



BRTA NEWSLETTER

www.brta.biz

brtamembership@yahoo.com

President: Charles Peszynski

Recording Sec.: Dolores Scanlon

1st VP: Thomas Giambra

Corresponding Sec.: Elisa Harting

2nd VP: JoAnn Meyer

Membership Sec.: Linda Parada

Treasurer: Floyd Kruschke

Immediate Past Pres: Al Marabella

At Large: Russell Gervasi, Stephen Parada, Theresa Pope

Board Members: Carolyn Cardarella, Josephine Cross, Clarann Josef,

Michael Marszalek, Cynthia Mehary, Suzanne Nyitrai, Elaine Pietka, Peter Riester,

Guy Schiavi, Renate Yuhnke

Spring Edition

April, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 16, 2018—Investing During Uncertain Times seminar. Info on page 7

May 24, 2018—Spring luncheon at Park Country Club. Info on page 8

June 12, 2018—Don Guerra Golf Tournament. Info on page 4

June 10-16, 2018—Mackinac Island, Michigan

September 5, 2018—Fall Luncheon at the Millennium Hotel

September 9-17, 2018—Iceland: Land of Fire & Ice

October 1-5, 2018—Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. Information on page 5

December 6, 2018—Holiday Luncheon at Salvatore's Italian Gardens

February 2-8, 2019—Canada's Winter Wonderland

Vice-President's Message

I would like to start by thanking everyone who attended the winter luncheon at Sean Patrick's. I hope that you had a good time. Thank you for your contributions to the fifty-fifty. The money was donated to the Variety Club Telethon.

BRTA President Charles Peszynski is currently at Tennyson Court Assisted Living on Transit Road as he continues to recover from a stroke. He seems to be doing well and views this as a transition stage before being able to go home. He called me recently and was encouraged by his progress and optimistic that he will eventually be able to go home. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

The Board of Education placed all retired teachers over 65 on Medicare Part D for prescriptions. The Board did this even though it seems to violate the BTF Contract and New York State law. The BTF has asked NYSUT to take legal action against the Board on behalf of the retired teachers. I called Phil Rumore to thank him for taking action against the Board. We will have to wait and see what happens.

The BTF Golf Tournament will be held at Terry Hills Golf Course in Batavia on June 12, 2018. More information can be found in this newsletter. It is always a fun event. It includes golf, lunch and dinner. I hope that if you enjoy golf that you join us at Terry Hills. I need to thank Steve Parada for all the work he does in organizing this event.

BRTA will be taking a bus trip to Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard from October 1-5, 2018. A flyer about this trip can be found in this mailing. Al Marabella is the contact person for this trip. Hopefully many members will be interested in this trip.

Finally our Spring Luncheon will be held at the Park Country Club on May 24, 2018. I look forward to seeing you there.

—Thomas Giambra

Benefits Available to
BRTA Members

Long-term Care Insurance; BRTA Discounts on Long-term Care Insurance: 1-800-655-4899

Eyewear Discount

Eyewear Unlimited: 716-834-3511
Niagara Labmasters, Inc.
Niagara Falls, NY 716-297-9115
Gary Optical
Lewiston, NY 716-754-255

Dental Discounts

The North Park Dental Group
716-836-2242

Vital Savings by Aetna—Mention membership when you are inquiring about discount programs designed to help you save on dental or pharmaceuticals. 1-877-MY-VITAL (1-800-698-4825) or www.vitalsavings.com

Ballroom, Latin, Swing and Other Styles of Dance—Tara Scime at 716-491-0186 or TMSDance@yahoo.com. Mention your BRTA membership and receive a discount.

Faculty Rewards—Discount magazine subscriptions. Go to www.facultyrewards.com and use code 40336

BPO—Call Ambrose Price at 885-5001 for discount tickets

West Herr Select Vehicle Purchase Plan

Activate benefit plan ***before*** going to the dealership. Go to www.westherrselect.com or call your **Select Benefit Concierge (716) 202-3091**.

