



BRTA NEWSLETTER

www.bрта.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

Fall Edition

August, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 5, 2018—
Fall Luncheon. Information on page 8

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

October 1-5, 2018—
Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard

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

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

April 26-May3, 2019—
Canadian Rockies

July 7-16, 2019—
Discover Scotland

September 19-28, 2019—Discover Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria

February, 2020—
Treasures of Egypt

Vice-President's Message

I hope that you are enjoying the summer weather. It has been too hot for me. However, I think I might be in the minority on this issue.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Spring Luncheon at the Park Country Club. It was a beautiful setting on a spring day in May. I hope that you enjoyed the luncheon and the chance to visit with friends. Thank you for your contributions to the fifty-fifty drawing. The money will be used for the scholarship fund. The chair of that committee, Clarann Josef, gave a presentation, announcing the students who are going to receive the scholarships this year. Thanks, Clarann, for all the work that you and your committee do in selecting the students.

BRTA held its annual golf outing at Terry Hills in Batavia on June 12th. We had a beautiful day for golf and a nice dinner afterwards. I hope that all who attended had a good time. We always have prizes for all of the golfers. Thanks to Steve Parada for all of his work organizing this event.

I hope that members take advantage of the various

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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

Catherine Beverly Benjamin

Sheila Brechtel

Eugene Dobbins

Theodore Hadley

Patricia Langmyer

Robert Maclin

Sharon Meer

Robert Miller

Herman Rodenberg

Leonard Sikora

Genevieve Stenhouse

Winoma Stonebraker

Elizabeth Waclawek

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: Charles Peszynski—

Membership: Linda Parada—875-3392

Luncheons: Mary Agnes Marabella—635-9530 **Travel:** Al Marabella—635-9530, Russ Gervasi—839-5781

Newsletter: Elisa Harting—838-3708

Friendly Service: Josephine Cross—636-3014

Vice-President's Message (continued from page 1)

travel opportunities offered by BRTA. In June, BRTA members traveled to Mackinac Island in Michigan. In September, there will be a trip to Iceland. Then, in October, there is a bus trip to Cape Cod. Thanks to Al Marabella and Russell Gervasi for their work making arrangements for these trips for our members and their guests.

The Board's action of placing retired teachers in Medicare Part D is currently being grieved by the BTF. As I am sure that you are aware, this process can take time. I am sure that this grievance will reach level 4. Level 4 is arbitration. The BTF will keep us updated on the progress of this grievance.

Hopefully, the recent Supreme Court decision on agency fee does not hurt public employee unions in a significant way. Strong, unified public employee unions, like NYSUT, are needed more than ever to protect the collective bargaining rights of public employees. Let us hope that what has happened to bargaining rights of public employees in other states does not spread to New York.

Our fall luncheon will take place at the Millennium Hotel on September 5, 2018. I hope you will be able to attend. BRTA will recognize the recently retired teachers from the Buffalo Public Schools. I look forward to seeing you there.

—Thomas Giambra

The Don Guerra Memorial Golf Tournament

Chairman Steve Parada reports that the Golf Tournament held on June 12, 2018 at Terry Hills Golf Course in Batavia was a resounding success. Participation was the highest since Steve took over as chairman. Fifteen teams of men and women teachers enjoyed a round of golf on a perfectly beautiful day. Golfers also competed for "closest to the pin," "longest drive," and "lowest score" honors. Over \$600 was raised for the BRTA Scholarship Fund. Steve hopes to see everyone again next year. Thanks to all who participated and to those who helped out.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Interested in gaining or sharing your knowledge? Then the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve are for you! A wide variety of volunteer opportunities are available at both sites that will help you gain valuable work skills or enable you to share your expertise all while giving back to the institution. These opportunities range in nature from working behind-the-scenes to engaging the public. Contact Betsy Vazquez at 716-896-5200 x 345 or email BVAZQUEZ@SCIENCEBUFF.ORG

SHEA'S PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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. For more information, contact Robert Brunschmid, Director of Operations at RBRUNSCHMID@SHEAS.ORG

