



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

Spring Edition

April, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15, 2017—Long - Term Care Insurance Workshop. Information page 4

May 25, 2017—Spring Luncheon at The Park Club. Information page 10

June 13, 2017—Don Guerra Open. Information on page 6

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

July 14-22, 2017—The Colorado Rockies

September, 2017—Fall Luncheon

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

December, 2017—Holiday Luncheon

December 6-14, 2017—Rediscover Cuba

March, 2018—Canyon Country

September 9-17, 2018—

President's Message

I have two important items of information to pass along in this month's newsletter.

First, there is a new benefit of membership in BRTA. The Association is now enrolled in the West Herr Select Vehicle Purchase Plan which enables all members to receive VIP service in the purchase or lease of new or used vehicles. There is a brief description of the program on page 3 of this newsletter and West Herr will provide an insert for our next newsletter with a more detailed explanation of the program but you do not have to wait if you will be in the market for a vehicle within the next three or four months. Call the number in the article, activate your plan and make an appointment with the manager of the dealership you wish to visit. He or she will then refer you to the one sales representative at the dealership who has been selected and trained to work with the Select program. By following this procedure rather than just walking into the dealership unannounced, you can be assured of receiving all of the benefits of the Select program. I am sure you will find it a very satisfactory buying experience. My wife and I did.

Secondly, both NYSRTA and NYSUT have launched campaigns, along with many other groups, to increase awareness among their members and the general public about the disastrous consequences that could ensue if the referendum on a Constitutional Convention is approved by the voters of New York State on November 7, 2017. The Governor and a number of special interest groups, particularly those that are anti-teacher and anti-labor, are pushing hard for a YES vote on the Constitutional Convention but there are many reasons why a NO vote is in the best interest of all New Yorkers. For example:

- It is estimated that Convention would cost approximately \$340 million, paid for with taxpayers money
- Protections for public pension systems could disappear and those pensions could be taxed
- School vouchers could replace some or all of the direct aid to school districts and aid could be authorized to religious schools

(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 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)**

IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy A. Boyd

Robert J. Carr

Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Daugherty

David C. Forness

Russell Fiorella

Thomas S. Hallett

Donna Heavey

Wygenia Miles

Verna T. Morton

Edgar L. Peard

Cristina C. Truell

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.bрта.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

President's Message (continued from page 1)

- Tax caps could become mandatory.
- Workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively could become restricted as has happened in other states.
- Voting rights could be limited that would impact targeted populations.
- Minimum wage and prevailing wage rules could change.
- Women's reproductive and health rights could be infringed.
- Changes could allow for further lumbering, logging and mining, resulting in the destruction or elimination of the undeveloped areas of the state.
- After all the time and money that was spent on the previous Convention in 1967, the proposed new Constitution was voted DOWN.

Pass this information along to everyone you meet, and if we call for volunteers to help get the word out as the election nears, please consider lending a hand.

—Charles Peszynski

BRTA Members Have a New Benefit

Buffalo Retired Teachers Association members and their families are eligible for Auto Buying Benefits through the **West Herr *Select* Vehicle Purchase Plan**.

SAVE TIME & MONEY on **20 New Vehicle Brands**, such as; BMW, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Ford, GMC, Honda, Jeep, Jaguar, KIA, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Pontiac, RAM, Subaru, Sprinter & Toyota, and over **1,800 Quality Used Vehicles**. No matter which brand or model, your ***Select* Benefit Concierge will personally assist you with VIP Vehicle Shopping, VIP "Below Market" preferred pricing on new and used vehicles – purchase or lease, along with VIP privileges, perks, gifts, and other automotive discounts – all with no sales pressure.** Members who have previously purchased from West Herr can take advantage of the *Select* Plan benefits and request their own salesperson.

Members should ACTIVATE their free benefit plan before going to the dealership.

Go to www.westherrselect.com or call your *Select Benefit Concierge* (716) 202-3091.

If you have any question concerning this information

Contact Mike Gannon, Select program Mgr.

Cell/TXT: (716) 998-1703

mgannon@westherr.com

Buffalo Retired Teachers Association Long-Term Care Insurance Workshop

Monday, May 15, 2017

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

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Save lower portion as a reminder!!!

**STAY IN CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH CARE OPTIONS AND
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 Five New York State Partnership for Long-Term Care Plans

LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE WORKSHOP

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

Monday, May 15, 2017

4:00pm to 5:30pm

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

Program is open to family members!

Once again I have gone to Erie County Department of Senior Services website <http://www2.erie.gov/seniorservices> for this Health News subject.

