If you need any help at all, please don't hesitate to call.

FWTO: Success In Spite Of Superstorm By Dave Ajello

The 8th Annual Fly With the Owls Run was a special event. Originally planned to be held in memory of Dr. Santo Barbarino, it became more of a tribute to his memory than anyone, including Dr. B, could have imagined.

What made this edition of the Fly With the Owls Race so special was the fact that it succeeded despite the devastation inflicted on numerous participants and

volunteers. It was an occasion where the town and Lynbrook staff really came together and supported each other. Dr. B. never would have been prouder of his staff and community.

The attendance of the race participants was right around the average amount, and the amount of volunteers remained steady. But what made both groups stand out was among them were peo-

ple who felt the full effect of the storm, but participated and/or volunteered anyway.

And what was Dr. Barbarino about, if not the idea of getting involved and helping and supporting the children and families of Lynbrook? It is ironic that in the wake of his passing a terrible storm has invoked his values and put them on display for the whole community to see and share.



Storm Recovery: Resource List For Our Friends & Family

These past few weeks have been extraordinary in the lives of so many of our colleagues, friends, and families. Luckily, many have started to rebuild and move forward in a productive way. This takes time and access to services to make this all happen. Many people have expressed a difficulty in accessing plumbers, electricians, contractors, water removal services, tree removal companies, rental cars, etc. Thankfully, Laurie Mitchell thought it may be helpful to put together a resource list of reliable and referenced service companies. Please find what has already been submitted below, and if you have anything else to add to list, do not hesitate to contact Laurie with your addition.

Name/Company	General Information	Contact	Reference
Walter F. Wright Jr.	Plumber	516-599-1755	Carmel Wright (SM)
Bryan Lanzello	Roofing & Remodelling	516-612-2151	Pete Toscano (NM)
Rob Hagelberg	Handyman (tree removal/yard clean-up/drywall & painting/flooring, etc.)	516-668-0465	Jennifer Hagelberg
Chuck Schueler	Handyman	347-203-8778	Kathleen Schueler (MS)
John McCormick	Handyman (Long Beach/LI licensed)	516-302-6477	Eric Finder (HS)
Bernie McCann Electrical	Handyman (Contact: Paul Kluth)	516-241-5553	Nancy Hargrove
Tesla Contracting	Handyman (Contact: Raymond Wierzbicki)	516-503-1819	Patti Travers-Wierzbicki
Domenick Russo	Contractor	516-729-4330	Val Russo (HS)
Unique Restoration	Contractor (Contact: Mike DiGiorgio)	516-593-6517	Parent
Daren Roch	Contractor	631-708-2990	Jeanette Roch (SM)
Peter Maslin	Car Leasing	515-801-6515	Lucille McCassey (WE)
Bill Leighley	Helping Hands for demolition, moving, etc	bleighley@lynbrook.k12.ny.us	
T&M GreenCare Tree Svc	Tree Removal (Contact: Marlon)	516-223-4525	Kelly Family

2012-2013 LTA Officers and Building Representatives

President - Craig Kirchenberg (HS)
Advocate Vice President - Neil Giordano (SM)
Educational Vice President (Secondary) - Mike Spinella (HS)
Educational Vice President (Elementary) - Donna Smith (WE)
Treasurer - David Rabinowitz (HS)

High School (887-0200)

Amy Ezagui
 Mary Kirby
 Sue Moller
 Robyn Raleigh
 Jen Turner

North Middle (887-0282)

Roseanne Mitchell
 Regan Murphy

Marion Street (887-0295)

Victoria Schiller
 Anthony Simone
 Patricia Wierzbicki

West End (887-0288)

Dave Ajello
 Rita Callahan

Waverly Park (887-6589)

Amy Garfinkel
 Jackie Marino

Kindergarten Center (887-8065)

Kathy Freehill
 Joan Kocher

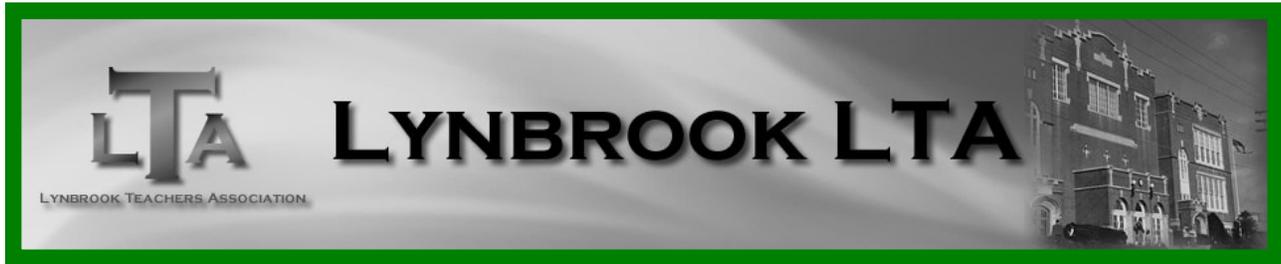
South Middle (887-0266)

Kristin Affrunti
 Anne-Marie Calitri
 Jen Fusco

If you or anyone you know has any difficulty in resolving issues arising from extenuating circumstances due to the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, or any other work-related problems, please don't hesitate to contact your building representative and ask them for help by calling the appropriate number, or by e-mailing them at their "@lynbrooklta.org" e-mail addresses.

"Working together there is nothing we can't do."

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LYNBROOK TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



The Lynbrook Teachers Association has a new and improved extensive website open to all its members:

<http://www.lynbrooklta.org>

This website is a comprehensive resource for all members on almost any topic related to the LTA. By visiting the site, members can view past and recent Presidential Reports, and blogs, view past and recent issues of the LTA Examiner, explore a plethora of "FAQs" (Frequently Asked Questions), investigate discount programs related to union membership, take advantage of the Long Island Teacher Benevolent Fund, explore a variety of teacher tool links, and contact any LTA representative or any LTA executive officer in the most discreet way possible.

BOOKMARK IT NOW - VISIT IT OFTEN

What's New On The LTA Facebook Page?



The above pictures are featured on the LTA's Facebook page, and are just some of the donations made by members of the LTA for both members and non-members who are in need of support and relief due to Hurricane Sandy.

Stay connected to all your LTA colleagues and the latest and greatest in LTA happenings in Lynbrook and beyond by "liking" the Lynbrook LTA Facebook page and visiting it often! Don't be left uninformed!

YouTube - The LTA Has it's Own Channel!

In addition to visiting the LTA on the web at www.lynbrooklta.com and the LTA Facebook page, make the Lynbrook Teachers Association's very own YouTube channel a regular stop in your internet travels. The channel promises to bring you the most interesting and informative videos regarding the state and progress of education and politics in the state and nation today.

We're On The Web!
www.lynbrooklta.org