



# BRTA NEWSLETTER

WWW.BRTA.BIZ

President: Al Marabella  
1st VP: Charles Peszynski  
2nd VP: Tom Giambra  
Treasurer: Stephen Parada

Recording Sec.: Dolores Scanlon  
Corresponding Sec.: Elisa Harting  
Membership Sec.: Linda Parada  
At Large: Mike Marszelek, Ophelia Nicholas,  
Theresa Pope

Board Members: Carolyn Carderella, Josephine Cross, Russell Gervasi, Clarann Josef, Floyd Kruschke,  
Ross Monteleone, Sue Nyitrai, Peter Riester

BUFFALO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

April, 2012

## Coming Events

May 9, 2012—Long Term Care Insurance Workshop. Information on page 5.

May 30, 2012—Spring Luncheon at Westwood Country Club. Information on page 6.

June 12, 2012—Don Guerra Golf Outing at Terry Hills Golf Course. Information on page 8.

Sept. 5, 2012—Fall Luncheon at Millennium Hotel

Sept. 13-17, 2012—Trip to Boston. Information on page 5.

Oct. 4—11, 2012 Trip to Italy and the Amalfi Coast—  
For information, call Al Marabella, 635-9530

Dec 6, 2012—Holiday Luncheon at Salvatore's Italian Garden



## President's Message

Of late, as usual, the BTF has been the receiver of heavy media criticism. Perhaps the issue of being rated on students who don't show up doesn't seem like a big thing. But it is. It defies logic to expect a teacher to be responsible for no-show students' achievement. It reminds me of my time in the classroom when September arrived and class lists were distributed. Each class may have 30 some students assigned. On the first day of school for the year perhaps 70% showed up. The the following Monday maybe another 10—15%. The rest never showed. In fact, the school system had no idea where the students were. But they were still assigned to your class for most of the remainder of the year. By today's proposed standards, these absentees are to be counted as students for whom you are responsible. It could be that the BTF is the only union with the ability not to be bullied by state or media into accepting the ridiculous responsibility for student non-attendance.

Ireland was just Grand! No Rain! 65° every day. Our guide was extremely knowledgeable and she ran us ragged with places to go and things to see. I'm sure the Italy trip will be just as exhausting. There are 34 people going already. However, sign up if you are interested. Sometimes circumstances change and people are unable to do the trip. Up to 50 people could attend but, some may be assigned to a different flight. But all do the same tour after that.

Also, more info will follow about the Western Zone NYSRTA annual meeting on September 19, 2012 (Wednesday). The main speaker will be David Keefe from NYS Pension Board. He will take questions. It'll be worth the cost of lunch to hear him along with vendors & the business of NYSRTA.

While the current tiers are secure in their benefits, the idea of our Governor wanting a Tier VI with more eroding of benefits could lead to Tier VII which could affect your pension. Be vigilant. Let your representatives & senators from NYS know your position, definitely a constitutional convention could change pensions. The current constitution guarantees them as law.

—Al Marabella

**Benefits Available to  
BRTA Members**

- **Long-term Care Insurance Workshops**  
**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  
Boulevard Optical,  
Tonawanda, NY (716) 694-4388
- **Tires and Service** Discounts at Dunn Tires
- **Dental Discounts** The North Park Dental Group (716) 836-2242
- **Dental Plan Insurance** Dental Pay Direct (716) 836-7013
- **Group Medical Insurance** for those who do not receive the benefit from their school district — Call Pam Styn at Dental Pay Direct (716) 836-7013 or toll free at 1-800-683-3682
- Vital Savings by Aetna—Mention membership when you inquire about discount programs designed to help you save on dental or pharmaceuticals. 1-877-877 MY VITAL (1-877-698-4825) or www.vitalsavings.com
- Ballroom, Latin, Swing and other styles of dance—Tara Scime at 491-0186 or TMSDance@yahoo.com. Mention your BRTA membership and receive a discount.