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Aquino

Ellen Kaspar

Deborah Burt

Ulrisa Mesiah

Sarah Carter

Al Mudd

Leah Coles Hodges

William Murphy

Mary Ann Corbett

Leonard M. Neu-

reuther

Marsha A. Echols

Joan Rose

Concetta Fried

Richard Sasala

Edna L. Gaske

Winona C. Stonebrak-

er

Albert N. Glosser

Patricia Turner

Cheryl Ann Hurd

Anthony Vetrano

Joseph Jackson

Jacqueline Woodbeck

BRTA would like to acknowledge the passing of those teachers who served the children of Buffalo. If you would like to have someone included in the "In Memoriam" listings, please notify Josephine Cross (636-3014).

Frequently Requested Numbers

Website: www.brtabiz Email: brtamembership@yahoo.com

President: Charles Peszynski—631-3717

Membership: Linda Parada—875-3392

Luncheons: Al Marabella—635-9530

Travel: Al Marabella—635-9530, Russ Gervasi—839-5781

Newsletter: Elisa Harting—838-3708

Friendly Service: Josephine Cross—636-3014

HEALTH NEWS

The subject of this edition of Health News will deal with those retirees who are enrolled in Medicare, which begins at age 65. To review: it is required of all BPS teacher retirees who turn 65 to sign up for Medicare Parts A and B and are Tier 3 and 4. You must pay for Part B. I am not sure of other Tiers but you know who you are if you have to sign up for this. If you are on the Buffalo Teachers Federation email list, you will have received a copy of a memo in March from Phil Rumore sent to Robert Reilly, NYSUT General Counsel that the district has unilaterally enrolled all retirees in Medicare Part D. The Subject is that this was an "Illegal Action by the Buffalo Public Schools". This Part D was designed for us and is administered under Blue Cross/Blue Shield called Medicare Advantage Forever Blue. The problem with this is that it has taken away our choice of what plan to be enrolled in which is our right under the New York State constitution. In addition there may be additional cost to being enrolled in Part D based of income. I happened to voluntarily sign up for this plan last November and am happy with it. However, I was not told during an informational meeting that there may be additional costs. I was also guaranteed that I could change plans as always during the enrollment period each year. I have a letter to that effect, which I received after signing up for the new plan.

I called the BTF to find out what the status of this issue was this week and spoke with Joseph Montante, Treasurer of the BTF, at the behest of Mr. Rumore. He told me the District feels it has the right to do this and does not see it as a problem. He told me there has been no response from BPS and the BTF has filed a Grievance and Notice of Claim. This Notice then allows the BTF to file a lawsuit and gives them time to gather information. They have also filed a Grievance regarding the elimination of the Elective Cosmetic surgery rider, which (along with Viagra) is not available under the Forever Blue Plan. In addition, certain services performed with this rider are now taxable according to the IRS if "cosmetic and not medically necessary". (FYI: No mention was made of a Grievance filed for the elimination of Viagra in our conversation.)

I recommend you go to the Buffalo Teachers Federation website (btfny.org) from time to time to look up news. It is well organized and if you click on the button "News and Alerts" you will find copies of the memo I mentioned above and other interesting news about our union and former colleagues. Unfortunately we know that a resolution will be a long time coming. Even if the courts agree that BPS action was illegal, don't hold your breath on getting it changed back any time soon!

Meanwhile, Be Well!

—Jo Ann Meyer

Volunteers Needed

Thousands of children experience live theater at Shea's Performing Arts Center each year and they need your help. As a member of BRTA, we hope you will join our On-School Performance Series volunteer team. Please sign up to participate in an information and training session at Shea's on Monday, June 18, 2018 at 6:00pm—8:00pm. The evening will include an overview of the Volunteer Program, hands on training and a tour of Shea's. Refreshments will be served. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Robert Brunschmid, Director of Operations at rbrunschmid@sheas.org.