BUFFALO LAFAYETTE OPTIMIST CLUB

One of the world's largest civic service organizations has organized the Buffalo Lafayette Optimist Club and is seeking new members. Are you looking to spend time volunteering in your community? If yes, the Buffalo Lafayette Optimist Club needs to hear from you. Optimist Clubs are known throughout the world for "bringing out the best in kids." Since each club is autonomous, Optimist volunteers decide how to serve the needs of the children in their community. The Buffalo Lafayette Club has already stated to brainstorm ideas that will focus on the community's needs and help carry out the mission of Optimist International. For more information, call Pauline Leacock at 716-438-0890, email BARGECHANALOPTIMIST@GMAIL.COM or log on to www.optimist.org. You can also check out the Barge Canal Optimist Club or Lockport Monday Night Cruise Optimist Club on Facebook.

Travel

The BRTA bus trips have been well received after a hiatus. The Cape Cod trip in October, (great time for leaf looking), is a sell out. But if you are interested and have been procrastinating, we have begun to try to fill a second bus. If interested, it is not too late. Go to www.brta.biz to get the application and send it in ASAP. Remember to apply early for one of these bus trips. Full refunds, for any reason, are available up to 2 weeks before departure.

Coming up in April, 2019, is a scenic train trip from Vancouver to Banff. Stay in 5 Star hotels with some meals on the train and some in hotels. Spectacular views.

The Scotland tour has finally become a reality. July of 2019 offers 10 days of bagpipes and whiskey, maybe a Loch Ness sighting? Who knows what can happen on tour? All good we hope! Of course, there will be castles, castles, castles.

In the fall of 2019, we visit Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria. In Lucerne, there is a Transportation Museum all in scale and to die for, a must-see. Actual autos of all eras brought forward and each one's importance enumerated. In Austria a rich tradition of Music, Mozart's birthplace, scenes from "The Sound of Music" for real. In Bavaria, Oberammergau where the Passion is recreated. Lots to see.

We're also planning 2 bus trips, one to Boston and one to Falling Waters and Kentucky Knob in Western PA.

Hope to see you on one or all.

—Al Marabella

P.S. Ask Russell about the Mackinac trip. Great job, Russ.

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.

Health News

The subject for this article is skin cancer prevention. You may have noticed that past articles from me often deal with health issues I have encountered. I figure if it happens to me, it may also happen to you, as we are all of a “certain age”. I go to a dermatologist each year for a skin check and this year I asked about a little scaly patch on my nose. It was diagnosed as actinic keratosis and was dealt with very easily at the office that day. Since I know a lot of my fellow retirees spend time in the sun golfing, boating, gardening or just enjoying the sun, I thought you should be aware of this condition. The following is from the Mayo Clinic website.

An actinic keratosis (ak-TIN-ik ker-uh-TOE-sis) is a rough, scaly patch on your skin that develops from years of exposure to the sun. It's most commonly found on your face, lips, ears, back of your hands, forearms, scalp or neck. Also known as a solar keratosis, an actinic keratosis enlarges slowly and usually causes no signs or symptoms other than a patch or small spot on your skin. These patches take years to develop, usually first appearing in people over 40. A small percentage of actinic keratosis lesions can eventually become skin cancer. You can reduce your risk of actinic keratoses by minimizing your sun exposure and protecting your skin from ultraviolet (UV) rays. *Also be sure to use a sunblock of at least 30.* The signs and symptoms of an actinic keratosis include: rough, dry or scaly patch of skin, usually less than 1 inch (2.5 centimeters) in diameter, flat to slightly raised patch or bump on the top layer of skin, in some cases, a hard, wartlike surface, color as varied as pink, red or brown, and itching or burning in the affected area Actinic keratoses are found primarily on areas exposed to the sun, such as your face, lips, ears, hands, forearms, scalp and neck. An actinic keratosis is caused by frequent or intense exposure to UV rays, from the sun or from tanning beds.