Advance Health Care Planning

You can have a say in the health care you receive by doing some planning and communicating now. Advance health care planning permits peace of mind for you and your family by reducing uncertainty and avoiding confusion and conflict over your care.

Some basic steps:

Think about what's important to you and how you want to receive your health care

Select a person to speak for you if you are unable to speak for yourself

Talk about your health care wishes

Put your choices in writing

Take a few minutes to complete the following thoughts - there is no right or wrong answer, just your own perspective:

Describe in your own words what makes life meaningful and worth living to you...

What aspects of life are most important...

Who or what sustains you when you face serious decisions or challenges in your life...

How do you want to live your life...

Your answers and ideas may change as time or circumstances vary, but discuss these ideas with someone else - do they understand what is important to you?

If you become unable to speak for yourself or to make health care decisions, New York State law allows you to pick someone to speak for you and make decisions on your behalf. He/She must be a competent adult at least 18 years old, and should be someone you are comfortable having represent your wishes. Make sure that they are willing to act for you.

Have frequent discussions about your wishes with those who might be involved in future health care decision-making. Review any written documentation regularly, especially if there is a change in your health status. It's very important to discuss your wishes about artificial nutrition and hydration with your spokesperson. Share your thoughts, concerns and opinions.

Put your choices in writing. If you have a chronic health condition, discuss with your doctor possible scenarios and the benefits and burdens of various treatment options so you can consider care you might want. A Health Care Proxy form names a person who will serve as your health care agent, making decision only if doctors decide you are not able to. Carefully read the guidelines for completing the form so it meets legal requirements. Document on your Health Proxy form that your spokesperson and alternate know your wishes regarding artificial nutrition and hydration. The Health Proxy form does not need a lawyer or notarized signature, although it does require witnesses who are not your agent or alternates.

Have these conversations now, before you experience a health crisis, while you are able to share what is important to you. Whether you're 18 or 80, documenting your wishes today means your family won't have to make heart-wrenching decisions later.

(continued on page 7)

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 13, 2017

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, 2017 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. _____

Health News (continued from page 5)

Many resources are available to help you with the entire process - we strongly encourage you to visit these sites for thought provoking exploration. The sources below include information on documenting your wishes, or thinking about various topics, and forms you can use. The Department can also send someone to further educate your group - just call 858-8081.

New York State Department of Health: Information for consumers and links to information about the Health Care Proxy form and the Form in various languages:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/hospital/healthcareproxy/intro.htm>

Information for professionals:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/consumer/patient/hcproxy.htm>

"Advance Care Planning, Compassion and Support at the End of Life, How to maintain control, achieve peace of mind, and assure your wishes are honored" for NYS residents

www.compassionandsupport.org/index.php/for_patients_families/advance_care_planning

Compassion and Support is an End-of-Life and Palliative Care Initiative in New York State. Topics covered include Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (M.O.L.S.T.), provider and community education materials, videos, downloadable MOLST and Advance Care Planning booklets. M.O.L.S.T. became part of NYS public health law in 2009.

"Sharing Your Wishes" A Planning Guide - a booklet available through the Community Health Foundation. In Erie County, contact the Coalition for Health Care Decision-Making 686-8070; or in Niagara County, the Niagara Caregivers Network (716) 285-8224

Go Wish game from Coda Alliance gives you an easy, entertaining way to think and talk about what's important to you if you become seriously ill. Play the Go Wish game alone, in pairs, or in groups. Ordering information is available at their website.

American Bar Association Consumer's Toolkit for Health Care Advance Planning

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, (703) 837-1500

www.nhpco.org or www.caringinfo.org

Aging with Dignity, 1 (888) 5-WISHES, 1 (888) 594-7437

Hospice Buffalo, (716) 686-1900

Upstate New York Transplant Services, (800) 227-4771

"On Our Own Terms" with Bill Moyers

www.pbs.org/wnet/onourown/terms

Travel News

Well, the Cuba trip has finally become available, December 6—14, 2017. It just seemed it would never get scheduled. Red tape between the two countries just took time. And it will be nice to have accommodations up to our standards. There's lots to see: Museums, autos from the '50's and '60's, probably some of the kind you owned, and traded in after 3 years. They will be way past 60 years vintage.

The trip to Montreal & Quebec is a go. A very few seats remain available. If interested, contact me before the first week in May. Food will be memorable.

The Colorado Rockies tour goes to many canyons, Pike's Peak and Mesa Verde. It also includes several railroad trips.

Any Collette trip offered has the option of getting a traveler there earlier or returning home later than the tour usually at no additional increase in air fare. Travelers are responsible for expenses for the extra days and nights.