BUFFALO RETIRED TEACHERS ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The Don Guerra Open

Terry Hills Golf Course 5122 Clinton St. (1 mile east of Batavia on Rte. 33....

8 minutes from NYS Thruway Exit 48)

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Report and sign in at 11:15 am but no later than 12:00 pm.

Cost \$75.00 per golfer includes 18 holes of golf with cart, hot dog or hamburger before tee-off, steak dinner after golf with free beer and door prizes.

Reservations no later than June 1, 2018 Limit: 108 golfers

Foursomes and Individuals Welcome

Make checks payable to BUFFALO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Mail entry and check to:

Stephen Parada 23 Tremont Ave., Kenmore, New York 14150

You may contact Steve with inquiries by phone 716-875-3392 or e-mail:

srada48@yahoo.com

Foursome or Individual Names, Address, and phone

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Please reserve _____ places for me on the Cape Cod Trip

Name _____ Phone _____

Street & Number _____ City & Zip _____

e-mail address: _____

Roommate _____ Phone _____

Street & Number _____ City & Zip _____

e-mail address: _____

My deposit/payment of \$_____ is enclosed.

Please make checks payable to Diamond Tours and Mail to: Al Marabella, 2 Steinway Ct. Buffalo, NY 14221

BRTA
Invites Members & Guests to travel to
Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard
October 1—5, 2018

Departing from St. Gregory the Great Church, 200 S. Gregory Ct, 14221

@ 8:00 am.

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights lodging
- 8 Meals (4 Dinners & 4 Breakfasts)
- A visit to artistic Martha's Vineyard
- A guided tour of seaside towns of Hyannis & Sandwich
- A guided tour of the "Outer Cape"
- A visit to the JFK Museum
- And much more

Cost: \$449.00 per person Double occupancy

A deposit of \$75.00 is due with your reservation by June 15, 2018

Final payment is due by July 20, 2018.

Please detach top and mail this form. Keep the bottom for your records.

MEMOS FROM THE BTF

Some retirees have been receiving information from the BTF which Phil Rumore feels is of interest or importance to them. Below is a copy of a letter which I received . It is in reference to our health benefit.

“Memo To: All Active and Retired BTF Teachers

From: Philip Rumore, President, BTF

Re: District Correspondance—Tax on Cosmetic Surgery

We are in receipt of the recent “Important Notice” from the District to Active Employees, Retirees and their Dependents stating that they have been advised by the Internal Revenue Service, “that certain services provided under the elective cosmetic surgery rider (the ‘Rider’) are considered a taxable benefit to the employees who utilized those services or whose dependents utilized those services.”

Be assured we will fight this attack on teachers who devoted their lives to our students.

We are sending copies to our State and National affiliates for their review and legal support.

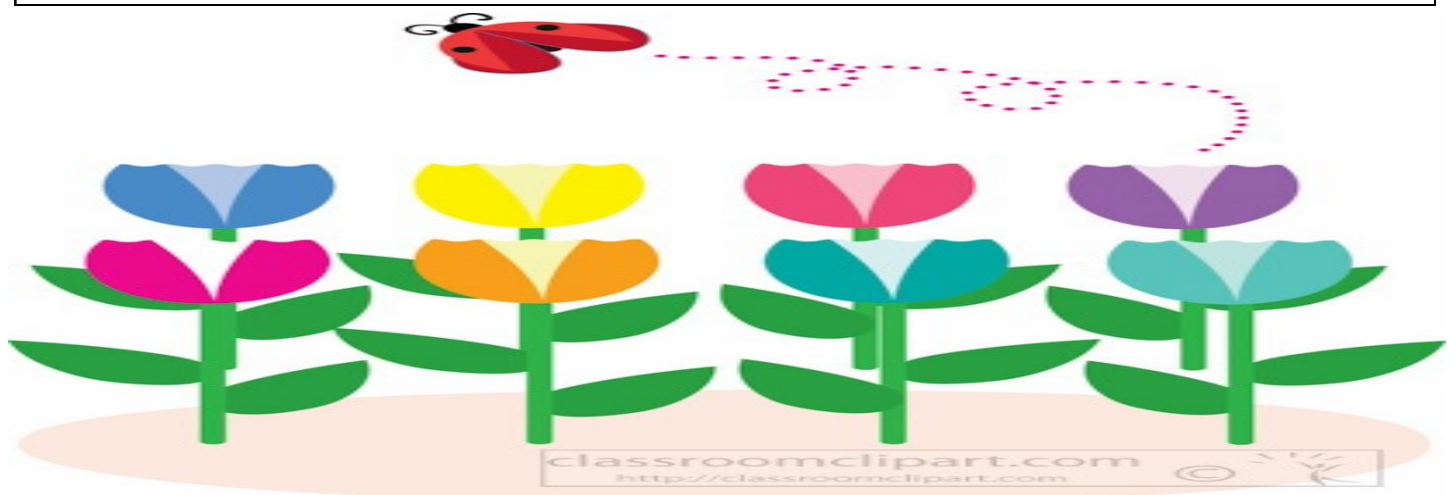
We will, of course, be grieving this. If there is an additional cost, the District must be held responsible.

