



BRTA NEWSLETTER

www.brta.biz

brtamembership@yahoo.com

President: Al Marabella

Recording Sec.: Dolores Scanlon

1st VP: Thomas Giambra

Corresponding Sec.:

2nd VP: Charles Peszynski

Membership Sec.: Linda Parada

Treasurer: Stephen Parada

At Large: Mike Marszalek, Ophelia Nicholas,
Theresa Pope

Board Members: Carolyn Cardarella, Josephine Cross, Russell Gervasi, Clarann Josef,
Floyd Kruschke, Cynthia Mehary, JoAnn Meyer, Ross Monteleone, Sue Nyitrai, Peter Riestler

Summer edition

August, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

May—Sept., 2015—BRTA travelling Golf League

Aug. 7-16, 2015—British Landscapes Tour: England, Scotland & Wales

Sept. 9, 2015—Fall Luncheon at the Millennium

Oct. 9—18, 2015—Splendid Sicilia trip.

Dec. 3, 2015—Holiday Luncheon at Salvatore's

Dec. 10—18, 2015—Classic Christmas Markets

Feb. 8--16, 2016—Trip to Tropical Costa Rica

Feb. 2016—Winter Luncheon

May, 2016—Spring Luncheon

June, 2016—Trip to South Dakota & Badlands

Sept. 22—Oct. 3, 2016—Discovering Poland

President's Message

This will be my last report as the current President. By-Laws dictate that the office must be vacated after a certain time period. New blood is a good thing. (Notice I didn't say young blood.)

I cannot put into words how proud I am to have been your president. To represent the finest and most dedicated group of educators is a weighty task. My hope is I have been able to represent your best interests. I did have several advantages working for me. First, I followed Josephine Slacer as president. I could try to emulate her but never come up to her dedication or conviction in leadership. Second, the other officers of our group have carried most of the weight for the activities of BRTA. I could give you a litany of their names but they are all represented here in this newsletter. Hopefully, at the new President's pleasure, I should like to continue organizing the travel part of our organization.

I would like to thank the membership for the support that has been given to me as president and ask that you continue that for the incoming president. It has always been a comfort to me to know that for the most part people have been happy or at least satisfied with the way the BRTA functions. Any suggestions for improvement are always welcome and considered.

I see the new State Ed. Leader has been to Buffalo. Not a word about current teachers having worked diligently for 12 years with no contract. That means no raises in income. Those retiring this year worked 1/3 of their career under that condition. It did affect their working years but now affects their pensions. When others take pot shots at our benefits, never apologize. It's about the only thing the Board hasn't been successful in taking away. Be vigilant in November. Vote and vote for those who support teachers and their interests. I've written it before. Vote NO for a constitutional convention. It's in your best interest.

Thanks again for just being there at luncheons, at trips, at cards, at golf, at any of our activities that you participate in. Enjoy the time you have with fellow educators.

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
Boulevard Optical
Tonawanda, NY 716-694-4388

Tires and Service

Discounts at Dunn Tire

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 403360

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

IN MEMORIAM

Jack Anthony

James J. O'Conner

Ronald B. Carey

Thomas O'Connor

Edward J. D'Agostino

Frances M. Price

James Dougherty

Susan Rausch

Nancy (Nonny) Gorman-Siska

Mozella Richardson

Virginia Haroney

Carol L. Roche

Amelia (Jeri) Hill

Cathy Santos

Robert Kesterson

Joanne L. Stillwell

Elizabeth Kowalski

Agnes R. Walsh

Helen Labus

Joyce Wayman

Cynthia Lewis

Zula Arnette Williams

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.brta.biz Email: brtamembership@yahoo.com

President: Al Marabella—635-9530

Membership: Linda Parada—875-3392

Luncheons: Ophelia Nicholas—633-1690

Travel: Russ Gervasi—839-5781

Newsletter: Al Marabella—635-9530

Friendly Service: Josephine Cross—636-3014

BRTA Golf Tournament

An all-day rain this year dampened the 2015 Don Guerra Golf Tournament held on June 9th at Terry Hills in Batavia. Forty-eight golfers braved the conditions and still managed to have fun. Long time chairman, Ross Monteleone, was awarded a plaque prior to the shotgun start for his many years of service to the Tournament and BRTA.

