



March 2015

www.nrbar.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Dear Colleagues and Friends;

March, fortunately, brings the end of winter and ushers in the much welcomed renewal of spring. March is also the month in which nations around the world celebrate International Women's Day. If we are only going to celebrate women's contributions and achievements during one month of the year, what better month than the month when life is renewed and spring begins!

Most of the world has been celebrating International Women's Day annually since the early 1900s. Originally, it was only in accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America that the first National Woman's Day was observed across the United States on February 28, 1909. The following year, at the second International Conference of Working Women, held in Copenhagen, Clara Zetkin, Leader of the Women's Office for the Social Democratic Party in Germany, proposed that every year in every country there should be a celebration on the same day - a *Women's Day* - to press for women's demands. The conference of over 100 women from seventeen countries, representing socialist parties, working women's clubs, unions, and the first three female members of the Finnish parliament, unanimously approved the suggestion and, thus, International Women's Day was born. March 19, 1911 saw

International Women's Day first being honored in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. Russia joined next, celebrating its first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1913. That same year International Women's Day was transferred to March 8th and ever since that date has remained the global date for International Women's Day.

In 1987 the United States expanded the annual celebration of women and our achievements from one day to one full month when Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9, designating March 1987 as "Women's History Month." From 1988 through 1994, Congress passed yearly resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March as Women's History Month. Commencing in 1995 to the present, Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations designating March as Women's History Month.
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SAVE THE DATE:

You don't want to miss this Special Event!
NRBA's Eight Annual

Court of Appeals Dinner

With honoree **Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman** of the NYS Court of Appeals, guest speaker the **Hon. Robert Smith** (Court of Appeals, retired), and special guests the **Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick** (Court of Appeals, retired), and the **Hon. Victoria Graffeo** (Court of Appeals, retired).

The dinner to be held on **April 23, 2015** begins at 6 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel in the Grand Ballroom, 1 Radisson Plaza, New Rochelle, New York.

This event is open to attorneys throughout the metropolitan NYC area. Tickets cost \$75 if paid by April 17th, \$85 if paid thereafter (if seating is available).

Please contact Ronald V. Zezima, Esq., Co-chair @ rvzesq@aol.com for information.

Thus, as it now stands in the U.S., where 50.8% of the population, or 161 million people, are females, a proclamation must be issued each year for Americans to continue to celebrate Women's History Month.

Every March 8th across the globe thousands of diverse events and local activities are held, ranging from political rallies, business conferences, government activities, cultural programs, historical and biographical exhibitions to networking events, to inspire and connect women from all around the world and to celebrate our achievements and continue to press for equality. In 2009, when President Obama signed the executive order creating the White House Council on Women & Girls, he noted that issues facing women today are not just women's issues.

However, while women are celebrated or honored on Women's Day, sometimes with flowers and small gifts in some countries, and while great strides have been made for women in many areas over the 100 plus years since Women's Day was established by women, the unfortunate truth is that women have not yet reached or been allowed to gain true gender equality. Even here in America, we are still not paid equally to our male counterparts, earning about 77 cents to the male's dollar, and we still are not present in equal numbers in politics or business. In 2013 only 28.8% of businesses were female owned. And although women comprised 47.4% of the civilian labor force, only 14% are executive officers. Globally, of the 193 countries recognized by the United Nations, 12, or 6.2%, have a female head of government, and 30 countries, or 15.6%, have a female head of state. There are still massive disparities between the genders in areas such as education, health, property rights and the rate of violence against women as compared to that against men worldwide.

As a woman and as the current President of this great organization, I am proud to be part of this Bar that has recognized the importance of a woman's contributions, as evidenced by its election over the last seventeen years of the six diverse and talented women to the position of President. Yet, I see that

we, in this Bar, still have much work to do, both in our legal roles and in the myriad of other roles we hold in our communities, to even the gender playing fields. I do not just merely suggest, but urge, that we need to expand the essential spirit behind Women's Day from a paltry one day a year, or even one month a year as in this country, to every day of the year. We need to make a difference, to think globally and to act locally, to ensure that the future for girls – not just our own girls but all girls throughout the world – is bright, safe, rewarding and equal.

