

Dear Educator,

My name is Lauren DeFeo and I have been teaching for 29 years. Although a recent demand for Technology Education teachers resulted in my return to the IETC classroom, I taught Printing aka Graphic Arts aka Print Communications aka Graphic Communications aka Graphic Technology for 25 years and plan to return to that field the year after next.

I know you have a million things to do today, just like every day in the life of a teacher, but I am sure I am the president of the Litho Club of Baltimore, an organization whose motto is "Knowledge needs Printing and Printing needs Knowledge." Approximately 200 strong, we are a member of the National Association of Litho Clubs which has been on an astounding rebound since the 911 tragedy during which many companies used funds previously earmarked for printing/advertising and funneled them into security.

During a nationwide campaign to increase membership, spear-headed by our executive secretary, Blair Dreyfus, ten new clubs have joined our NALC during the past two years. We now have Litho Clubs in the following seventeen cities across America:

- Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Antelope Valley, California (*High Desert*)
- Baltimore, Maryland
- Boston, Massachusetts
- Cincinnati, Ohio
- Cleveland, Ohio
- Des Moines, Iowa (*Midwest Printing & Graphics Association*)
- Fort Worth, Texas
- Kansas City, Missouri
- Louisville, Kentucky (*Kentuckiana*)
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Modesto, California (*Yosemite Area Graphic Arts Association*)
- Petaluma, California (*Redwood Empire*)
- Reno, Nevada (*Sierra Graphics Network*)
- San Francisco, California
- San Francisco, California (*East Bay*)
- St. Paul, Minnesota (*Twin Cities*)

Let me get to the point. I would like you to join our club as an educator. A one-time initiation fee of \$10 and the yearly dues is \$25 should accompany the application I've attached. Why join? Here are the benefits, this is why I joined as a teacher in 1986:

Bob Kyle Scholarship –

You, as a BLC member – can apply for and will receive money to pay for courses related to printing and publishing. For example, the follow scholarships were awarded this year:

Laurie Finckel – **Adobe InDesign CS3** / Community College of Baltimore County Essex

Lauren DeFeo – **Macromedia Flash** / Community College of Baltimore County Dundalk

Litho Club Scholarship –

Your students can apply for and be awarded up to \$2500 towards their college costs – AND - they can apply each and EVERY year they attend. Last year, we awarded eleven scholarships:

- Catherine Goblentz / **Printing Management- \$2500** WVA *Institute of Technology*
- JoAnn Adamczyk / **Photography - \$2000** *Art Institute of Pittsburgh*
- Megan Pennington / **Graphic Design - \$2000** *Pennsylvania College of Technology / 2nd Year*
- Joseph Heller / **Graphic Design - \$1500** *Community College of Baltimore County / 2nd Year*
- Amanda Aragon / **Graphic Design - \$1000** *Community College of Anne Arundel County*
- Stephanie Hellman / **Graphic Design - \$1000** *University of North Carolina*

General Dinner Meetings –

You may bring up to two students for FREE to each meeting!

You and your students are invited to attend our general meetings on the last Monday of every other month. This is an excellent opportunity for any of your students who are seeking to begin a career to network with

members of the printing and publishing industry. It is also an opportunity for both you and your students to learn about cutting edge technologies presented by top-notch guest speakers such as:

- *Adobe*
- *Hewlett-Packard*
- *Xerox*
- *Kodak*
- *Day International*
- *ROI Industries*
- *United States Secret Service*

Junior Litho Clubs –

You may start a Junior Litho club at your school simply by obtaining a copy of the constitution and bylaws and having an election of officers. Our senior club supports junior clubs in a number of ways. In the fall, we recognize your officers during an installation ceremony at our dinner meeting in November. All of the students (up to five), AND the teacher attend this dinner free of charge as guests of the Baltimore Litho Club. In the spring, we honor an outstanding senior at a ceremony during our April dinner meeting. The student, both of his or her parents and the teacher are all guests of the senior club once again. During the year, you may attend our dinner meetings for a cost of \$25 and up to two of your students may accompany you free of charge. The Baltimore Litho Club has sponsored junior litho clubs from:

- *Overlea High School*
- *Kenwood High School*
- *Harford Technical High School*
- *Center for Applied Technology North*
- *Frederick High School*
- *Western School of Technology*

Other LCB Activities –

You are also entitled to join us for activities which build friendships, are educational and provide opportunities for relaxation:

- *Charlestown Races & Slots (always the third Friday night in May)*
- *Annual Bull & Oyster Roast (always the fourth Saturday in January)*
- *National Convention (always the third week in June and this year the 64th annual convention will be in New Orleans).*

I know time and money are scarce, but this is a real value, especially for a teacher. You can't beat free money and free food. Recognition for you and your students at our meetings, in our local and national newsletters and on our local and national websites is also a good thing. As a matter of fact, if you have a student with web skills, he or she can design a site for your junior litho club and we'll link it to both the local and the national sites.

Some people (*and a lot of teachers*) like to join clubs just to give something back. They pay their dues and show up at meetings to show support to their industry and colleagues. Teachers already give something back just by teaching. This time, though, you can be on the receiving end at the same time.

Oh! I almost forgot...belonging to a professional organization not only looks good on your resume, but is a requirement if you want your program to be PrintED certified.

Seriously, the benefits and opportunities are endless. Think about joining, won't you? It's a terrific deal.

Check out our local site <http://www.lithoclubofbaltimore.org/> and our national site <http://www.graphicarts.org/> when you get a chance. You'll find a membership application as well as lots of other stuff on our site. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at home (410)335-2431 at work (410)668-3624 or email me at lauren@lithoclubofbaltimore.org.

Sincerely yours,

Lauren T. DeFeo
President, Litho Club of Baltimore