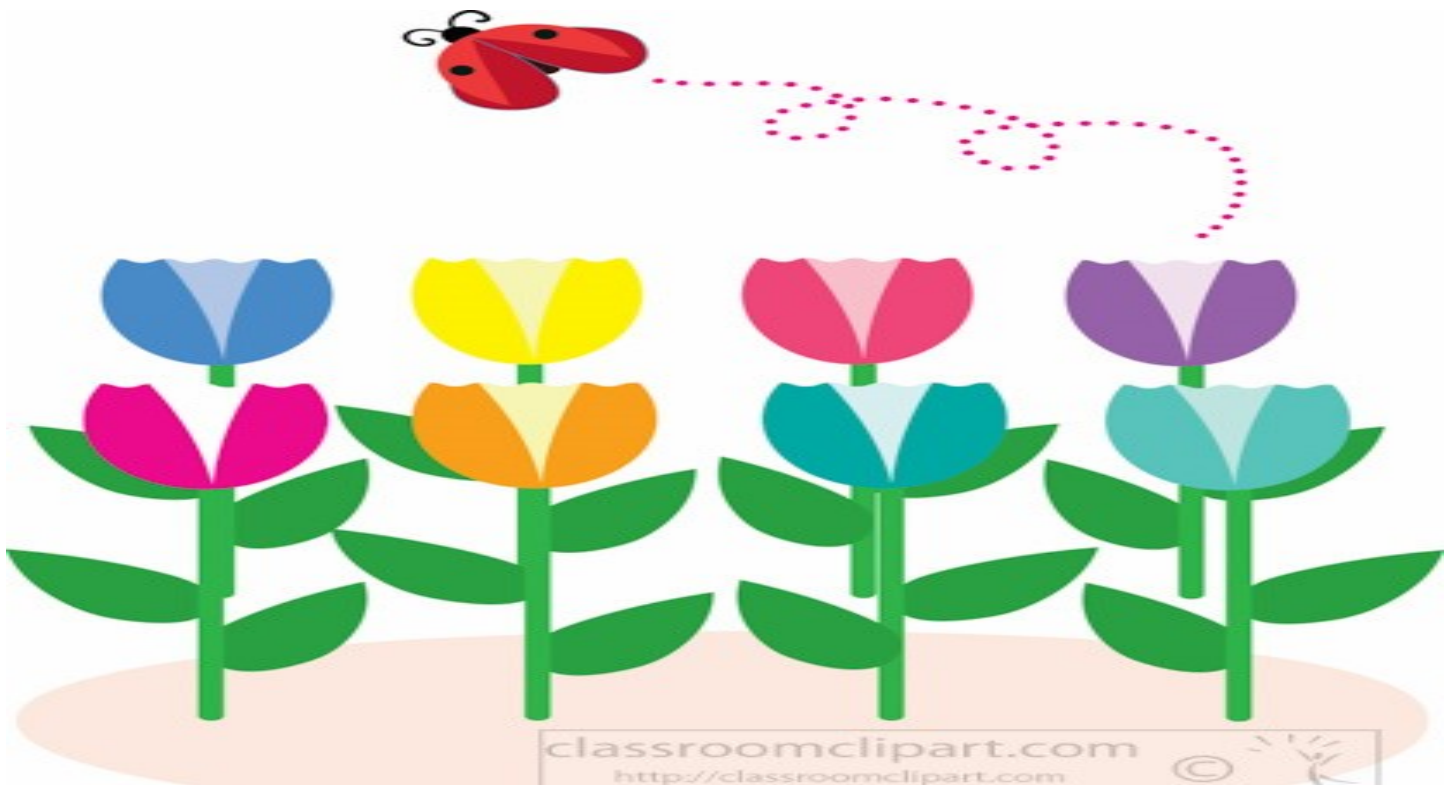
Canyon Country, March 19—27, 2018, starts in Scottsdale, includes the Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion, and finishes in Las Vegas. Perhaps some will want to stay longer?

Iceland, in September, 2018, with its volcanoes and glaciers and Northern Lights is not to be missed.

Tuscany is a complete sellout. Italy seems to draw a big crowd. There's so much to see.

If interested in any trip, be sure to book early.

