



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: Stephen Parada

Immediate Past Pres: Al Marabella

At Large: Floyd Kruschke, Michael Marszalek, Loretta Peszynski

Board Members: Carolyn Cardarella, Josephine Cross, Russell Gervasi, Clarann Josef, Cynthia Mehary, Sue Nyitrai, Theresa Pope, Peter Riester

Winter Edition

January, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 23, 2017—
Winter Luncheon at Sean Patrick's. Information on page 6

March 16-24, 2017—
Discover Panama

May, 2017—Spring Luncheon

July 9-14, 2017—Bus trip to Montreal, Quebec, and Ottawa

July 14-22, 2017—The Colorado Rockies featuring National Parks and Historic Trains

September, 2017—Fall Luncheon

September 22-29, 2017—Tuscany and the Italian Riviera (sold out)

December, 2017—Holiday Luncheon

March 19-27, 2018—Canyon Country

Information on upcoming luncheons will be in the newsletters; information on upcoming trips is on the website, www.brta.biz

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

BRTA Contributes to Charities - Monies collected in December 2015 from the "Holiday Buckets" amounted to \$500 and were donate to Roswell Park.

Monies collected from the split club at the same luncheon in the amount of \$750 were given to the Franciscan Center.

The Winter Luncheon split club collected \$200 for the Variety Club Telethon.

The spring and fall luncheon split clubs collected money for the BRTA Scholarship fund in the amount of \$336 and \$455 respectively.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED - So far this year we have awarded \$1500 scholarships to Julia Ziaga and Alexa Reardon. Thanks to Chairwoman Clarann Josef.

TRAVEL - Members have traveled this year to Costa Rica, South Dakota Badlands, Alaska and Poland. Thanks to Russ Gervasi and Al Marabella.

GOLF OUTINGS - The annual golf tournament at Terry Hills Golf Course in Batavia last June was a success once again. Fifty eight golfers, both men and women, participated in a fun filled day of golf. Upon returning to the picnic shelter, the golfers shared in a steak dinner and contributed to the prize raffle raising over \$185 for the scholarship fund. Thanks go out to chairman Stephen Parada.

(Continued on page 3)

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

**Margaret Bacon
Ruth F. Bayers
Willie Evans
Rhoda Gallman
Robert Ivory
Antoinette Laforvara
Anna Martin
Charles McAuliffe
Robert McCarthy
Dennis Pikowski
Arlene Sharpee
Alice Stein
Edward “Tony” Stephens
Emily L. Story
Sandra Walker**

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).

NEWS SHORTS

Card Club is alive and well. Interested in playing cards? Have a friend or friends looking for a place to play? Card club meets the third Monday of each month at Friendly’s Restaurant on Maple Road in Amherst. Call Carolyn Cardarella (689-8838) for more information. The group will meet on Monday, February 20th at 10AM.

Frequently Requested Numbers

Website: www.brta.biz Email: brtamembership@yahoo.com

President: Charles Peszynski—631-3717

Membership: Linda Parada—875-3392

Luncheons: Loretta Peszynski—631-3717

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

Newsletter: Elisa Harting—838-3708

Friendly Service: Josephine Cross—636-3014

The Year in Review (continued from page 1)

LUNCHEONS - Our four luncheons in 2016 were held at Park Country Club, Millennium Hotel and Salvatore's Italian Restaurant.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER Annual dues is \$12 per year with BRTA's fiscal year beginning Sept. 1. Life membership is \$150 and you are presented with a life membership card once. Only annual members are given renewed annual membership cards.

More information can be found on the BRTA website www.brta.biz

—Stephen Parada, treasurer

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES are extended to Virginia and Royal Headley.

They have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

TRAVEL UPDATE

The trip to Tuscany and the Italian Riviera is a sellout. I'm sorry to say if you were waiting to apply, it is always better to get in early and cancel if your plans change. If insurance is taken, all monies are returned, save for the insurance cost. Final payment is due two months before departure.

There are still seats available for the trip to the Rockies, which includes National Parks and Historic Trains. The date has passed for the early application rebate.

The bus trip to Quebec and Montreal is also a go. It is the first time in a while that we have offered a bus trip. We use Diamond Tours as we have in the past. They have been helpful in directing people to our web site who also wish to go. On bus trips, there is always a minimum number of participants necessary for the trip to happen. It has to do with the cost of the coach and charge per traveler. Next year, we'll plan another bus trip to Boston and Cape Cod or Mackinac Island. If you have a preference, please contact BRTA and let us know.

