



Buffalo Claims Association Official Newsletter

Volume 3 January 2024

The Buffalo Claims Association is a non-profit organization with a passion for supporting claims professionals across the State of New York. We endeavor to host educational and engaging events throughout the year to bring claims professionals together. Our goal is to provide learning and networking opportunities to those individuals actively involved in the Workers' Compensation and Insurance Claims industries in the Greater Buffalo area. If you are not yet a member, visit our website and join our Association! If you know somebody who is interested in becoming a member, pass along our information!



Our Officers are always looking for feedback, suggestions, and ideas on any events you would like to see happen.

In light of the new year, there will be a change of Board Member positions, and we have new exciting ideas for 2024! Our 2023 President, Melissa Foti, did a wonderful job leading the BCA, planning the events, and we will miss her! Thank you, Melissa, for all your hard work and everything you brought to the BCA in 2023!

Thank you all for making our organization a success and for your continued support!

Membership Information

Hello Members, Vendors, Retirees,

The 2024 Membership dues are now due, you can go online and pay your dues. Individual memberships are \$50, Vendor memberships are \$100.00 and Retired Members are \$10.00. If you have recently paid your dues, you don't have to pay again, you will be paid until the end of 2024. Please complete the membership application and return to Connie Smith, either by mail or at: csmith@hoffmanhanafin.com.

Any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

Thank you, Connie Smith, BCA Membership Coordinator

Final President's Report

Dear Members,

It is hard for me to believe that the end of my year as President had arrived. While I knew that serving as president of the BCA was going to be a wonderful experience, I would never have realized how even more connected I would be to such an amazing group of people.

I have so many people to thank and don't know where to begin. I would like to thank all of you who have joined and/or renewed your membership this year and to those members that came to all of our events this year. Without your support, there would not be a Buffalo Claims Association. This year's Board of Directors - thank you! I have had the pleasure of working with some of you for several years now, and some, this was our first year working together. It has been an absolute pleasure. I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to our many sponsors who support us throughout the year. We could not do this without your support.



A very special thank you to everyone who helped support my charity of choice this year, Sweet Buffalo Rocks. I am proud to say that with your help, we were able to make a nice donation to the organization on behalf of the BCA. Thank you for that!

Reflecting on the wonderful events that we have had this year makes me proud of what we have done and inspired for the upcoming year. Since our last newsletter, we have had our Annual Education Day, November Elections Meeting, and Annual Holiday Party. All successful events thanks to each and every one of you.

By the time this goes to print, my term will be done, and we will be welcoming our newest board member, Michelle Nasternak. We are excited to have Michelle join the Board and we know that she will be a great addition to an already dynamic group of board members. We will also be welcoming our newest President, Kristina Petry. Kristina has worked her way up the board to this very well-deserved position and we look forward to her leadership. No doubt she will do great things for the organization.



You can read about the BCA, its officers, sponsors and our upcoming events by visiting our website at <https://www.buffaloclaims.com>. To all of the wonderful people whom I have had the opportunity to work with this year - Thank You. The times shared, friendships forged and the incredible successes which this organization has enjoyed has been an extraordinary part of my life.

I am very proud of what we have achieved. It is through the participation of our members that we can continue to develop as a strong and successful organization. I have no doubt that under Kristina Petry's strong leadership, with the assistance of a fantastic incoming board of directors the BCA will continue to thrive.

Sincerely,
Melissa Foti

Kristina Petry to take on the BCA Presidency for 2024

Dear Members of the Buffalo Claims Association,

I am delighted to begin serving my term as President of the BCA in 2024. This appointment is an honor for me in my journey with the association, where I have previously served in various roles over the years. I eagerly look forward to collaborating with all of you as we continue to advance the initiatives of the association. Building on the solid foundation laid by our previous leadership, I am dedicated to ensuring that our association remains a beacon of knowledge, support, and progress for all its members. Together let's embark on this exciting journey to further our goals and make a meaningful contribution in our community.



I've chosen to support the Niagara County SPCA, an organization with a dedicated mission to prevent cruelty to animals while offering love, care, and shelter. They have a no-kill philosophy which is a testament to their noble cause.

I want to thank Melissa Foti for all her hard work and commitment to the BCA. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting.

Sincerely, Kristina Petry, Buffalo Claims Association President

The Board's New Member, Welcome Michelle!!

I have been a casualty adjuster with NYCM for the past 22 years out of the Orchard Park, NY office. I have been a BCA member since I began my career with NYCM. Through my membership with the BCA I have been able to expand my industry contacts which has not only assisted me with being able to efficiently process the claims that I handle but has resulted in some very good friendships.

Through the speakers, literature and information that this group has presented over the years I believe that all of these have help me to have a successful career and expand my knowledge with the ongoing changes that have evolved in the insurance and legal communities. I look forward to being on the Board to help this group grow and continue to present pertinent information for all areas of insurance that would be beneficial to all the members of the claims field.

Sincerely, Michelle Nasternak, Buffalo Claims Association Treasurer



Note from The Editor



My name is Melanie A. Daly and I am an Associate Attorney with the Law Offices of Melissa Day. I thoroughly enjoy working on the BCA Newsletter, and I enjoy working with the Board! This year I will serve as Secretary.

Many thanks to Melissa Foti for a great year!

We also look forward to Kristina Petry as our new President.

We love and appreciate your feedback, and we hope you enjoy our newsletter!

If there is something you'd like to read about in the next installment, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at mdaly@madwcddefense.com and we will have it covered!