Here's to mothers, sisters, wives and daughters everywhere! Thank you.

Collegially yours,

Paula Johnson Kelly
(NRBA President 2014 to present)



REFLECTIONS ON THE NRBA – A WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL FEATURE

In honor of Women's History month, the New Rochelle Bar Association asked the former, and current, six women who have served as Presidents of the Association to provide some reflections on their time in office. What preceded and follows are the stories from five of these dynamic women.

We thank these six and all our other female members, directors and officers, past and present, for their dedication and contributions to this organization and to our community.



Laurie J. Korngold (NRBA President 2011-2013)



It was my honor and privilege to have served as President of the New Rochelle Bar Association, “The Greatest Bar Association in the World” from 2011 to 2013. During my term as President, we held a variety of interesting CLE programs on various topics. We collected non-perishable food items at CLE programs and dinner events, which we donated to the HOPE Community Services in New Rochelle, which provides food to those in need within the New Rochelle community. Under the leadership of Ronald Zezima, Richard Sosis and Judge Susan Kettner, our award winning Lawyers in the Classroom program expanded throughout the New Rochelle School district. We held several special dinner events throughout the year, including our annual Installation Dinner, our Holiday Party, the Surrogate’s Court dinner with honored guest speaker Judge Anthony Scarpino, Court of Appeals dinners with guest speakers Judge Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick and Judge Theodore Jones, and our annual Picnic in June, where we elect our officers, board members and present scholarship awards to New Rochelle High School, Pace Law School, Monroe College, Iona College and College of New Rochelle student recipients.

During my term as President, we had the distinction of hosting a retirement dinner honoring New York Court of Appeals Judge Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick and Justice Anita R. Florio of the Appellate Division Second Department. This was one of the most significant events in the over 90

year history of the New Rochelle Bar Association. The dinner was held on October 4, 2012 at the Greentree Country Club and was attended by almost 250 guests including members of the New Rochelle Bar Association, members of the judiciary, local bar association members and their presidents, New York State Bar Association President Seymour W. James Jr., and Honorable A. Gail Prudenti, Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts of New York State. The successful event took almost a year to plan with a committee of hard working board members including myself as well as board members Ronald Zezima and Richard Sosis. Following the NRBA dinner, the committee was invited by Judge Ciparick to attend a special retirement event in the fall of 2012 at Gracie Mansion, with Judge Jonathan Lippman, and former Mayors Ed Koch and David Dinkins.



Ron Zezima, Laurie Korngold, Judge Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick and Justice Anita R. Florio

Another significant accomplishment during my term as President was to have our Bar Association achieve 501(c)(3) status as a tax exempt organization. Thanks to all of the hard work and cooperation of David Faust, and Frank and Carmelina DiMarco, we were granted tax exempt status by the IRS.

As the fifth woman President of the New Rochelle Bar Association, I hope that I was able to make a significant and lasting impact on our esteemed organization. I know that being President of the “Greatest Bar Association in the World” certainly made a significant impact on me.

Julie Kattan (NRBA President 2009-2011)



As I look back over my years in the New Rochelle Bar Association, it occurs to me that I joined the NRBA when Susan Kettner (now Judge Susan Kettner) was president. Susan was the first woman president of our association, and several women have followed her since then. Surprisingly, most of my time in the NRBA has been under the leadership of a woman president.

Although I can't say that it is a "female" phenomenon, each of the female presidents left her mark on the organization in different ways, with each focusing on different aspects of the organization. I would like to share my own experiences with you here.

When I took over as President, our Bar had experienced rapid membership growth – the membership growing from about 40 people to over 350 in just a few years. This resulted in some growing pains such as updating the membership list, producing a Directory, sending mass emails, and managing events on a larger scale than the 20-30 people who previously showed up for Bar Association dinners. This meant that the Bar had to adjust and function differently than it had been – and we had to meet this challenge. However, I did not want the NRBA to lose its sense of camaraderie and fellowship. That sense of friendship and community became ever so important to me, and I tried to impart that feeling to all of our events.