—Al Marabella, 635-9530

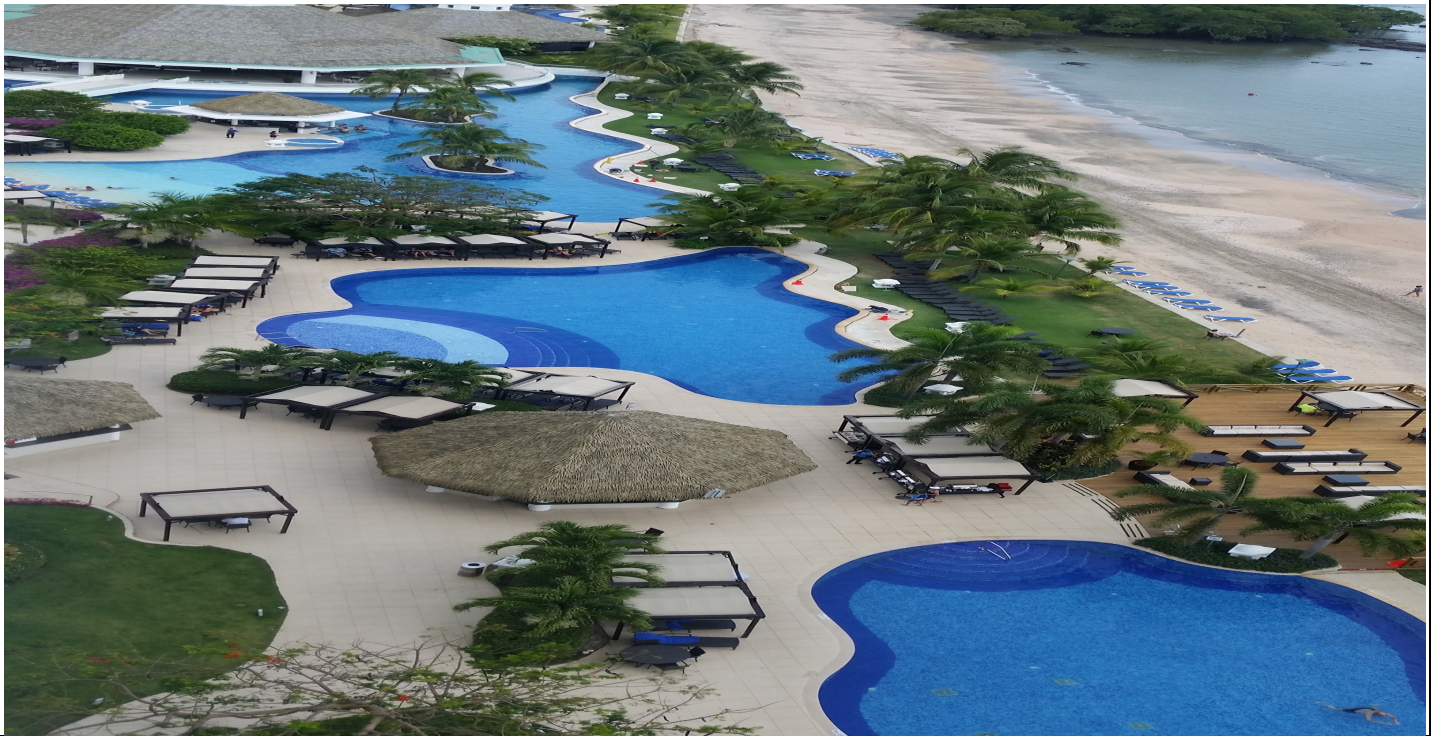




Discover Panama

From March 16 to March 24, three BRTA members went on the Panama trip. What a great idea—leave snowy Buffalo and travel to a wonderful tropical country! Panama proved to be one of the most welcoming and interesting of places.

We traveled halfway through the Canal, learning its history and its importance to international trade. We spent a day with a local tribe, learning their history and enjoying music, hospitality and food. We visited a botanical garden and animal rescue facility. We learned how the local Panamanians are working to save orchids—over 300 varieties! But probably the highlight of the visit was our day at a local sugar cane farm/rum distillery. While we looked forward to learning about (and tasting) the various ages of rum, we were fortunate enough to meet the owner of the facility —the President of Panama, Juan Carlos Varela. He shook hands and introduced himself to all of us, inquiring where we were from and answering our questions about rum and his country. He even boarded our bus (picture), wished us a fond journey, and gifted us with a bottle of his 30 year old rum! We later learned that this is his usual behavior—if he sees a group of people, especially his own people, he just talks to them. He is greatly respected and is making changes which will affect his country’s people, their education and their economic growth. What a pleasure to meet him!



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 25, 2017

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: \$25.00 for Members - \$30.00 for Non-member Guests
(BRTA subsidizes cost for members)

Payment: **Due by Monday, May 15, 2017**

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 \$ _____