The trip to Cuba is still in the works. Collette Tours doesn't seem to be able to get things quite finalized what with regulations changing every month.

Next year, we're planning to offer a trip to Canyon Country, which starts in Scottsdale and ends in Las Vegas, including the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Zion. Also, Scotland. You could see the Loch Ness Monster? Iceland is being considered. I've only seen the Northern Lights once in my life but it is something to see.

—Al Marabella (716-635-9530)

Health information for a Non-teacher spouse in the event of your teacher spouse pre-deceasing you

Buffalo teachers: if your spouse is (or was) not a Buffalo teacher, and is covered under your health insurance and is under 65, you both should join New York State Retired Teachers Association, right away if you have not done so already. This is what my spouse and I did when I retired. We both joined as lifetime members. Online go to **nysrta.org** for more information or contact the New York State Retired Teachers Association, 8 Airport Park Blvd, Latham, NY 12110. Phone: (518) 482-3509. *If your teacher spouse dies, you lose your health insurance coverage.*

Below is information from their website. I believe the rates listed are monthly. Contact them for more information. Once you turn 65, you join Medicare and can look into various plans for supplemental insurance.

Under 65? Looking for Health Insurance? NYSRTA may be able to help! The New York State Retired Teachers' Association has partnered with Univera Healthcare and can provide a High Deductible Plan for retirees under the age of 65. It includes ActiveRewards which is a web based program enabling you to earn up to \$1000 cash back on a *family plan* for healthy behaviors.

Highlights of the plan:

PPO National Network of Providers Preventative Services covered in full Deductible \$1300/\$2600; Pharmacy \$5/35/70

Active Rewards: Cashback opportunity

Rates: Single: \$518.21; 2 Person Family: \$1036.39; Family (larger than 2): \$1638.53

If you are interested in dental insurance, this was on the website, too.

Dental Insurance

Underwritten by CIGNA Dental

CIGNA Dental Provides a Dental HMO plan that will allow NYSRTA members to pick from CIGNA'S network of over 30,000 participating dental providers. Routine preventive services are covered, while more complex procedures will require co-payments. All participating dentists are held to CIGNA's high standards for quality, as defined by their quality management program criteria.

Monthly Rates

Member Rate \$28.60; Member & Spouse Rate \$53.77

—Jo Ann Meyer



Thanks to Donna Stempniak for sending us the above pictures from the recent BRTA trip to Poland,

From the BRTA Scholarship Committee

The Buffalo Retired Teachers Association is looking to award three (3) non-recurring \$1500 scholarships to 2017 Buffalo Public Schools graduating seniors.

Our objective is to endorse and assist the graduating seniors' efforts in pursuing a post high school education. One of these scholarships is in honor of Josephine Slacer, a Buffalo Public School Teacher who was dedicated to the Buffalo community.

Eligible applicants are limited to graduating Buffalo Public High School seniors who will be entering an accredited post high school educational program. SAT scores, grades, recommendations, and an essay will be among the criteria used to determine the awardees. At least one of the scholarships will go to a high academic achiever. At least one scholarship may be awarded to a student who demonstrates qualities that include perseverance, community awareness, leadership and the desire to continue his/her education. The scholarship in honor of Josephine Slacer will be awarded to a highly motivated merit roll student who has demonstrated community service and awareness.

Applications will be available in the BPS HS School Councilors' Office at each high school in January and February. In order to be considered for a BRTA Scholarship, the completed application must be sent to the BRTA Scholarship Committee with the postmark no later than April 15, 2017.

—Clarann Josef

Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Cordially Invites Members & Guests to attend its

BRTA Mid-Winter Luncheon

To be held at

Sean Patrick's

3480 Millersport Highway

Getzville, NY 14068

716-636-1709

Thursday, February 23, 2016

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

Luncheon: 12:15 PM Choice of:

1. Filet Mignon
2. Fresh Char Grilled Salmon w/dill sauce
3. Chicken Cordon Bleu
4. Vegetable Lasagna

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, February 13, 2016**

Payable to: Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Mail to: Loretta Peszynski (631-3717), 149 Scamridge Curve, Williamsville, NY 14221-5212

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 \$ _____ (If needed, list additional guest on opposite side)