We held fabulous events like our Installation, Holiday, Surrogate's Court, Court of Appeals dinners, along with our annual picnics. We gave back to the community by granting student scholarships and donations to local non-profit organizations. We served our local government and City Court by establishing a judicial screening committee to serve the mayor when an appointed judgeship position opened up on the City Court and supporting the local Drug Court and Youth Court. We supported our members by creating networking opportunities and providing numerous no cost CLE programs for our members. We took the personal agendas and politics out of the Bar Association business.

To me, The New Rochelle Bar Association and the good of its members always came first. I knew we had a great organization, and I wanted it to feel like friends and family every time we met. I believe I was able to achieve that during my tenure as president because the NRBA is not only the best bar association (as former president Barbara Lerman stated), it is also the NICEST Bar Association.



Julie Kattan, Mayor Noam Bramson and Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman

Eileen Songer McCarthy (NRBA President 2005-2006)



I am pleased to have been invited, along with the other female presidents of the New Rochelle Bar Association, to offer reflections on my presidency. However, it has been a challenge for me to reflect in a way that acknowledges my gender.

As a result, I decided to do a little research to try to place my presidency in context. I discovered that as I was graduating from high school in 1987, the New York State Bar Association welcomed its first female president, Maryann Saccomando Freedman. As I was surviving my second semester of law school, Janet Reno became the first female Attorney General and a few days later Judith Kaye was sworn in as New York State's first Chief Judge. The following year the New York City Bar Association welcomed its first female president, Barbara Paul Robinson. And in 1995, just after I graduated from Columbia Law School, the American Bar Association swore in Roberta Cooper Ramo as its first female president.

So maybe I should have been a little more proud in 2005, at the age of thirty-five, to have become the third female president of the New Rochelle Bar Association. What I did know at that time is that I was a part of something incredibly special...a team that valued and promoted inclusion and by doing so, strengthened the organization.

I was invited to join the NRBA Board of Directors when the Honorable Susan Kettner served as the organization's first woman president. I was asked to assemble a membership directory and recall we had approximately seventy members when the directory was published. What followed was a team effort to redefine the typical NRBA member. Our association would become home not only to lawyers who practiced in New Rochelle, but also to lawyers who lived in New Rochelle and practiced elsewhere. We welcomed our partners in banking and the title profession encouraging them to participate as active associate members, as well as sponsor the occasional event. Our second woman president, Barbara Lerman, expanded the participation of the judiciary in association events and embraced the potential for growing our organization by offering free Continuing Legal Education classes close to home.

By the time I served as president, the New Rochelle Bar Association had over four hundred members. We had issued certificates for thousands of hours of Continuing Legal Education credits. We hosted traditional events such as the annual update from the Westchester County Surrogate each January. And we broke the mold on traditional bar association events by inviting then Administrative Judge Frank Nicolai and City Court Judge Vincent Rippa to cook and serve a pasta dinner to our members at the Casa Calabria before taking off their aprons and swearing in our new officers and directors.

During my tenure as president, I was proud to serve as the voice for an active and dedicated team. And as the female presidents of the association have been invited to reflect on our tenures, I'd like to highlight the contributions of a few men who contributed to the organization's success during my presidency. My immediate past president was Greg Varian who remained a vocal advocate and helped to convey the importance of the NRBA as a key civic organization for the City of New Rochelle. My vice president, Richard Sosis, always believed the sky was the limit on what we could achieve and worked extremely hard to foster a strong

relationship between the NRBA and the New Rochelle School District so that school children at all levels could learn about the legal profession. And throughout my successful tenure, as well as the successful tenures of so many other NRBA Presidents, Frank DiMarco served as Treasurer, a title that never came close to conveying his role which included being an accountant, an event planner, a peace-maker and a mentor.

The year I served as President of the New Rochelle Bar Association was one of the most exhausting but satisfying years of my professional career. I treasure the relationships I developed with members of the NRBA board and am extremely proud of what we were able to achieve together.