If treated early, almost all actinic keratoses can be cleared up or removed before they develop into skin cancer. If left untreated, some of these spots may progress to squamous cell carcinoma — a type of cancer that usually isn't life-threatening if detected and treated early.

Be well!

---Jo Ann Meyer

2018 Scholarship Winners Announced

It is with great pleasure that the Scholarship Committee has chosen 3 candidates to receive the 2018 BRTA Scholarships of \$1500 each. One of these scholarships is in honor of Josephine Slacer; the recipient is chosen because the candidate is not only academically successful but has demonstrated his/her commitment to community and school service.

The applicants considered were as follows:

- 22 applications were received
- 20 were eligible
- 2 were ineligible due to past deadline postmark or incomplete application

School Breakdown: Applications were received from:

- 5 from #156 Fredrick Law Olmsted
- 1 from Middle Early College HS
- 1 from McKinley HS
- 3 from Hutchinson Central Technical HS
- 1 from Emerson School of Hospitality
- 3 from East HS
- 1 from Leonardo da Vinci HS
- 3 from City Honors School
- 4 from Buffalo Academy for the Visual And Performing Arts

The awardees are:

Maria Ziaja from City Honors School. Though City Honors does not rank their seniors, Maria's weighted cumulative GPA is 4.7 on a 4.0 scale. She has received a national AP Scholar recognition based on the number of Advanced Placement courses completed, a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors, and an International Baccalaureate Diploma. She is also a member of the National Honor Society. For school activities, she participates in Kids Care/Helping Hands Club, Rocket Club and is the team captain for the Varsity Track and Field where she usually participates in the relay races and long jump. Some of her out-of-school activities include being a member of PUSH which is an neighborhood outreach program to educate low income families in renewable resources, the Buffalo Waterkeepers, and volunteering as an assistant in the Teach Arts for Girls program. Maria also takes piano lessons. Being a refugee of the challenges of domestic violence has given Maria a passion for ecology and social justice. She plans to attend Vassar College where she hopes to study Environmental Studies leading to Environmental Law.

Maliha Methila is a student from Frederick Law Olmsted School where she ranks first of 112 seniors with a weighted cumulative average of 99.32. Maliha is a member of the National Honor Society and the school's Creative Writing and Peer tutoring groups. Her diploma will have the NYS Seal of Bi-literacy, which proves bi-literacy. In her community, Maliha participates in a language club, Tae Kwon Do Bangla School, teaching children their home culture and community tutoring volunteers. She has been accepted at the University at Buffalo and her goals are to become a Pharmacist and work with the community providing quality care.

Jevon Whittington will receive the BRTA Scholarship in honor of Josephine Slacer for his perseverance, community awareness, leadership as well as desire to continue education. He is a student at the Buffalo Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts where he is second of 101 seniors with a weighted cumulative average of 92.92. His schools activities include The National Honor Society, Kindness Project, Yearbook Club, African American Quiz Bowl, Senior Board, Band Against Bullying community, and several school musicals. Jevon's out of school activities include ECMEA Jazz Festival, NYSSA School of Choral Studies. He has performed at the State of the State Address and State of the City Address. He was also a youth counselor at the South Buffalo Boys and Girls Club. His awards include the National Academy of Future Scientist and Technologist Award of Excellence, first place winner of the Youth Entrepreneurship Showcase and the lead role is the school musical, "Chicago." Jevon hopes to pursue a career in Physical Therapy.

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

Thursday, September 5, 2018

Social Hour: 11:15 am Complimentary Fruit Punch & Cash Bar
Luncheon: 12:15 pm Choice of:

1. Chicken Piccata with Lemon Caper Sauce.
2. Baked White Fish with Almond Herb Butter
3. Loin of Pork with Apple Dressing
4. Vegetarian

Meals include Salad, Rolls, Potato, Vegetable, Dessert & Coffee or Tea

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

Payment: **Due by Monday, August 27, 2018**

Payable to: Check made out to Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Mail to: Mary Agnes Marabella (635-9530)
BRTA Luncheon
2 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 5, 2018

Cost \$27 Members \$32 Non-Members

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 \$ _____