If you believe that the IRS just happened to say, “Let’s review the Buffalo Public School cosmetic surgery rider,” I have a bridge in Brooklyn to sell you.”

If you did not receive this email, it may be due to the BTF’s not having your current email address. If you would like to be included in the BTF emails, please forward your current email address to sumhauer@btfny.org.

You can also view information on the BTF website, www.btfny.org

—Elisa Harting



Buffalo Retired Teachers Association Financial Workshop

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Three Ways to Register:

Mail this completed form (address and phone required) to:

SMP Agency, 1320 Buffalo Rd., Ste. 211, Rochester, NY 14624

Call 1-800-655-4899 (24 hours a day)

Online: www.insurancemate.com/brtaseminar

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Save lower portion as a reminder!!!

INVESTING DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

What worries you in these turbulent times?

- **Continued Stock Market Volatility**
- **Rising Healthcare Costs**
- **Keeping Up with Inflation**
- **The Reduced Buying Power of My Income**
- **The High Cost of Nursing Home Care**
- **Passing on My Savings & Investments to My Heirs**

Come learn about strategies and investments that seek growth and manage risk in these changing economic times

Conducted by Stephen M. Polizzi, CMFC, CLTC, CRPS

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

3:00pm to 4:30pm

Buffalo Teachers Federation, 271 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201

Securities offered through Peak Brokerage Services, LLC, Member FINR/SIPC. Investment Advisory Services offered through Blackridge Asset Management, an SEC Investment Advisory Firm.

Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Cordially Invites Members & Guests to attend its

BRTA Spring Luncheon

To be held at

The Park Country Club

4949 Sheridan Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-632-2121

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Social Hour: 11:15 AM Complimentary Fruit Punch & Cash Bar
Luncheon: 12:15 PM Choice of:
1. Tornado of Beef
2. Grilled Petite Atlantic Salmon Filet
3. Grilled Chicken w/Vodka Sauce
4. Vegetarian Pasta
Luncheon includes Salad, Vegetable, Dessert and Beverage

Cost: \$27.00 for Members - \$32.00 for Non-member Guests
(BRTA subsidizes cost for members)

Payment: **Due by Tuesday, May 15, 2018**

Payable to: Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Mail to: Al Marabella, (716-635-9530)
BRTA luncheon, 2 Steinway Court, Buffalo NY 14221

N.B. No cash refunds given after reservation deadline

Detach and mail lower portion only. Keep upper portion as your reminder.

Please list your name and the names of all other persons included in the enclosed payment

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ BRTA Member: Yes ___ No ___

_____ Meal Choice (Number) _____

Name _____ BRTA Member: Yes ___ No ___

Meal Choice (Number) _____

Name _____ BRTA Member: Yes ___ No ___

Meal Choice (Number) _____

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____