*Paula Johnson Kelly, County Clerk Tim Idoni
and Eileen Songer McCarthy*

Susan Kettner (NRBA President 1998-2000)



My father was a lawyer. My grandfather was a lawyer. Both practiced law in New Rochelle and served respectively as Vice-President and President of the NRBA. As a young girl, visiting them at their office at 271 North Avenue (“The Pershing Square Building”), it was impossible to imagine that one day I too would serve as President of the same organization.

I was elected the first woman president of the NRBA in June 1998 at our annual meeting held at Echo Bay Yacht Club. In those days, the Echo Bay Yacht Club served as the regular venue for our annual picnic-meetings.





For those of you too young to remember the year 1998 – let me provide some context. This was the year of the Clinton impeachment, the year that Google was founded and the year that the FDA approved Viagra. Some of the popular films were “Titanic” and “Saving Private Ryan”. The cost of gas was \$1.15. We still used the “old” New Rochelle City Court until the present facility opened on October 29th of that same year. Most of my colleagues were still using books for legal research, although I do recall that I subscribed to legal reports via compact disc. Women who practiced in the Westchester County Surrogate’s Court were required to wear skirt suits, as even designer pantsuits were frowned upon.

I was subsequently sworn in by the former City Court Judge Preston Scher on September 17, 1998 at Juliano’s Restaurant.



I looked forward to the opportunity to contribute to and serve both the legal community and community at large.

In 1998, the NRBA membership was much smaller in size but consisted of a core of very loyal and dedicated attorneys. As CLEs were not yet required when I took office, we continued the tradition of holding monthly dinner meetings at local venues, mostly at Juliano’s Restaurant, since downtown development had yet to occur. Notices were delivered by snail mail or facsimile and were often followed by personal phone calls to our membership.





As president, I considered it a priority to foster relationships between the bench and the bar. So, our monthly meetings were designed to afford our membership the opportunity to meet with different judges on a monthly basis in an intimate and friendly setting. The meetings also allowed “combatants by day” to unwind and play by night. I would be remiss if I did not mention that upon close examination of our by-laws, I was shocked to discover that they were not gender neutral. So, I also made it my priority to revise them, adding other changes as well.

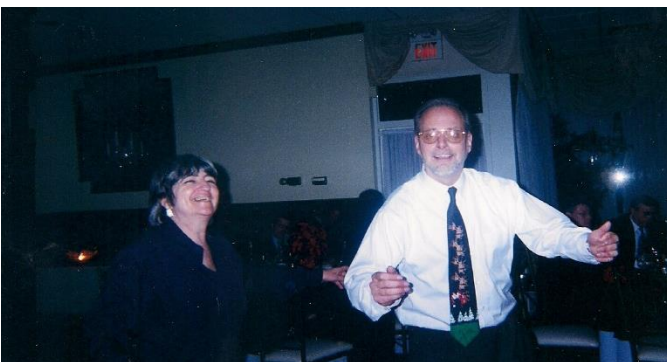


I considered myself extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve in this capacity, as it afforded me the opportunity to work with a fabulous and committed group of lawyers, many who have become life-long friends. I recognize that each generation of our organization stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. The service of all of our former presidents has afforded us a foundation upon which to envision and build the future organization.



While I may have been the first woman to serve as president, I am certainly not the last. My successors, Barbara Lerman, Eileen Songer McCarthy, Julie Kattan, Laurie Korngold and Paula Johnson Kelly have worked and continue to work tirelessly to ensure that our bar association is the “best bar association in the whole world”.

I look forward to continuing my work with Lawyers in the Classroom and supporting our organization in every way possible.



CLE NEWS AND UPDATES

Since our last Newsletter in December 2014, NRBA has presented three diverse Continuing Legal Education programs to our members free of charge. With the help of our sponsors, we continue to provide our members in good standing with monthly exceptional and timely CLE programs. As is our practice, a light dinner consisting of sandwiches and baked goods was provided for our members at each of these well attended CLEs.