A steak dinner following the golf was enjoyed by all with numerous door prizes presented after dinner. Thanks go out to Terry Hills and Tan Tara Golf courses for donating passes as prizes. Also gift certificates were donated by Salvatore's, Russell's, Oliver's, Illio Dipalo's, Marco's, Darcy McGees and the Chophouse.

This year's chairman, Steve Parada, announced that after expenses, the tournament raised \$534 toward the scholarship fund. Since Steve did not need to use the \$600 budgeted by BRTA, he can add that to the total raised making it a total of \$1,134.00!

Chairman Parada would like to thank committee members Ross Monteleone, Claude Imagna, Larry Veronica, Tom Giambra, Arnie Harting and Al Marabella for their help.

—-Stephen Parada

BRTA ANNUAL MEMBERS—YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS UP FOR RENEWAL

If you need to renew your annual membership in BRTA, hopefully, you have mailed in the renewal form which was sent to you last month. This will ensure that no mailings, especially for the holiday activities, are missed.

If you have misplaced it, or need another form, please contact Linda Parada at 875-3392.

LOOKING FOR A NEW EXERCISE OPTION?

Zumba Gold is a low impact dance fitness workout. It is perfect for beginners, older adults, or those who need to modify aerobic exercise. Zumba Gold with Jamie Fanara, a licensed instructor, is held on Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 to 10:15 AM at St. George's Church, 2 Nottingham Terrace (at Amherst Street). The cost is \$5 per class or 10 classes for \$40. Call or text 716-574-9303 for information or registration.

Health News from Jo Ann Meyer: **Be Prepared in an Emergency**

We all remember the November storm of 2014 that hit the Southtowns with up to seven feet of snow. How about the October surprise storm of 2001? Various flooding and storm events have left some of us without power, water or a way out!

If a disaster strikes your community, you might not have access to food, water, or electricity for some time. You should have emergency kits for your home, office, school, and car. Here are some steps you can take to help your family stay safer and healthier during and after a disaster.

Cut out the following information, keep it handy, make a shopping list

Consider storing two weeks-worth of food supplies. You may be able to use many of the canned goods and dry mixes already in your cupboard. Store at least a 3-day supply of water for each member of your family – that means 1 gallon per person per day. Don't forget about pets; they'll need food and water too. Learn where your gas, electric, and water shut-off locations are and how to turn them off.

Pack an emergency supply kit. Besides food and water, you'll need a manual can opener, a flashlight, a battery powered, solar, or hand crank radio (NAOO Weather Radio, if possible), cell phone with chargers and extra batteries. It is also a good idea to gather a first aid kit, medication (a 7 day supply), other medical supplies and paperwork about any serious or on-going medical condition. An emergency blanket and personal hygiene supplies should also be included. You should also keep family and emergency contact information, a multipurpose tool (available at most hardware stores), copies of important documents (such as insurance cards, immunization records, lists of doctors), some extra cash, maps of the area, and an extra set of car and house keys.

If you have babies, pets, or someone with special medical needs in your family, you should add: medical supplies (eg. Hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, a cane, etc.), baby supplies (eg. Bottles, formula, baby food and diapers). Pack games and activities for children.

—continued on page 5

Four winners of the 2015 BRTA Scholarships Announced

The Scholarship Committee is honored to announce the following winners of the 2015 Scholarships:

Lina Akther, from Leonardo daVinci High School, is ranked third in her class. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Science Honor Society and the Yearbook Club. She has been awarded Math and Science Honor Awards for excellence in those disciplines. She has maintained perfect attendance for her four years in high school. She has volunteered at St. Joseph Hospital and Agnes Manor Nursing Home. Her future goals are to help the needy and underprivileged community as a medical field professional.

Wahida Dipa, from the International Preparatory School at Grover Cleveland, is the valedictorian of her class. She is a member of the school's cross country and bowling teams, and the school chorus. She is a member of Friends of Buffalo Youth and has volunteered at Buffalo General Hospital and the American Red Cross. Her awards include High Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, Young Adult Environmental Leadership Program and Community Service Award. She aspires to be a nurse.

