



6th Annual TABCO-RETIRED Fall Forum



"Your Healthcare Benefits Explained: Changes & Updates"

Wednesday, November 18, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

A presentation online via Zoom with TABCO leaders and Labor First representatives

To attend, register via Eventbrite by November 13.

Your name and email address **MUST** be provided, in order for the Zoom link to be sent to you by November 18th.

REGISTER ONLINE AT THIS ADDRESS:

<https://fallforumnovember2020.eventbrite.com>



Lisa Levee, far right in the front row, posed for a photo at TABCO's 100th Anniversary celebration in 2018 with many former TABCO presidents and executive directors with whom she has worked: (back row) Stephen Sirkin, Bob Anzenc, Ed Veit, Ray Suarez, Mark Beytin, Glen Galante; (front row) Robert Dubel, Cheryl Bost, Abby Beytin, Janice Piccinini, Verletta White

"Lisa epitomized what anyone would want in an employee, a colleague, a confidant and a friend. For 43 years, Lisa dedicated her time and expertise to the success of TABCO, including serving as the best "right arm" a president could ever have, and truly cared for and worked to protect, serve and support all members. There is nothing she didn't know or couldn't handle. She also had a special place in her heart for the students she helped through her role with Kid-Care. Lisa may have retired, but she will always be synonymous with TABCO and will always be my right arm and friend." ~Cheryl Bost, former TABCO President & current MSEA President

TABCO-RETIRED MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

Our members stretch from Baltimore County south to Florida, north to Pennsylvania and west as far as Oregon and Hawaii. We welcome those who have most recently joined us. (If you haven't renewed your membership for this year, don't forget!)

"Membership pays:" Congratulations to member James Wharton, whose membership number was randomly chosen to win a \$25 Amazon gift card. We hope you enjoy it, James!

We are working with the TABCO Retirement & Recognition Committee to address the impact of the coronavirus shutdowns on the annual TABCO/ESPBC/BCPS retirement dinner/programs. Sadly, we were unable to gather to congratulate those who retired in 2020 and it is uncertain what the situation will be for 2021. Those who served public education so well and so long certainly deserve to be thanked and celebrated.

As your steering committee, our mission is to keep you informed and to advocate for all retired members. We welcome your suggestions for this newsletter and for future activities. Please contact us with your ideas at bookends68@comcast.net

In this issue of The Messenger, we are including a new feature article about our retired colleagues who are doing interesting, creative and/or meaningful activities after retiring. If you know of someone who might be a good candidate for a future publication, please contact us at bookends68@comcast.net.

Hitting the Right Notes in Retirement

During Joe DeFilippo's teaching career with Baltimore County he taught seventh and eighth grade Social Studies at Middle River MS, Old Court MS and Ridgely MS. After spending thirty-seven years in Baltimore County classrooms, he retired in 2015. Joe was born in Philadelphia and moved to Baltimore County in 1965. He graduated from Milford Mill HS, and the University of Maryland-Baltimore Campus and received his master's degree from Morgan State University.

Throughout Joe's teaching career he distinguished himself by extensively writing, producing and performing songs about America's heroes and social justice themes for the county's students. Joe began his interest in music playing drums at the age of ten and spent his adult life continuing to develop his musical talents and skills as a strong writer and performer. When Joe retired, he helped form the R.J. Phillips Band consisting of himself as a songwriter, lead vocalist and bass and acoustic guitarist; a nurse who is a world-class fiddle player; a guitar player who is a former Maryland State's attorney; a keyboardist who owns Bratt Studio in Woodlawn, in which the band records; and retired school librarian, Leslie Darr, backup vocalist.

The band has produced over thirty songs about a wide range of subjects related to the civil rights and suffragettes' movements to Vietnam Vets, protesters and textile strikers. While none of their music is geared for the top-40s Chart, the band's biggest national break came in 2018 when Spike Lee selected DeFilippo's song, "Freedom Ride" to be on the soundtrack to his film, "BlacKkKlansman." Joe was quite honored to be invited to the premier of the movie in New York.

Since his retirement, Joe has stated that it is mostly about the music, writing, performing and establishing new music contacts. His band has continued to record, wearing masks in the studio and recording one person at a time. The band's most recent releases include "Jeannette Said No" about the nation's first congresswoman, Jeanette Rankin, a suffragist, elected in 1916 and who voted against entering World War I; "Merry-Go-Round", which is a song about the decade-long battle to desegregate the Gwynn Oak amusement park and "War No More," a homage to the Catonsville Nine who burned service records to protest the Vietnam War.



Joe DiFilippo, Spike Lee and Bill Pratt at the premiere of BlacKkKlansman

Take a listen to Joe's songs:

<https://soundcloud.com/hillipsand/>.

Kudos to Joe for continuing to highlight significant historical and topical issues through his creative efforts and his band's music!

~Carol Dann

Educators care about kids & we can help them during this difficult time. Many parents are out of work due to the pandemic. It may be tough to put food on the table, buy new shoes for growing feet, get kids' prescriptions filled, obtain school supplies, etc. But TABCO has a long-established program to help our students when their needs are identified by teachers, school nurses, counselors, and other school personnel:



Helping Baltimore County Students in Need

**TO HELP OUR NEEDY STUDENTS,
SEND A CHECK MADE OUT TO "KIDCARE"
TO THE TABCO OFFICE:**

**TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
1220 E. JOPPA ROAD
BUILDING C, SUITE 514
TOWSON, MD 21286**