On January 17, 2015, HSBC and NRBA member Amy Ramnanan-Roberts presented and sponsored our first CLE of the year titled *"My Countries: Tax & Estate Planning Issues for Our Clients with Contacts Outside the U.S.A."* The two presenting speakers came from the global law firm of Withers, LLP. Attendees were also treated to a tasty warm dinner at Alvin & Friends.

Criminal Law was the topic of the February 17, 2015 CLE when Honorable Colleen D. Duffy, of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department, spoke on the timely topic *"Mental Hygiene Law-Article 10 and its Interplay with Criminal Law"* at sponsor Hudson Valley Bank.



Hon. Colleen D. Duffy

Nationally known authority Joseph A. Sena, Jr., Esq. covered a wide variety of current topics as the speaker during the March 17, 2015 CLE entitled *"Immigration Law Update: Recent Developments or What's New?"* held at sponsor Monroe College.



Paula Johnson Kelly and Joseph A. Sena, Jr.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING CLEs:

The NRBA will be offering the following CLE programs to our members:

1. *Elder Abuse* by John Dalli, Esq. on April 28th at Monroe College; and
2. *Art Law* by Hon. Barbara Jaffe and Raymond Dowd, Esq. on May 12, 2015, location to follow.

Expect to receive advance notices with particulars by e-mail of these and future CLEs. Information will also be posted at www.nrbar.org.

UPCOMING CLES:

For information on and reservations for our CLEs, or suggestions for future CLE topics, please contact **Jeffrey L. Levin, Esq.** at jeffrey.levin.law@gmail.com



RECOGNITION OF CLE SPONSORS

The New Rochelle Bar Association has been able to continue to provide its members with monthly Free two-credit CLEs since September 2014 due to the generosity of the following co-sponsors and their agents.

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michele@silversons.com
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Thanks for the delicious desserts.

Michael Lisk

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Without the generosity of these sponsors, we would not have been able to provide the free CLEs enjoyed by our members.

Please support those who support our Bar!

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER DON'T FORGET- DON'T MISS OUT

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so at your earliest convenience so that you will not miss out on the benefits to members, including the free monthly CLEs and the networking opportunities available during our other functions, such as the Court of Appeals dinner being held this month, or reduced admissions to New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce events as NRBA is a member organization. Annual membership is only \$100 a year. Join your colleagues, business associates, neighbors and friends, get your CLEs, mingle, and have a good time in the process.



THE NRBA SURROGATE'S COURT DINNER

We Say Good-Bye to Our Honored Guest

On January 15, 2015, the NRBA held its annual Surrogate's Court dinner at Juliano's Caterer's, honoring retiring Judge Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr., as the Westchester County Surrogate for the last time. Judge Nelida Malave-Gonzalez, the Bronx County Surrogate, was our special guest. Hopefully, she will return next year and provide some insight into the working of her Court. NRBA wished Judge Scarpino sincere good luck in his new endeavors off the bench. While Judge Scarpino is retiring from the bench, he is not leaving the legal profession. We will continue to consider him a friend of our Bar and hope he will continue to brighten our events with his presence and knowledge.



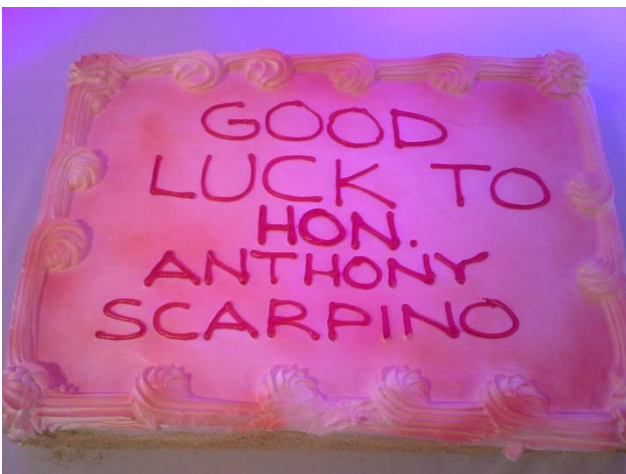
Bronx Surrogate Nelda Malave-Gonzalez and retiring Westchester County Surrogate Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr.