***In Memoriam***

Moira Mahoney Kelly	January, 2012
Diane Rivera	January, 2012
Leonard J. Cherpak	February, 2012
Doris Mary Bensman	February, 2012
Donna Eno	February, 2012
Paul Morley	February, 2012
Roger W. Knapp	March, 2012
Amelia Szymanski	March, 2012
Mary Ann Emmon Reed	March, 2012
Barbara Malcolm	March, 2012

BRTA would like to acknowledge the passing of those teachers who have served the children of Buffalo. If you would like to have someone included in the "In Memoriam" listings, please notify Elisa Harting (838-3708).

**BRTA Golf League**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the BRTA traveling golf league will begin on Monday, April 30, 2012 at 11:00 am at Bob-O-Links Golf Course. This is a non-competitive, fun league with no scores being recorded and attendance voluntary. We will meet each Monday in May at the same time and place, except for Memorial Day.

Beginning in June we will meet at 10:00 am on Mondays. The courses we plan to play are: Bob-O-Links, Audubon Par 3, Bright Meadows, Newfane, & Oakwood.

If you are interested in joining this league or have any questions, please contact Mary Agnes Marabella at mmarabella@roadrunner.com or by phone @ 635-9530.

**Frequently Requested Numbers**

**Website: [www.bрта.biz](http://www.bрта.biz)**

*President:* Al Marabella—635-9530  
*Luncheons:* Ophelia Nicholas—633-1690

*Membership:* Linda Parada—837-3392  
*Travel:* Russ Gervasi—839-5781

## Ways to Save and Go Green

What can you do to help reduce your environmental impact, save money, and live a happier and healthier life? The climate change is an indication as to what is happening in the world today. Our grandchildren and their children will thank us for improving the way we live and being more conscious about going green. Listed below are ways to *Go Green* and *Save Green*.

### **Save energy to save money**

Set your thermostat a few degrees lower in the winter and a few degrees higher in the summer to save on heating and cooling costs. Install compact fluorescent light bulbs when your older incandescent bulbs burn out. Unplug appliances when you are not using them or use a “smart” power strip that senses when appliances are off and cuts phantom energy use. Wash clothes in cold water whenever possible. Use a clothes line or drying rack to save energy used by your dryer.

### **Save water to save money**

Take a shorter shower to reduce water use and install a low flow showerhead. Make sure you have a faucet aerator on each faucet. These conserve water and heat while keeping pressure low.

### **Less gas equals more money**

Walk or bike when going on an errand. This will also improve your cardiovascular health. Lobby to increase spending on sidewalks and bike lanes.

### **Eat smart**

If you eat meat, add one meatless meal a week. Meat costs a lot more at the store, and you can save money. Buy local meat, eggs, and vegetables whenever you can. Purchasing from local farmers keeps money in the local economy.

### **Skip the bottled water**

Use a water filter to purify tap water instead of buying bottled water. Bring a reusable water bottle (preferably aluminum or BPA plastic free) with you when you travel.

### **Think before you buy**

Check out garage sales, thrift stores, and consignment shops for clothing and everyday items. Go on-line to find new or gently used secondhand products, Check Craigslist or Freesharing. Borrow from libraries instead of buying books and movies. Download free books from the library for e-readers. Purchase in bulk, sharing with someone if necessary.

### **Cleaning up**

Keep electronics as long as possible. Donate or recycle them when the time comes. Make your own non-toxic cleaning materials. This saves time, money and packaging and improves your indoor air quality.

Source: World Watch Institute

—Josephine Cross



Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me on the Boston Tour.

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 Buffalo Retired Teachers Assn.

and Mail to: Russell Gervasi  
212 Burroughs  
Snyder, NY 14226

**Buffalo Retired Teachers Assn.**

Presents

**Boston Tour**

**Sept. 13-17, 2012**

Departing from St. Leo's Church, 930 Sweet Home Rd, (between Sheridan & Maple) 14226  
at 8:00 am.