Arysha Santiago is also from the International Preparatory School at Grover Cleveland, and is ranked third in her class. She is a member of the school's recycling team, Upward Bound, 21st Century Afterschool Program and the Environmental Club. In the community, she participates in the Young Adult Environmental Leadership Program and UNYTS Donate Life Club. She has received the Community Service Award, Black Rock Historical Essay commendation, High Honor Roll, and Student of the Week award. Her goal is to pursue a career in Psychology to help people with behavioral difficulties.

Marnisha Brooks, from Leonardo daVinci High School is the winner of the Josephine Slacer Memorial Scholarship for community service. At school, she participates in the Book Club, Model UN, Bioinformatics Club, Debate, Student Council and Cheerleading. She volunteers at Friends of the Night People and organizes neighborhood meetings and events through the Community Block Club. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars and is a representative in Student Council. She plans to study Biology in college and hopes to study neurosurgery. She dreams of opening a community center, to help feed and care for children and young adults.

—Clarann Josef

Health news from Joanne Meyer (continued from page 4)

Once you've gathered your supplies, pack the items in easy-to-carry containers. Clearly label the containers, and store them where you can reach them easily. In a disaster situation, you may need to get your emergency supply kit quickly - whether you are sheltering at home or evacuating. Make sure to check expiration dates on food, water, medicine, and batteries throughout the year.

Disaster Supply Checklist for Pets

Food and water for at least 3 days for each pet; bowls or bottles, and a manual can opener.

Depending on the pet, you may need a litter box, paper towels, plastic trash bags, grooming items, and/or household bleach.

Medicines and medical records stored in a waterproof container.

First aid kit with a pet first aid book.

Sturdy leash, harness, and carrier to transport pet safely. A carrier should be large enough for the animal to stand comfortably, turn around, and lie down. Your pet may have to stay in the carrier for several hours.

Pet toys and the pet's bed, if you can easily take it, to reduce stress.

Current photos and descriptions of your pets to help others identify them in case you and your pets become separated, and to prove that they are yours.

Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and telephone number of your veterinarian in case you have to board your pets or place them in foster care.

Keep supplies as fresh as possible.

This information printed from the CDC/Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR)

UNCONTESTED ELECTION

As of the nomination deadline of May 15, 2015, the following persons accepted their nominations and are uncontested for the 2015-2017 Offices:

President : Charles Peszynski

1st Vice President: Thomas Giambra

2nd Vice President: Joann Meyer

Recording Secretary: Dolores Scanlon

Corresponding Secretary: <NO NOMINEE>

Treasurer: Stephen Parada

Membership Secretary: Linda Parada

(3) At-Large: Michael Marszalek, Loretta Peszynski, <NO NOMINEE>

As a result, an election at the September luncheon will not be necessary. Attending B.R.T.A. members will be asked to ratify the above nominees as the 2015-2017 Officers.

Incoming President Charles Peszynski , after his formal induction, will call an Executive Board Meeting and will nominate people for the vacant positions, as well as name committee chairpersons.

—Peter Reister, Chairman
Election Committee

Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Invites members & guests to attend
BRTA Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting

To take place at

The Millennium Hotel of Buffalo
2040 Walden Avenue

Phone: 681-2400

Wednesday September 9, 2015

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

Luncheon: 12:15 Choice of:
Chicken Florentine: Breaded Breast with Spinach & Lemon Butter Sauce.
Horseradish Herb Crusted Salmon with Special Sauce
Loin of Pork with Apple Dressing
Meals are served with Salad, Rolls, Potato, Vegetable, Dessert & Coffee or Tea

Cost: \$23.00 for Members
\$28.00 for Non-Members

Payment: Due by Monday, August 31, 2015

Payable to: Check made out to Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

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

Note: No cash refunds will be given after the reservation deadline
(Detach and mail lower portion only. Keep upper portion as your reminder)

Fall Luncheon September 9, 2015

Cost \$23. Members \$28. Non-Members

Please reserve _____ seat(s) for me for the Autumn Luncheon.

My Check for \$_____ is enclosed My Choice for Meal is # _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Guest Name _____ Meal Choice # _____

Guest Name _____ Meal Choice # _____