Retiring Westchester County Surrogate Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr. and Acting Surrogate David F. Everett.



Hon. Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr., Hon. Jeff Levin and Hon. David F. Everett.



Paula Johnson Kelly and Hon. Janet Malone

NRBA RECEIVES AWARD for the Lawyer in the Classroom Program

On January 30th, 2015 at the New York Hilton the NRBA received the *2014 Bar Leaders Innovation Award for Small Bars* for its “Lawyer in the Classroom” program from the New York State Conference of Bar Leaders. President Paula Johnson Kelly, Vice President, Hon. Jeffrey Levin and Immediate Past President Richard Sosis, accompanied by Dr. Jeffrey Korostoff, retired Deputy Superintendent of the New Rochelle Board of Education, accepted the award on behalf of the NRBA.



Hon. Jeffrey Levin, Dr. Jeffrey Korostoff, Paula Johnson Kelly and Richard Sosis

The New Rochelle Bar Association, in conjunction with the New Rochelle school district, runs this program annually where lawyers come into the 5th grade classrooms in the spring (after common core testing is completed) and give basic legal/civics lectures. This year, a standard curriculum was designed by Corey Andrews, a 5th grade teacher at Ward School. The program consists of four one hour afternoon sessions conducted over four

consecutive weeks in May/June. On April 20th Mr. Andrews will be conducting a training session for the lawyer/volunteers. With the assistance of Richard Sosis, as speaker, this training session will also allow participants to receive two CLE credits.

The four-week classroom programs are scheduled to commence after the training class, based upon the schedules in the different schools. Currently, there are schedules set up at all of the elementary schools in New Rochelle, except Davis, starting either April 28th or May 1st.

Thanks to all our members who volunteered their time last year to make this program a success, and to the twenty-two volunteers for this year's program. And here's a special thanks to Ron Zezima for a job well done in organizing, overseeing and running this program! Thanks for your hard work and for making the NRBA an award winning Bar Association!

Please contact Ronald Zezima, Esq., Program Chair, at RVZESQ@aol.com if you wish further information on this enlightenment program or if you wish to volunteer and participate in our award winning program.



MEMBER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to NRBA Secretary **Laurie Korngold** and husband, member **Paul Korngold**, on becoming first-time grandparents on January 20, 2015, to Warren Bradley Korngold, son of Adam and Elizabeth Korngold of Needham, MA.

CONDOLENCES:

Our deepest condolences go out to members **"Mike" Faust** and **David Faust** and their family on the passing of David's brother, Steve Faust, age 69, on February 26th, in a motor vehicle accident, and the passing of Mike's mother, Rose Shuffman, at the age of 96 years young on March 10th surrounded by family.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Mitchell Gittin, Esq., Yonkers, NY
Sara Kaye, Esq., New Rochelle, NY
Richard E. Nunez, Esq., Bronx, NY
Sanchia Palmer, Esq., New Rochelle, NY
Michael E. Schiffres, Esq., New Rochelle, NY

OUR WEBSITE: www.nrbar.org

With our website members can obtain information concerning our Bar, its activities, and general legal and community news. We welcome feedback.

This Newsletter can be downloaded from our website. Thanks for helping keep NRBA green.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

For an up-to-date listing of scheduled events, including CLEs and dinner meetings, kindly view existing event postings on our website: www.nrbar.org.

For reservations for any of our upcoming dinners or events please contact the listed Event Chairperson or interim Treasurer Patricia Bave, 145 Huguenot St., Suite 402, New Rochelle, NY 10801, (914) 633-7400.

Getting Published

We welcome your submissions! All submissions should be sent to Mark Griffin, Editor, at mark.griffin@gmail.com. Please mark the subject as NRBA news. Articles between 500 to 1200 words should be sent in Word format. Photographs should be sent as jpeg attachments. Authors should include a short biographical statement with their articles, which must be spell checked, cite checked and in blue book form. Opinions expressed in any article printed in the NRBA newsletter are solely those of the author(s) and are not positions taken by the NRBA. Materials submitted allow NRBA limited copyright and full permission to reprint the article in the NRBA newsletter without additional consent.