- Day 1: 8 am set out for Boston. This evening enjoy dinner & check into Boston area hotel for the duration.
- Day 2: Continental Breakfast followed by visit to JFK Library & Museum. Then off to Lexington & Concord with guided tour. A visit to Minute Man Historic Park to see the sight of the "Shot heard 'round the world". Day ends with dinner.
- Day 3: Continental Breakfast followed by guided tour of City of Boston along the Freedom Trail. Followed by a stroll of Quincy Market/Faneuil Hall Marketplace with shopping & eateries. See the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides). Visit Harvard University. Then dinner before returning to hotel.
- Day 4: Continental Breakfast then departing for guided tour of North Coastal Boston. Visit Salem (300 years old) (much older than we) with more history. Visit Gloucester seaport on Cape Ann. Also visit Rockport with shops, restaurants & galleries. Following dinner ride back to hotel.
- Day 5: Depart for home after breakfast.

**Cost: \$425.00 Double occupancy**

**A deposit of \$75.00 is due as soon as possible.**

**Final payment is due by July 18, 2012.**

Travel Insurance at \$35.00 is available on request.

# Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Invites members and guests to attend

## *BRTA Annual Spring Luncheon*

To take place at

### **The Windows on the Green @**

Westwood Country Club

772 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY 14221

632-1166

**Wednesday, May 30, 2012**

Social Hour: 11:15 Complimentary Fruit Punch & Cash Bar

Luncheon: 12:15 Choice of:  
1) Stuffed Chicken with spinach, asiago cheese & mushroom sauce  
2) Seafood stuffed Filet of Sole with lemon butter sauce  
3) 6 oz. Sirloin Filet with wild mushroom demi glaze  
With Salad, Rolls, Potato, Vegetable, Dessert, and Coffee or Tea

Cost: \$21.00 for Members --\$26.00 for Non-members

Payment: Due by Friday, May 25, 2012

Checks Payable to: Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Mail to: Ophelia Nicholas (633-1690)  
9 Steinway Court  
Williamsville, NY 14221

**Note Bene: No cash refunds given after reservation deadline. Space is limited to 220 seats.  
Reserve early and not be disappointed.**

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

Spring Luncheon May 30, 2012  
Cost \$21. Members \$26. Non-Members

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) for me for the Spring Luncheon.

My Check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

My Choice for Meal is # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ Meal Choice # \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ Meal Choice # \_\_\_\_\_

**Buffalo Retired Teachers Association  
Long-Term Care Insurance Workshop  
Wednesday, May 9, 2012**

**STAY IN CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH CARE OPTIONS &  
SAFEGUARD YOUR HARD EARNED RETIREMENT SAVINGS**

**Workshop highlights:**

- Learn the Difference Between Health Care and Long-Term Care
- How to Avoid Being forced to Sell Your Assets or Surrender Your Money to Medicaid
- Review the NEW and More Restrictive Medicaid Eligibility and Asset Transfer Rules
- How to Maintain Your Estate While Getting the Healthcare You Need
- Review the Benefits and Discounts of the BRTA Long-Term Insurance Plans
- How to Know if Long-Term Insurance is Right for You
- Compare Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums from Several Companies
- Learn About the Three NEW New York State Partnership for Long-Term Care Plans

**LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE WORKSHOP**  
Conducted by Stephen M. Polizzi, CMFC, CLTC, CRPS

Wednesday, May 9, 2012  
4:00 PM—5:30 PM  
Buffalo Teachers Federation  
271 Porter Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14201

Program is open to family members!

Save the upper portion as a reminder!!

**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.html](http://www.insurancemate.com/brtaseminar.html)

*I cannot attend but I would like more information. Please send me an informational packet*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Foursome or Individual Names:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Captain \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**BUFFALO RETIRED TEACHERS ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**  
**The Don Guerra Open**

**Terry Hills Golf Course**

**Tuesday, June 12, 2012**

Report and Sign in at 11:15 a.m.

Cost: \$ 75.00

Includes 18 holes of golf, cart, prizes, hot dog or burger and beverage before tee-off.

**Terry Hills Golf Course 5122 Clinton Street Road (1 mile east of Batavia on Rte. 33...  
8 minutes from NYS Thruway exit 48)**

STEAK DINNER to follow golfing.

Non-golfers invited to the steak out at \$30.00 per person.

Reservations close May 31, 2012 Limit: 108 golfers

Checks payable to: Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Mail entry and check to : Ross Monteleone

222 Parkhurst Blvd.

Buffalo, New York 14223

Committee Members: Steve Parada, Larry Veronica, Claude Imagna